

Building Recording at Arley Grange, Upper Arley

for

The Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust

April 2020



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Building Recording at Arley Grange, Upper Arley, Worcestershire



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Local planning authority:	Wyre Forest District Council
Planning reference:	18/0245/FULL and 18/0246/LIST
Central NGR:	NGR SO 76437 80311
Commissioning client:	The Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust
WA project reference:	P5461
WA report reference:	2692
HER reference:	WSM71512
Oasis reference:	fieldsec1-348989

Issue	Date	Status	Details/prepared by	Checked by
1	26 April 2019	Version 1	Tim Cornah	Tom Rogers
2	06 April 2020	Version 2	Tim Cornah	Tom Rogers

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Building recording at Arley Grange, Upper Arley, Worcestershire

Tim Cornah

Illustrations by Carolyn Hunt

Summary

Building recording was undertaken at Arley Grange (NGR SO 76437 80311), Upper Arley, Worcestershire. It was commissioned by David Vice of EMMAUS Consulting Limited on behalf of the Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust, in advance of proposed changing the building into a thirteen bedroom hotel including single storey extension and use of the existing garage as breakfast room. A planning application was approved by Wyre Forest District Council subject to archaeological conditions.

Arley Grange is a relatively typical house of early 18th century Queen Anne style which, despite later alterations, retains evidence for its original internal layout and design with a number of original features and fittings surviving. The building was altered through the 19th and 20th centuries to suit the needs of its owners. The single largest addition was that of a kitchen, built after 1838 when it is depicted on the tithe map of the parish.

An open sided structure, now a garage, complete with an internal first floor stands adjacent to the house. It is of a 18th century style so likely to be broadly contemporary with the house. The function of this structure is not clear but it may have been a cart shed, animal shelter or most likely, a granary as a Malthouse was recorded on the tithe map and early Ordnance Survey maps immediately to the south.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

Recording of historic buildings was undertaken at Arley Grange (NGR SO 76437 80311), Upper Arley, Worcestershire. It was commissioned by David Vice of EMMAUS Consulting Limited on behalf of the Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust, in advance of proposed conversion of Grange Court into a fourteen bedroom hotel including single storey extension and use of the existing garage as breakfast room. A planning application has been approved subject to archaeological conditions (18/0245/FUL and 18/0246/LIST). Condition 6 of the permissions states that a programme of archaeological works should be carried out. It was acknowledged that a Historic England Level 2 record before the commencement of works was not a requirement of either the planning permission or listed building consent, however during discussion with the Wyre Forest District Council archaeological advisor, it was agreed that this would be a suitable response in order to discharge planning conditions 6 and 7. A Level 2 building record both during works to the house and a watching brief on associated ground works will be completed at a later stage.

Arley Grange is a Grade II designated heritage asset (List Entry Number: 1348354), within the terms used by the *National Planning Policy Framework*. Arley Grange is also registered with the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (WSM09659).

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

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

2 Aims

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

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

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

3.2 Documentary research

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

3.3 List of sources consulted

Cartographic sources

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

Aerial photographs

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

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

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

Fieldwork was undertaken on 9th April 2019 and 25th February 2020. The site reference number used by the Historic Environment Record to record archaeological "events", and site code used in the archive is WSM71512.

Building recording consisted of a photographic survey of the interior and exterior of the buildings, analysis of their development, annotation of existing survey drawings and measured survey. All photographs were taken with photographic scales visible in each shot. The photographic survey was carried out with a Canon EOS 200D digital SLR camera. All photographs were recorded on a pro-forma Photographic Record Sheet. Annotation of existing ground plans and elevations complemented the photographic record.

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

The record will include the following elements of survey:

Photography

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

Drawings

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

Written account

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

3.5 Building analysis

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

The building as recorded is depicted in Plates 1-42. Phase plans have been reproduced as Figures 2-6.

3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved though some unknown elements are likely to have been obscured by surface coverings.

4 Context

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

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

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

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

18th century development continues to be a dominant part of the fabric of the village in, with the most notable buildings being the Valencia Arms Hotel (WSM34851) which is a brick and stone structure of 18th century date. Arley Grange (WSM09659) is thought to date to the early 18th century and will be further described below.

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

5 The building

5.1 Building description

Arley Grange is Grade II listed and described as follows

House. Early 18th century with some early 20th century alterations. Brick with tile roof. Two storeys, with attic lit by two 20th century hipped dormers. Five windows: 8-pane boxed sashes under rubbed brick heads with stone keystones. Central entrance has a plain architrave and door of six raised and fielded panels.

5.2 Historical information

Arley Grange was owned by Richard Gill and occupied by John Owen at the time of the tithe apportionment of 1838. It is listed as house, garden, malt-house and shops. The accompanying Tithe Map shows the house with a stepped extension on its south west corner, as it broadly remained at the end of Phase 2, see below. This map shows an angled wall or gate running from the building to the south-west to the house, though the back of the house is shown as in line with that building. This angled gate or wall is repeated on the 1884 Ordnance Survey mapping, though the house and building its south west are slightly separated in what is likely to be a drawing error. The two buildings are in line again by the time of the 1904 Ordnance Survey map.

5.3 Building development

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

- Phase 1: Early to mid 18th century
- Phase 2: Circa 1830
- Phase 3: 20th century

5.4 Phase 1: Early 18th century

The house had a broadly square footprint with its principal face towards the south (Plate 1 to Plate 3). This face had a central doorway at ground floor level (Plate 4 and Plate 5) flanked by four sashes of eight panes each set close to the front of the window opening, as was the style in the early 18th century. These and the further five of the first floor had rubbed brick lintels with central decorative key stones. This face had alternating brickwork with purple bricks providing a visual grid.

The face onto the road had two further sashes, with two further positions never intended as windows as they were blocked by the original fireplace and stack. This stack formed a pair with that on the opposing gable. The window pattern on the north and west gables was not clear due to later alteration though there is likely to have been an external door into the space later filled by the Phase 2 structures on the western gable. The roof is tile covered with a central valley that drains through the building internally.

The ground floor space was made up of two large front rooms, with fireplaces in each though the largest of these being an inglenook in the south-east room. The windows were shuttered with some original fixtures remaining (Plate 7 to Plate 11). A room in the north-east corner had a corner fireplace and access to the stairs (Plate 12 and Plate 13), which retained its original detailing (Plate 14 to Plate 18). The stair balusters were comparable with others dating to the first half of the 18th century (Hall 2005). The north-west room was likely to have been a kitchen originally and had access to the cellar from underneath the stairs (Plate 19 and Plate 20).

The first floor was again split into four rooms, with a fifth small space to the north of the stairs (Plate 21 to Plate 27). The chimney breast ran through all but the rear room of these, though later covering made it difficult to establish which had fireplaces. Two thin original two panel doors were present, with simple L hinges typical from the later 17th century, through the 18th century (Hall 2005). The second floor continued broadly the same arrangement as the first floor, though is unlikely to have been heated spaces (Plate 28 to Plate 31).

The roof structure had principle rafters bolted at the corners of the structure to diagonal beams and most likely a wall plate. These supported a ridge board, to which the common rafters were nailed (Plate 32).

The garage to south west of the house (Plate 3, Plate 33 and Plate 34) was built as open sided all the way around, with its wall plate supported by nine brick short wall sections or pillars, with a tenth likely to have originally existed. The roof was hipped at the west end and the building spanned by

two oak trusses (Plate 36 and Plate 37) of which the principle rafters were supported by two raking struts only, typical of 18th century agricultural structures. The common rafters were pegged together at the apex. A third truss is likely to have existed but replaced in brick at the east gable during Phase 2. The tie beams had mortices for floor joists, showing it had a first floor.

5.5 Phase 2: Circa 1830

An addition to the west of the house formed a single storey structure with single pitch roof that housed a new staircase to the cellar (Plate 38 and Plate 39).

Possibly contemporary was a further single roomed and storied structure with a central east west aligned and slate covered roof. This had a tripartite window with large rolled glass panes suggestive of an 1830s or later date (Wedd 2002) with a rubbed brick slightly arched window above on its south side and a door to its north. The building was open to the roof with a large fireplace on its western gable (Plate 40 and Plate 41). This layout and position in the house is suggestive of a kitchen, it is likely that this was the point at which the kitchen in the house was divided into two rooms and a doorway added to the north side, later blocked, along with two segmental arch heads also on the north elevation ground floor. More broadly in the 19th century, various blockings were also added to the garage in order to enclose it and its eastern gable rebuilt with a first floor round headed window (Plate 33).

5.6 Phase 3: 20th century

These elements largely consisted of internal stud division for change of use to three flats. Two doors were added on the northern elevation, one accessed by a set of steps to the first floor. A new internal staircase was added, and the original partly blocked. Two new dormer windows were added to the south roof at broadly this point, though could be later 19th century. A new entrance structure was added on the west side of the Phase 2 buildings (Plate 42)

6 Discussion

Arley Grange is a relatively typical house of early 18th century Queen Anne style which, despite later alterations, retains evidence for its original internal layout and design with a number of original features and fittings surviving, most notably the "good oak staircase having a moulded handrail and turned balusters" as described in 1913. The building was changed through the 19th and 20th centuries to suit the needs of its owners. The single largest addition was that of a kitchen, probably in the 1830s as it is present on the Tithe map of 1838.

Broadly contemporary with the house was an open sided structure, now a garage, complete with an internal first floor which is more difficult to interpret. It was of a 18th century style so likely to be broadly contemporary with the house. Features such as cart sheds were sometimes open sided though not on all sides, the same would be true of animal shelters. Examples of sheds for drying bricks before firing are open sided all around, though would have no need for a first floor. Perhaps the most likely interpretation is that of a granary with first floor grain storage with a more general work space below. This interpretation may be more likely given the tithe evidence stating there was a Malthouse on the site in 1838, potentially in the building shown on the tithe map and early OS maps to the immediate south of this possible granary.

7 Publication summary

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

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8 Acknowledgements

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

9 Bibliography

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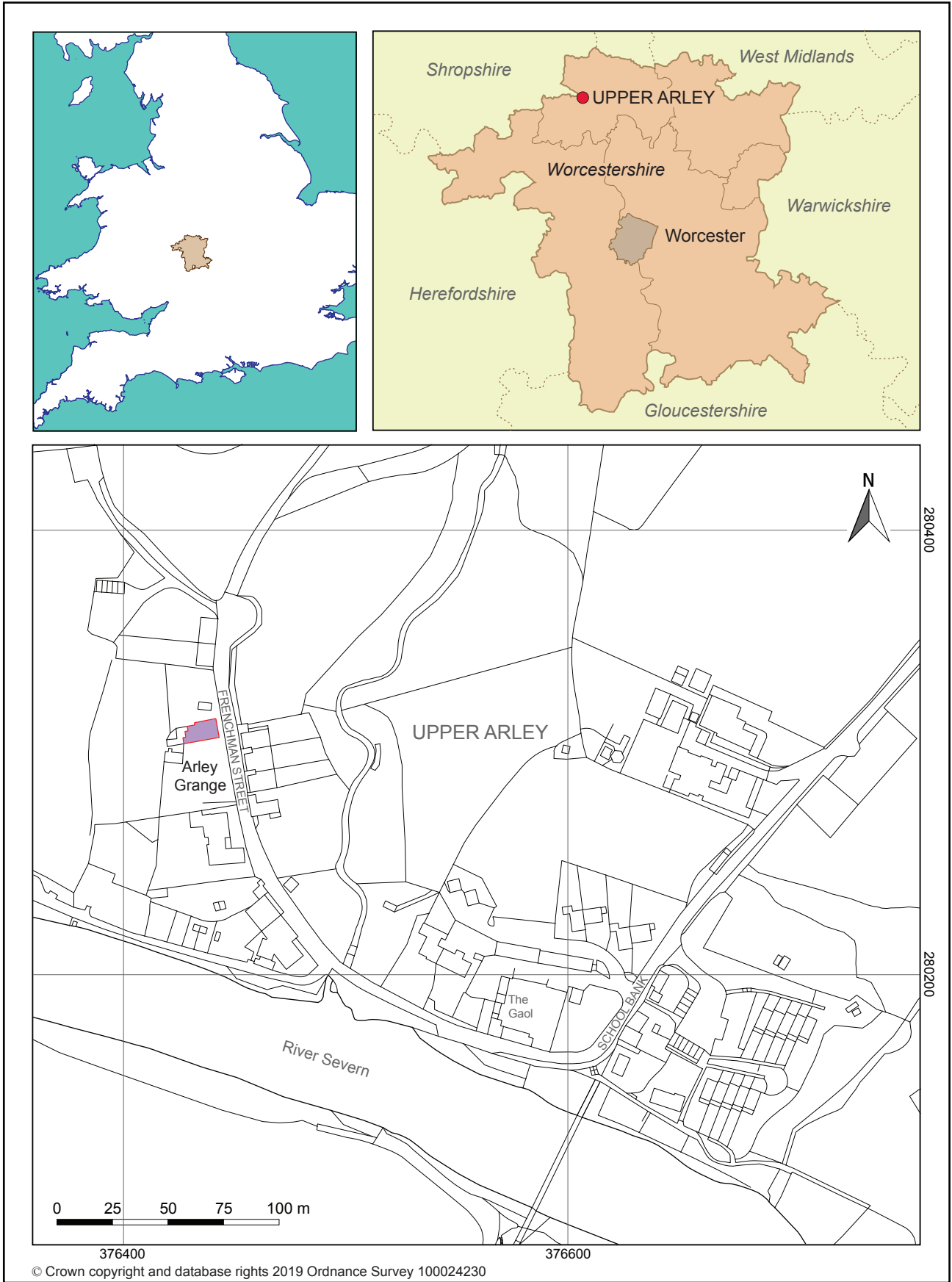
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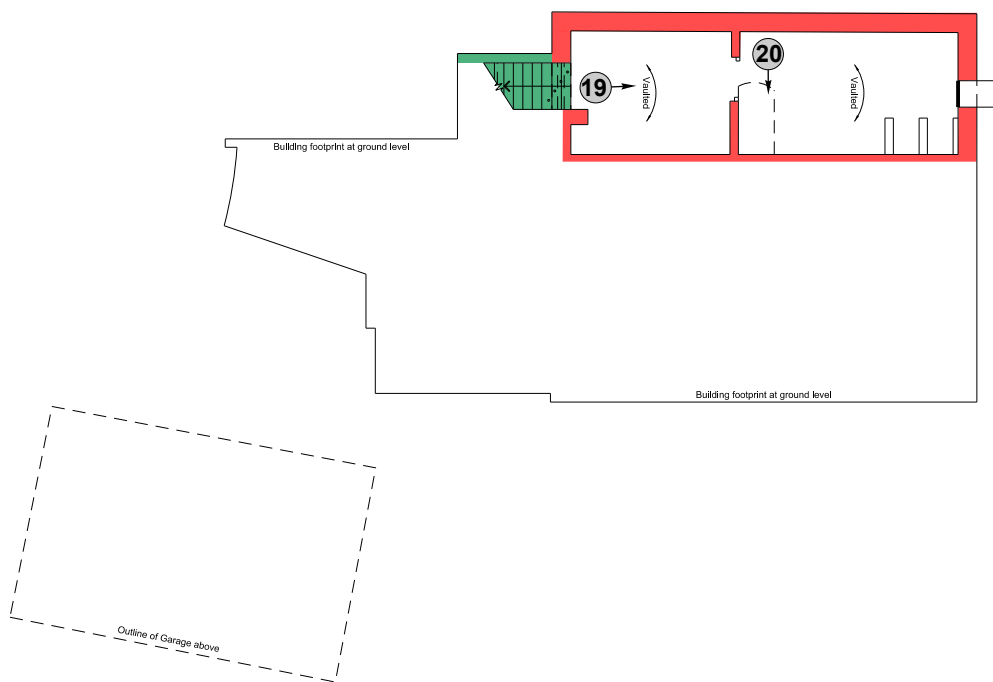
Figures



Location of the site

Figure 1

ARLEY GRANGE: BASEMENT LEVEL

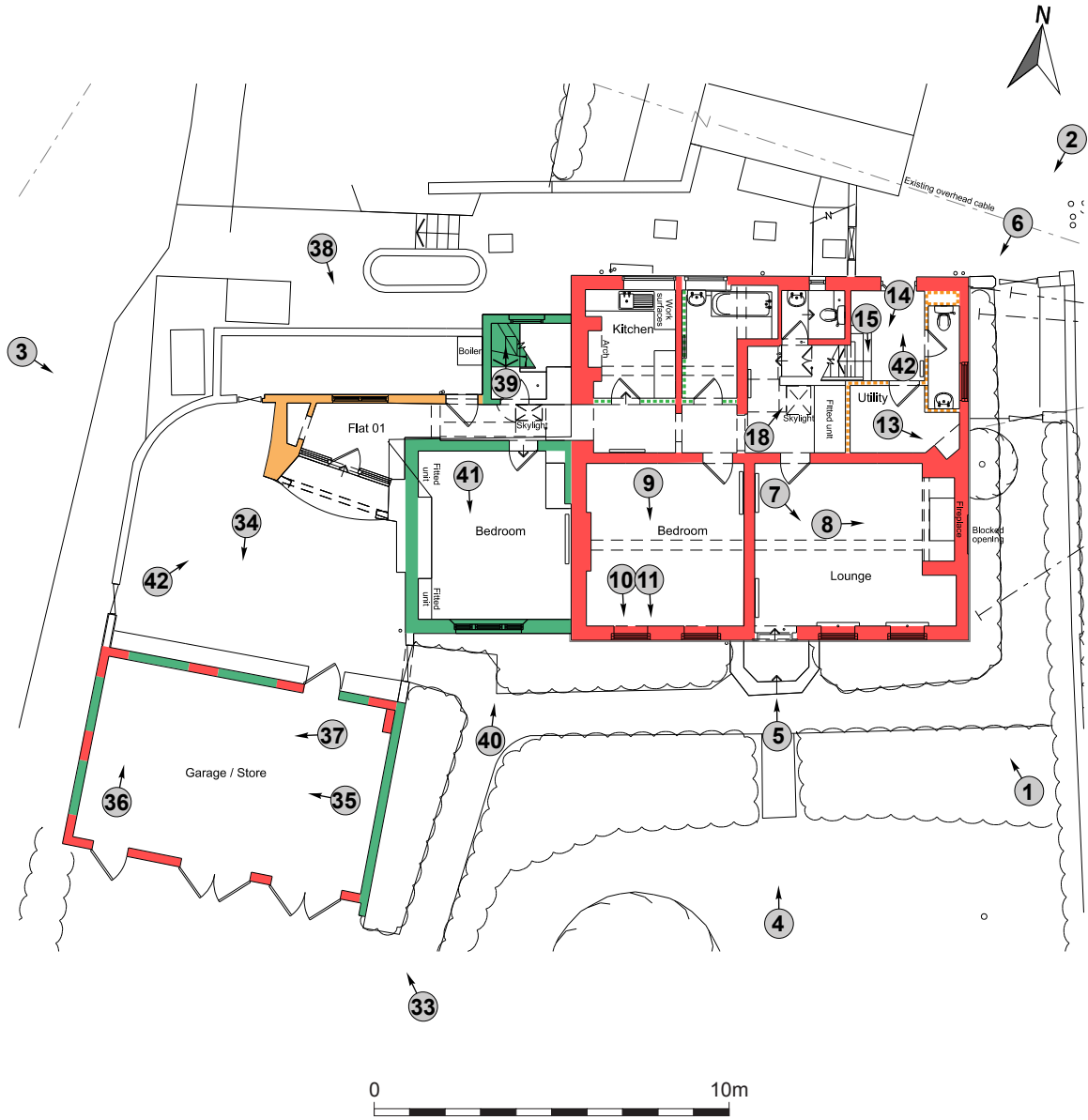


Key	
■	Phase 1: early 18th century
■	Phase 2: post 1884

Arley Grange Basement Level Plan with plate locations
(based upon Weedon Architects Dwg. 16089 A0809-A)

Figure 2

ARLEY GRANGE: GROUND FLOOR

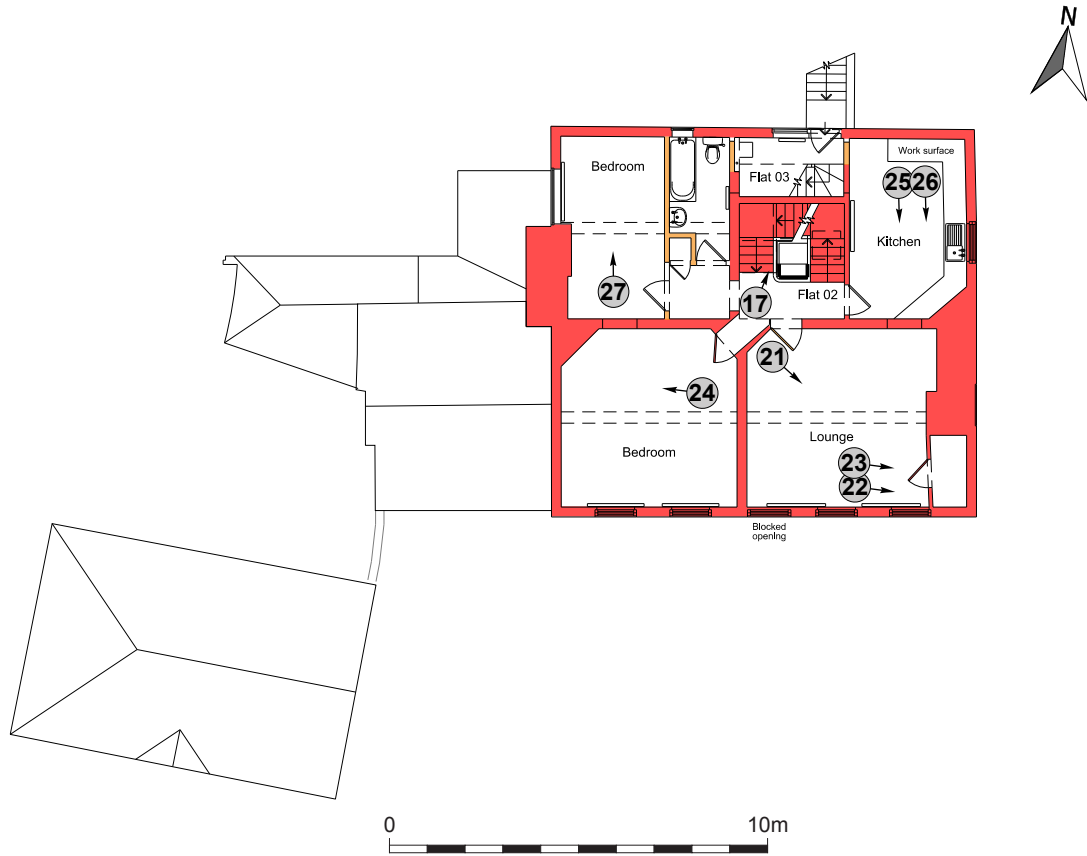


Key	
	Phase 1: early 18th century
	Phase 2: post 1884
	Phase 3: 20th century

Arley Grange Ground Floor Plan with plate locations (based upon Weedon Architects Dwg. 16089 A0810-A)

Figure 3

ARLEY GRANGE: FIRST FLOOR

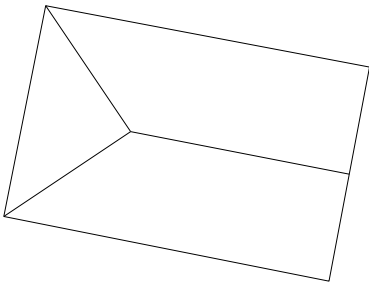
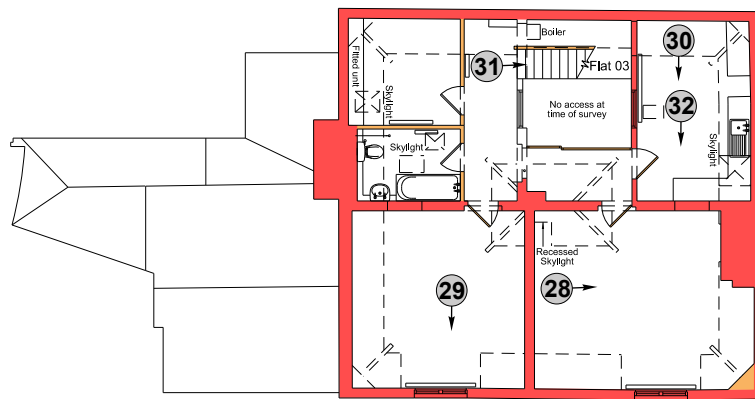




Key	
■	Phase 1: early 18th century
■	Phase 3: 20th century

Arley Grange First Floor Plan with plate locations
(based upon Weedon Architects Dwg. 16089 A0811-A)

Figure 4

ARLEY GRANGE: SECOND FLOOR



Key	
	Phase 1: early 18th century
	Phase 3: 20th century

Arley Grange Second Floor Plan with plate locations
(based upon Weedon Architects Dwg. 16089 A0812-A)

Figure 5

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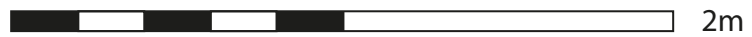


Photo rectified elevation for the western chimney

Figure 6

Plates



Plate 1 The house, looking north west



Plate 2 The house, looking south west



Plate 3 The house and garage, looking south east



Plate 4 The house frontage, looking north, scale 2m



Plate 5 The house frontage, looking north, scale 2m



Plate 6 The house, looking south-west, scale 2m



Plate 7 The house ground floor south-east room, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 8 The house ground floor south-east room, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 9 The house ground floor south-west room , looking south, scale 1m



Plate 10 The house ground floor south-west room original and inserted sash fittings



Plate 11 The house ground floor south-west room original shutter hinge



Plate 12 The house ground floor north-east room , looking north, scale 1m



Plate 13 The house ground floor north-east room , looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 14 The house ground floor north-east room and staircase, looking west, scale 1m



Plate 15 The house ground floor north-east room and staircase, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 16 The house ground to first floor stairwell, looking south west, scale 1m



Plate 17 The house first floor stairwell, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 18 The house ground floor stairwell, looking north-west



Plate 19 The house cellar, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 20 The house cellar former stairs position, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 21 The house first floor, south-east room, looking south- east, scale 1m



Plate 22 The house first floor with original thin 2 panel door and hinges, south-east room, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 23 The house first floor with original thin 2 panel door and rear latch, south-east room



Plate 24 The house first floor, south-west room, looking west, scale 1m



Plate 25 The house first floor, north-east room, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 26 The house first floor joists, north-east room, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 27 The house first floor, north-west room, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 28 The house second floor, south-east room, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 29 The house second floor, south-west room, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 30 The house second floor, north-west room, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 31 The house second floor, added stairwell, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 32 The house second floor, roof structure



Plate 33 The garage, looking north-west, scale 2m



Plate 34 The garage, looking south, scale 2m



Plate 35 The garage, looking west, scale 1m



Plate 36 The garage, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 37 The garage, looking west



Plate 38 The house Phase 2 addition, looking south-west



Plate 39 The house Phase 2 addition, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 40 The house Phase 2 addition, looking north, scale 2m



Plate 41 The house Phase 2 addition, looking south, scale 1m



Plate 42 The house Phase 3 addition, looking north-east, scale 2m

Appendix 1 Technical information

The archive (site code: WSM71512)

The archive consists of:

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

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

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