

Building Recording at Ribbesford House, Ribbesford, Worcestershire

Worcestershire Archaeology
for Samuel Leeds Limited

June 2019



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RIBBESFORD HOUSE, RIBBESFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE

Building recording report



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SITE INFORMATION

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Building recording at Ribbesford House, Ribbesford, Worcestershire

By Tim Cornah

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt and Tim Cornah

Summary

A programme of building recording was undertaken at Ribbesford House, Ribbesford, Worcestershire (NGR SO 78654 73840). It was commissioned by Adrian Walsh, Pure Building Consultancy, on behalf of Samuel Leeds Limited, who intended initially to stabilise and make safe elements of the building which have been subject to decay and collapse from a prolonged period of neglect. The building is then intended to be returned to its former use as flats, for which a planning application will be submitted to Wyre Forest District Council and an application for listed building consent to Historic England.

Ribbesford House is located on the western side of the River Severn, on the edge of the valley where the land rises up into Ribbesford woods. The manor upon which the remaining house was formerly centred has a long history. The first mention is in the Saxon era, and it is associated with a church and settlement of medieval date. The broad location of the extant house is of medieval origin, as it was formerly surrounded by a moat.

The main element of the house was aligned north-west to south east and split over three floors with a further lower wing to its north, aligned south-west to north-east. The core of the three storey element retained the plan form as built in the middle of the 16th century, although this formerly had a U-shape courtyard to its north-east. The layout of the building was confirmed by comparison of plans and images of the house recorded in 1771. Few details of this era remained visible, apart from moulded floor beams over the hall. The house was extended in the 18th century by the addition of service elements such as kitchens and a brewhouse, along with the long low wing, which was predominantly used for hop kilns and other agricultural purposes.

The most visually dominant element of the extant house originated from the rebuild dated to c 1800. The 15th century house had two wings which meant the courtyard on its north-east side was removed entirely along with its roof over the remaining element, which was then raised. The two turrets on its south-west side were rebuilt in their entirety also, with new roof structures added to the wing. The majority of the windows date to this period, along with the render and most exterior detailing. The details of this period also dominate its interior, although the character was also altered by changes of use of the building as an elite club in the early 20th century and the division of the building into flats immediately after the Second World War.

Report

1 Introduction

1.1 Background to the project

A programme of building recording was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA) between March and April 2019 at Ribbesford House, Ribbesford, Worcestershire (NGR SO 78654 73840). It was commissioned by Adrian Walsh, Pure Building Consultancy, on behalf of Samuel Leeds Limited (the Client), who intended initially to stabilise and make safe elements of the building which have been subject to decay and collapse from a prolonged period of neglect. The building is then intended to be returned to its former use as flats. A planning application will be submitted to Wyre Forest District Council and an application for listed building consent to Historic England.

The building is a Grade II* listed heritage asset (NHLE Ref: 1329928), within the terms used by the National Planning Policy Framework. The building is also registered with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER; WSM34044).

The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section of Worcestershire County Council (WCC 2018). The building recording also conforms to the industry guidelines and standards set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (ClfA 2014a)* and the *Standards and guidelines for archaeological projects in Worcestershire (WCC 2010)*.

2 Project 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*).

The aims and scope of the project, as detailed in the Brief (Section 2), are as follows:

- Basic recording of the elements to be removed and any structures to be dismantled to make the building safe, followed by a more extensive programme of Archaeological Building Investigation and Recording prior to/ during the restoration/conversion of the building as a condition on the Listed Building Consent.
- The archaeological watching brief should take place during the removal and exposure of materials and structures.
- Documentary research accompanying the first phase of work. This should be to Level 3 (as defined by Historic England) standard. This will inform the heritage statement that should be submitted with the Listed Building Consent application.

3 Methods

3.1 Documentary sources consulted

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER) covering a search area of 500m around the building.

Cartographic sources

- 1771 Plan of Ribbesford Demense (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX 114pp)
- 1838 Tithe plan of the lordship of Ribbesford (WRO R760-528)
- 1883 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560 (WRO BA4803 6)

- 1903 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560
- 1929 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560
- 1938 Ordnance Survey Map 1:10,560

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

- The Prattinton Collection, relating to Ribbesford House. This includes a map, house plan with description and four drawings (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114)
- Circa 1840 drawing of Ribbesford House and Ribbesford oak (WRO BA4400 f989.951)
- Sales particulars for Ribbesford House from 1900 (WRO BA5723 ref705.550)
- Sales particulars for Ribbesford House from 1914 (WROBA5723 ref705.550)

3.2 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2019).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 27 March and 25 April 2019. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM71404.

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, where possible. 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 and on plan to show their location. Aerial photographs were taken during a drone flight commissioned by the client. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations and completion of pro-forma Building Record sheets, complemented the photographic record along with measured drawings completed to scale on drawing film at 1:1, 1:20 and 1:50 scale.

The project conformed to the specification for a level 3 survey as defined in the Historic England document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (HE 2016). This level of 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.

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
- Views showing the original design intentions (where appropriate)
- Overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas
- External or internal detail relevant to the building's design, development or function
- Machinery, or plant, or evidence of its former existence
- Dates or other inscriptions, signage, maker's plates or graffiti relevant to an understanding of the building, its fixtures or machinery
- Building contents or ephemera that have a bearing on the history of the building
- Copies of maps, drawings, views or photographs present in the building that illustrate its development

Drawings

- 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)
- Three-dimensional projections (when required)
- Reconstruction drawings and phased drawings (when required)
- Diagrams interpreting the movement of materials or people, or the segregation of people or activities (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
- An account of the building's overall form and its successive phases of development
- An account of the past and present uses of the building, with evidence for the interpretation
- Any evidence for the existence of demolished structures or removed plant

3.3 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 as well as interpretive drawings.

4 Background

Ribbesford House is located approximately 1.5km to the south of the centre of the town of Bewdley and about 200m to the south of the hamlet of Ribbesford. The house is within the broadly flat valley bottom of the River Severn, with the river only 200m to the east of the house. Immediately to the west of the house, the land rises through what was historically known as Ribbesford wood, and remains extensively wooded (Plate 1). The bedstone geology of the site is registered as Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation, overlain by a superficial geology of sand and gravel Power House Terrace Deposits (BGS 2019)

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) was searched within a radius of 500m of Ribbesford House. The data this contains is summarised within this section along with other source material.

The HER data outlines that Ribbesford House was moated from the 11th century (WSM08140) and contemporary with St Leonard's Church to the north (WSM08139; Plate 2). The church is of Norman origin with 15th century and later fabric, most unusually a timber arcade. Like the manor, as outlined Appendix 1, the church is suggested to have had Saxon origins, although its earliest surviving fabric is of Norman origin. There is no recorded settlement associated with the manor and church. Some earthworks in the field to the west of the church, c 200m north-west of the house (Plate 3), have been suggested as house platforms of such a settlement (WSM41527), partially confirmed by small scale excavation from which medieval pottery was retrieved (WSM41950). It is likely that a number of tracks and holloways within the wood to the west of the suggested medieval settlement are broadly

contemporary with this (WSM35402, 35403, 35405, 35408, 35409, 35397, 35398, and 35399). Three ponds are present to the north and north-west of the house which are suggested to be of medieval origin, probably functioning as fish ponds which were often associated with high status sites, as well as feeding the former moat (WSM06723, 35413, and 35412). A fish weir of medieval date is also suggested within the River Severn (WSM23804).

The post-medieval use of the area is clear from an estate map (Plate 5 and Plate 8) and description of 1771 (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114). The map depicts the moat around the house, as well as three avenues of trees leading towards the north-east side of the moated enclosure. On the eastern side of the moat, a larger tree than any other is depicted. This is likely to be the Ribbesford Oak (discussed below). Immediately to the west of the moat area was a further enclosed area depicted as orchard. The high brick wall on sandstone base enclosing this space remains extant around what was formerly a kitchen garden. This wall also makes up the rear extent of the churchyard with a door through it which leads directly from the church to the house via the kitchen garden (Plate 2). On the eastern side of the kitchen garden a triangular enclosure is visible on the map with three small ponds inside that were probably part of a water garden.

Accompanying the map of 1771 was a description of the estate, as follows (to be read in conjunction with the field names and numbers on the map; Plate 8).

In the gatehouse meadow. The granary, consists of three rooms one above another supported by brick pillars, the centre pillar down. Good building of brick and tile cover. Dove house of stone plastered, covered with tile, no pigeons. In the same range formerly the coach house stable. Hunters stable. Hop kilns 12 kilns, with rooms over them. A Malthouse. Lead cistern. Tenants property. Wets 40 strikes. On the couching floor is a cider press. Above are the witherings and drying room. Adjoining the witherings is a room for malt. Old coach house, now cider mill house. The whole of this range substantial building of stone covered with tile in good repair. A barn 2 bays with stone underbuilt. Board walls and tile cover in good repair. Near the mill a barn 4 bays and stone threshing floor very substantial of stone and tile cover in good repair. Pigsties formerly dog kennel, talent over them. A wainhouse supported on one side by brick pillars, the other side rests upon the dog kennel wall. An over shot corn mill, one pair of stones fed by the Dogkennel pool.

In number 13 is a small brick building, thatch covered with a cellar hewn out of the rock for the convenience of the person who takes the cherries, selling drink during the cherry season.

In number 17 an old timber and thatch barn, almost in ruins.

One of the buildings mentioned here remains, this being the T shaped structure which was principally a threshing barn (WSM35415) (Plate 4) but also had elements used as a cowhouse, stables and granary. The building has a tablet of the Herberts carved into it, suggesting an early 17th century date. Three buildings were shown to the east of this on the 1771 map, the smallest of which is likely to have been the dove house as described with potentially also a granary "supported on brick pillars". The long structure aligned north to south on the north side of field 8 may have housed the 12 hop kilns mentioned, especially as fields 5 and 7 on the map are close to this and described as hop yards. The names of fields 5 and 8 also suggest brick production in those areas (WSM12865), potentially for use in the house. To the north-west of the threshing barn was a further set of buildings likely to have been the "over shot corn mill, one pair of stones fed by the Dogkennel pool". Local timber management and production was also outlined when Sir Henry Herbert was advised by a friend not to buy the estate in 1627 as so great a part of it was coppice that it could not "strengthen a lord with any multitude of tenants" (VCH 1924, p 297).

The corn mill and all of the farm buildings except the threshing barn had been demolished by the time of the 1838 Tithe Map (Plate 17) as well as the moat and possible water garden having been filled in. Two small structures and enclosures are visible on the 1838 map to the immediate north of the house over the former moat, although these no longer remain. The immediate garden enclosure of the

house was extended towards the south-east over the former moat, to its broadly remaining position. The house access remained from its north-east side as previously, with a trackway heading south to the river and north-east to the church and threshing barn. A cottage was added on the northern side of the threshing barn which remains (WSM40169).

5 The building

5.1 Building description

The building is grade II* listed and is described as follows (NHLE Ref: 1329928):

Country house, now flats. Mid-C16, partly rebuilt late C17, remodelled early C19 with some mid-C20 alterations. Rendered brick with tile roof. Main range aligned north-west/south-east, with a service range extending north-east from north-west end. North front: three storeys with attic lit by gabled dormers, service range projects to right; in angle between two a C19 two-storey range with three timber cross-windows; rest of front: to left slightly advanced gabled bay with a square bay window rising to first floor, then three stone cross-windows, a 4-light window in projecting porch, then two stone windows to right of porch; second floor has a 3-light window to left, then three 2-light windows, a 4-light window in porch and two 2-light windows to right; ground floor: square bay to left, three stone cross-windows, and to right of porch a 3-light window and a square bay; entrance in porch is flanked by engaged fluted Doric columns supporting entablature and moulded cornice; the plinths are decorated with lozenges, the two-leaf half-glazed door is under a semi-elliptical head. South (garden) front: right-hand part: three storeys with attic; two octagonal towers flank the entrance capped by leaded onion domes, central window is a canted oriel with decorative parapet, each tower is flanked by a 3-light window on first and second floor; entrance has a loggia with four Doric columns and balustrade to parapet, door is two-leaf and half-glazed; left-hand part: three storeys with attic lit by three dormers, five windows, a mixture of 2- and 3-lights. Interior: stair hall has C16 moulded ceiling beams, the staircase is early C19 with cast iron balusters. The house was originally moated, but the moat was mostly infilled in the late C18. Graded II for the potential archaeological interest of the fabric.*

5.2 Historic information

The ownership of the Manor of Ribbesford can be traced from the 8th century to the present day, as outlined within Appendix 1. It is not the intention of this report to reiterate this history, but more to provide the relevant details which will shed light on the development of the standing house.

It is presumed that the footprint of a manor predating the current structure is within broadly the same position as the current house. This is suggested from the presence of a moat which was mapped in 1771 and shown surrounding the house (Plate 5), but later infilled by c 1800. Moats are typically dated as a feature type to between 1150 and 1500 (Le Patourel and Roberts 1978). Remnants of stone revetting for the moat were observed on the south side (VCH IV) and the north side (Price 1974) in the 20th century.

Documentary evidence suggests that the construction of the current house was started in the 1530s (Price 1974), presumably shortly after it was bought by Sir Robert Acton, see Phase 1 Section 5.3.1 below. Some notion of the interior decoration of the house in its earliest phase can be seen from some panelling reused in cupboards at Wickhamford Church, Worcestershire and Greyfriars, Worcester, which is thought to have been originally at Ribbesford. These were richly painted with cream and black decorations, some of which included the coats of arms of the Actons as well as those of the house of Tudor (Plate 173 and Plate 174). More specifically, one is considered to relate to Edward Tudor (Plate 175), later Edward VI, who lived between 1537 and 1553 (Moore 1974). Between the years 1538 and 1543, John Leland the antiquarian stated that "Mr Acton hath a goodly mannour place", although in 1627 the house was described as "pleassant for the somer, but not

healthful for the winter" (VCH IV). By 1669 further works to the house were known to have taken place (Price 1974) under the ownership of Henry Herbert.

In the 1770s the house and grounds were described as well as planned and drawn. These were themselves recorded in the early 19th century by the Bewdley Antiquarian Peter Prattinton (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114).

The description of the building thought to date from 1771 is transcribed below (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) and should be read in conjunction with the ground floor house plan (Plate 12) and the grounds plan (Plate 8). None of the colours mentioned below remain with the plan.

Lodging rooms over that part of this plan circumscribed by the colour yellow. The gallery over the hall, best lodging rooms over the best parlour. Marble chimney piece, with a closet adjoining. Lord Herberts room over the drawing room and closets. Room over dining room, same over Stone parlour, same over butler's pantry, marble chimney piece. State lodging room over little parlour and pantry, the library. Garrets over the whole, low and dark. Over the part coloured red. Room over the servants hall, passage over same, room over still room, same as over passage, same over dressing room, linen close. Garrets over the whole, low and dark.

Range of buildings to the north of the court. A brew house, a lodging room over bakehouse. Bottle house, room over it. Ciderhouse, room over it. Two common necessaries. first hopkilns, 3 kilns. Second hop kilns, 3 kilns, part of this now converted into a stables. Over the hop kilns are two drying rooms. The goose house, over which is a house, now for apples, formerly the porters room.

End of the court. The gatehouse. Hop kilns and kiln, a drying room over them. Old laundry now a lumber room. Porters lodge. In 1760 the present tenant converted it into a stove for making starch. Room over it and best gateway. A closet. Best gateway. Foxhouse. At the corner of the gravel court the best necessary. The whole of this is brick building covered with tile.

The following extract includes a description of the building recorded in the middle of the 19th century which recalls the memories of a Bewdley resident approximately 50 years previous, although evidently edited and embellished by the author (Walker 1862). The account is consistent with the house prior to its major changes in the 1790s and describes those changes, as will be outlined below.

"The Court House, which stands a little to the south of the church, was probably erected about the time of James I, on the site of a still older mansion. It was a red brick building, with stone dressings, but having been completely modernized, the following graphic description of the old house as it existed in the last century, written about fifty years ago, by an elderly lady, a native and resident of Bewdley, and communicated to me by a friend, will no doubt be interesting to many lovers of " the stately homes of England."

"Only a small part of the original structure remains, yet this the best. The architecture (as I remember it to have been in my younger days) was that of the reigns of Elizabeth and James I, a period when it is said that architecture was at its lowest ebb in England, just at the time when the idea of seeking security from hostile attacks had not wholly given way to those of pleasantness and convenience, correspondent to the happier and quieter period in which we now live. Thus the mansion was moated, the moat including within its circuit a lawn or bowling green and many small gardens of parterres and alleys, laid out with rule and compass. Over the moat were two bridges; at the end of each a gateway, one leading to the stables, &c.; the other was the grand entrance, and was ornamented with two towers, the demolishing of which every lover of antiquity and of picturesque beauty must regret. These hoary turrets, towering above the foliage of the trees which surrounded them, were in unison with the genius of the place, and gave a tone of sombre grandeur to the scene. This gateway led through a kind of quadrangle to the great hall, which is still remaining, with two towers corresponding to those which are laid low, but less impressive, as not being turreted. The buildings which formed the

two sides of the quadrangle are entirely taken down; they consisted of two ranges of small inconvenient rooms, deserving the censure of Gray, in his humorous long story:-

'Long passages that lead to nothing,

And windows that exclude the light.'

"I shall never forget the shudder with which in my younger days I have entered that apartment which was the scene of poor Lord Herbert's tragedy (lord Herbert committed suicide in 1738), always kept shut, and opened only to gratify curiosity. The outside architecture of these two ranges of building consisted of numerous projecting gable-ends, connected by a long low roof, the windows casemented with small panes. and I think stone frames, gloomy and desolate, so that however desirable in its original state, as a, picturesque feature in the landscape, it was by no means so as a dwelling, and the improvers who demolished one half of the pile acted as Hamlet advised his mother to do by her heart-

'To throw away the worser half of it

And live the better with the other half.'

"A large number of useless rooms would in these days would be a heavy incumbrance, and a gloomy object for the eye to dwell upon, compared with cheerful aspect of the lawn which now occupies their site.

"I must not however omit to mention, that a considerable portion of what remains of the mansion is of more modern date than the original edifice-I mean that to the left of the entrance: this part of the building I am told is about the date of the beginning of Queen Anne's reign, and originally was one vast kitchen, without an upper floor and open to the roof, and having two ranges of sashed windows-a kitchen, suited to the magnitude of the original edifice, and denoting the profuse but comfortless hospitality of the times in which it was erected".

The times in which the writer of the above lived would now be generally designated as the " period when architecture was at its lowest ebb in England, "rather than the reigns of Elizabeth and James; and I do not think it is at all likely that the large addition made to the house in Queen Anne's time, with its two or three rows of windows, was ever intended for " one vast kitchen."

Greatly as the ancient and picturesque appearance of the house was injured by the demolition of the wings and gateway towers, the more recent alterations, carried out about forty years ago, were far more destructive to the original character of the building; every old external feature having been then destroyed, and the whole transformed into a modern stuccoed imitation of an Elizabethan structure. Even the characteristic early eighteenth-century addition was brought into conformity with the rest of the modernized house; and though the octagonal towers still remain they are covered with a coating of cement and pierced with square windows, so that few would recognize the mansion in its present state as the ancient moated seat of the Actons, the Herberts, and other families of note in their day and generation (Walker 1862).

What is clear from both descriptions and the above plan (Plate 12), is that two wings of the building that would have formed a U shaped courtyard on the north-east side of the house have been demolished on the north-east side of the building. The projected outline of these can be seen on Figure 2. These two wings joined by a hall which had its entrance on the north side in the position of the extant entrance were consistent with a broadly medieval layout. The description outlines a gallery on the first floor above the hall, lit by windows between the turrets (Plate 7 and Plate 9). The first floor gallery was accessed by a spiral staircase within the north-west turret. They presumably then allowed access to the first floor living spaces to the south-east of the hall as no other staircases are illustrated, with the exception of within the room M, the "Stone Parlour", although this had no access internally on the ground floor.

The descriptions also outline the main rooms over the ground and first floors with "garrets over the whole, low and dark" above. These are most likely to have been between the trusses within the roof space, a description which does not relate closely to the second floor extant structure as the roof structure is above these rooms. This implies that the entire roof of the first building thought to date to the **1530s** has been removed, the walls heightened and a new roof structure added. This is confirmed by the 1771 drawing (Plate 9) which shows the roof structure of the presumed 1530s building with a lower roofline than the early 18th century structure attached to its west side. Although this is less clear on Plate 7, the window arrangement suggests main rooms on ground and first floors only. Similarly it is likely that the turrets have been similarly raised with its round windows replaced and the shape of their dome slightly changed.

The broad layout of the building can also be given from the plans and descriptions, with the best rooms on the "high" east end of the hall and the service rooms such as kitchens and pantries on the "low" west end of the hall. This is also confirmed by the presence of the entrance within the traditional position at the "low" end of the hall, i.e. closest to the service elements of the building. This "high and low" separation developed most obviously through the medieval era, although often has a more practical aspect, with the more high status rooms facing towards the south. In this case, they face towards the south and east.

No clear indication as to the works undertaken in the **1660s** can be suggested from 1770s and later records, although the "numerous projecting gable-ends" on the now largely demolished wings may relate to this era.

The second description (Walker 1862) outlines a building dating to the "beginning of Queen Anne's reign (**early 18th century**), and originally was one vast kitchen, without an upper floor and open to the roof, and having two ranges of sashed windows- a kitchen, suited to the magnitude of the original edifice". This is the structure on the north-western side of the original house, see Phase 2 Section 5.3.2 below. The kitchen is clearly marked on the 1771 plan with a brewhouse within this structure to the north-west of the kitchen. No rooms were registered as over these so it is possible that they remained open to the roof. To the north-east of the brew house was a further range aligned north-east to south-west, the first room of which was a bakehouse with a "lodging room over". The range evidently contained a cider house, two necessaries (toilets), hop kilns, stables, drying rooms, a goose house and a former porters lodge then used for apple storage.

A single window consisting of small vertically set rectangular panes, leaded between and tied to bars within an iron frame casement remains within Bewdley museum (not accessioned). This would have been part of a cross window and of a type dated to the 17th or early 18th centuries. It is known to have come from Ribbesford due to graffiti on one pane which reads "TA Grayland of Ribbesford Hall Near Bewdley Worcestershire D=m Dec-t-f-l Women Dei Gratia 1764". One Thomas Grayland was known to be renting the principal part of the demesne in 1745 as a stud farm.

The single most defining event in the development of current building as evident from the documentary sources was a programme of extensive rebuilding c **1800** after the property was bought by Francis Ingram in 1787, see Phase 3 Section 5.3.3 below. This is first drawn on the 1838 Tithe Map (Plate 17) and again sometime before July 1845 (Plate 18). The extent scale of the rebuild was to be extensive, as shown by proposed plans and elevations copied in the early 19th century (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114). One of the proposals outlined the entire removal of the probable 1530s building, to be replaced by a Georgian style house facing towards the south-east (Plate 13 to Plate 16).

As previously outlined, the works that were actually undertaken involved the demolition of the two wings on the north-east side as well as the gatehouse which contained similar turrets to the house. The suggestion is that all of the 1530s and 1660s roofs were removed at this time and these elements heightened to add an extra floor. It is clear that the external character dates from this time with raised pediments around the roofline of the 1530s building and its gable ends with decorative central stone

finials at their apexes. A similar raised stepped gable was added on to the early 18th century kitchen / brewhouse at its north-west end.

The pre-1845 drawing shows (Plate 18) shows cross windows of the same style as the stone cross windows within the extant building, implying that these were part of the 1790s work and replacing those visible in the 1770s. Similarly the double height projecting window to the left of the entrance to the house is shown on this image as extant. It is noted in the description of the kitchen and brew house prior to this point that it had sash windows, although the structure as remaining has the same style stone cross windows. Although not particularly accurate with the extant structure, further chimney stacks are also visible for the first time above the south-east end of the house.

It is evident from these changes that a primary aim of the 1790s renovation was to present the building in a single style, as was accomplished by the addition of cement render across much of the structure. This no doubt concealed the multiple phases of the existing brick and stone building. It is likely that the moat was filled in during this time, most likely with demolition material from the house.

Some idea of the layout internally as intended from the 1790s works can be seen on plans of the house within sales particulars dating to 1900 (Plate 20 and Plate 21). The main entrance into the house remains within its former position although with the door orientated towards the north-east. The former hall has been converted into a dining room with a drawing room to its south-east. The first and second floors are accessed by stairs within the north-west turret as before which led to bedrooms on both the first and second floors, clearly showing that both the hall and kitchen/brewhouse were no longer open to the ceiling. The plan of the second floor which shows bedrooms with dressing rooms attached clearly does not correspond with the "low and dark garrets" as described in around 1771.

The "high" and "low" arrangement of the building clearly remained as previous with the boudoir, larger bedrooms and drawing room to the south-east of the former hall, now dining room. To the north-west service elements, such as pantries, the kitchen (which remained in its former position), scullery, Brewhouse and dairy were present with a meat larder, laundry, fruit store, stables, loose box, harness room and box room on the ground floor of the north-east to south west aligned range. To the north-west of this range, buildings are shown within the position of the filled in moat on the 1838 and 1883 maps. In 1900 these are labelled as drying, coal, wood and stable yards as well as closets, fowl house, loose box and a carriage house.

The Tithe map of 1838 does not show the brick building to the right of the entrance way, between the early 1800s building and the north-east to south-west aligned range, see Phase 4 Section 5.3.4 below. This is however shown on the **pre 1845** drawing of the house. The 1900 plan labels its downstairs rooms as a butler's pantry, servants' hall and passage, with bedrooms above. The building is again shown on the 1883 OS map (Plate 19) with the new turrets of the earlier wing visible for the first time in, see Phase 5, Section 5.3.5 below. There were few visible changes in the first half of the 20th century on the mapping, see Phase 6, Section 5.3.6 below.

The house was for a brief time the centre for the '400 Club' in the first half of the 20th century. This was a club for the 400 owners of the most prominent houses and estates of the West Midlands. Originally an airstrip was planned in a field to the east of the house for club members, although it is not known if this was ever created (Stephen Price pers comm). Elevations were drawn up in 1933 (Plate 24 and Plate 25), although these were done by trainee architects practicing their trade and do not necessarily relate to any change.

One of the most notable events in the history of Ribbesford House was its occupation during the Second World War by the Free French. This has been well documented previously (Knowles 1999). The Free French were based in Malvern initially but then relocated in 1942 to Ribbesford House which became the Ecole Militaire des Cadets de la France Libre (Cadets Military School of the Free French). Numerous documents and artefacts exist from this period such as letters to soldiers stationed there, ration books, Free French badges and more. Charles De Gaulle, leader of the French resistance and post-war French president, is known to have visited Ribbesford and Bewdley on a

number of occasions, as photographed at the front of the house in 1942 (Plate 26). In 1940 the house had been used briefly by the 2nd London Division and remained in military use until the French left in 1944 (Wilks 2007). Polish prisoners of war are known to have been at Ribbesford towards the end of the war also (Simon Gooding pers comm).

After the war, the property was bought by Wing Commander Alfred John Howell who renovated the property and turned it into accommodation for both tenants and guests (BBC 2019), presumably giving the building much of its existing internal layout, see Phase 7, Section 5.3.7 below. The building remained unoccupied for a number of years and was subject to a degree of decay up until its sale in spring 2018.

5.3 Building development

Seven phases were identified during the investigation of the building which are described as below. These phases are illustrated on Figures 3 to 9, and the general overall appearance of the current structure shown on Plate 27 to Plate 37.

- Phase 1: mid-16th century
- Phase 2: early to mid-18th century
- Phase 3: c 1800
- Phase 4: 1838 to 1845
- Phase 5: 1838 to 1883
- Phase 6: 1900 to 1947
- Phase 7: 1947 onwards

5.3.1 Phase 1: mid-16th century

Only a single element of the structure as supposedly built in around the 1530s, or slightly later, was clearly visible. These were deeply moulded floor joists (Plate 39 and Plate 40, and Figure 10) which extended from a principal floor joist beam set into, and parallel with, the walls at the south-east end of room G2 and the north-west end of room G4 (see Figure 10, profile A). This confirmed that G2 and G34 were once a single room. Three further principal joists crossed this room (with broadly the same profile (A, Figure 10), with two further secondary joists running along the length of the room (see Figure 10 profile B), into which common floor joists were jointed (see Figure 10, profile C). The prominent decorative feature of these beams were roll mouldings with hollow chamfers between, typical of the first half of the 16th century (Hall 2005). At the end of the three principal joists which spanned the room, a curved bracket was added and set into the wall, implying an original wall position. Two of these on the principal joists set either side of a blocked wide fireplace had carved foliate details (Plate 41), implying their visibility of position and also the potential that the blocked fireplace position (Plate 42) was original. It is likely that the current corridor, room G3a, (Plate 43) once housed the chimney structure, as reconstructed in cross section (Figure 11). This also housed an external door as shown on the 1771 plan and the images of the same date (Plate 9 and Plate 10) lit by round headed windows with small pane leaded glass panels above.

Another further potential element of this building remained in the cellar in the form of thick brick and sandstone walls, although later coverings precluded the clear identification of these elements as of this phase (Plate 44). This element of cellar, room B2 located below room G5, had evidence for two blocked openings with slanted sides to the south-west exterior elevation, presumably windows (Plate 45). There is evidence that the cellar extended towards the north-east under the now demolished wing, as seen by two blocked doorways, although one of these may have been for stairs as shown on the 1771 plan of the house in room D (Figure 5). A small niche also existed on the north-east wall of this room (Plate 46).

The majority of that which can be suggested about the rest of the house at this time comes from a comparison of the historic and modern plans, as well as historic drawings. It is clear that room G1 fits closely in plan with F, Great Parlour (Plate 47), as shown on the plan of 1771 (Plate 12), G2 with E, Green Hall (Plate 48), and G5 with D, the Butler's Pantry (Plate 49). The north western side of room G5 appears to have been the extent of the building during this phase. It is probable the Phase 3 mouldings either side of apparent former room divisions visible on the ceiling conceal Phase 1 beams. These stopped approximately 0.90m from the north-east wall of the room, on a line which was a continuation of the deeply moulded beams within room G4.

The turrets on the south-east side of the building (Plate 31) fit broadly, but not exactly with those on the 1771 plan, although the only visible brick work internally of these structure is of Phase 3 (Plate 54) suggesting that they were entirely rebuilt. The entrance at the north corner of the hall is within the position of that in 1771 and it is also possible that room G6 walls retain original elements, although the alignment of this is poor.

The layout and use of the first floor can also be suggested to some degree from a comparison of the plans, starting with room F1 being described as used as *best lodgings* (Plate 50). Rooms F2 (Plate 51) and F3 (Plate 52) were described as a single room used as a gallery. At least part of F4 (Plate 53) would have been taken up by a chimney breast extending from the floor below, although the images of the exterior of the building (Plate 9 and Plate 10) show a window on the south-west facing elevation of small leaded panes as below, split by mullions. This probably lit the gallery and it is likely that there was access to the southern tower through room F4, as it was shown with small oval windows on this floor as well as all others. Rooms F8 and F9 are likely to have been a single room, described in 1771 simply as a room.

Little can be said of the second floor of the original building. The 1771 description that this floor in use as garrets was low and dark, implies that these rooms were between roof trusses. The Phase 3 alterations removed the roof structures of this phase in their entirety, leaving little to be clearly determined. A potential exception to this was a moulded timber reused within the Phase 3 rebuild of the southern tower (Plate 55 and Figure 12). The mouldings of this timber were of a similar style to those on the ground floor with roll mouldings dominant, and appears to have faced downwards, as suggested by regularly spaced pegging on its opposing side that did not extend through the full depth of the timber as would be the case on a purlin. Given the relatively small section of this timber, it is probable that it would have been one of a pair or more on each side of the roof. A moulded purlin would further suggest at least one room open to the roof structure, the most likely candidate for this would be the first floor gallery. By 1771, this room along with the others had been ceilinged over and contained garrets above. A further timber (Plate 56 and Figure 12) with similar mouldings was also rebuilt into the southern tower, although little could be clearly suggested of its use. It did retain hints of red paint within the recessed elements of the mouldings. Both of these timbers were converted by hand with saw marks a little off 90°, suggestive of pit or double trestle sawing. This technique has been tentatively suggested to have been first used in Herefordshire c 1542 (James 2012).

5.3.2 Phase 2: early to mid-18th century

The Phase 1 building was extended to the north-west from its probable former gable end (Plate 34 Plate 58). This extension was brick structure (bricks 330mm by 130mm by 60mm in dimension) and shown in 1771 (Plate 34) as having had two rows of sash windows at ground and first floor levels with four dormer windows lighting the roof space. Its eaves details are shown as dentilled with exposed stonework on its western corner, a detail which remained. The roofline of this structure was higher than that of the Phase 1 building, as shown by the 1771 illustrations. Although much of its exterior character was dominated by the Phase 3 alterations, much of its interior layout and fabric remained.

Its roof was supported by four trusses, with its north-west gable presumably brick built. The trusses (Figure 13) consisted of a beam laterally crossing the building and sunk into the top of the wall, onto which pairs of timbers curved at their base were placed and in turn braced with a collar and pegged at the apex. The base of the timbers was attached to the wall plate with iron straps, completing a truss

type known as an upper cruck. The crucks had a single purlin on each side trenched into their upper side, with original rafters remaining above the purlins. The rafter sections below the purlins were replaced in Phase 3. Upper crucks are a typically 18th century and later feature, used specifically to allow access through the roof space without low collars and tie beams. That this space was floored can be seen from mortices intermittently visible along the length of the wall plate (Plate 59). This evidence goes against the description of the building being one great edifice "open to the roof". The suggestion that it was built early in the reign of Queen Anne (1702-1714) (Walker 1862) is possible though is potentially a little early.

Whilst it is probable that the second floor was a single room from S11 to S14 (Plate 60 and Plate 61), the first floor is likely to have had broadly four rooms, F10 to F13 (Plate 62 to Plate 64). No description of these rooms was given in 1771 potentially supporting the suggestion recorded in 1862 (Walker) that the rooms below were open above, although this is unlikely given the presence of sash windows at first floor level on the exterior elevation illustrated in 1771.

The ground floor was split into three rooms broadly although room G7a (Plate 65) is shown in 1771 as shown having been split into the butler's pantry and little parlour, with G7b (Plate 66) being a passage as it remained. The passage and butler's pantry accessed a large room, now G8 (Plate 67 and Plate 68) which was described as a kitchen in 1771. The fireplace within room G8 is probably original to the phase as it corresponds closely to the 1771 plan, with the cupboard next to it probably being a former oven. A suggested section across the building at this point is illustrated on (Figure 13). G9 (Plate 69) in 1771 consisted of a single room, listed as a brewhouse. This room is shown as having had chimney a set in its northern corner as evidence for a redundant chimney breast above this point was visible on first and second floors (Plate 70 and Plate 71). The brewhouse linked internally to the wing extending to the north-east, which will be discussed later within this phase.

The kitchen was served by direct access to a cellar of this phase (Plate 72) which had a set of stairs which led into the north-west end of room G8 (Plate 74), and a further set of stairs leading into the butler's pantry, room G7a (Plate 75), as also seen by a break in the floor boards within room G7a (Plate 76). The room to the west of the latter staircase had a door inserted into the Phase 1 structure to provide access (Plate 44).

It is likely that the brick built (bricks 330mm by 115mm by 60mm in dimension) range heading towards the north-east from room G9 and F13 (Plate 36, Plate 37 and Plate 77 to Plate 80) was contemporary with this structure as its south-eastern external wall corresponded closely with the internal division between rooms G8 and G9 on the ground floor and F12 and F13 on the first floor. Room G10 (Plate 81) was listed in 1771 as a bakehouse with a lodging room over, room F14 (Plate 82 and Plate 83). The 1771 plan did not extend beyond the bakehouse although the description continues with *bottle house, room over it. Ciderhouse, room over it. Two common necessaries* (toilets), probably within rooms G14, G15 and G16 (Plate 84 and Plate 85) and F15 and F16 (Plate 86 and Plate 87).

The description continues with *first hop kilns, 3 kilns. Second hop kilns, 3 kilns, part of this now converted into a stables*. It is probable that these covered what are now G17 to G19 (Plate 88 to Plate 91). It is possible that the brick arch structure visible within G17b were part of the hop kilns, although may be part of a laundry on this spot in 1900. Drying rooms are listed above these (Plate 92 to Plate 93), for the hops. G19a and b were used as stabling by 1900, possibly continuing the earlier use. This is supported by a blocked wide doorway suitable for horse access through the south-east wall into what in this phase would have been a courtyard (Plate 94 Figure 4, elevation 6).

The remainder was a *goose house, over which is a house, now for apples, formerly the porters room*. This probably relates to G20 to G24 (Plate 97 to Plate 99) and F20 to F24 (Plate 100 to Plate 103). It must be stated here that no clear internal brick divisions of this phase were visible, all were unbonded to the exterior walls and of wider gauge brick. What did remain were 11 beams crossing the structure that would have supported the first floor. Where visible and remaining, these had simple stop and run out chamfers at their ends (Plate 104) and mostly did not relate to the remaining walls. On the ground and first floor, the windows of the gable end (Plate 105) had internally angled

positions, suggesting the positions are original. The gable also had a projecting string course with a course of rounded brick below (Plate 36). It is probable that the triangle of bricks above the window below is also an original feature. This is seen above other later replacement windows, particularly on the north-west side, suggesting the window positions were original. No further original features were identified, mainly due to Phase 3 alterations, the largest of which was a complete removal of the roof.

A hint of a further range of structures was present heading south-east from the north-east end of the building. This was in the form of a wall having formerly been keyed in to the building about 3.80m from its end and only on the upper section of the wall (Plate 79 Figure 4, elevation 4). The eastern corner shows evidence of having been rebuilt, also on the upper section of the wall, along with a replacement string of bricks between the two later windows. Below these points, the sill wall was of brick whereas elsewhere it was stone, further demonstrating a change at this point. It is probable that this structure was related to a gateway next to a bridge over the moat to the north-east into a former courtyard as shown on the estate map (Plate 5). The layout of these changes would suggest an arched or beamed over structure above the gateway, echoing the other gateway with turrets to its south-east (Plate 11). It is probable that between the two gateways was the gatehouse and porters lodge, described in 1771 as having *hop kilns and kiln, a drying room over them. Old laundry now a lumber room. Porters lodge. In 1760 the present tenant converted it into a stove for making starch.* The other gateway (Plate 11) was described as the "best gateway".

5.3.3 Phase 3: c 1800

The rebuild of this phase remained as the most dominant element of the house in that it not only removed much of the Phase 1 building, see section 5.2, but that it made numerous changes to the interior layout and fabric. The most obvious change of this phase was to present a single exterior style that would dominate the character of all the future changes.

Beginning with the major structural changes, the Phase 1 house had all of its roofs removed and the walls were raised using brick (dimensions 235mm by 110 by 70mm) to place the new wall plate level at the current second floor ceiling height. Six entirely new roof trusses were added over the Phase 1 building. The two trusses spanned the north-east to south-west aligned south-eastern element of the building consisted of king post trusses with queen post struts to either side and further raking supporting struts (Plate 106). These trusses retained a fairly steep roof pitch, as would have been the case on the Phase 1 building as well as the remaining Phase 2 structure. The trusses were of hand sawn oak and used a combination of traditional oak pegging and iron strap fixings. As with all of the roof structures of this phase, the trusses supported square set purlins on each side of the roof, with each rafter attached in sections either side of this and further attached to either the central ridge board or the wall plate. The majority of the rafters were new, although some were reused. The remaining four trusses over the central section of the house were simpler king post trusses with raking struts to the central post and small vertical posts below the end of the principle rafters (Plate 107). Although no trusses were added, a short section of roof was placed at the north-west end of the Phase 2 building and the characteristic square set purlins of this phase added.

The Phase 2 north-east to south-west aligned range also had its roof removed entirely and its southern half raised with new brickwork (Plate 108, Figure 4). Six new trusses were inserted along the full length of the structure which were of the same simple king post trusses, albeit on a lower pitch (Plate 86, Plate 93 and Plate 100 Figure 14).

Further construction details were visible at this point such as the ends of each tie beam being cogged over a short length of timber built into the brick, as opposed to the more normal arrangement of the tie beam being dovetailed onto the wall plate. The wall plate of this building butted the tie beams, which were then fixed together using iron strapping. Iron strapping was also used between the principle rafters of the trusses and the purlins. Carpenters marks in the form of chiselled numerals were present on these trusses as well as layout lines marked by the carpenter (Figure 14). Such carpenters marks were also visible on the wall plate, showing that each element was laid out and marked as a single frame using traditional methods. Details of the rafters were also most visible here with their

curved end (Figure 14) as well as of the nibbed clay tiles (dimensions 280mm by 165mm by 6mm) which were placed onto every phase of the building, including all of the Phase 2 elements.

Around much of the house, although largely excluding the Phase 2 elements, a parapet wall was added including stepped gables, topped with coping stones (Plate 109) of grey sandstone of a type such as the Halesowen formation of northern Worcestershire. The same grey sandstone was used on all the visible stone elements of this phase. As previously outlined, the two turrets (Plate 31 and Plate 32) on the south-west side were at the very least heightened, if not fully replaced. A new roof structure was constructed and supported by an octagonal post internally (Plate 54), topped with lead and stone finials. These details were copied on the contemporary gateposts to the house (Plate 27). Lower stone finials were also placed above many of the gables (Plate 110), although some of those over the Phase 2 elements were of wood (Plate 111). Further decorative finials and copings were present over the porch (Plate 112) with the lead drain hoppers draining the flat roof of the porch having a decorative griffin. A further lead hopper on the south-east side of the building draining the roof valley between the turrets had the same detail (Plate 113).

No single window predating this phase remained, giving a further indication of the extent of the rebuild and the effort to present a single style. The majority of the new windows installed were of stone cross type (Plate 114) of between two and four lights; those of four lights being part of the porch structure and slightly projecting window of the north-eastern face of the structure (Plate 29) and those of the three on the gables of the south-east face (Plate 33). The windows were for the majority of the sashes of eight and four panes, with some of six panes on the second floor. The sashes themselves were hardwood and very thin glazing bars (Plate 115 and Plate 116) within frames recessed into the window openings. Many of these retained original fittings.

Some third floor windows existed, although these lit the roof space or were blocked so were for external symmetry only. Similarly, none of the windows of the south-eastern gable above the ground floor (Plate 33) lit the internal spaces as they were blocked by chimney breasts of this phase. Between the turrets on the south-western face of the building (Plate 32), there was a canted oriole window on the first floor, complete with detailing in timber (Plate 117 and Plate 118) which matched the stone detailing of the slightly projected bay window of the north-eastern face (Plate 119). Externally, most of the window openings were carved to mirror the stone effect joins in the concrete render (Plate 120) applied at this time over the whole of the building, excepting the north-east south-west aligned wing. This single addition dominated the character of the structure as well as no doubt covering numerous changes in the brickwork beneath.

The windows inserted into the north-east to south-west aligned Phase 2 wing were of the same stone but were of either a single or double mullions (Plate 94). Behind the stone mullions were wooden frames. All along the south-east facing elevation of the building tie bars were placed (Plate 121) to support leaded small square panes surrounded by elongated diamond panes (Plate 122). Simpler wooden frame casement windows of six panes were added to the north-west facing elevation of the building (Plate 123).

The interior **ground floor** of the house was accessed through a porch on the north-eastern face of the building in the position of the Phase 1 porch. The doorway was flanked by Doric columns supporting entablature and moulded cornice above (Plate 124). The porch led into a new corridor, G4, (Plate 39) at the end of which a new staircase was added (Plate 125 to Plate 127), although this may be a slightly later addition. The corridor continued through the position of the Phase 1 former south-western entrance and fireplace, G3a, (Plate 43), at which a new external doorway was added centrally between the turrets (Plate 129). The corridor led to room G1 into which a new fireplace was added as well as a bay window at the north-east end of the room (Plate 47 and Plate 130). In 1900 (Plate 20), G1 was the drawing room with G2 still a single room used for dining. Within this area of the house a number of original features such as doors, their surrounds and ceiling mouldings and skirting boards were present. The doors were of five panels, with central panel horizontally aligned (Plate 131). Details of the door and surround and casement mouldings are illustrated on (Figure 15), with the

door panel mouldings repeating those of the door casements. The ceiling mouldings followed a similar style as on the first floor (Figure 16). The moulding around the window shutters and the shutter panels followed the same pattern as the doors.

G5 was split a passage on its northern side, G5c, with a morning room within G5 a and b (Plate 49). G7b continued the passage past G7a, which was split into two in 1900 and used as a housekeepers room and china pantry (Plate 65). No known changes occurred to the kitchen, room G8 (Plate 67 and Plate 68), whilst G9 is shown in 1900 as split into a kitchen larder and scullery, with only the larder accessible from the kitchen (Plate 69).

On the **first floor**, F1 has had a dividing wall removed when compared to the 1900 plan. The position of this was still visible from a ceiling beam (Plate 50). It was split into a dressing room and boudoir linking into F2 (Plate 52) which along with F3 (Plate 53) were listed as bedrooms, splitting up the Phase 1 gallery. F3 linked into F6 (Plate 132), all of which linked into a corridor F4 and F7 and in turn the stairs as well as bedroom F9 which was later split (Plate 133 and Plate 134).

The details of this element of the first floor differed slightly from the ground floor. The doors had six panels (Plate 135). The details around the windows, doors and of the skirting boards were smaller and simpler than on the ground floor, as were the ceiling cornices (Figure 16).

A new corridor F8 linked the Phase 1 and 2 elements (Plate 136). This originally ran through the south-western side of room F10 (Plate 62) onto a landing F11 (Plate 60) which had stairs to the ground floor in its northern corner on the 1900 plan, later removed. Exactly how these stairs interacted with room G7 on the ground floor is unclear. Rooms F12 and F13 were accessed through each other (Plate 63 and Plate 64).

The raising of the height of the building allowed full height rooms on the **second floor**, where previously there had been *low and dark* rooms within the roof space. These rooms also had six panel doors (Plate 137) although with some variation in the mouldings (Figure 17).

The room plans stayed broadly similar as below with rooms S1 to S3 remaining broadly as intended (Plate 138 and Plate 139). S6 (Plate 140) was a single bedroom accessed from corridor S5 (Plate 141). S4 was a new room in the turret, used in 1900 as a toilet. The corridor led to the landing S8 which contained the stairs which extended from the ground floor (Plate 142). The landing accessed bedrooms S7 and S10 (Plate 143 and Plate 144), both of which had doors into a dressing room, S9, between them (Plate 145).

No access was directly possible to the Phase 2 element on the second floor. This was possible from the landing F11, which accessed S12, although these stairs were removed in Phase 4. The space was divided up into three bedrooms, S11, S13 (Plate 60 and Plate 61) and S14, with the latter accessed through S13.

The internal layout of the north-east to south-west aligned wing also dates largely from this time, although not all the internal divisions could be assigned to this date with certainty due to surface coverings. Room G10 (Plate 81) was listed as a Brewhouse in 1900, previously a bakehouse. Passage G14 may be of this period (Plate 84), although a Phase 4 date may be more plausible.

The inaccuracy in terms of internal layout of the 1900 is visible when considering rooms G15 to 17. The stairs as planned in 1900 partially remained in room G16 (Plate 85), with the chimney positions and features of the laundry within G17 (Plate 88). This implied that both the meat larder and boot room on the 1900 plan were within room G15. The fruit store fitted closely with G18 (Plate 89) and G19 with the stables, as this retained a number of features of this phase (Plate 91). Rooms G20 and G22 (Plate 95 and Plate 97) were undefined 'boxes' in 1900, located either side of passage G21 (Plate 96) which is shown with a staircase. Rooms G23 and G24 (Plate 98 and Plate 99) were accessed from the exterior only and were used as a harness room and a box room in 1900. The presence of the fireplace heating room G24 also suggests a domestic function.

The first floor of the raised element of this wing is likely to have comprised rooms for servants, as it was accessed from room F14. It is likely that a corridor extended along the building on the south-east side of the building, as reflected in the door positions. This partly remained next to room F15, which could not be accessed during the current investigations, along with rooms F16 to F18 which could only be photographed from above (Plate 86, Plate 87 and Plate 92). All of these rooms had ceilings included below the tie beams, whereas where the wing was not heightened, rooms F19 to F24 (Plate 93, Plate 101, Plate 102 and Plate 103), the structure was open to the roof. As on the floor below, room F24 was heated, again suggesting a domestic function, and contained stairs in the eastern corner from the room below (Plate 99).

5.3.4 Phase 4: 1838 - 1845

The corner between the house and the wing was filled in at this time, as suggested by map and illustration evidence. This consisted of a brick building (Plate 146) constructed over ground and first floor, covered by a tile roof with simple casement windows, originally of large panes, although many of these were replaced in Phase 6. Large glass panes were possible from the 1840s onwards due to technological changes, further confirming the dating of the phase. Its exterior gable was stepped like the Phase 3 building, as well as repeating the coping and chimney details.

In its interior, the building further linked the house and its wing by a long corridor on its ground floor, room G11 (Plate 148 Phase 4 room G11, looking south-east, scale 1m). A new staircase was added at the south-east end of the corridor which accessed the first floor (Plate 149) as well as new steps into the Phase 2 cellar (Plate 150). It is probable that the doorway between corridors G11 and G7b is of this date also. Corridor G11 passed rooms G12 and G13, labelled in 1900 as a butler's pantry and servants' hall (Plate 151), both of which had fireplaces. The corridor then led through to G14 which accessed exterior structures mostly no longer remaining, although that which did remain had a crest built onto it (Plate 152).

On the first floor, the building was split into three bedrooms with rooms F16 and F17 having fireplaces (Plate 153 to Plate 154). On the 1900 plan, room F18 (Plate 155) extends into corridor F15, to make a single room with no access to the wing at this point. No access was possible to the roof structures of this building during the current investigations.

5.3.5 Phase 5: 1838 - 1883

The two decorative towers and structure (Plate 156) on the south-east facing elevation of the north-east to south-west aligned wing were not shown on the tithe map of 1838 (Plate 17), but were on the Ordnance Survey map of 1883 (Plate 19). A likely second half of the 19th century date is further suggested by machine sawn softwood timbers on its roof. This was a brick and tile covered structure, accessed internally from room F20. Its octagonal exterior towers were capped with sandstone crenulations, a style copied on its gable. Its gable window was of a single mullion with metal frame casement windows. The entrance had a shallow arch set high on the structure with stone cornice detailing, behind which a new doorway position was added with a triangular lintel as well as a softwood studded medieval effect door.

The flat roof of the porch on the south-west face of the house (Plate 117) was also of machine sawn softwood timbers, and similarly first shown on the map of 1883. This consisted of four sandstone Doric columns supporting shallow arches, corncicing and a balustrade.

5.3.6 Phase 6: 1900 - 1947

No clear changes to the building can be seen from external mapping evidence in the first half of the 20th century, except the addition of a single storey structure on the north-west side of the building (Plate 157 and Plate 158) which was not present in 1901, though its plan form is visible on the Ordnance Survey map of 1938. This was a rendered brick building with a softwood rafter roof supporting clay tiles. Its windows were mullioned, although infilled with wooden frame casement windows. It was split internally into two rooms, of which G28 (Plate 159) was internally tiled, with

ceiling bars and used for hanging carcasses (Simon Gooding pers comm). The purpose of room G27 (Plate 160) was less clear.

The context in which these were built was that of the 400 Club, see Section 4. Whilst there were few structural changes of this period, there were numerous of a decorative nature.

This started with an art deco style exterior door bell (Plate 161) along with the panelling and doorway (Plate 39) into G5c within the entrance passage, G4. The panelling and fireplace surround within room G1 (Plate 47) are contemporary with this also and at least some of this panelling is of softwood with lines painted on to give the impression of oak.

The largest ground floor changes were within the service elements, with rooms G7a being divided off, the earlier staircase removed and panelling added around the lower portion of the room (Plate 65). This panelling is of historic origin and likely to be pre-18th century, although its provenance is unlikely to have been Ribbesford as various elements of panelling were brought in during the early 20th century, some from Yorkshire (Stephen Price, pers comm). It was a mix of a number of panelling styles fitted together, suggesting a number of origins.

The decreasingly functional use of these elements of the building was further supported by the addition of panelling within the former kitchen (Plate 67 and Plate 68). This was large frame panelling of a probable 18th century date, although again is unlikely to have originated in Ribbesford. That they have been altered to fit can be seen most clearly from the brass fitting of the cupboard next to the fireplace (Plate 162) which had extra pieces of timber to incorporate the angled hinge. It is probable that the stone fireplace surround dates to this time. It is likely that G9 and G10 fulfilled the kitchen function of the house with some further elements of the wing also converted at this time, most notably the addition of two chimneys heating rooms G16 and F16. G16 had a slate fireplace installed (Plate 163), with a simpler fireplace in F16. The parquet flooring with G16 is contemporary and also used in G5c, G7b, G8 and G13.

On the first floor, this was the likely to be the point at which room F10 was changed into a single room with the passage removed. Within the former landing F11, a small room consisting of F11 a and b was created using a low panel division with small coloured pane leaded glazing above (Plate 164 and Plate 165). These were square panes with smaller diamond panes between, edged around the outside with small thin rectangular panes. This style differs from the Phase 3 small panels on the north-east to south-west aligned service wing, although was present again on the Phase 4 building (Plate 166) where post-Phase 4 inserted metal frame swing casement windows also had this small panel glazing, most likely added during this phase.

Rooms F12 and F13 saw the largest structural change, as they were knocked into a single room, which is demonstrated by a high structural arch (Plate 64). The floor was raised slightly to include deep set joists creating a floating floor typical of dance floors, an interpretation confirmed by a former owner of the house (Simon Gooding pers comm). The fireplace surround is contemporary to this phase (Plate 167).

Some graffiti of 1920s and 1935 was also present at the rear of the parapet above the entrance lobby (Plate 168).

No clear evidence of the military occupation such as by the Free French between 1942 and 1944 was present within the fabric of the building, apart from perhaps shower blocks in room G19b and G18 (Plate 89 and Plate 90).

5.3.7 Phase 7: 1947 onwards

No extensions were added in this period apart from a small brick and concrete structure next to the entrance porch. This phase consisted principally of small room division inserted in order to split the building into flats.

For the first time in the development of the structure, the hall was split creating rooms G2a, G2b and G2c used as living spaces within an individual flat. Similarly room G5 was split between a and b as well as G6 and G12, although G12d was a large safe (Simon Gooding pers comm) and perhaps a slightly earlier survival (Plate 169).

The first floor landing was blocked to make a flat in F1 to 7 as well as 9b, with a further flat in F8, 9a F10 and F11b. Rooms F11a and F12 and F13 were divided to make a single flat, with the Phase 6 dancehall being split back up as previously. F14 to 18 became a further single flat with a dividing door added next to the top of the stairs.

On the second floor of the house a door within corridor S5 was added splitting S1 to S6 into a flat with a new set of steps added into the turret and an internal floor added, along with new windows within the new turret room (Plate 170). The top of the stairs were partitioned off with a new door into a flat, consisting of rooms S7 to S10. Rooms S11 to S14a became a further flat with S14b partitioned off and used as a boiler room.

Within the wing, the flat division are slightly less clear due to the extent of damage in the area, especially first floor rooms F15 to F19 which must have been accessed through the staircase in G16. G10 and G26 to G28 was likely to have been a single flat. Similarly G17c to G20. G22 to G24 along with F20 to F24 remained in use as a single flat.

A further element that was added in numerous rooms of the building were brick fireplaces (Plate 171, Plate 172, Plate 91 and Plate 98) and brick insertions (Plate 67 and Plate 163) which the previous owner recalled were constructed by a Polish former prisoner of war in the immediate post-war years (Simon Gooding pers comm).

The building remained as flats into the 1990s, from which time numerous small changes remain. One flat remained in use, that at the north-east end of the wing (Plates 101 – 103, 105 and 122).

6 Discussion and conclusions

The background and history of Ribbesford House suggest a settlement and manor within the village of Ribbesford from the Saxon era onwards, the earliest physical evidence for which comes from the church of St Leonards which has Norman fabric. The broad position of the house is medieval in origin, as it was known to have been built within a moat which was backfilled c 1800.

The background suggested that the current house had its origins in the 16th century when Sir Robert Acton bought the property in the 1530s, the clearest dating evidence for this being reused painted panelling in Wickhamford Church and Greyfriars, Worcester, which are considered to have originated from Ribbesford. The evidence within the building of chamfered floor joists over the former hall broadly corroborates this first half of the 16th century date.

Despite little of the building's fabric remaining visible behind later coverings, a fairly clear understanding of the layout of the earliest elements could be gained from a comparison of the structure with a remarkably complete set of records from 1771. These included not only descriptions and drawn images but also a ground floor plan giving the function of each room. The structure was U-shaped, with two wings projecting towards the north-east of the extant structure, joined in the centre by the hall. The description highlighted the living quarters of the owners to the south-east of the hall and the service elements to the north-west of the hall, an arrangement which persisted within the building well into the 20th century. The evidence of re-used timbers potentially suggested that the gallery above the hall was open to the roof with multiple chamfered purlins, although this is not certain.

Although the documentary evidence outlined 17th century phases of work, no evidence of this remained visible within the structure. The next phase came in the first half of the 18th century when a substantial service element was added to the north-west of the house, along with a further wing to the north-east. The service element included substantial new cellarage, kitchen, brewhouse and more,

with an upper cruck roof structure that would have created a single room within the roof space. The wing was used as a bakehouse, stabling, hop kilns, goose house and accommodation, although little conclusive evidence of these functions remained as all but the exterior walls and some internal floor joists were later removed.

The property was extensively remodelled c 1800, It is presumed that this was after Francis Ingram bought the house in 1787. Whilst the rebuild truncated and substantially altered many elements of the existing structures, alternative proposed plans outlined the entire removal of the 16th century building, although these were never carried out. The character of the site was also changed extensively with a turreted entrance structure removed and the moat infilled.

The changes to the house were of a substantial and structural nature, with a majority of the earlier elements at least reroofed, and the impact on the appearance of the building would have been dramatic. The exterior character was dominated by these works with every surviving window being of this date or later as well as most of the detailing, stonework and render. Much of the interior detail was of this period, with some additional dividing walls to create new spaces.

The last major addition was in around 1840 with a new element to the house and its wing. The remaining phases mostly changed the interior use of the building, most notably in the first half of the 20th century, when it was used as the centre for a country club, known as the 400 Club. Whilst the wartime activity at Ribbesford forms a significant part of its history, this appeared to have had little impact on the fabric of the building, with the exception of the work of a former prisoner of war who assisted with dividing the building into flats in the immediate post-war period.

Overall, the methods adopted for this investigation allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved, although the possibility of unknown elements remaining behind later surfaces such as paint and plaster remains high, as is typically the case within such a large multi-phase structure.

7 Project personnel

The project was led by Tim Cornah, ACIfA, and managed by Tom Vaughan, MCIfA.

8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following: Adrian Walsh (Pure Building Consultancy), Emma Hancox (Historic Environment Advisory and Policy Manager, Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council), Peter Basset (Wyre Forest District Council), Stephen Price and Simon Gooding (local historians).

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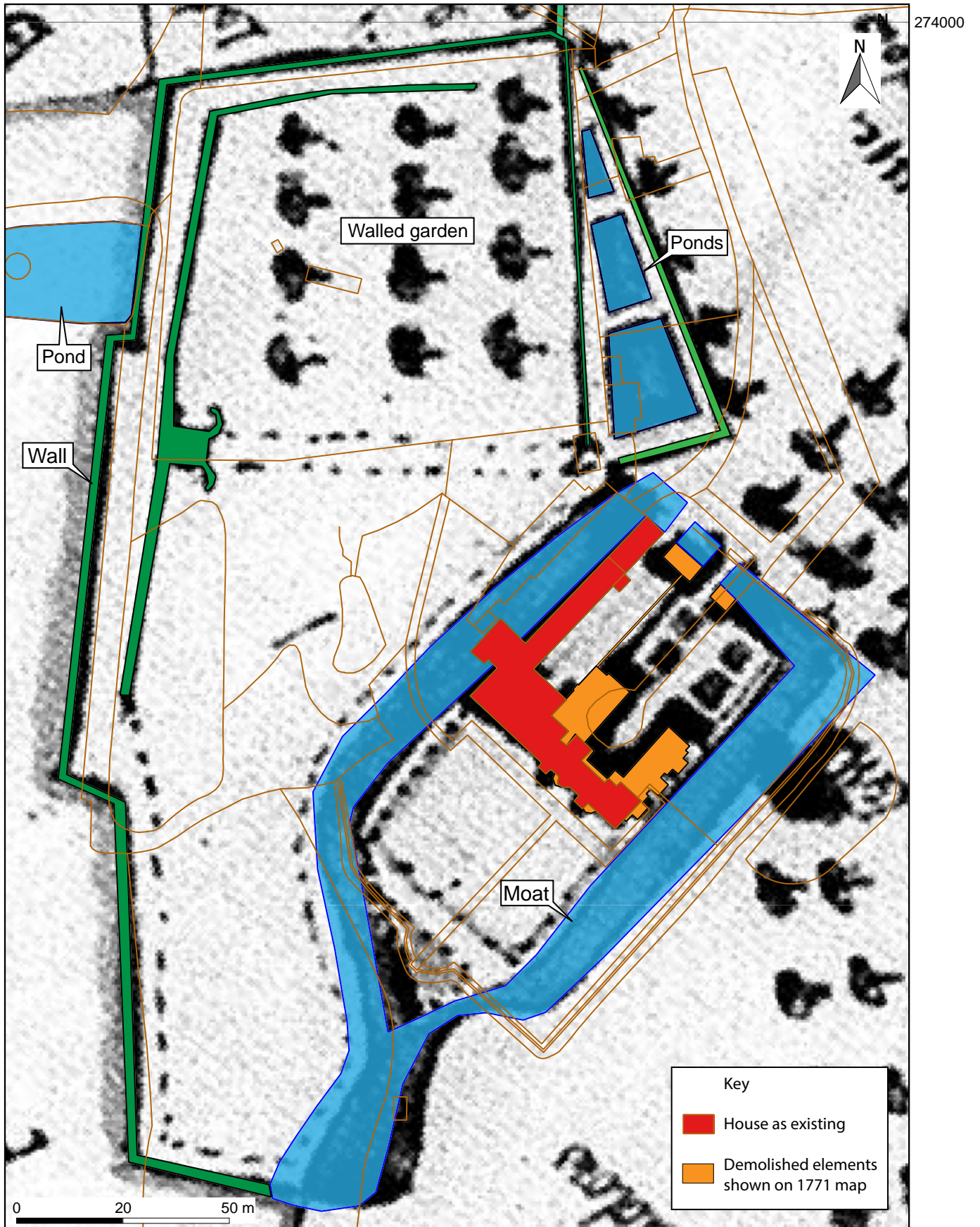
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Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1



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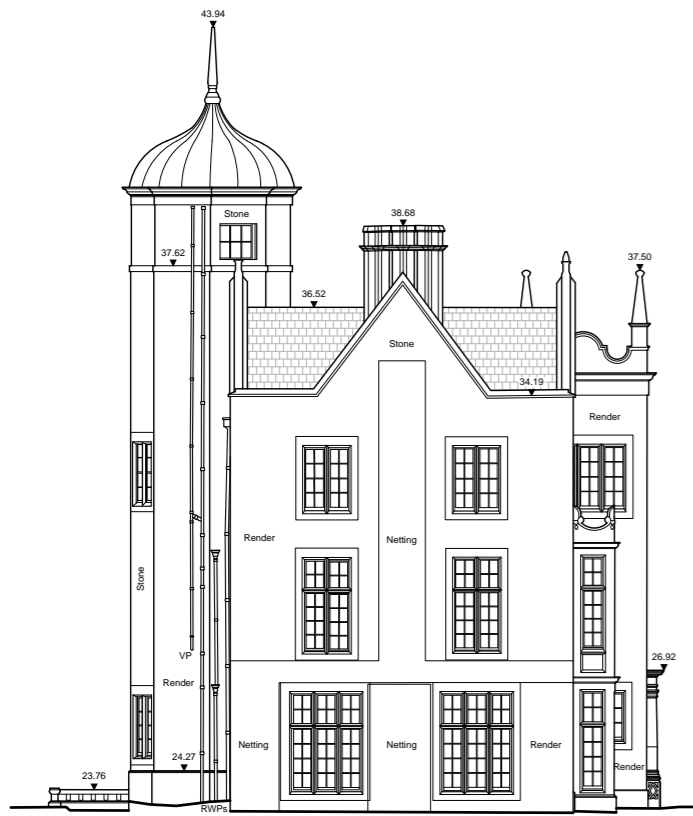
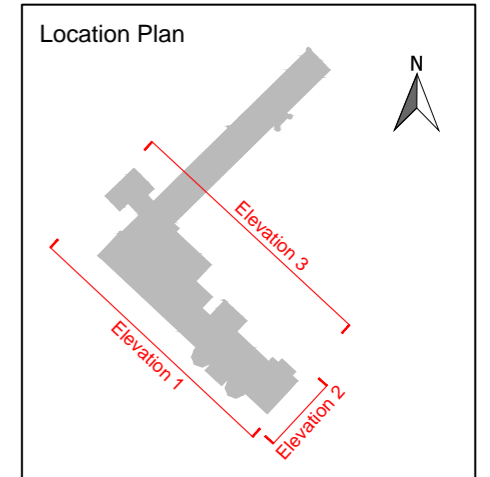
Features and buildings as visible on the 1771 map (WRD BA10509 Ref 989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol.XXIX, 114) with modern mapping overlain

Figure 2



ELEVATION 1

Datum Line 20.00m



ELEVATION 2

Datum Line 20.00m



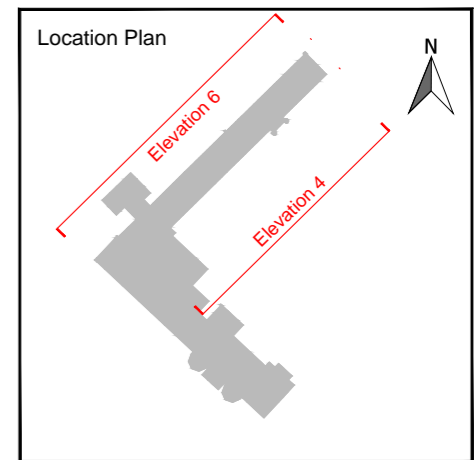
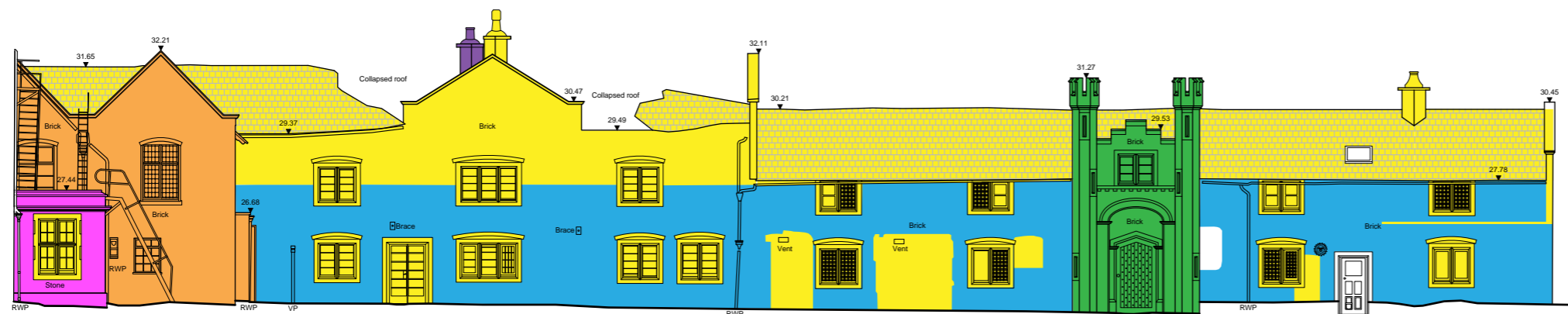
ELEVATION 3

Datum Line 20.00m



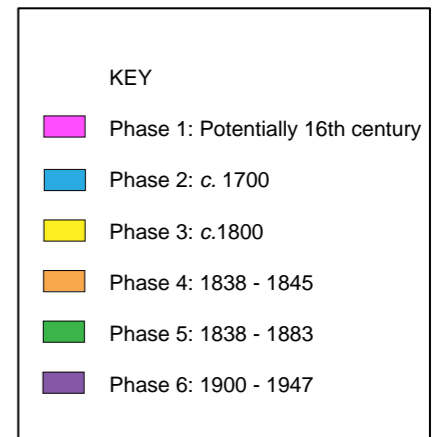
Elevations 1, 2 and 3 (Based upon MK Surveys Sheets No 5 and 6)

Figure 3



Datum Line 20.00m

ELEVATION 4



Datum Line 20.00m

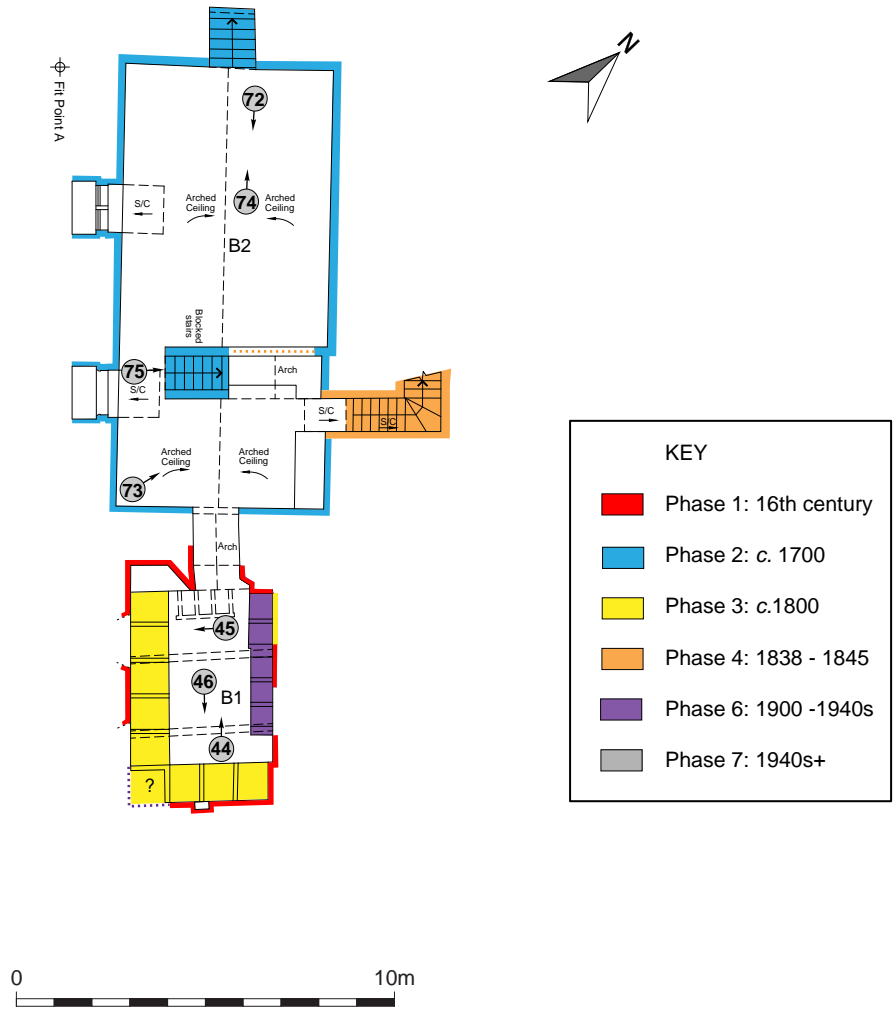
ELEVATION 6



Phased Elevations 4 and 6 (based upon MK Surveys Project No 26494 Sheet Nos 5 and 6)

Figure 4

BASEMENT PLAN

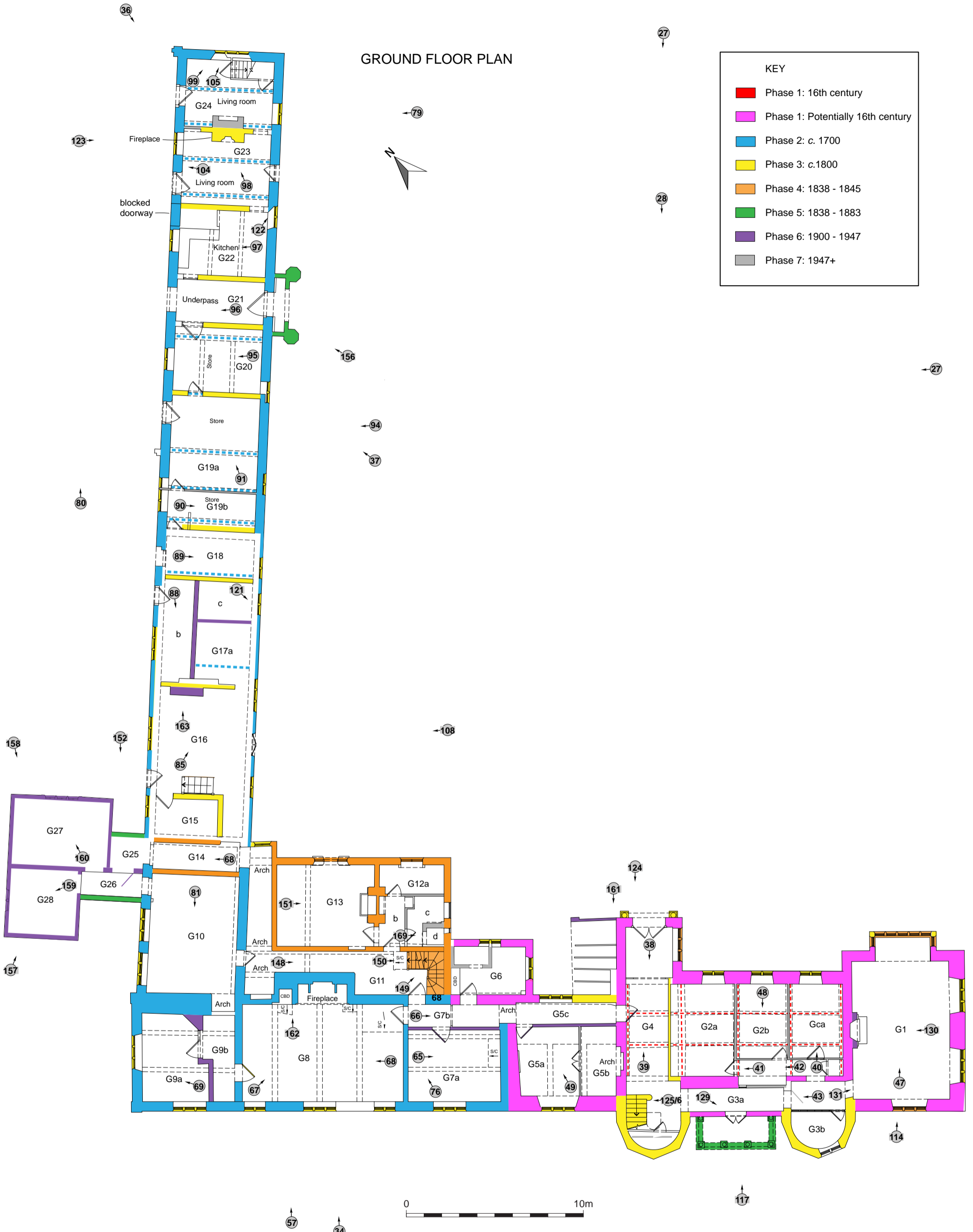


Basement Plan (based upon MK Surveys Project No 26494 Sheet No.1)

Figure 5

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

KEY	
■	Phase 1: 16th century
■	Phase 1: Potentially 16th century
■	Phase 2: c. 1700
■	Phase 3: c. 1800
■	Phase 4: 1838 - 1845
■	Phase 5: 1838 - 1883
■	Phase 6: 1900 - 1947
■	Phase 7: 1947+

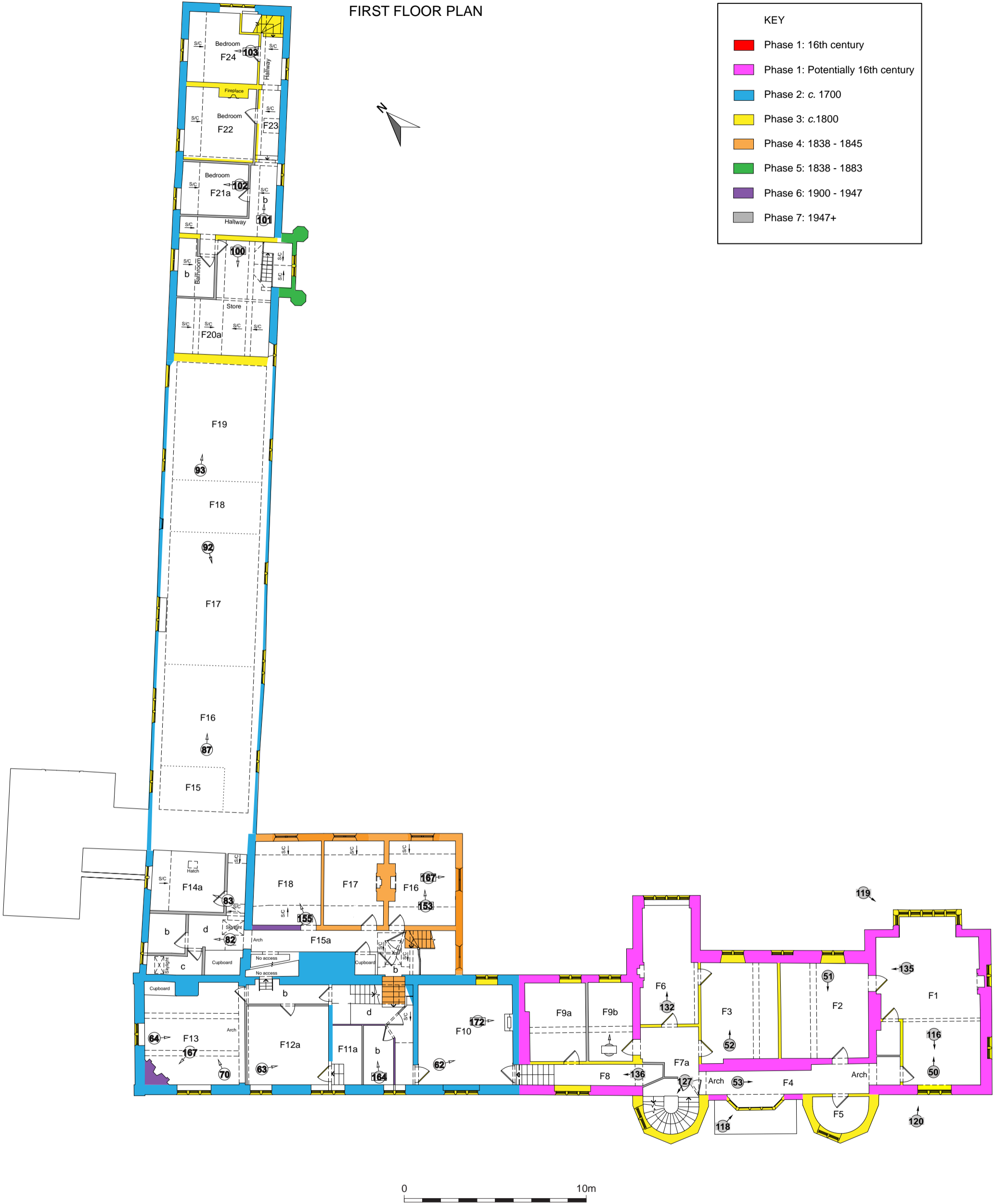


Phased Ground Floor Plan (based upon MK Surveys Project No 26494 Sheet No.2)

Figure 6

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

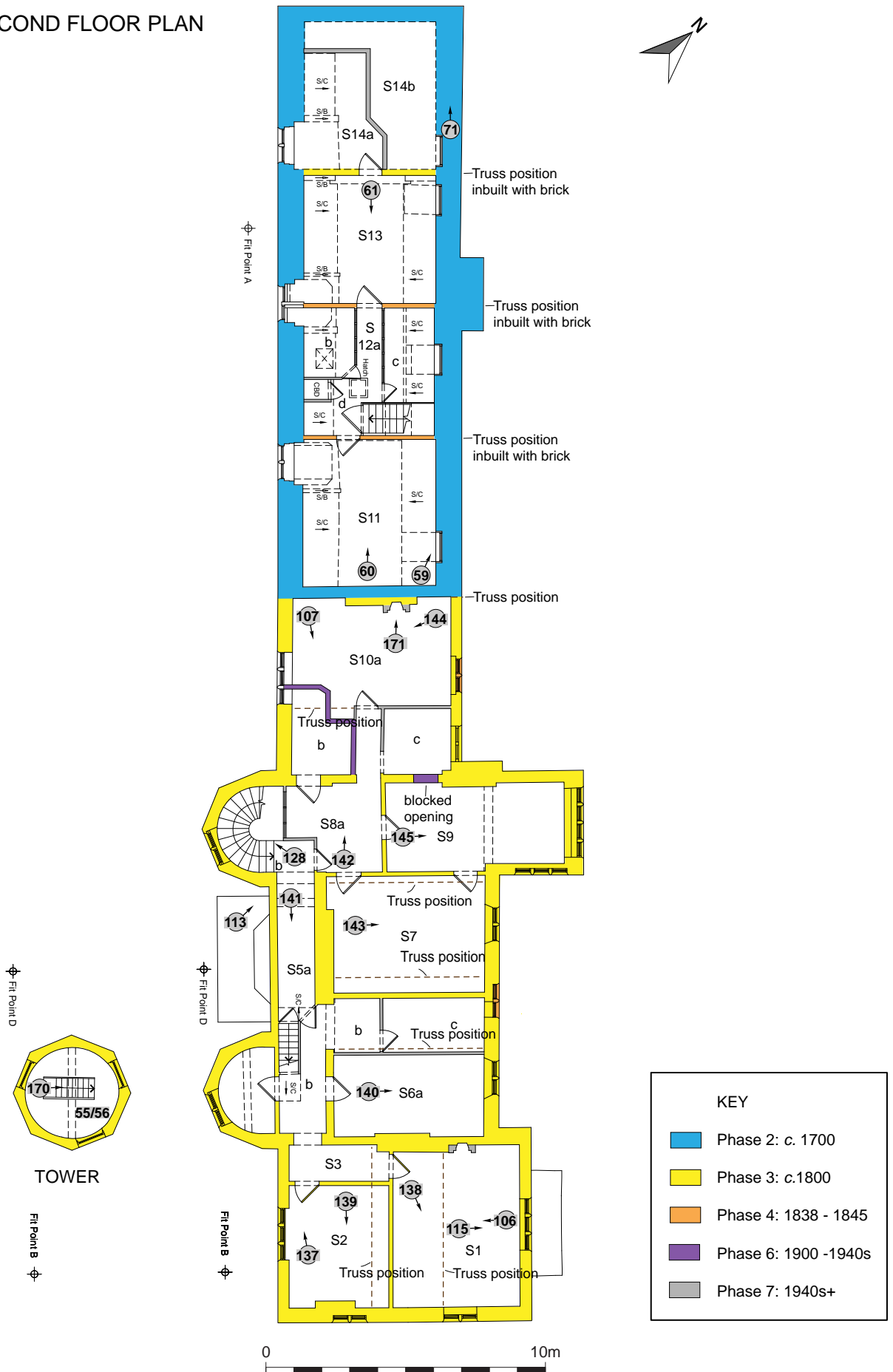
KEY	
■	Phase 1: 16th century
■	Phase 1: Potentially 16th century
■	Phase 2: c. 1700
■	Phase 3: c. 1800
■	Phase 4: 1838 - 1845
■	Phase 5: 1838 - 1883
■	Phase 6: 1900 - 1947
■	Phase 7: 1947+



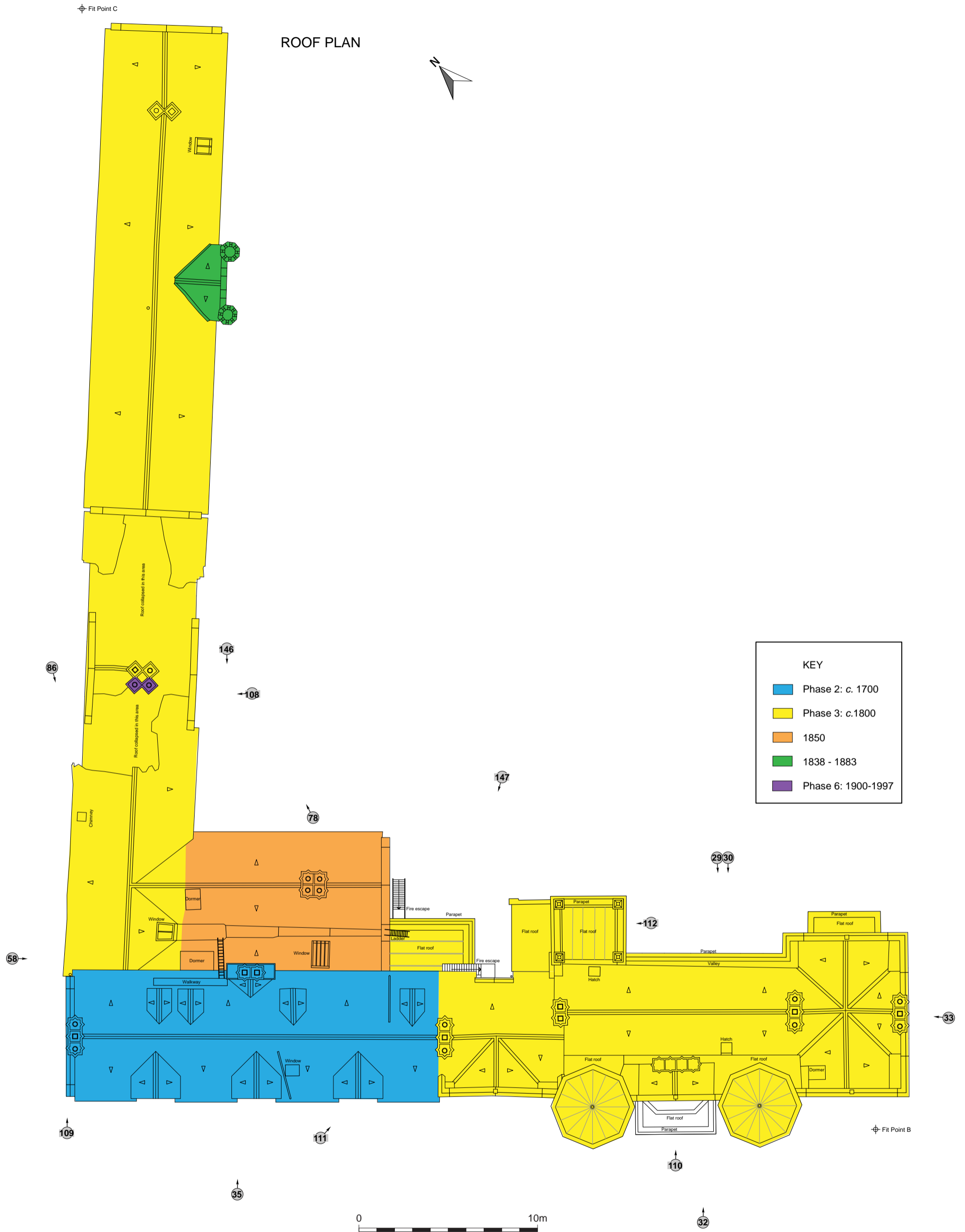
Phased FirstFloor Plan (based upon MK Surveys Project No 26494 Sheet No.3)

Figure 7

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



Phased Second Floor Plan (based upon MK Surveys Project No 26494 Sheet No.4) Figure 8



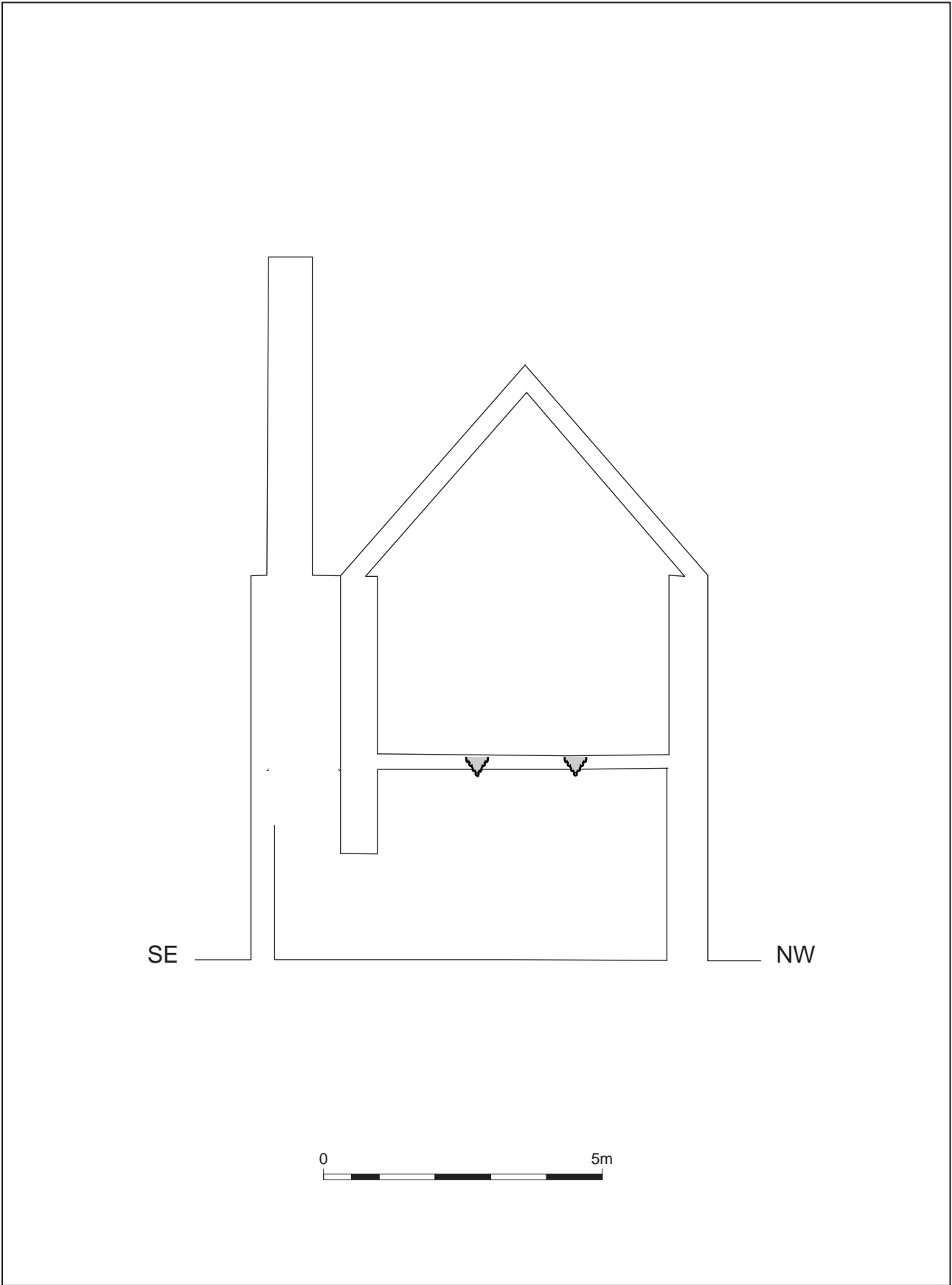
Phased Roof Plan (based upon MK Surveys Project No 26494 Sheet No.9)

Figure 9



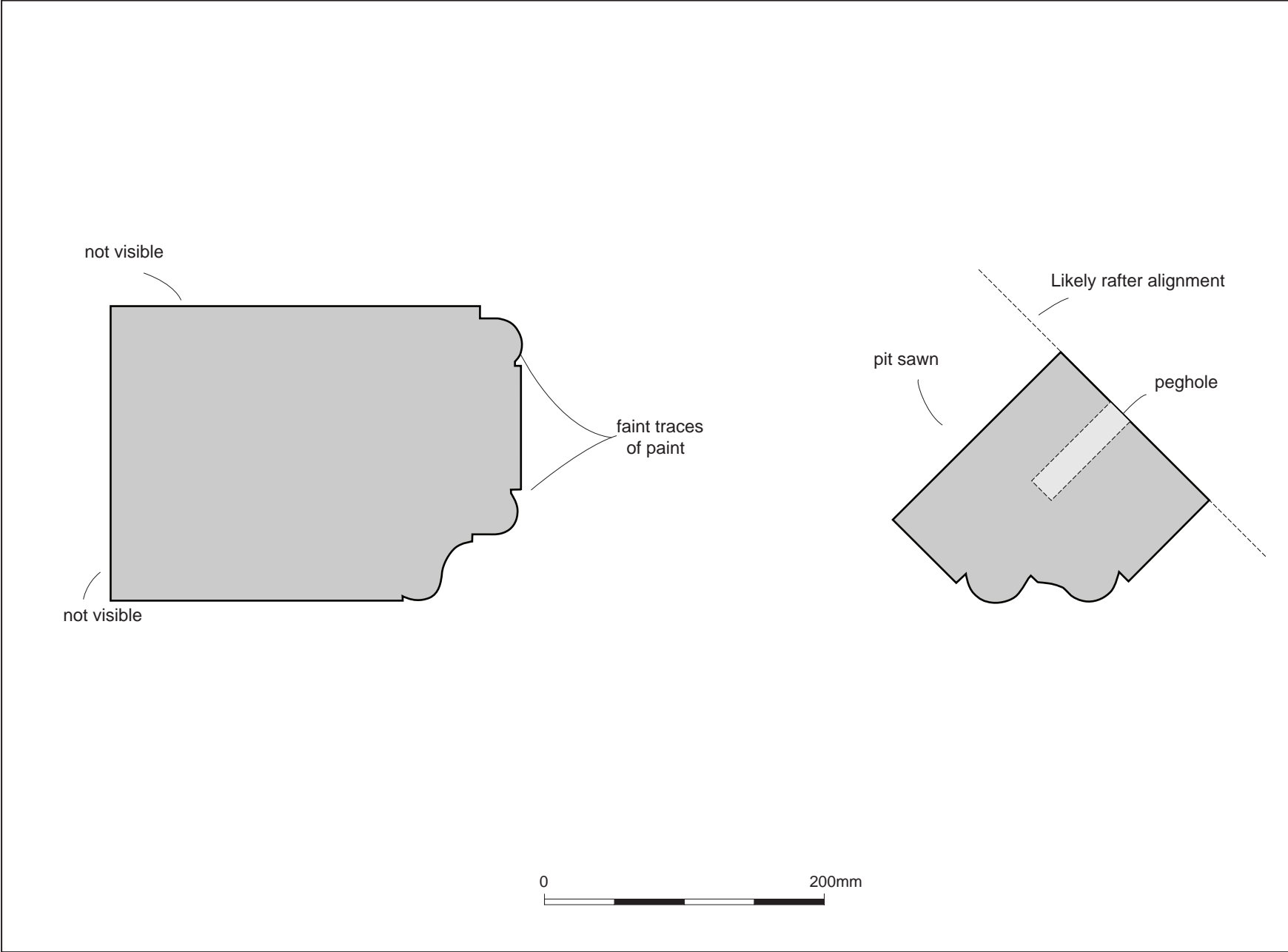
Phase 1 ceiling beam mouldings above the former hall

Figure 10



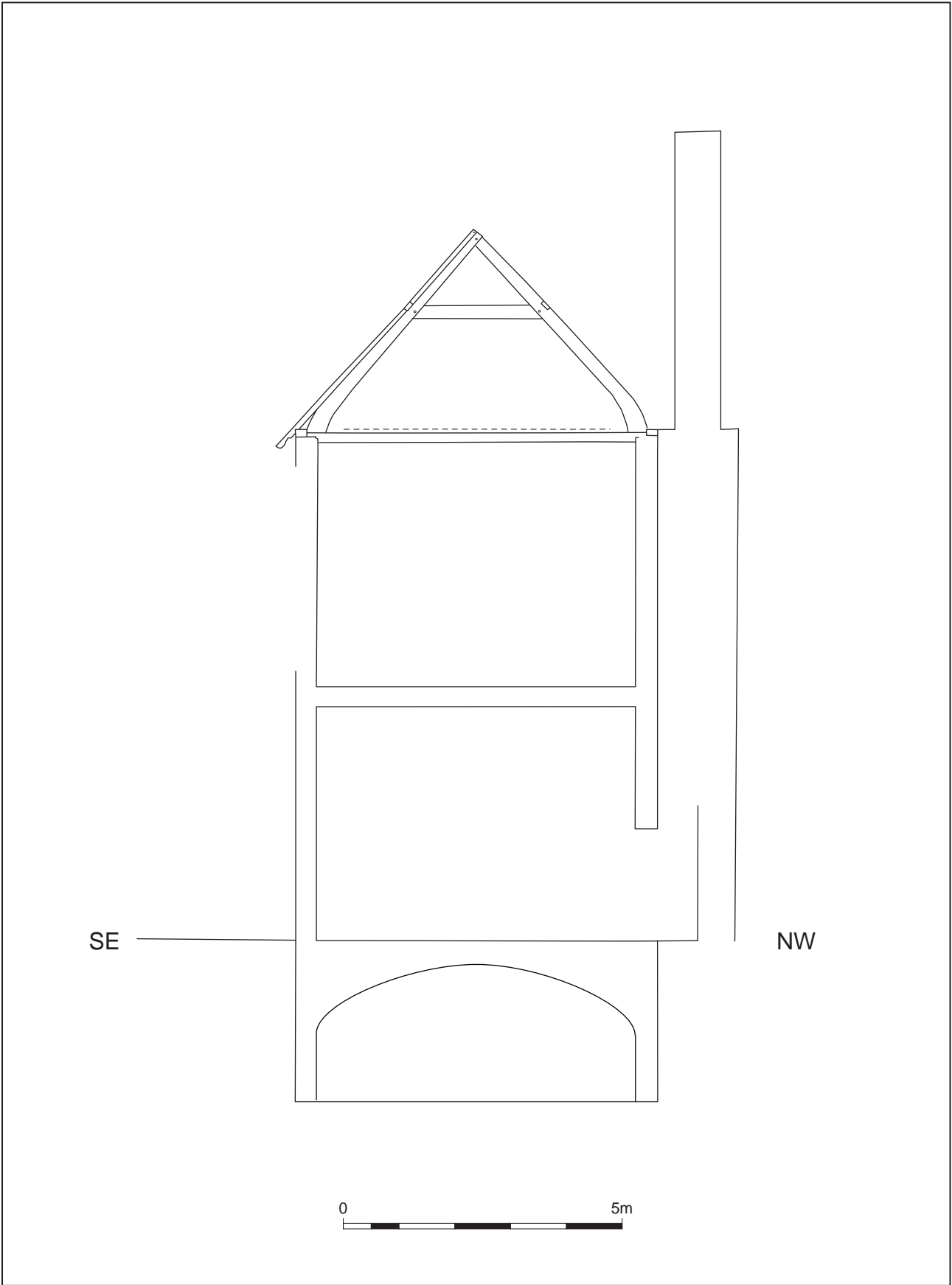
Reconstruciton through Phase 1 Hall

Figure 11



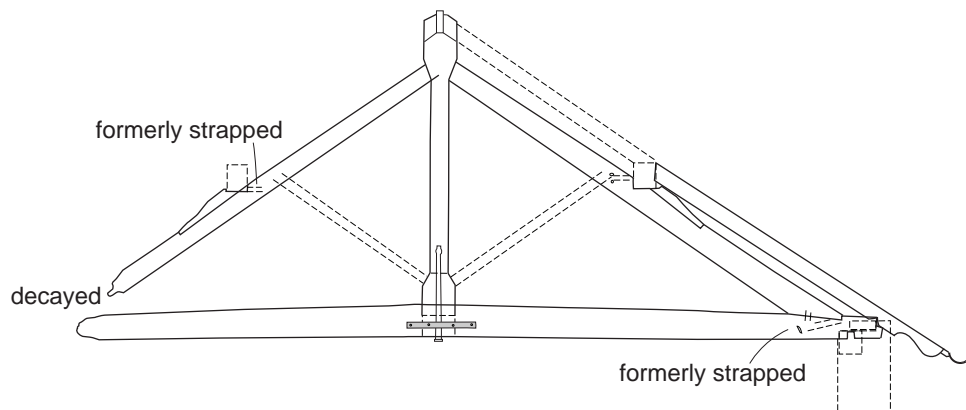
Reused Phase 1 moulded timber profiles and interpretation of alignment

Figure 12



Reconstruction through Phase 2 Kitchen

Figure 13

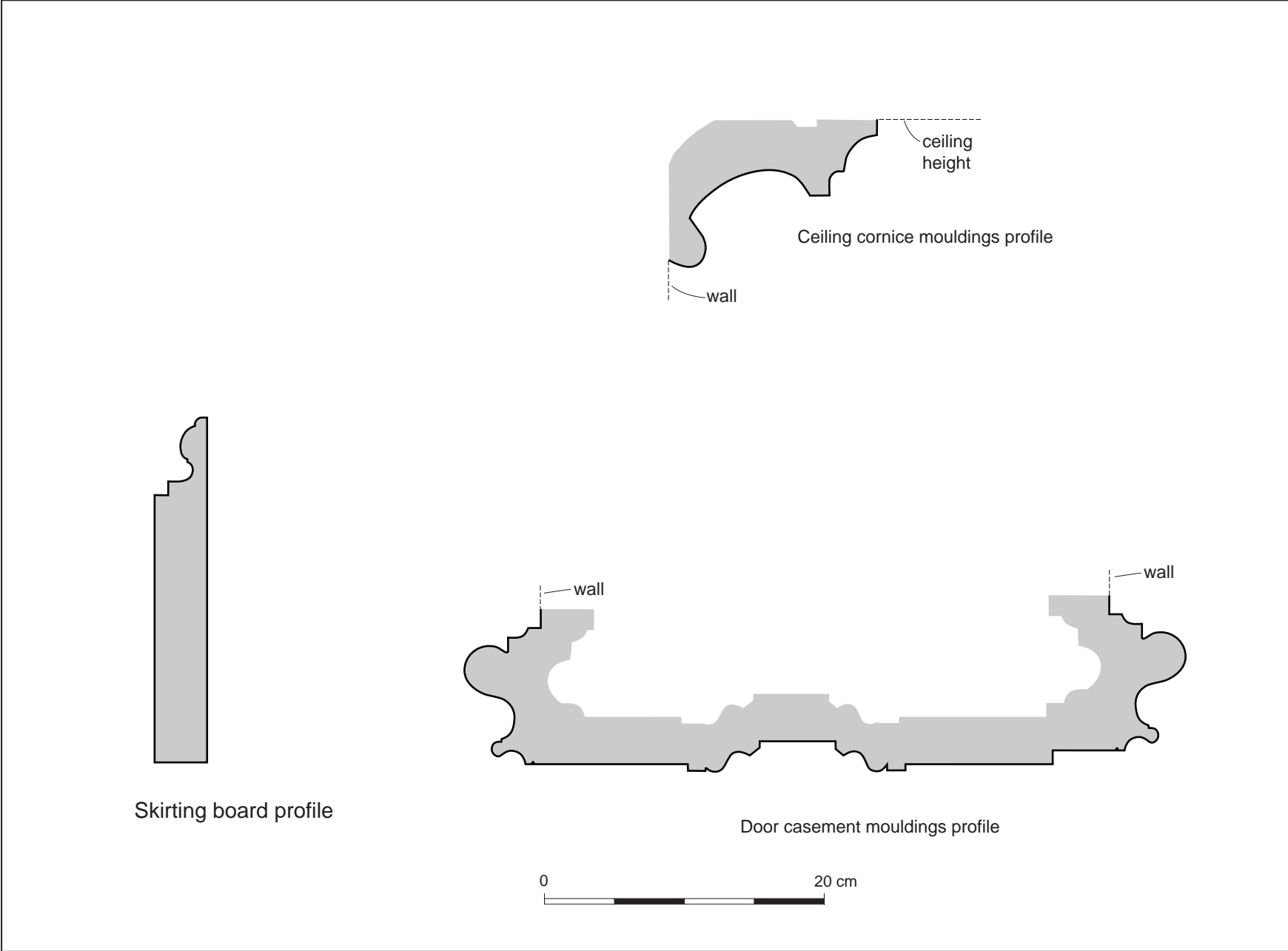


Removed Phase 3 truss from north-east to south-west aligned wing;
Purlin, raking strut, ridge board, wall and rafter positions are
recreated for illustration purposes (see Plate 94)



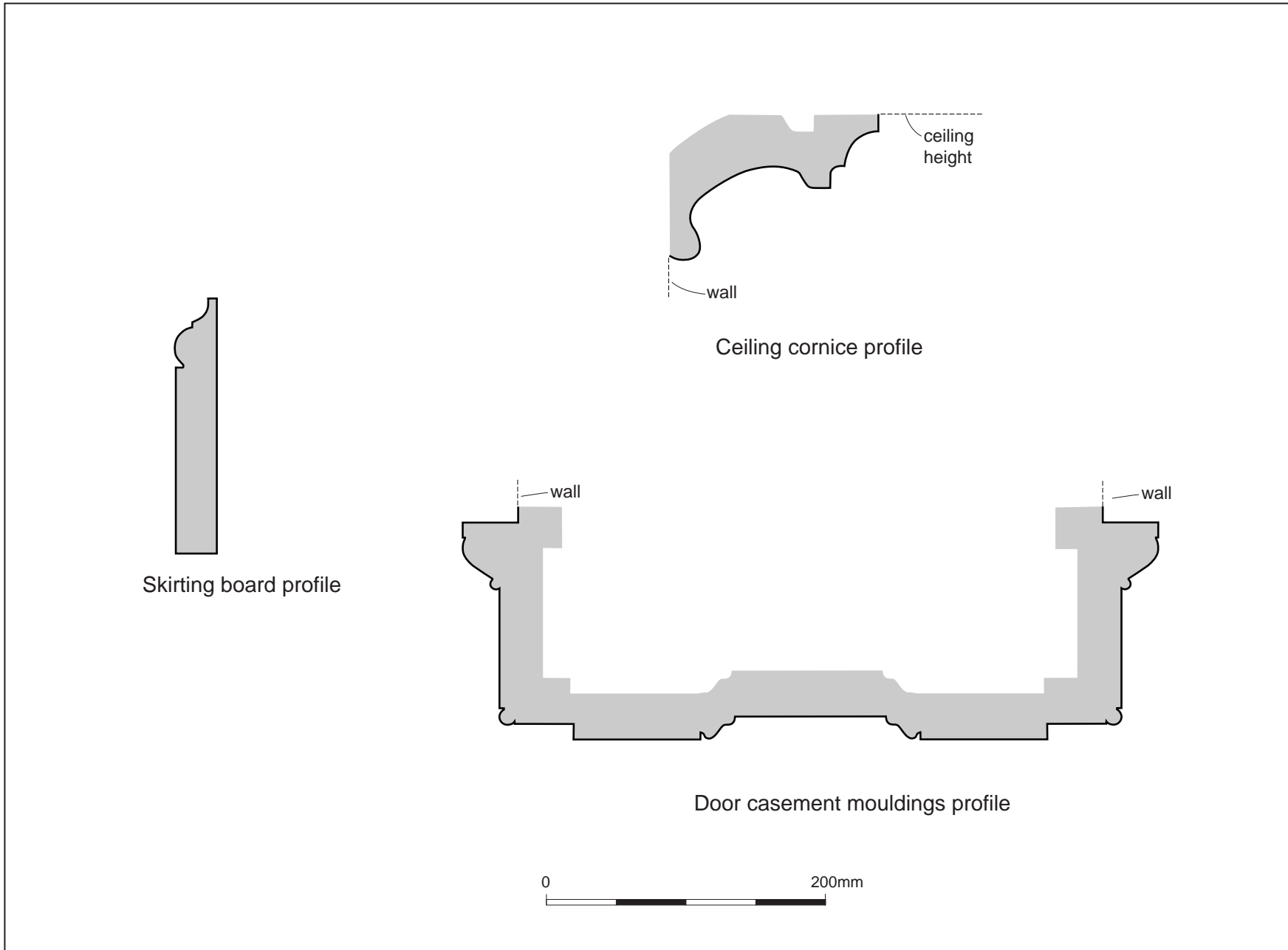
Phase 3 King Post truss reconstruction

Figure 14



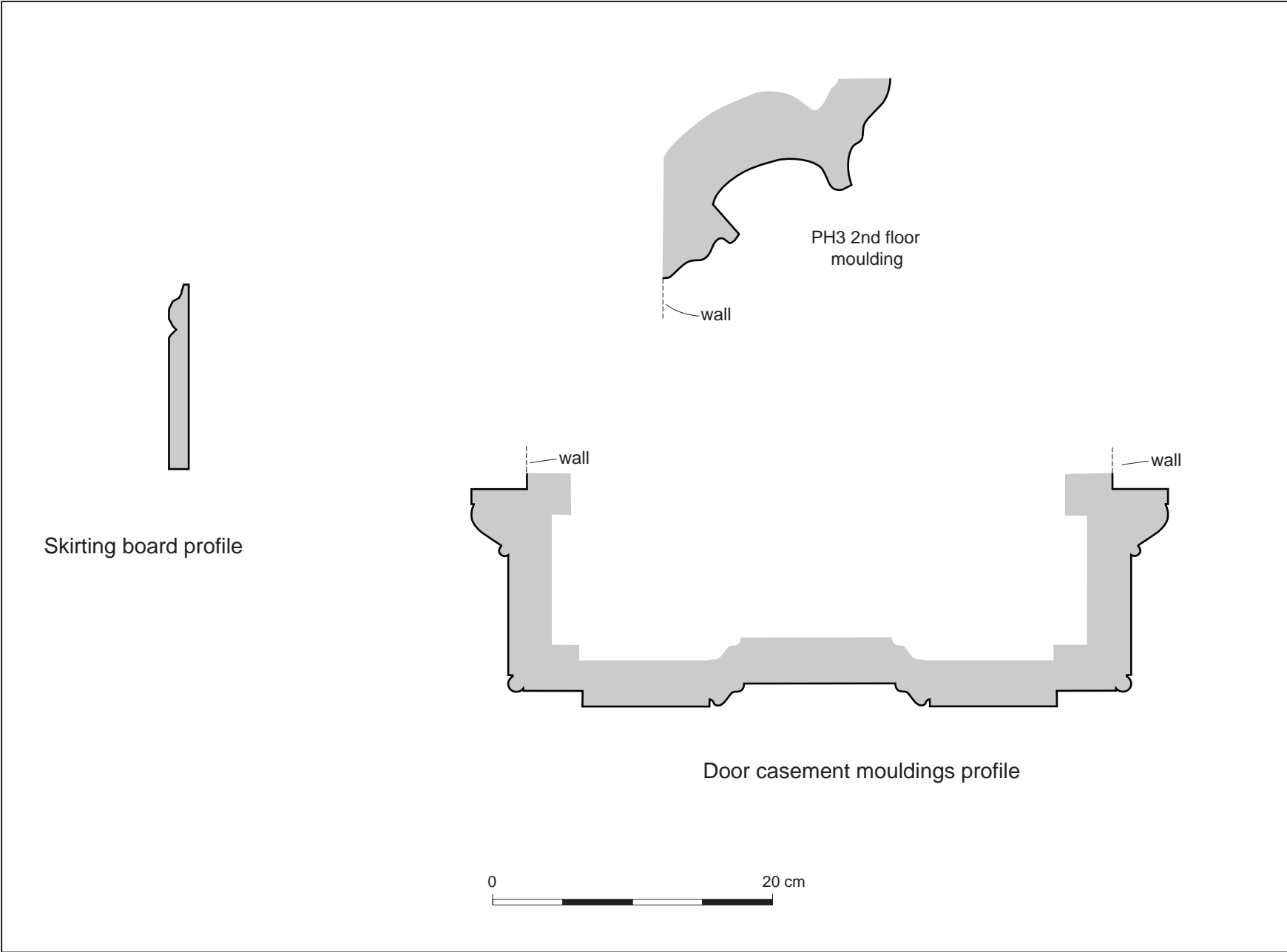
Phase 3 Ground Floor moulding details

Figure 15



Phase 3 First Floor moulding details

Figure 16



Phase 3 second floor mouldings details

Figure 17

Plates



Plate 1 View towards Ribbesford House across the Severn valley, with the river to the right (out of picture) and Ribbesford wood to the left rising up the slope, looking north, no scale



Plate 2 View south from St Leonard's churchyard, with Ribbesford House in the background and the former walled kitchen garden in the middle ground, no scale



Plate 3 View from the suggested site of the medieval settlement, with the spire of St Leonard's church visible, looking east, no scale



Plate 4 The former threshing barn, looking south-east, no scale

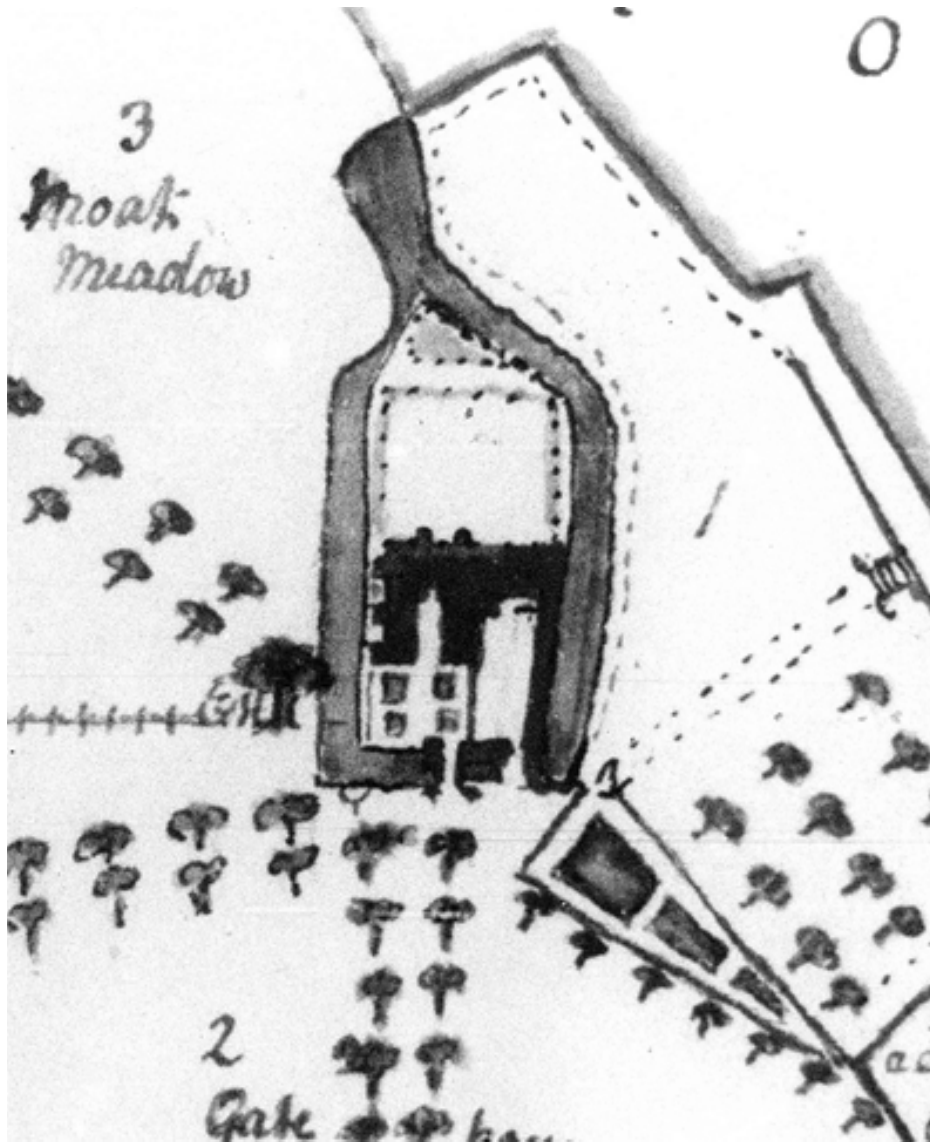


Plate 5 Extract of the Map of Ribbesford Demese c 1771 (Plate 8), copied 1813 (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)



Ribbesford, late the Seat of Lord Herbert of Chertbury, now of Henry Morley Esq^r.

Plate 6 Ribbesford house in its setting (between 1738 to 1781 but probably 1771)(WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

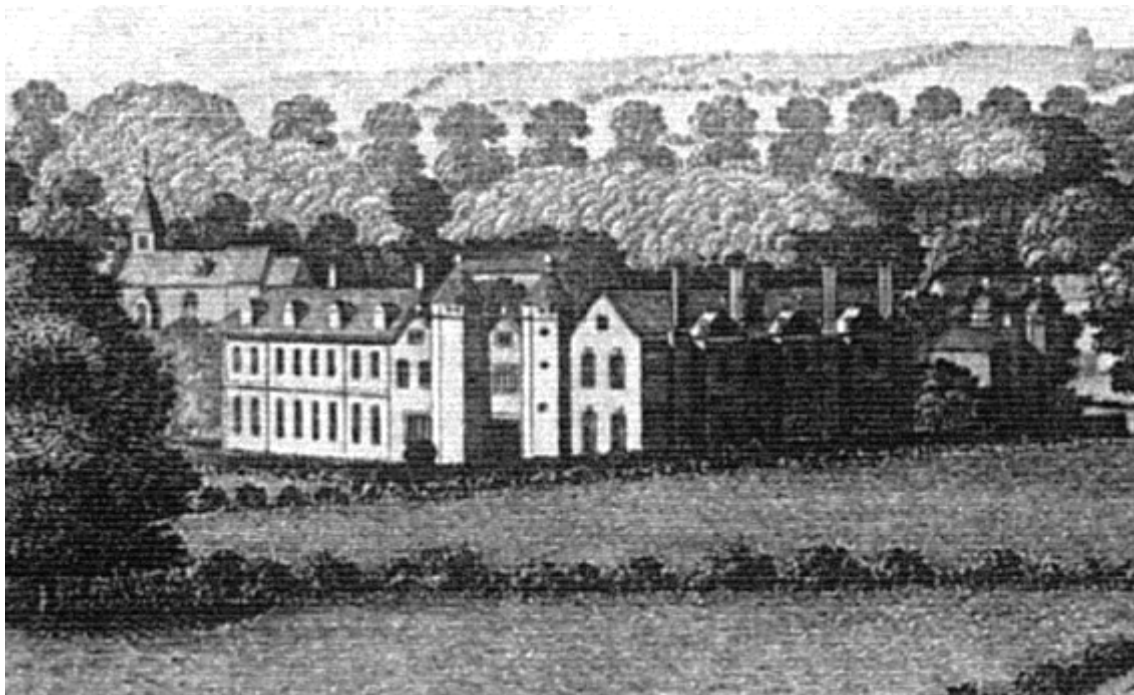


Plate 7 Detailed extract from Plate 6 (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

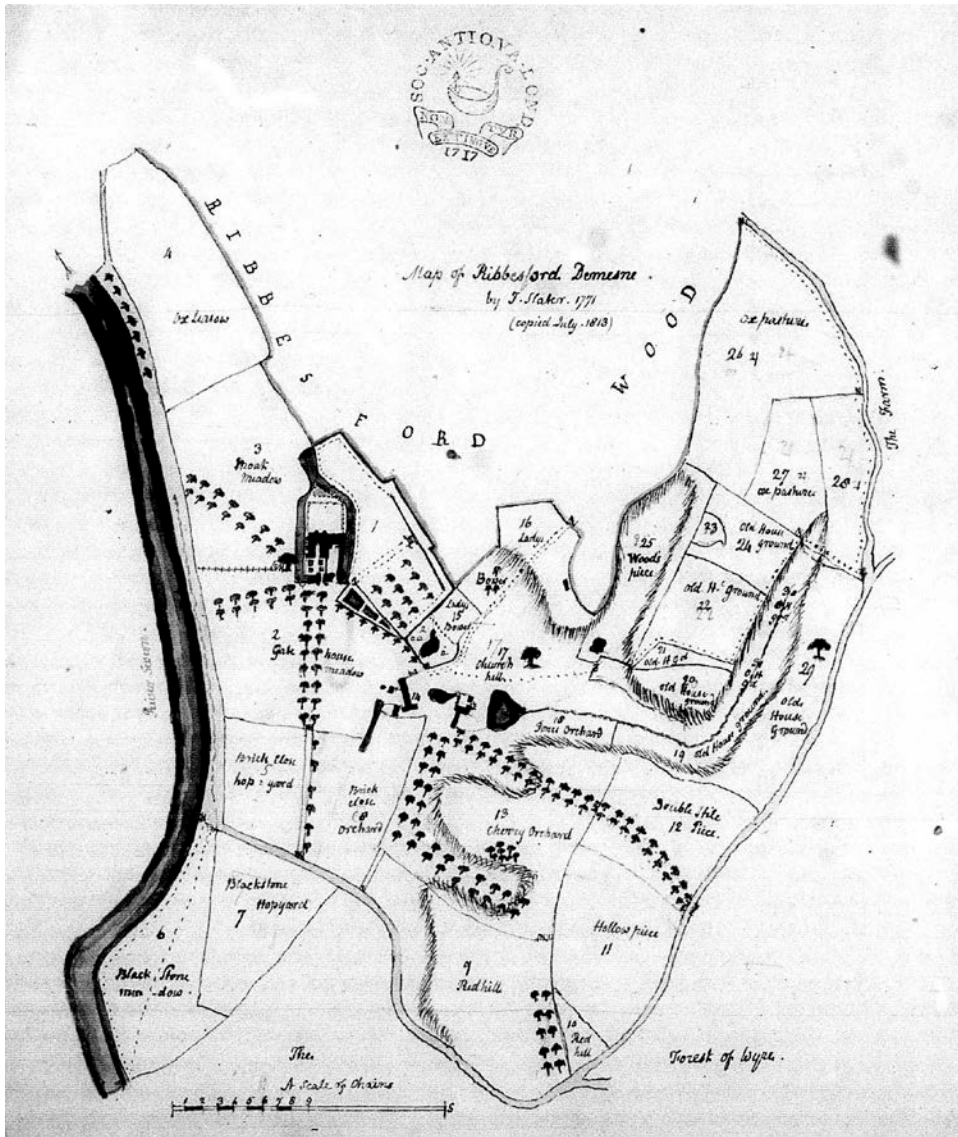


Plate 8 Map of Ribbesford Demese c 1771, copied 1813 (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

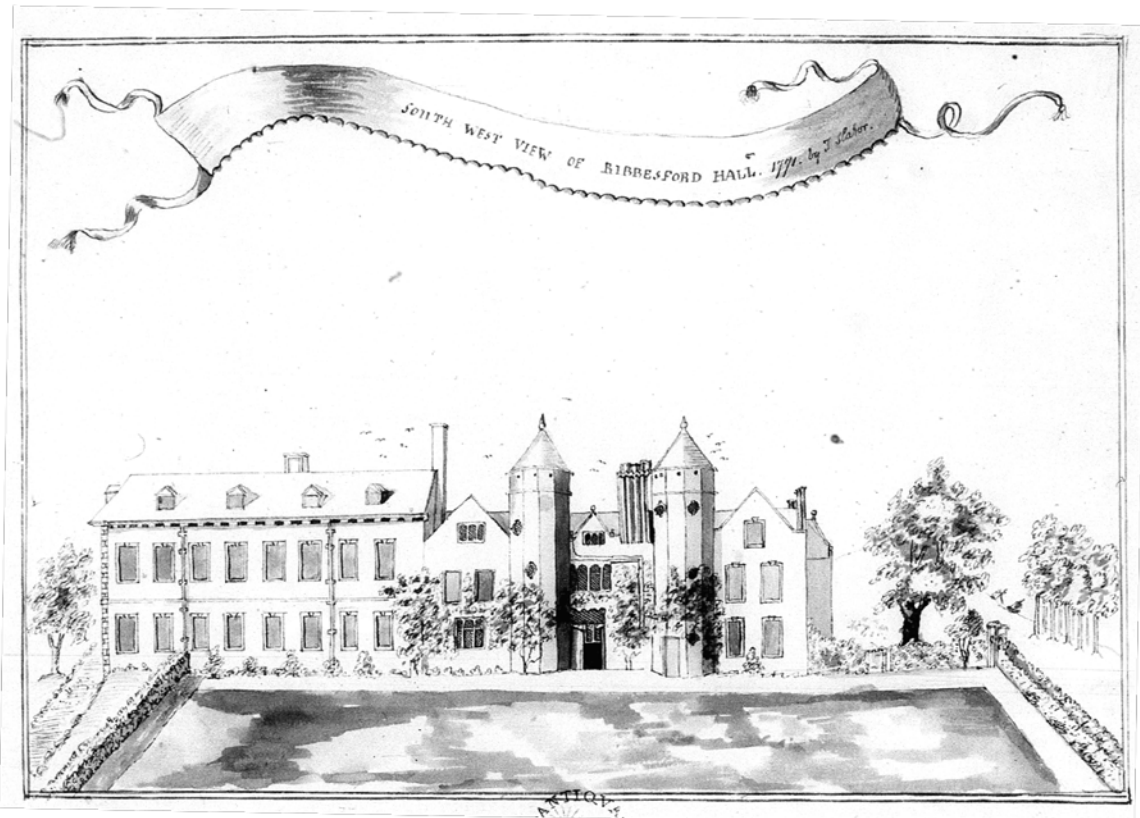


Plate 9 The house c 1771 with the Ribbesford oak to the right of the house (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

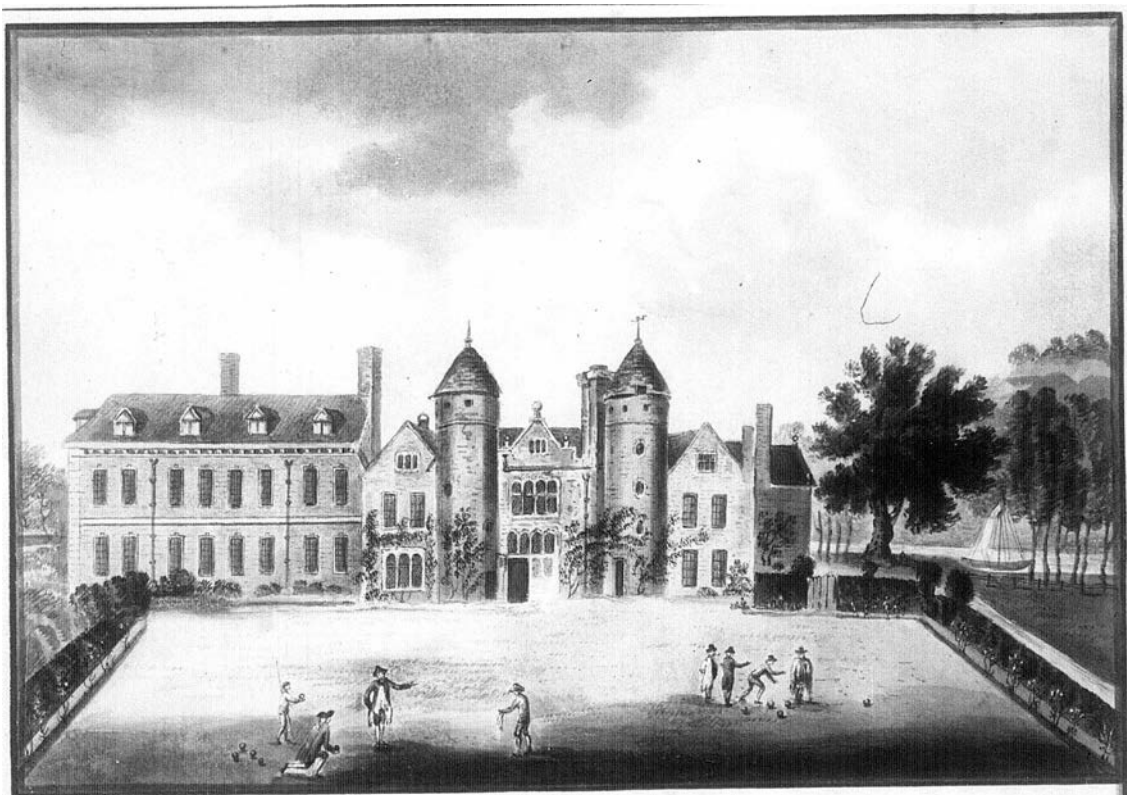


Plate 10 The house c 1771 with a bowling green to the south-east of the house and the moat, river and Ribbesford oak to the right of the house (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)



Plate 11 The gatehouse and moat which were demolished and infilled in the 1790s (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

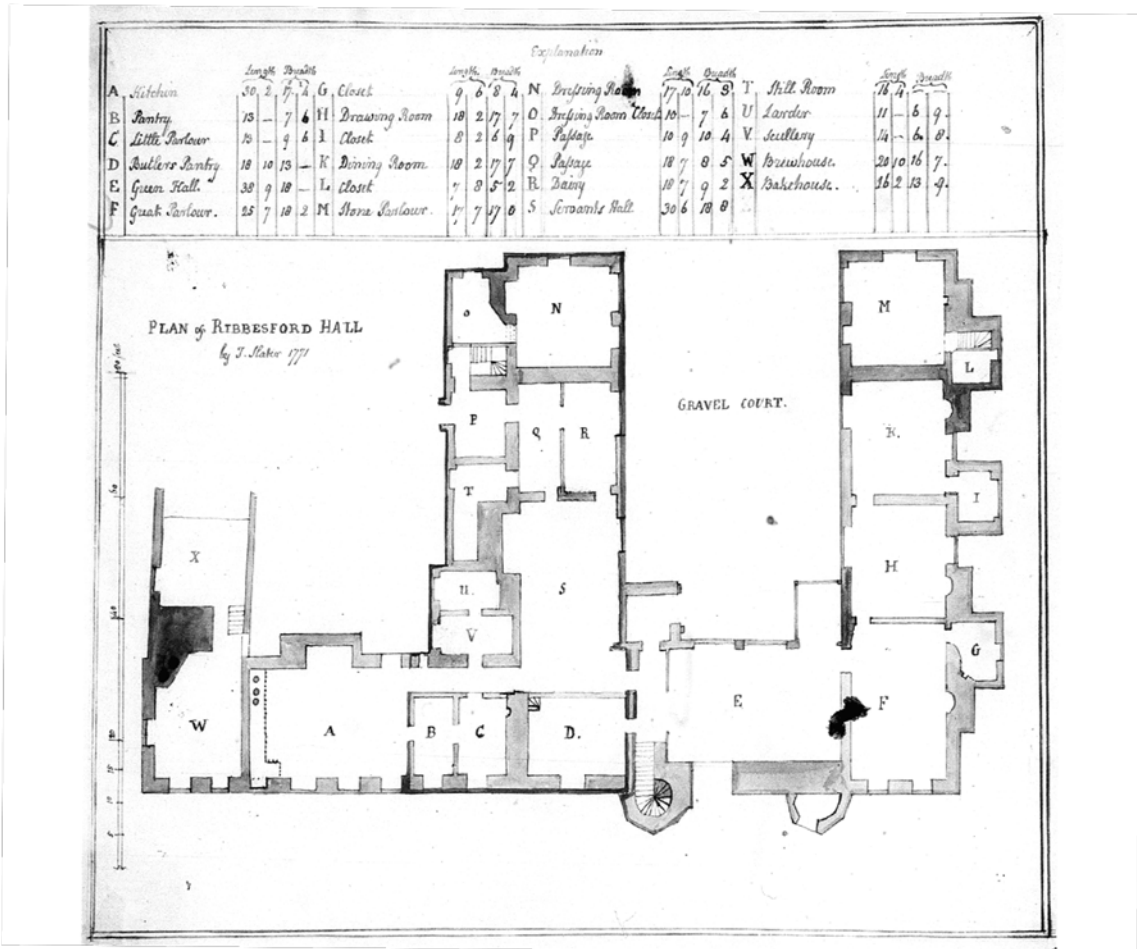


Plate 12 Plan of the ground floor of the house in 1771 (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

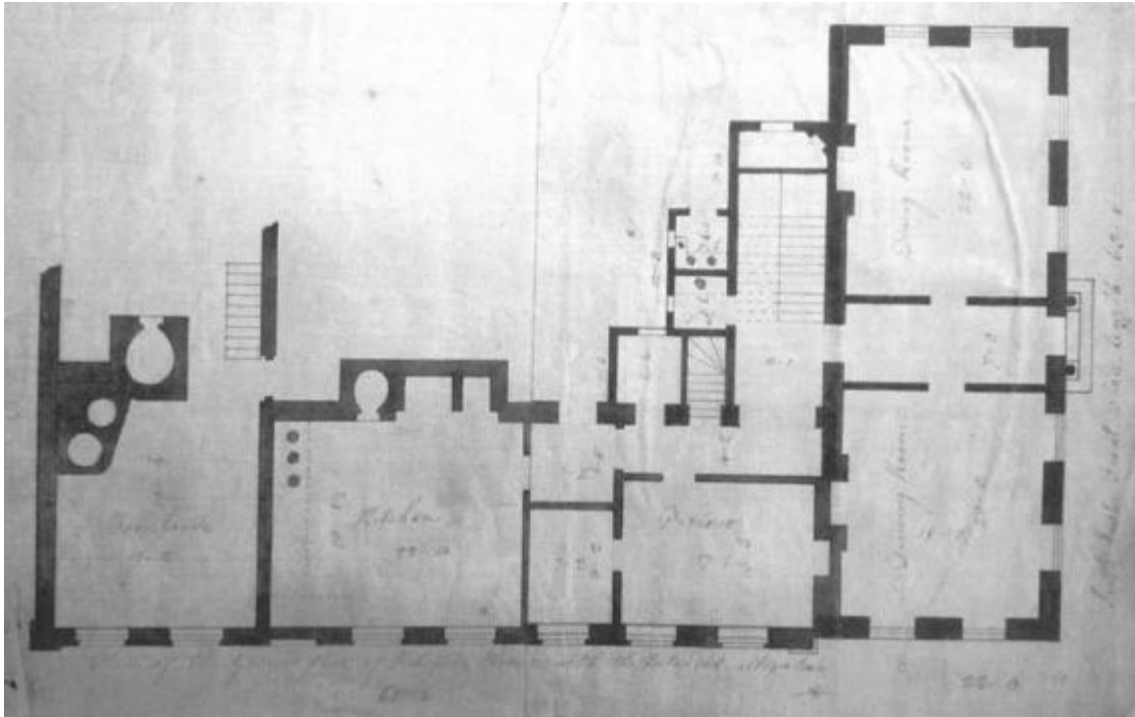


Plate 13 Proposed plan of the building c 1800, with the kitchen and bakehouse to the left; this proposed the entire removal of the Phase 1 structure (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

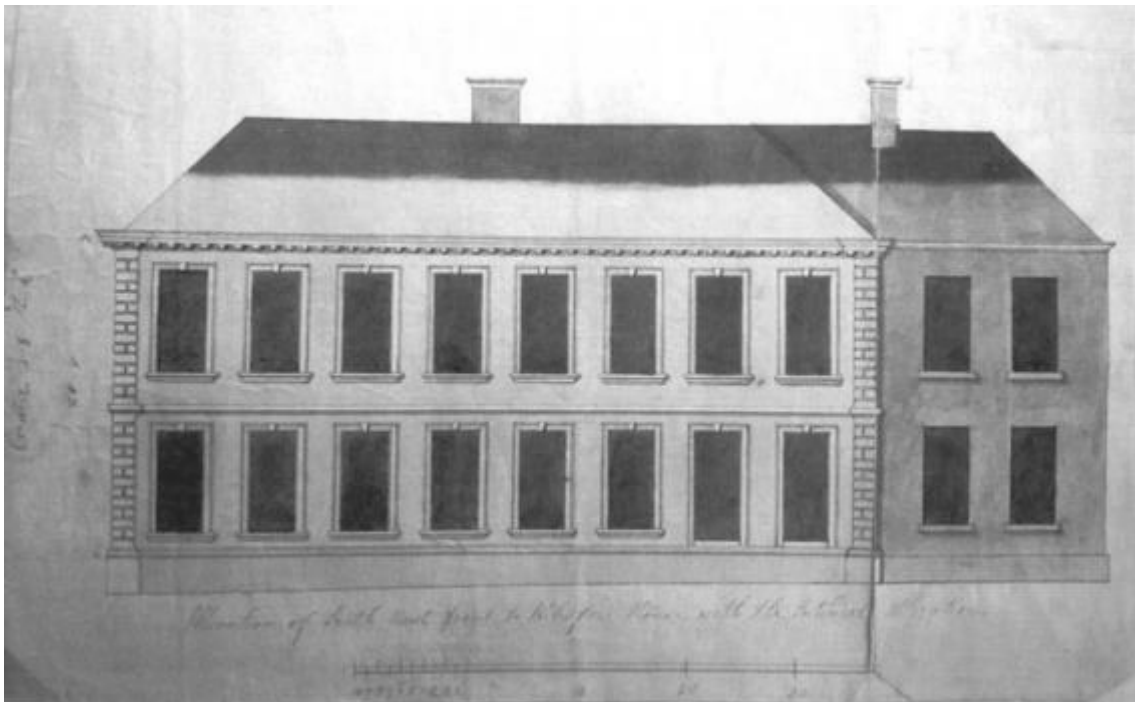


Plate 14 Proposed south-west facing elevation of the building c 1800, to be read in conjunction with Plate 13 (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

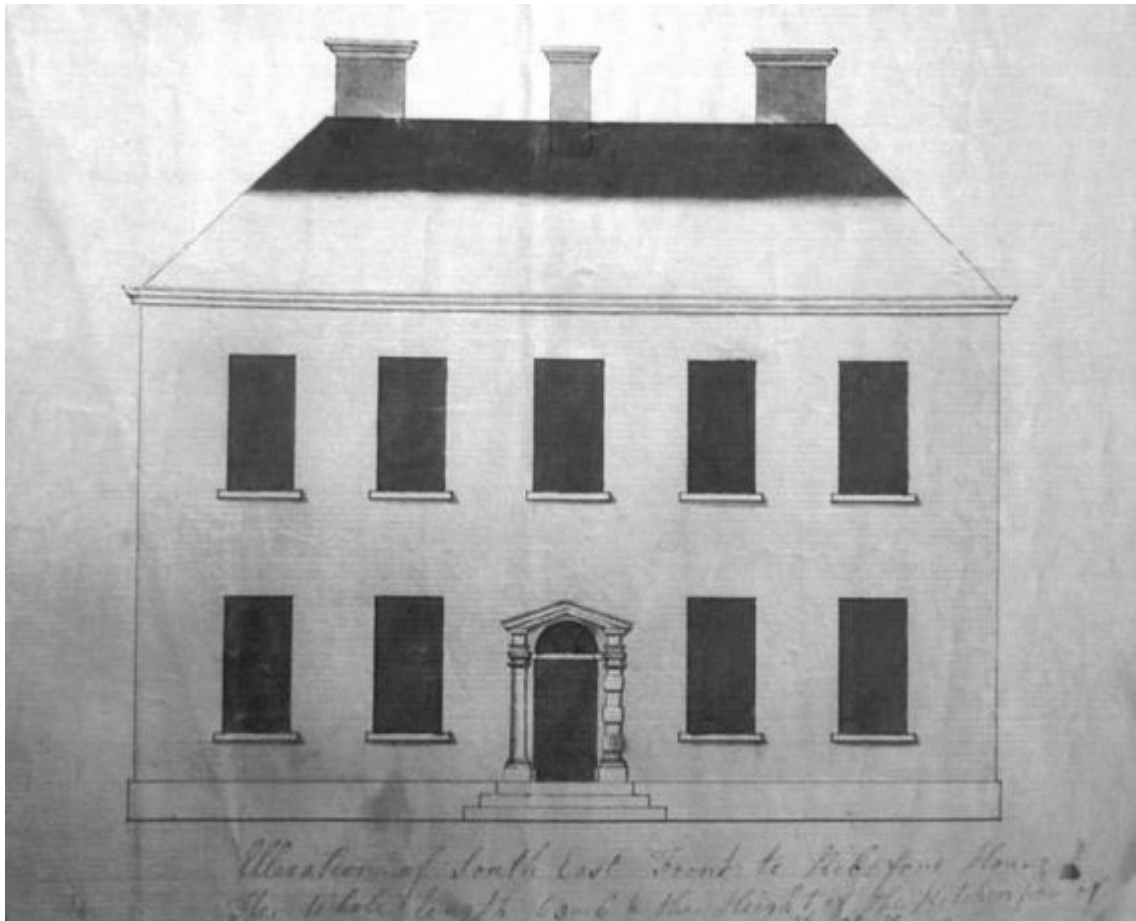


Plate 15 Proposed south-east facing elevation of the building c 1800, to be read in conjunction with Plate 13 (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)

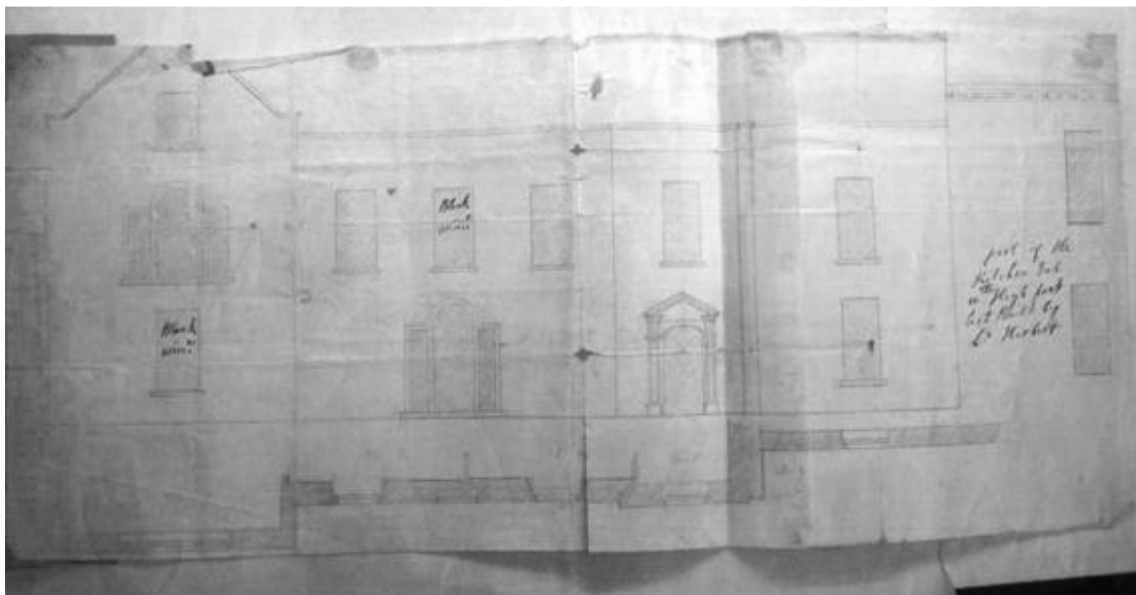


Plate 16 An alternative proposal for the c 1800 rebuild, with the Phase 2 service element of the right side of the image (WRO BA10509 ref989.9.91 Parcel 2 Vol XXIX, 114) (the licence to reproduce this image is pending)



Plate 17 1838 Tithe map of Ribbesford (WRO R760-528)



Plate 18 Image of the house predating July 1845 when the Ribbesford oak in the foreground was damaged extensively during a storm and presumably subsequently cut down (WRO BA4400 f989.951); the broad position of the Ribbesford oak is at least partially confirmed on the 18th century drawings (Plate 9 and Plate 10) as well as being plotted on the 1771 map (Plate 8)

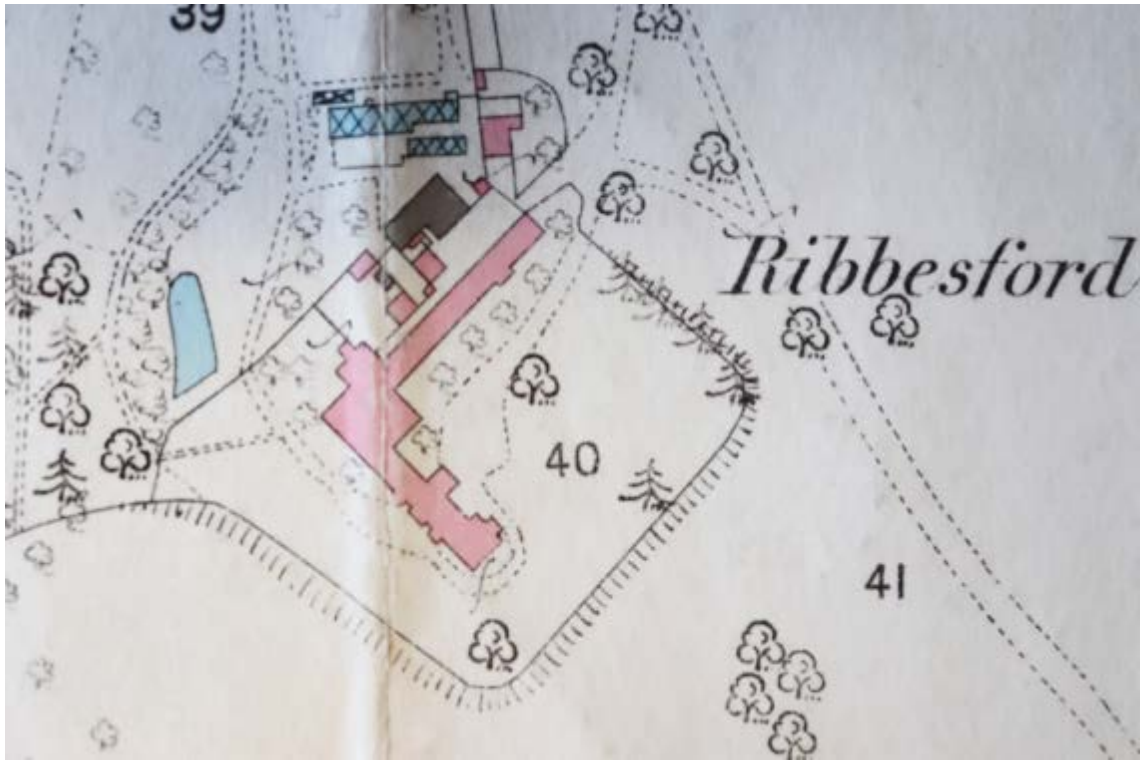


Plate 19 1883 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (BA4803 6)

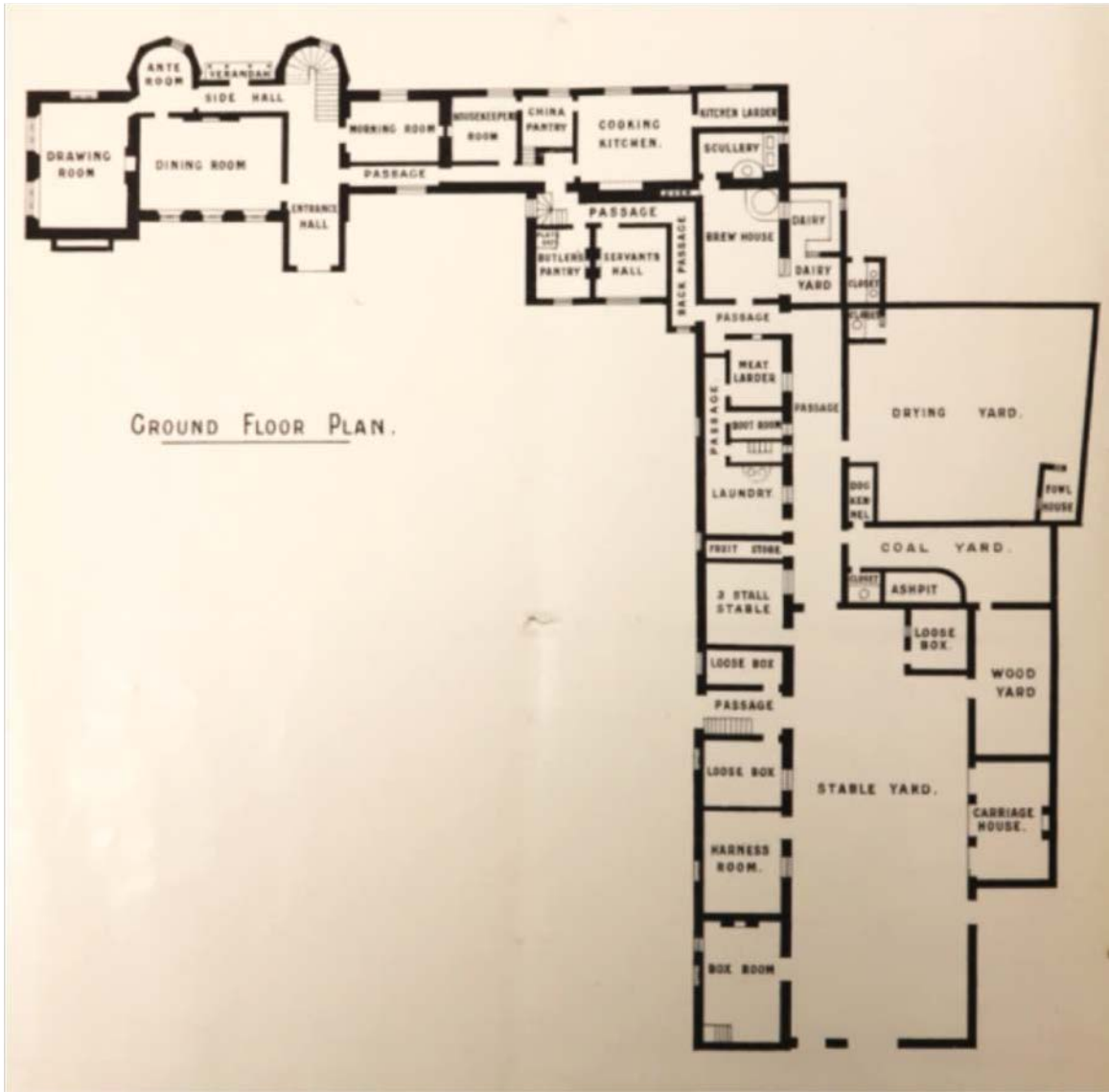
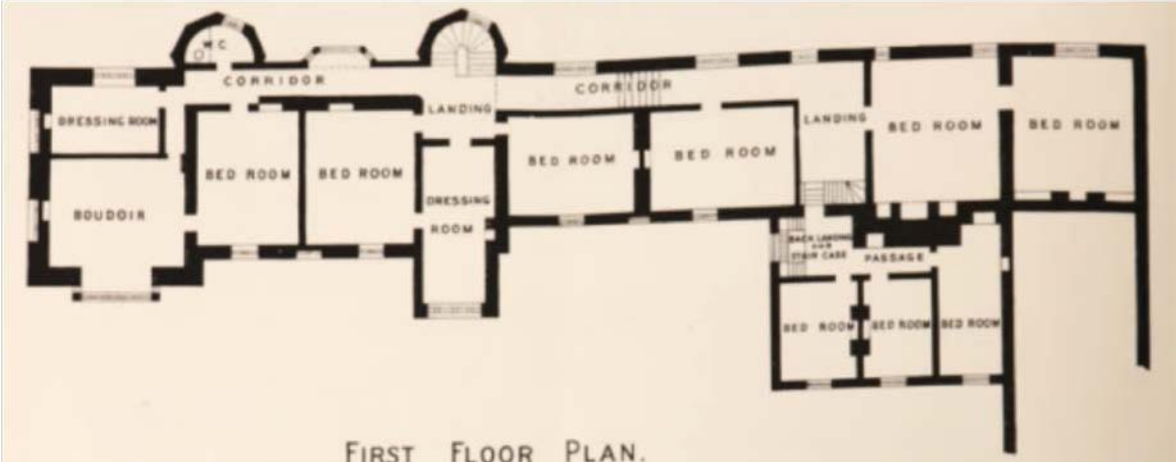
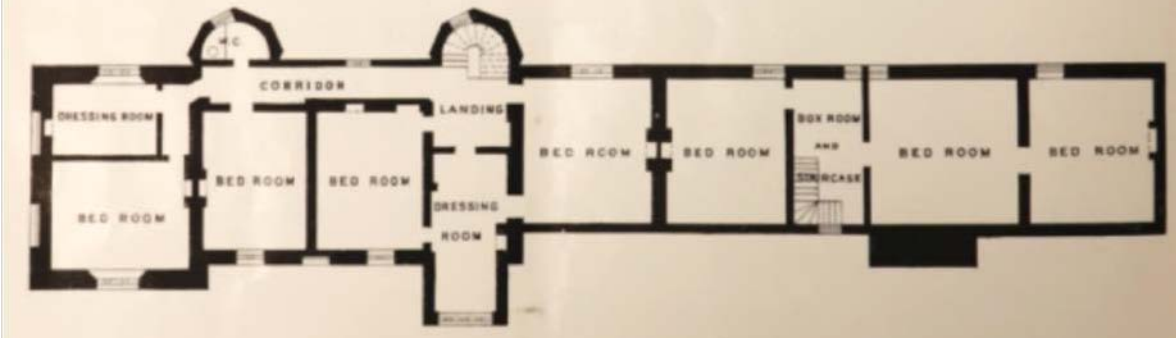


Plate 20 Ground floor plan of the house as part of sales particulars, 1900 (BA5723 ref705.550)



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

Plate 21 First and second floor plans of the house as part of sales particulars, 1900 (BA5723 ref705.550)



View of the Garden Elevation of Biddisford House.

Plate 22 Image of the house as part of sales particulars, 1900 (BA5723 ref705.550)



View of the Front of Biddisford House.

Plate 23 Image of the house as part of sales particulars, 1900 (BA5723 ref705.550)

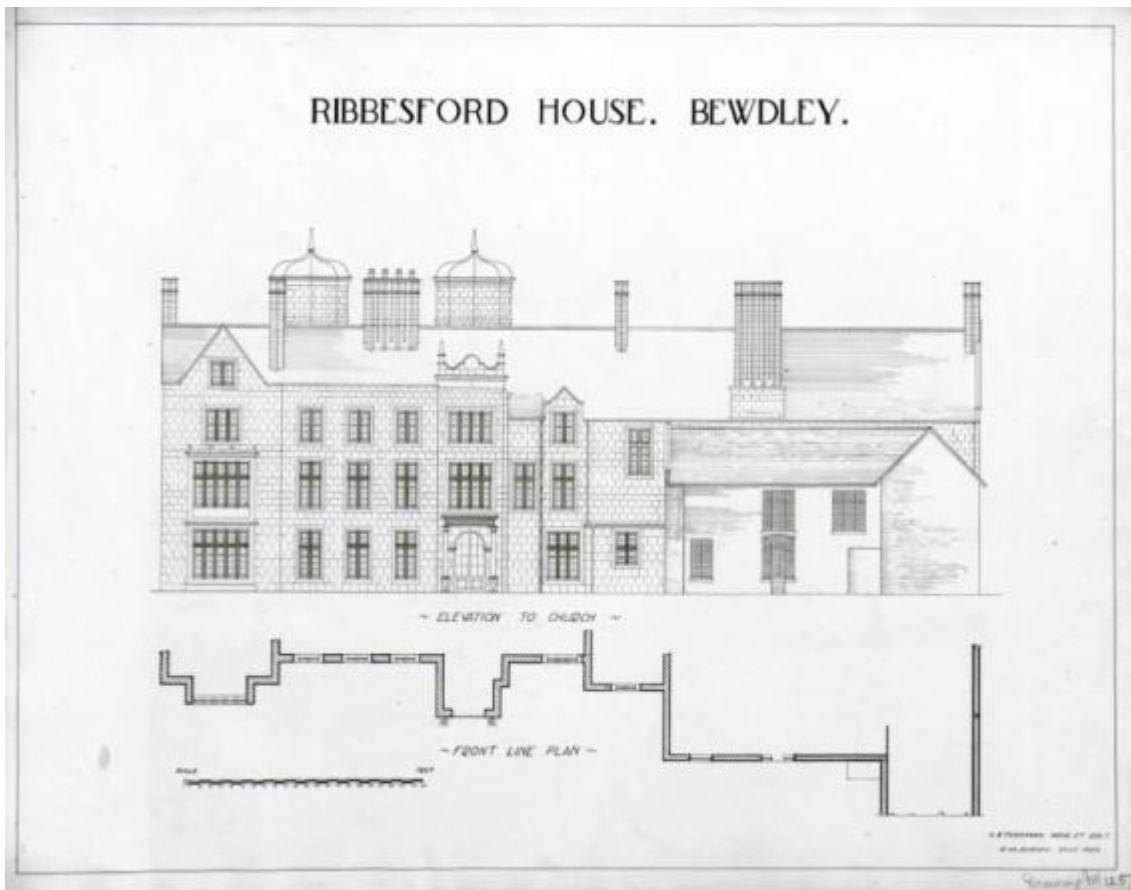


Plate 24 Elevation and partial plan of the house, 1933 (B&FCAA 2018)

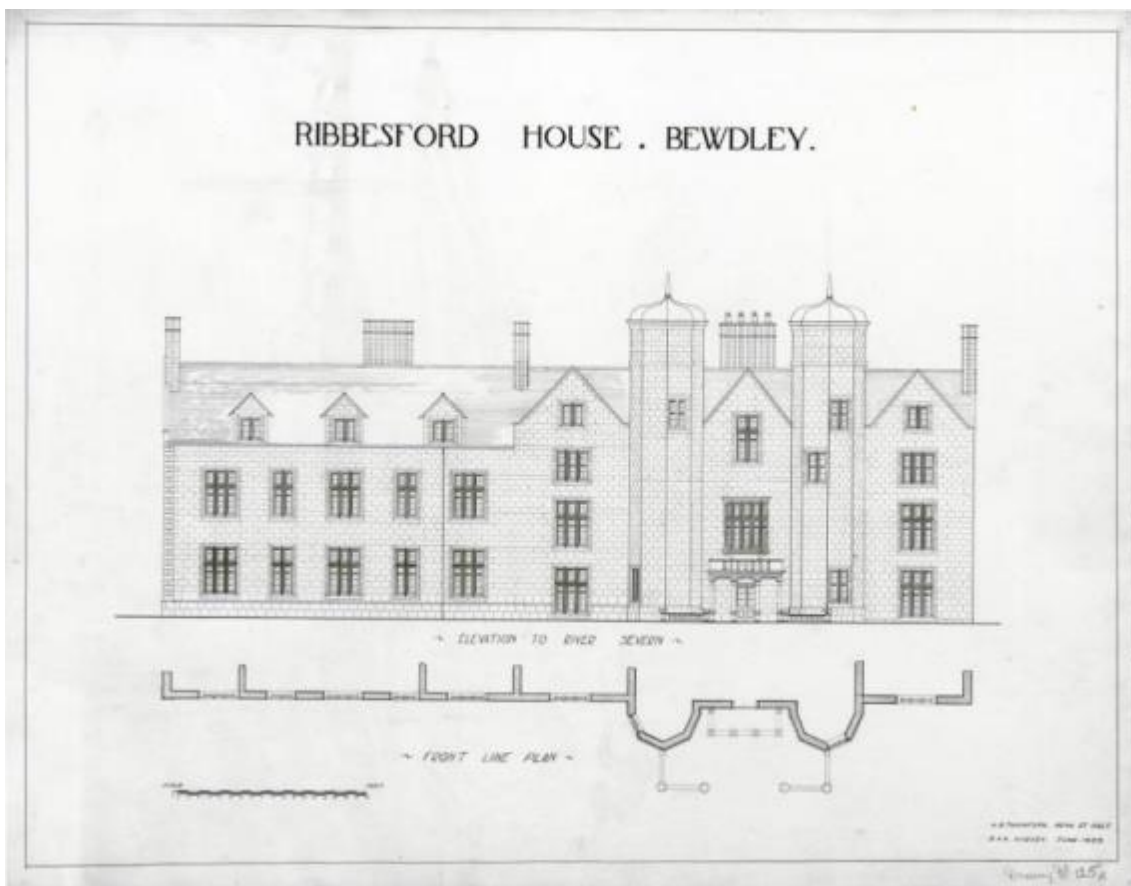


Plate 25 Elevation and partial plan of the house, 1933 (B&FCAA 2018)



Plate 26 Charles de Gaulle pictured at the entrance to Ribbesford House, probably 1944 (Knowle 1999)



Plate 27 Ribbesford House entrance general appearance, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 28 The house with the Phase 1 elements, rebuilt in Phase 3, on the left, and the Phases 2 and 4 elements to the right, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 29 The house with the Phase 1 elements, rebuilt in Phase 3, on the left, and the Phases 2 and 4 elements to the right, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 30 The house with the Phase 1 elements, rebuilt in Phase 3, on the left, and with the Phases 2 and 4 elements to the right, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 31 The house looking north towards the Phase 1 element, which was rebuilt in Phase 3, no scale



Plate 32 The house with the Phase 1 elements, rebuilt in Phase 3, on the right, and the Phases 2 and 4 elements to the left, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 33 The house with the Phase 1 elements, rebuilt in Phase 3, on the left, and the Phases 2 wing in the background, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 34 The house looking north towards the Phase 2 service element, which was rebuilt in Phase 3, no scale



Plate 35 The house with the Phase 2 service element, rebuilt in Phase 3, on the left and the Phase 1 elements to the right, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 36 Looking south towards the Phase 2 wing, which was reroofed and extensively modified in Phase 3, scale 2m



Plate 37 Looking north towards the Phase 2 and later wing and Phase 5 decorative towers, no scale



Plate 38 Phase 1 moulded ceiling structures within the house entrance, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 39 Phase 1 moulded ceiling structures within the house entrance, with Phase 3 above the low arch and Phase 6 panelling and door to the left, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 40 Phase 1 moulded ceilings beams within room G2c, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 41 Phase 1 curved bracket beam end with foliate decoration, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 42 Corridor on the south side of room G2, with the opening on the left probably the Phase 1 fireplace position, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 43 Corridor G3a inserted through the former position of the Phase 1 fireplace, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 44 Phase 1 cellar and later inserted doorway, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 45 Phase 1 cellar with a blocked opening on the external wall behind later shelving, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 46 Phase 1 cellar with a blocked niche behind later shelving, looking south-east



Plate 47 Room G1, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 48 Room G2b, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 49 Room G5a, with mouldings on the ceiling potentially concealing Phase 1 beams, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 50 Room F1, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 51 Room F2, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 52 Room F3, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 53 Room F4, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 54 Interior of the northern turret, with only Phase 3 fabric visible, looking upwards to the roof structure



Plate 55 Underside of probable Phase 1 purlin with regular peg holes through what would have been its upper side; see Figure 12 for profile



Plate 56 Probable Phase 1 beam reused within the southern turret, with hints of red paint remaining within the mouldings; see Figure 12 for profile



Plate 57 Phase 2 service element, looking north-east



Plate 58 Phase 2 service element gable end, looking south-east



Plate 59 Phase 2 wall plate with regularly spaced mortices, looking north



Plate 60 Phase 2 Room S11, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 61 Phase 2 Room S13, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 62 Phase 2 Room F10, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 63 Phase 2 Room F12a, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 64 Phase 2 Room F13, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 65 Phase 2 Room G7a, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 66 Phase 2 corridor G7b, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 67 Phase 2 room G8, former kitchen, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 68 Phase 2 room G8, former kitchen, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 69 Phase 2 room G9a, former brewhouse, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 70 Phase 2 former chimney breast within room F13, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 71 Phase 2 redundant chimney breast visible from within room S14b, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 72 Phase 2 cellar, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 73 Phase 2 cellar, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 74 Phase 2 cellar with stairs into the kitchen above, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 75 Phase 2 cellar with stairs into the butler's pantry above, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 76 break in the floor boards over the stairs below; see Plate 75, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 77 Phase 2 north-east to south-west aligned service wing, looking north-west



Plate 78 Phase 2 north-east to south-west aligned service wing, looking north



Plate 79 Phase 2 north-east to south-west aligned service wing, looking west



Plate 80 Phase 2 north-east to south-west aligned service wing on the right with later buildings on the left, looking north-east



Plate 81 Phase 2 room G10, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 82 Phase 2 room F14d, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 83 Phase 2 room F14a, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 84 Phase 2 Room G14, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 85 Phase 2 Room G16, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 86 Phase 2 room F16 with Phase 3 roof truss above, looking south, no scale



Plate 87 Phase 2 room F16, looking north, no scale



Plate 88 Phase 2 room G17b, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 89 Phase 2 room G18, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 90 Phase 2 room G19b, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 91 Phase 2 room G19a, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 92 Phase 2 room F17, looking south-east, no scale



Plate 93 Phase 2 room F19 with Phase 3 roof truss above, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 94 Phase 2 blocked wide doorway, looking north-west, with removed Phase 3 King Post, scale 2m (see Figure 14 for reconstruction)



Plate 95 Phase 2 room G20, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 96 Phase 2 room G21, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 97 Phase 2 room G22, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 98 Phase 2 room G23, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 99 Phase 2 room G24, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 100 Phase 2 room F20a, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 101 Phase 2 room F21b, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 102 Phase 2 room F21a, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 103 Phase 2 room F24, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 104 Phase 2 beam end chamfer in room G23, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 105 Phase 2 gable end window position in room G24, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 106 Phase 3 roof trusses visible above rooms S1-3, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 107 Phase 3 roof truss visible above room S10, looking south-east, no scale



Plate 108 Phase 3 raised roof elements over earlier Phase 2 wing, looking north-west



Plate 109 Phase 3 coping stone profiles, 0.30m of scale visible



Plate 110 Phase 3 stone and chimney detailing, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 111 Phase 3 timber finial detail above inserted dormer window on the Phase 2 structure, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 112 Phase 3 decorative details above the porch, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 113 Phase 3 Lead drain pipe hopper detail, looking north, no scale



Plate 114 Typical Phase 3 Stone cross windows, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 115 Phase 3 internal window and shutter detail, room S1, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 116 Phase 3 internal window, room F1, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 117 Phase 3 oriole window and Phase 5 porch below, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 118 Phase3 timber parapet detailing above the canted oriole window, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 119 Phase 3 stone parapet detailing above the projected bay window, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 120 Phase 3 carved indent on window frames, matching the alignment of the stone effect lines within the mortar of the walls, no scale



Plate 121 Phase 3 room G17c wooden frames with tie bars demonstrating that they had small pane windows, as shown on Plate 122, looking south, no scale



Plate 122 Phase 3 small pane window type of the south-east facing elevation room G22, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 123 Phase 3 wood frame casement windows added to the north-west facing elevation of the Phase 2 building, see here on the first floor, looking south-east, scale 2m



Plate 124 Phase 3 porch, looking south-west, scale 2m



Plate 125 Phase 3 staircase, ground floor, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 126 Phase 3 staircase balustrade detail, ground floor, looking east, scale 0.4m



Plate 127 Phase 3 staircase, first floor, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 128 Phase 3 ceiling moulding above the stairwell, second floor, no scale



Plate 129 Phase 3 doorway through the south-west facing, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 130 Room G1 inserted fireplace surround, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 131 Phase 3 ground floor doorway room 3a, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 132 Room F6, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 133 Room F9b, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 134 Room F9a, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 135 typical Phase 3 door, room F1, looking north-west , scale 1m



Plate 136 Phase 3 room F8, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 137 Typical Phase 3 second floor door, room S2, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 138 Room S1, looking east, scale 2m



Plate 139 Room S2, looking south-east, scale 2m



Plate 140 Room S6a, looking north-east, scale 2m



Plate 141 Room S5a, looking south-east, scale 2m



Plate 142 Room S8a, looking north-west, scale 2m



Plate 143 Room S7, looking north-east, scale 2m



Plate 144 Room S10a, looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 145 Room S9, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 146 Phase 4 building exterior, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 147 Phase 4 building exterior, looking west, no scale



Plate 148 Phase 4 room G11, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 149 Phase 4 room G11, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 150 Phase 4 stairs from G11 into the Phase 2 cellar, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 151 Phase 4 Room G13, looking south east, scale 1m



Plate 152 Phase 4 exterior extension, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 153 Phase 4 room F16, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 154 Phase 4 room F17, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 155 Phase 4 room F18, looking north-east, no scale



Plate 156 Phase 5 addition to the service wing, looking north-west, scale 2m



Plate 157 Phase 6 extension exterior, looking east, scale 2m



Plate 158 Phase 6 extension exterior, looking south, scale 2m



Plate 159 Phase 6 room G28, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 160 Phase 6 room G27, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 161 Phase 6 electric front door bell, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 162 Brass fittings retro fitted in Phase 6, looking north-east, 0.20m scale visible



Plate 163 Phase 6 inserted fireplace within room G16, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 164 Phase 6 inserted partially glazed screen, room F11b, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 165 Phase 6 inserted partially glazed screen, room F15a, looking south-west, no scale



Plate 166 Phase 6 inserted metal frame casement windows within room F16, scale 1m, looking east



Plate 167 Phase 6 fireplace surround within room F13, scale 1m, looking west



Plate 168 Graffiti on the rear of the parapet above the porch, looking north-west, no scale



Plate 169 Phase 7 former safe, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 170 Phase 7 converted turret room, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 171 Phase 7 inserted fireplace room S10a, looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 172 Phase 7 inserted fireplace room F10, looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 173 Panelling considered to have come from Ribbesford House, now at the Greyfriars, Worcester, no scale



Plate 174 Detail of the Acton coat of arms on panelling considered to have come from Ribbesford House, now at the Greyfriars, Worcester, no scale



Plate 175 Detail of decorations potentially relating to the Prince of Wales, later Edward VI, on panelling considered to have come from Ribbesford House, now at the Greyfriars, Worcester, no scale

Appendix 1: timeline of ownership and significant events

Date	Owner of Manor	Further details	Source
8 th century AD	Priory of St. Mary at Worcester	Mentioned among land lost to the Danes	VCH IV, 1924
1012 to 1023	Wulfric	The Manor was given by Wulstan Archbishop of York and Worcester to his sister on her marriage to Wulfric	VCH IV, 1924
1066	Turstin the Fleming	The Church was dispossessed of the Manor	VCH IV, 1924
1086	The crown		VCH IV, 1924
Mid 12th century	Walter de Ribbesford		VCH IV, 1924
1176	Simon de Ribbesford		VCH IV, 1924
1235	Henry de Ribbesford		VCH IV, 1924
	Simon de Ribbesford	Heir of Henry	VCH IV, 1924
1305	Henry de Ribbesford		VCH IV, 1924
1329	Robert de Ribbesford	Son of Henry	VCH IV, 1924
1351	Walter de Ribbesford		VCH IV, 1924
Post 1379	Thomas Earl of Warwick		VCH IV, 1924
1397	Earl of Salisbury		VCH IV, 1924
1401	Thomas Earl of Warwick	The manor was returned to Warwick at the accession of Henry IV	VCH IV, 1924
1423	Richard Earl of Warwick	The manor was occupied by Richards wife Isabel le Despencer	VCH IV, 1924
1442	Sir John Talbot Earl of Shrewsbury		VCH IV, 1924
c1470	Margaret and Elizabeth Talbot		VCH IV, 1924
1473	Elizabeth Talbot	Elizabeth became sole heir upon the death of her sister	VCH IV, 1924
Up to 1512	John Talbot and Muriel (daughter of the Duke of Norfolk)	John died in 1504, leaving the property to Muriel	VCH IV, 1924
1512	Elizabeth Grey		VCH IV, 1924
1519	Elizabeth Grey	Aunt of the previously mentioned Elizabeth Grey	VCH IV, 1924
Pre 1531	Sir Arthur Plantagenet (created Viscount Lisle in 1523)	Arthur took the manor on marrying Elizabeth Grey	VCH IV, 1924
1531	Sir Robert Acton	This is the presumed point of major building of the present structure, see section 5.3.1	Walker 1862

1558	Sir Henry Acton		VCH IV, 1924
1563	Robert Acton	It was said that Robert "had a faire estate, but was unthrifty", got into pecuniary difficulties and in 1605 was accused of coining money	VCH IV, 1924
1605	John Churchill		VCH IV, 1924
1607	Ellis Churchill		VCH IV, 1924
1621	Henry Milday	Milday granted the manor to the crown who sold it to Herbert	VCH IV, 1924
1627	Henry Herbert	Given by Charles I. Herbert was MP for Bewdley and took the Royalist side in the Civil War and suffered under the Commonwealth. He was returned after the Restoration.	VCH IV, 1924
1673	Henry Herbert	Son of Henry Herbert	VCH IV, 1924
1694	Henry Herbert	Son of the second Henry Herbert who died childless in 1738	VCH IV, 1924
1738	Charles Morley		VCH IV, 1924
	Henry Morley	Morley took on the surname of Herbert	VCH IV, 1924
1781	Magdalene Herbert	Sister of Henry Morley	VCH IV, 1924
1782	George Paulet	Kinsman of Magdalene	VCH IV, 1924
1787	Francis Ingram	This is the date of the presumed date of extensive rebuild, see section 5.3.3, and moat infill	VCH IV, 1924
1797	Thomas Ingram		VCH IV, 1924
	Sir Edward Winnington		VCH IV, 1924
	Edward Winnington Ingram		VCH IV, 1924
	Arthur Winnington Ingram?	Born 1858	Ancestry 2019
1904-1908	J H Lees-Milne	Died 1908	VCH IV, 1924, Ancestry 2019
1908-1931	Alec Lees-Milne	Died 1931	VCH IV, 1924, Ancestry 2019
1942-44	Government acquisition. Free French occupation		Knowles 1999
1947	Alfred John Howell	The house was converted into private apartments	BBC 2019
	Merryn and Columb Howell		BBC 2019
2018	Samuel and Russel Leeds		

Appendix 2: Summary of project archive (WSM71404)

TYPE	DETAILS*
Artefacts and Environmental	None
Paper	Diary (Field progress form), Drawings, Photograph, Plan, Report, Section, Survey
Digital	Images raster/digital photography, Survey, Text

*OASIS terminology