

A Record of Stables
at
FORD'S FARM, HIGH STREET
EWELME, OXFORDSHIRE



K A Rodwell
for
JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

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Introduction

This report records the fabric of a Grade II listed stable block at Ford's Farm, High Street, Ewelme and was commissioned to fulfil a condition of planning permission and listed building consent prior to its conversion into three holiday lets (PO2/W0280/LB). The record was carried out to the specifications in a written scheme of investigations prepared by John Moore Heritage Services. The plans and elevations used as a basis for the survey were supplied by Smith-Woolley, Chartered Surveyors; the photographs were taken by the author.

Description

The buildings occupy the western side of the farmyard, which forms a separate enclosure to the south-west of the house, and are cut into the bank alongside the road. The principal elevation faces south-east and the range is composed of three distinct units. Plans are shown on Fig 1; sections and elevations on Fig 2.

1 (*Figs 3-4*) At the south-west end is an open-fronted shed three bays long with brick walls in Flemish bond on a flint rubble base and a hipped tiled roof. It is an addition to the main part of the range, narrower and with a separate roofline. At the front the roof is carried on three substantial posts (a fourth is missing) with chamfered edges and pegged straight braces to the wall plate and tie beams. At the northern end an original pyramidal stone base block survives raised on two courses of bricks; the other posts are set on replacement brick piers. The three roof trusses are of pegged pine construction with carpenters' marks; they have straight collars, queen posts and a clasped edge-set purlin. The internal walls have an offset c.1.5m above floor level and along the back wall the bottom rail of a slatted hayrack is lodged on this. The top rail is secured to the tie beams by struts. Set below is a feeding trough formed of three wide elm boards supported at intervals on a framework of posts and short rails let into the wall; a cat hole is cut in the front board. There is a sloped boarded lid in two sections hinged at the top. This structure only survives in the southern half of the building.

2 (*Figs 5-6*) In the centre of the range is a stable block built of mixed rubble with brick dressings and a peg-tiled roof. The principal elevation has two doors and two

windows, all with segmentally arched heads and there is a gabled and weatherboarded loading door set into the roof at eaves level. The windows have frames of pegged construction with glazed top-lights and slatted shutters (formerly hinged internally) below. One of the bricks in the quoin at the south-west end has an incised inscription [R or B]W 1755. This building was originally free-standing and a blocked window can be seen in the south-west elevation, which has a brick-built gable in English bond. This was matched by another in the north-east elevation (both visible internally) now covered by building 3; the straight joint where two brick quoins meet can be seen on the main elevation.

Internally the wall revetting the road is brick throughout and may be rebuilt. The floor is largely brick with a shallow drain running the length of the building. The stalls to the north-west have been removed and are only marked by post-hole settings in the floor. Three built-in wooden saddle brackets are set in the wall by one of the doors and another by a window. The loft floor has exposed beams (one replaced) and joists with a slot 0.6m wide along the north-west wall over the former hayrack; the obliquely-mounted top-rail remains in position. In the loft which has fixed ladder access, there are three free-standing roof trusses and two built into the end walls. They are of pegged construction, partly pine with tie beams independent of the floor structure, straight collars, queen posts and a single tier of clasped purlins.

3 (*Figs 5, 7*) This building is butted against 2 and is built of the same materials. It has a central door flanked by unglazed slit windows which have been reduced from larger openings defined by their brick jambs. The door has also been dropped from its original position and originally had a threshold raised 0.3m above ground level. Flanking the door at ground level are two blocked openings with low arched heads outlined in brick. There is now only a narrow gap between the north-east end wall and the adjoining timber-framed granary but two blocked windows, the larger centrally placed, the smaller in the gable, indicate that it was originally free-standing.

The south-east corner of the interior is partitioned off by a brick wall. The other walls are rubble with timber lacings and two further blocked arched openings can be seen at the base of the north-east wall. There is a large axial ceiling beam, chamfered and stopped with the date 1842 between end bars chisel cut into the north-west face. In the

loft the south-west wall was originally external to building 2 and is built of brick in English bond. The north-east internal wall is more roughly finished and incorporates two blocked windows and a built-in roof truss. The single free-standing truss is like those in building 2 and the tie beam is morticed for an earlier floor: the sawn-off joist ends remain in position.

Structural sequence

The earliest building in the group is the stable (B2) which appears to be dated to the mid 18th century by a brick inscribed 1755. Building 3, butted against its north-east end, is very similar in style and probably dates to later in the century. In its original form it had larger windows, a raised door and a ventilated under-floor space; internally there was a ceiling at eaves level. The raised and ventilated floor suggests that it was originally built as a granary and the windows in the north-east wall that this elevation had an open aspect. The adjoining timber-framed granary has probably been moved to its present position from a different location. The subsequent alterations to Building 3 include a new lower ceiling beam bearing the date 1842. Building 1, an open-fronted shed is later than building 2 and probably dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. All the buildings are shown in their present form on the Ordnance Survey map of 1883.

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- Fig 7** Building 3 internal photographs

Appendix: Statutory List

EWELME HIGH STREET SU6491 (South side) 8/114 Stable approx. 35m. SW of 18/07/63 Ford's Farmhouse (Formerly listed as barn and outbuildings at Ford's Farm) GV II Stable. Probably mid C18. Uncoursed limestone rubble with brick dressings; plain-tile roof. Single storey and attic; 2-window range. Stable doors to left and centre. Plank door to right. 2-light casements to ground floor. Gabled dormer to centre with plank door. Stalls and hay rack to interior.

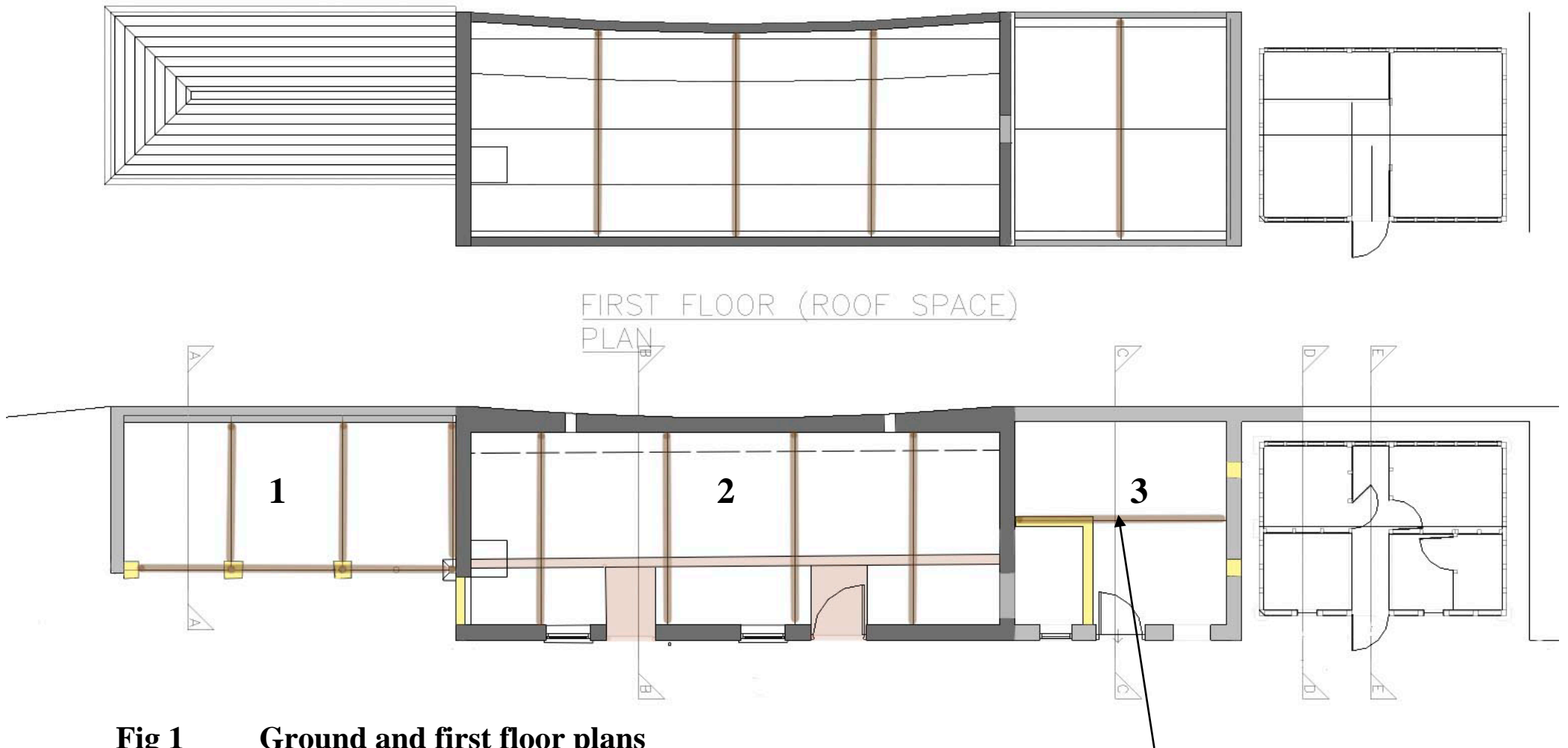


Fig 1 Ground and first floor plans

- Phase 1 dark grey
- Phase 2 light grey
- Phase 3 yellow
- Brick paving pink
- Beams brown

beam dated
1842

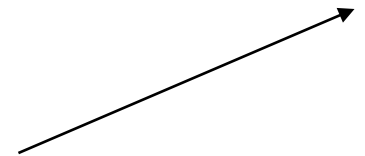




Fig 2 Elevations & sections

Locations shown on Fig 1

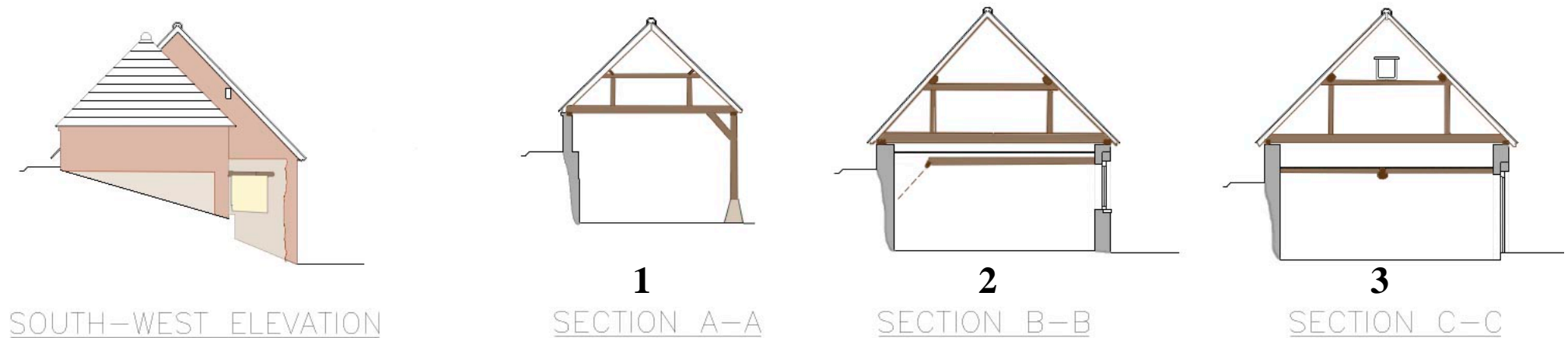




Fig 3 Building 1

(clockwise from top)

South-east elevation

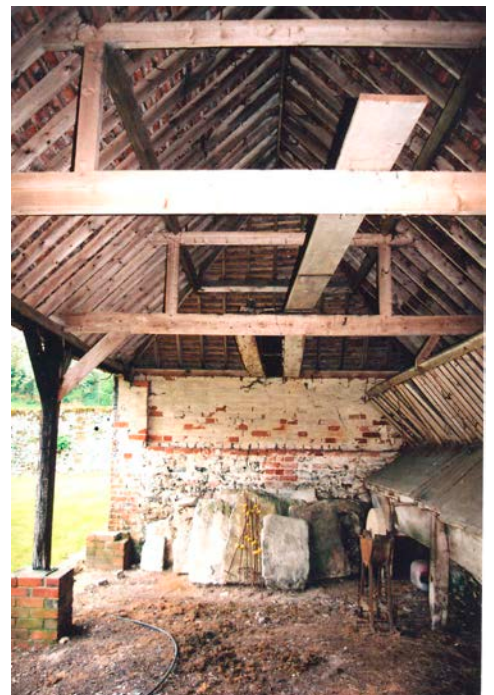
Detail of post with original base

Post with replacement base

Interior looking south-west

Detail of roof truss

South-west elevation



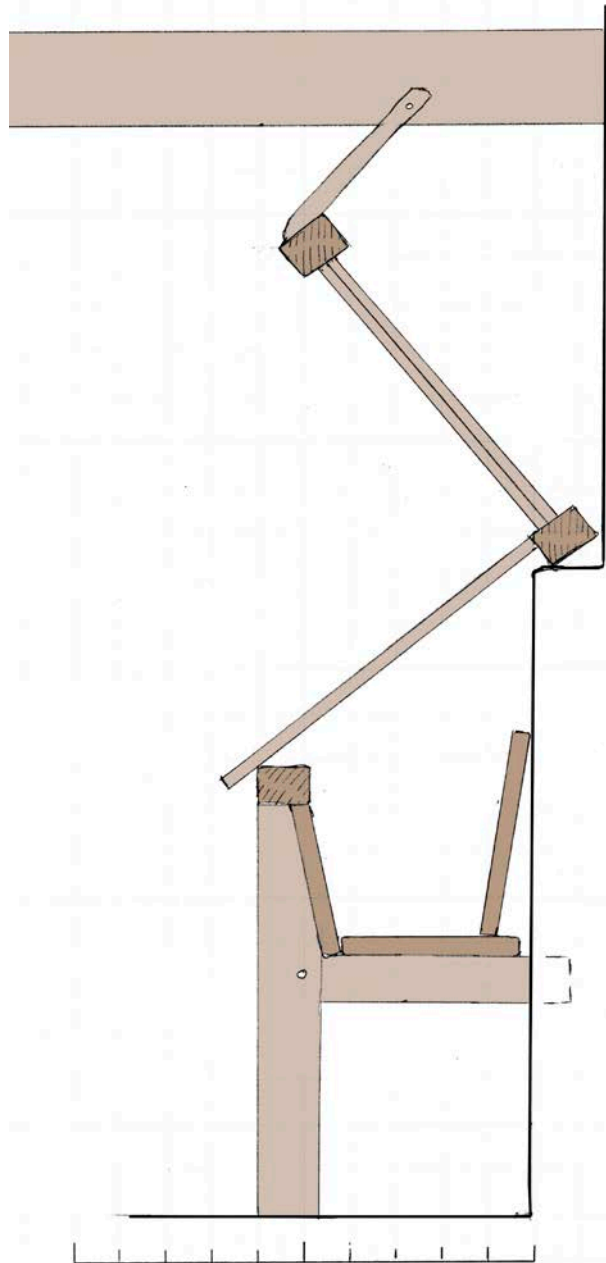


Fig 4 Building 1

Manger and hayrack interior

Section: scale is 1m

View from the north





Fig 5 Buildings 2 & 3 (clockwise)

South east elevation

Window detail building 2

Road elevation from south

Dated brick [B]W 1755

Building 3 detail with reduced door and window openings



Fig 6 Building 2

(clockwise from top)

Interior looking south-west

Loft looking north-east

Roof truss looking north-east

Loft looking south-west

Saddle brackets by door

Slot in loft floor and top rail
of hayrack





Fig 7 Building 3

(clockwise from top)

Loft, north-east wall with blocked window below truss

Roof at north-east end

Ground floor, north-east wall, arched openings at base

Date incised on beam |1842|

Ground floor looking south

