



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**HISTORIC BUILDING ASSESSMENT
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON
ABBEY LODGE, MAIN ROAD,
FARTHINGHOE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NN13 5PB
NGR SP 53584 39797**

*On behalf of
Zoe Fawcett-Shapland*

OCTOBER 2017

REPORT FOR Zoe Fawcett-Shapland
Abbey Lodge
Main Road
Farthinghoe
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FIELD WORK 12th September 2013

REPORT ISSUED 6th October 2017

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JMHS Project No: 3646
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ABBEY LODGE

Archaeological Recording

SUMMARY

A series of archaeological investigations was commissioned on Abbey Lodge, Farthinghoe, Northamptonshire (SP 53584 39797). A structure that is a grade II* listed building.

Farthinghoe is a historical parish in the historic county of Northamptonshire. It is now located in South Northampton District and in the modern county of Northamptonshire.

Investigation of the building determined that there were some six recognisable phases, which had not been fully assessed in the statement of significance. The earliest phase saw the construction of Block A, which contained a hall and two adjacent rooms on two levels. The date of this is not properly defined, and is interpreted from negative data as 15th century. The key features are the surviving timbers that were over the hall.

Phase 2 saw the construction of a second hall at right-angles to the first, which is noted in the form of a butt joint and rebuild. This hall does not appear at first to be internally divided. A blocked window in the east wall, has a later wall butted against it. The building can be compared to Castle House, Castlethorpe, Buckinghamshire, which has a plan of a house with two halls so arranged dated to 1291.

The third phase of activity is 16th century in date and associated with a date stone of 1581. This saw the insertion of the chimneys in Block A, the internal walls in Block B, and an extension on the north side of Block B. It is possible that Block C2 dates to this phase also.

Phase 4 saw the insertion of Block C1. A 16th or 17th century date is considered to be the case here.

Phase 5 saw the partial removal of the extension on the north side of Block B, and the construction of Block D. The inside of Block C1 was reworked. Both of these have details that would date them to the 17th century. The reworking of Block C1 has to be associated with the initial addition of a porch with passageway above.

Phase 6a and 6b are both of a 19th century date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location

A Watching Brief and Building Photography were carried as Abbey Lodge, Main Road, Farthinghoe, Northamptonshire (SP 53584 39797). Farthinghoe was a historic parish located in the historic hundred of Sutton and county of Northamptonshire. It is now located in South Northamptonshire District and the modern county of Northamptonshire.

The site is a U-shaped area of land that runs around the north side of the churchyard of Saint Michael and All Saints. On the south side the plot of land butts in one location against the A422 and in a further location of Cockley Road. To the west there are a series of modern dwellings, to the north fields, and to the east Abbeyfield House and other buildings on Cockley Road.

The village and proposal site is located on the north side of a hill, on a bluff looking down into the valley of the Farthinghoe Stream (a tributary of the Cherwell). The OD is between 153m and 157m.

The underlying geology is Taynton Limestone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock that was 165million to 168million years old, being formed in the Jurassic period (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

1.2 Commission

The report was commissioned by Zoe Fawcett-Shapland at the behest of the planning authorities at South Northamptonshire District, and Heritage at Northamptonshire County Council.

1.3 Aims of Investigation

In general the purpose of the archaeological investigation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of heritage site in its cultural and environmental setting

To make a record of significant archaeological remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb, destroy or reveal historic building and archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To attempt to establish the date, nature and extent of any previous activity or occupation in the development site.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscapes and the present use of the site.
- To recover artefacts to assist in the development of type series within the region.
- To recover palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions as an intrinsic part of the investigation.

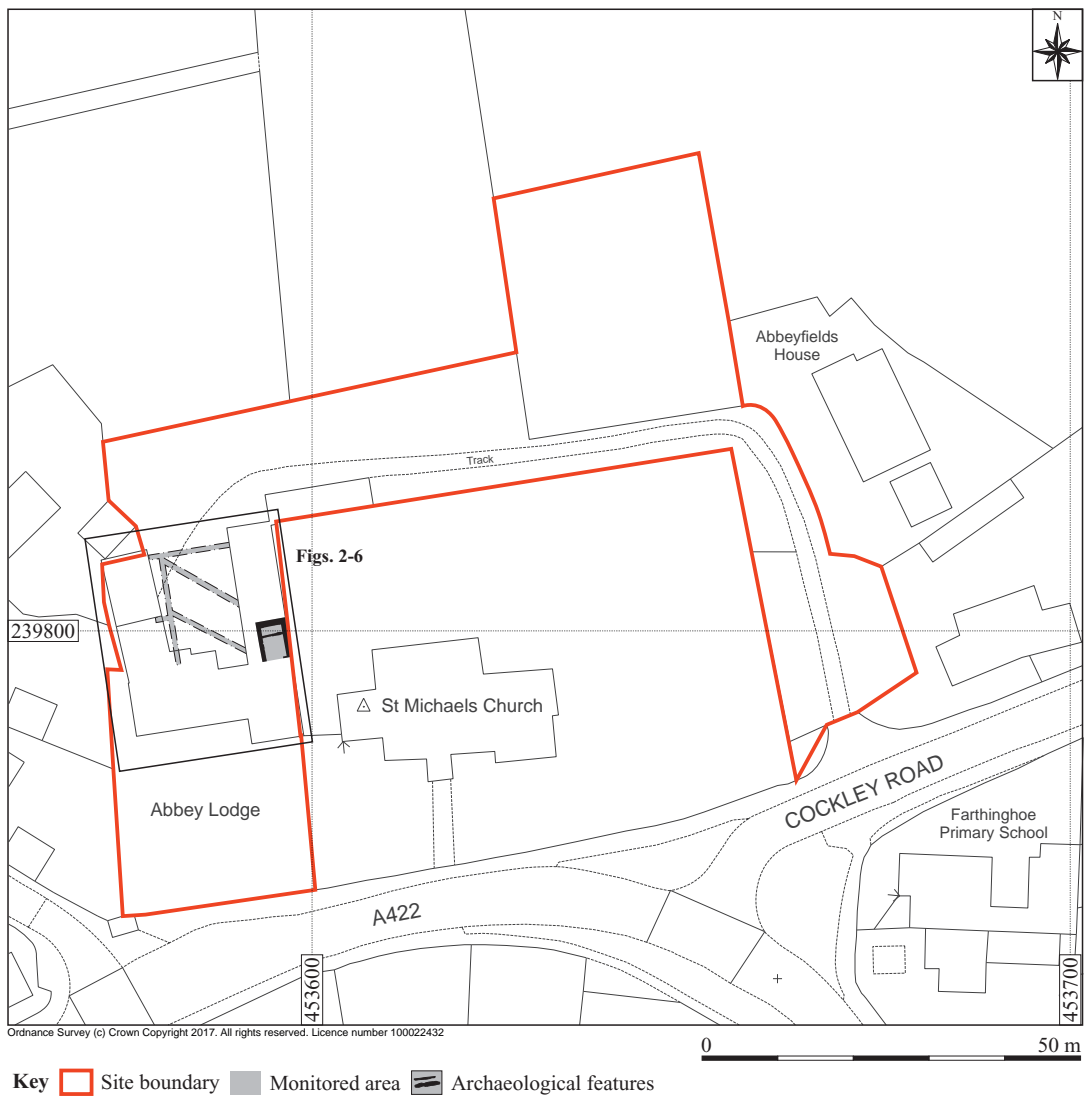
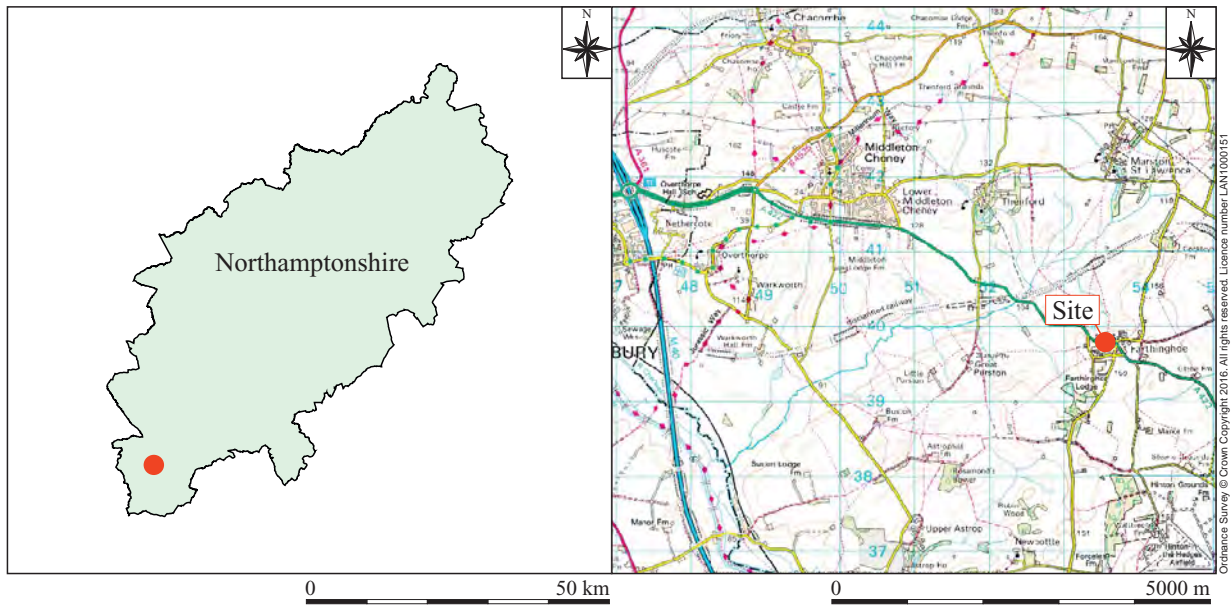


Figure 1: Site location

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Designation

Abbey Lodge is a grade II* listed building (HELID 233989: ID 1286510: SP 53584 39791) with the following description:

House. C15, altered late C16. Datestone 1581. Uncoursed limestone rubble, partly rendered. Slate roof, brick and stone stacks. Irregular U-plan with through passage and hall to right of entrance. Projecting wings to left and right at rear. 2 storeys and attic. 3 bay south front, east bay (to right) projects slightly under gable. Doorway in second bay from left has moulded stone 4 centred arch with square hood and C16-C17 plank door. 3 light C18-C19 window to left with wood lintel, wood mullions and iron casements, 2 similar windows to right. Window on first floor right of entrance is C17 with wood lintel and 3 light casements with moulded wooden mullions. Remaining first floor windows are C18-C19 casements. Datestone above doorway MC/1581 is Victorian but said to replace the original stone. Interior: Remodelled late C16 when a floor was inserted in open hall, a chimney built backing to the cross passage, and on the north side a newel stair to new upper chamber. Cross passage has rear doorway with plain stone 4 centred arch, similar doorway to hall. Late C16 hall fireplace has stone 4 centred arch, moulded entablature with lozenge decoration on frieze and jambs. Hall ceiling has stop chamfered joists and girders with a re-used C15 moulded wooden corbel. Small trefoil-headed window lighting staircase C15 probably not in situ. Roof structure C15. Central open truss of hall has arched braced collars, strutted to second collar above. Roof timbers of hall are soot encrusted indicating former open hearth. At rear are 2 C16-C17 wings running north forming a 3 sided courtyard. The west wing contains the present kitchen and stables with stone mullioned windows. The east wing is a barn and loft with brick pigeon holes, and floor with stop chamfered joists and girders.

This description is based on Woodfield (1981, 169-170), in this particular account there was a fuller description and a brief history; although within that history reference is probably made to the main manor.

Abbey Lodge is incorporated into the account of the Buildings of England: Northamptonshire (Bailey, Pevsner et al. 2013, 268). Here the reference reads:

ABBEY LODGE, W of church. The remains of a C15 hall house. Subdivided in the C16. Though the datestone of 1581 is Victorian, it is probably reliable. What survives is the archway formerly leading into the front garden, the doorway, back doorway and a doorway to the r into the Hall, all three with four centred heads, and the fireplace in the Hall, placed, against all local custom, against the screens passage. The surround has lozenge-shaped medallions. There are blackened arch-braced collars in the roof.

A building assessment was carried out for this project (AHC 2016).

2.2 History of Development

The manor of Farthinghoe contained 4 hides of land, which contained 15 villagers, a priest, and 8 smallholders (Morris 1979, 21.6). The manor was recorded under the holdings of Earl Aubrey, but was stated as now being in the king's hands. The indications that there was a priest on the site indicates that there was a church in the village. The status of this church is not known at this time.

Abbey Lodge was claimed to have been the residence of the abbot of Leicester, without total confirmation. One can see how this assumption came about though. The land associated with Abbey Lodge extends around the full extent of the churchyard. In such circumstances it is plausible to assume that the two properties were carved out of a single whole, thus indicating that Abbey Lodge was a residence or manor attached to the land held by the church. The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire record that the advowson of the church of Farthinghoe to the Collegiate Church of Saint Mary de Castro at Leicester (Baker 1822, 622-623). Robert de Beaumont (nicknamed le Bossu), Earl of Leicester, transferred the advowson with land in Farthinghoe to Leicester Abbey (St Mary de Pratis). The inclusion of Farthinghoe in the foundation charter of Leicester Abbey is made evident in the two confirmation charters dated 1154 and 1167.

3 RESEARCH DESIGN *(by Steve Leach)*

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council, on behalf of the local planning authority. The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Strategy

An archaeologist was present on site to control any groundwork that had the potential to reveal or disturb archaeological remains especially in relation to the early phase of the present building. This included continuous monitoring of any ground reduction, excavation for new foundations and any new service/drainage runs.

An archaeologist also recorded any historic fabric exposed during the internal building works. This included photographing after the removal of the cupboard in Room F3, also after removal of 20th century fire surround in Room 4, recording evidence revealed in reopening doorway to west of chimney breast in Room 10, recording historic fabric revealed during internal works in Rooms 15 & 16 (annex), and recording historic fabric exposed in Room F7 in forming new doorway into Room F6 together with the removal of the outer walls of rooms 8, 9, and 12.

All archaeological deposits and features revealed were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan before being excavated and recorded at an appropriate level. Any archaeological features or other remains i.e. concentrations of artefacts, were recorded

by written, drawn and photographic record. Where archaeological features were exposed during any groundworks but otherwise will remain unaffected they were recorded only by plan, written description and photographically with any surface finds collected.

3.3 Methodology

Where archaeological horizons were encountered they were cleaned by hand and excavated appropriately. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

The resultant spoil from the works was visually scanned, especially for finds relating to the Medieval and earlier periods.

4 OBSERVATION OF ABBEY LODGE

4.1 Introduction and General Description

Abbey Lodge is a limestone structure with a U-shaped plan. The south range contains a through passage and hall. There is a cross wing on the east side. Two wings, incorporating outbuildings extend to the north. The building has a slate roof.

A building assessment was created by AHC (2016), and it is not proposed to reiterate all of the descriptions. Here it is proposed that observations of the structure during this refurbishment work are recorded as observations and excavation details are noted.

4.2 Observed building details

There were a number of observed details that were made during the renovation of Abbey Lodge, which must call into phasing some of the previous discussions of the building. These observations will be discussed here room by room.

Ground floor (Fig. 2)

Room 1 no features noted as being recorded in observations.

Room 2 no features noted as being recorded in observations.

Room 3 (main hall) has indications of a blocked doorway in the south wall, both internally and externally (plate 1). In the northeast corner there is a chamfered beam doorframe or opening.



Figure 2: Ground floor observed features



Plate 1: Blocked door

Room 4 has had plaster removed that has uncovered the remains of a brick fireplace in the east wall (plate 2). The bricks are about 65mm to 70mm in depth. In the west wall there is evidence of a blocked window (plate 5). Uncovered in the ceiling there is a carved fluted beam (plate 3). Externally to this room on the south east corner there are indications of a reworking of the corner (plate 4).



Plate 2: Brick fireplace



Plate 3: Fluted beam



Plate 4: Reworking of building corner



Plate 5: Blocked windows

Room 5 had its plaster removed and had indications of a butt joint in the northeast corner of the room (plate 7). In the southeast corner of the room there is evidence for a blocked window (plate 8). In the north wall there is evidence for a blocked doorway (plate 6).



Plate 6: Blocked door



Plate 7: Butt joint adjacent to window



Plate 8: Infilled window



Plate 9: Door inserted in original window location



Plate 10: Reworking of the original wall

Room 6 no observed details.

Room 7 has also had plaster removed, which has produced evidence that the door in the north wall was inserted into the location of an earlier window (plate 9). Externally to room 7 on the northwest side is evidence of the reworking of the wall (plate 10), probably the rebuilding of part of the stone structure.

Rooms 8, 9, and 12 were butted up to the back wall of the main building (plate 11).



Plate 11: Butt joint in rebuild

Room 10 after the plaster had been removed had indications of a blocked entrance in the east wall (plate 12), which was adjacent to the current opening. In the north wall a door was inserted. In the northeast corner externally there was evidence of a butt joint. The implications of this last piece of information is that room 14 (Block C2) originated as a stand-alone structure.

Room 11 is primarily dealt with in the ground reduction associated with the Watching Brief. The east wall shows signs of a number of alterations over time. There are a series of butt joints both inside and out (plate 16). There is a blocked window in this wall that is evident internally (plates 13-14). The level of the wall has also been raised. In the south wall there are indications of a blocked window - ground floor and in gable (plate 13), and a door and a butt joint in the southeast corner. In the west wall there is a butt joint and a blocked opening above the double door (plate 15), which has a moulded surround with an ovolo moulding. Such mouldings are recorded as being of a 16th or 17th century origin (Alcock and Hall 1994, 38-39). This implies that this phase is of a late 17th century at the latest.



Plate 12: Blocked doorway and window



Plate 13: Blocked window in gable and in east wall



Plate 14: Blocked window



Plate 15: Blocked window in the west wall

Around room 12 there was a butt joint in the north wall, also brick infill, and in the west wall a blocked entrance.

Rooms 13 and 14 no observed details

Room 15 has indications of a butt joint in the southwest corner.

Room 16 shows a number of butt joints in its south wall, including a blocked wall (plate 17).



Plate 16: Butt joint in wall relating to original build



Plate 17: Butt joints and infill in the south wall

First Floor

In the east wall of rooms F1 and F3 there was evidence of their being a blocked window in the inside and outside of the building (plate 18). In the northeast corner of room F1 there is evidence of a butt joint. In the east wall of the L-shaped room F3 there is also evidence of a butt joint.

In the north wall of room F7 and the round stairwell there is a blocked window (plate 19).



Plate 18: Blocked window F1 and F3



Plate 19: Blocked window near stairwell

Room F9 has in its east wall the stub of a wall (plate 18), which could be in line with the main front wall of the building. In the east wall there is evidence for a butt joint indicating that the south east extension out from the front façade is an addition. Also in the west wall there is evidence for a blocked window.

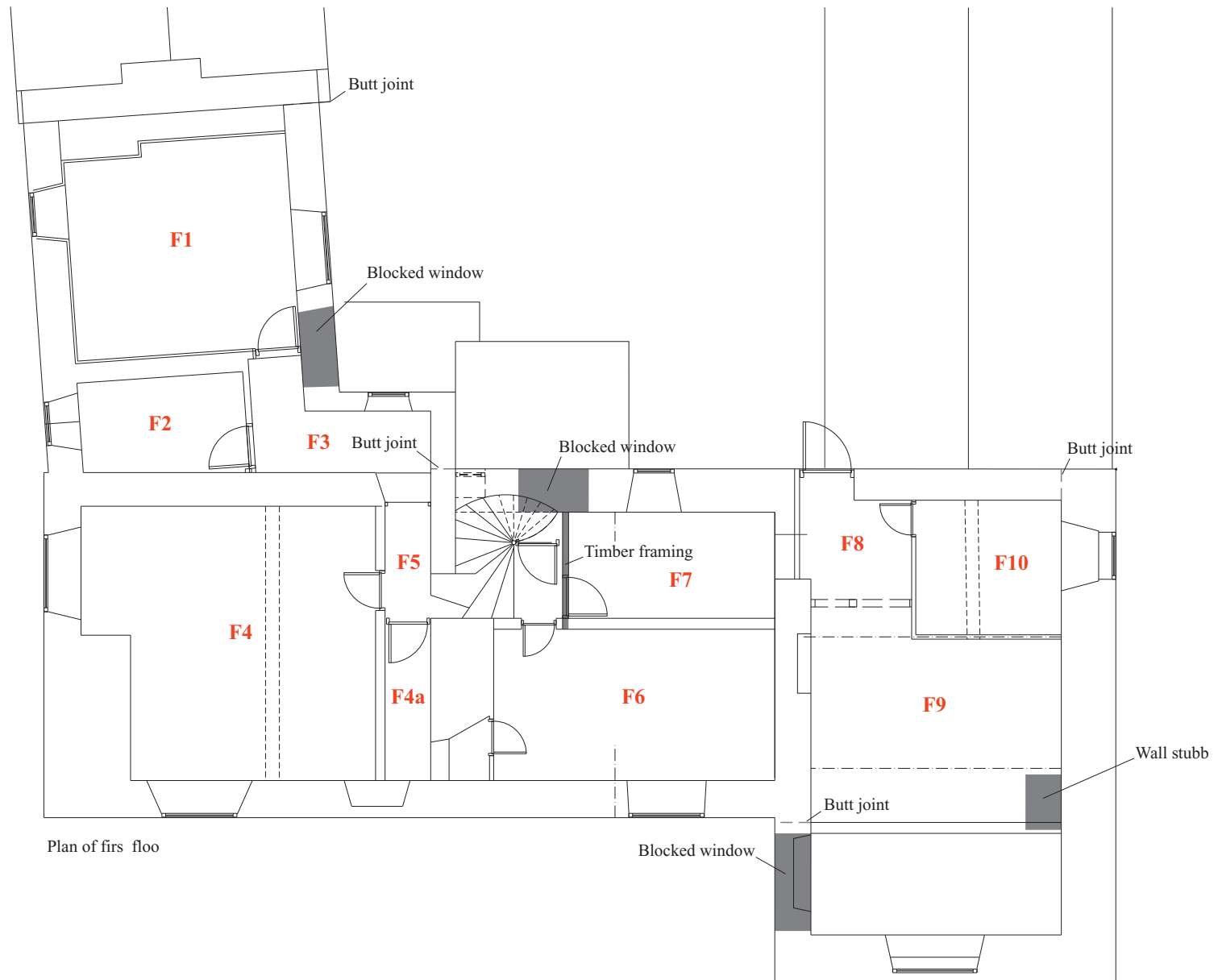


Figure 3: First floor observations



Plate 20: Lower part of truss above a wall stub

Room F10 has a butt joint in the northeast corner of the building, which matches what is apparent in room 5.

No new observations were made in any of the other rooms on this level.

Roof Space

Room S1 contains a series of roof timbers, which are less elaborate than those of the old hall (plates 21-22).

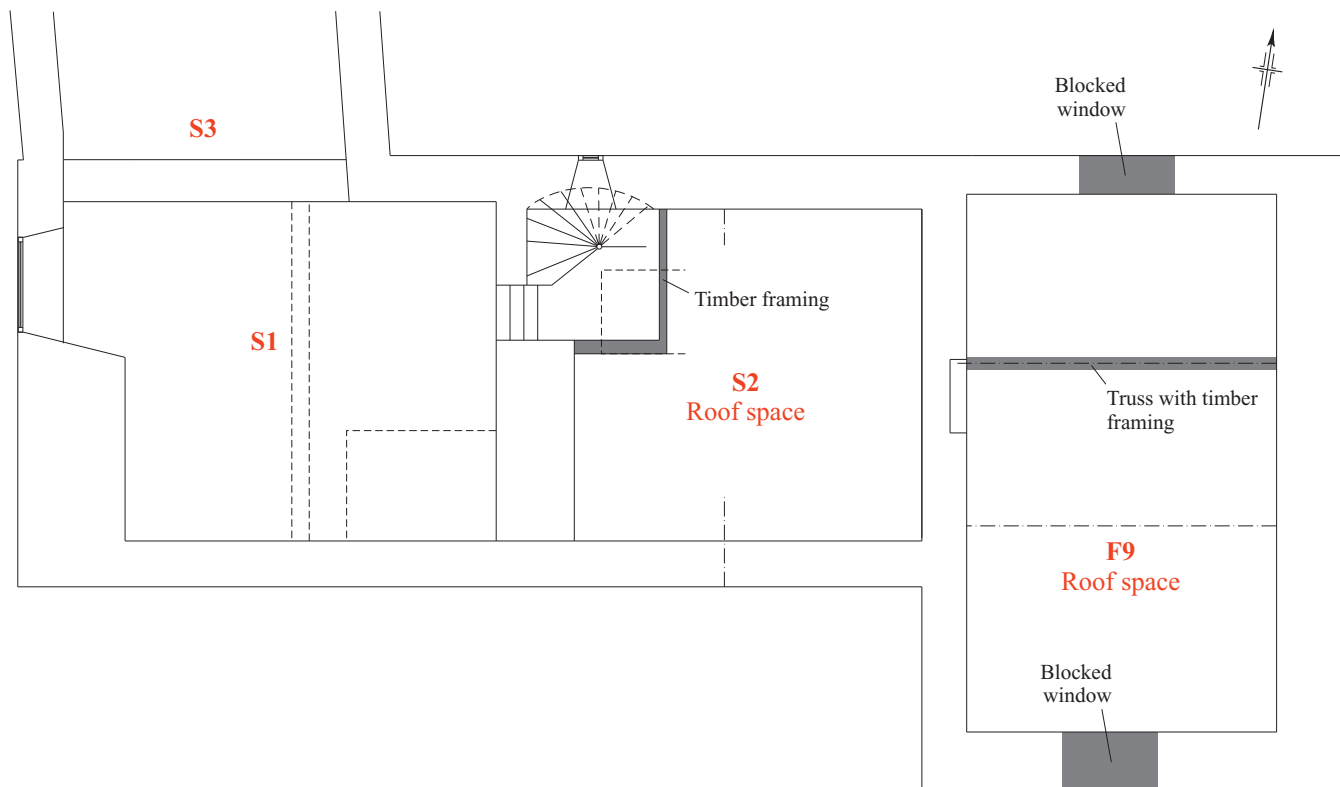
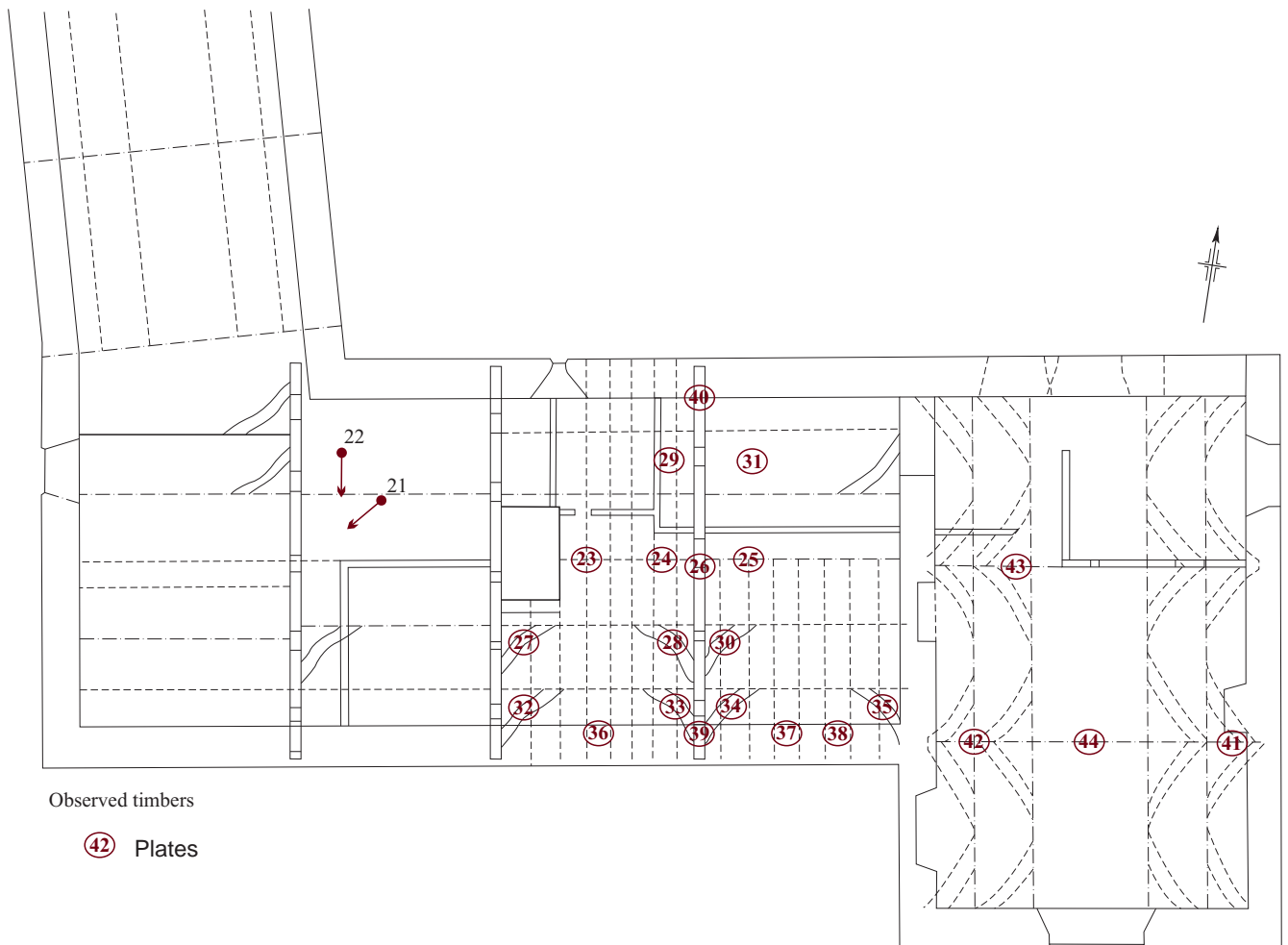


Figure 4: Second floor observed features

0 5 m



Plate 21: A frame in attic



Plate 22: Wind-brace in attic S1

Timber framing was evident around the stairwell in roof space S2. It was in this area that the remains of the black smoke stained roof beams are evident, which were once located in an open hall (plates 23-40). It was these beams which were to be photographed as building work was carried out.



Plate 23: The ridge beam west end



Plate 24: The ridge beam central



Plate 25: Ridge beam central



Plate 26: Central truss



Plate 27: Wind-brace between purlins



Plate 28: Wind-brace between purlins



Plate 29: Wind-brace between purlins

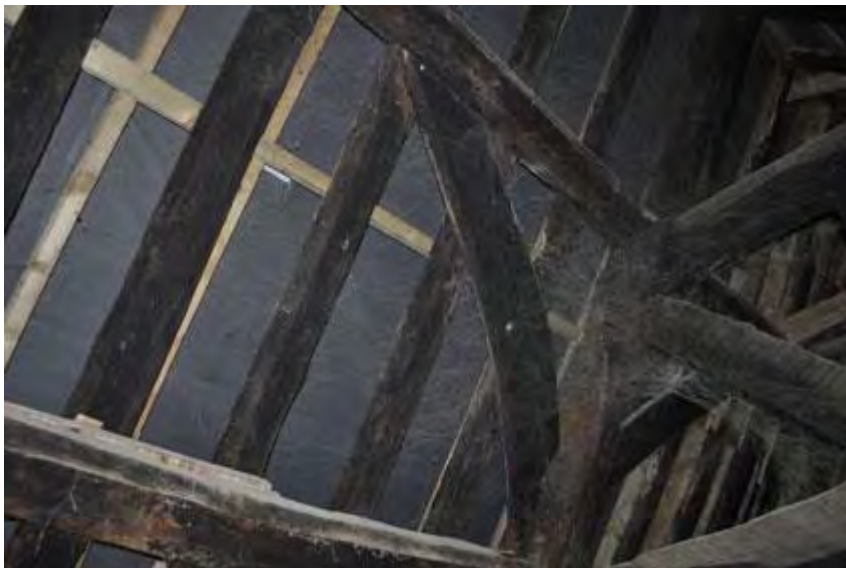


Plate 30: Wind-brace between purlins



Plate 31: Between purlins



Plate 32: Wind-braces between the lower purlin and wall plate



Plate 33: Wind-braces between the lower purlin and wall plate



Plate 34: Wind-braces between the lower purlins and wall plate



Plate 35: Wind-brace between lower purlin and wall plate



Plate 36: Rafter bases south wall



Plate 37: Rafters bases in the south wall



Plate 38: Rafters bases in the south wall



Plate 39: Base of truss against south wall



Plate 40: Base of truss against north wall

In the upper space of F9 the wall stub in line with the front wall continued up into the wall space. The trusses were stripped back (plates 41-42). In both the south and north gable end there is the remains of blocked windows (plates 43-44). There is also the remains of a square or rectangular, plaster free, and stone filled space, possibly a blocked window in the gable end.



Plate 41: Trusses



Plate 42: Trusses



Plate 43: Truss with blocked window behind



Plate 44: Truss with blocked window behind

5 WATCHING BRIEF

The first phase of the watching brief involved the monitoring of the ground reduction within the old barn buildings (rooms 11 and 13, Fig. 5) that formed the eastern wing of the building. This involved the removal of c. 0.3m – 0.4m of material down to a level surface at c.155.62m OD, for the laying of underfloor heating. There was to be no further impact below this level so the resulting surface was cleaned and recorded in plan.

The second phase of work involved the monitoring of the service trenches within the buildings courtyard (Fig. 5). The trenches was 0.6m wide and decreased in depth northwards from 1m to 0.6m.

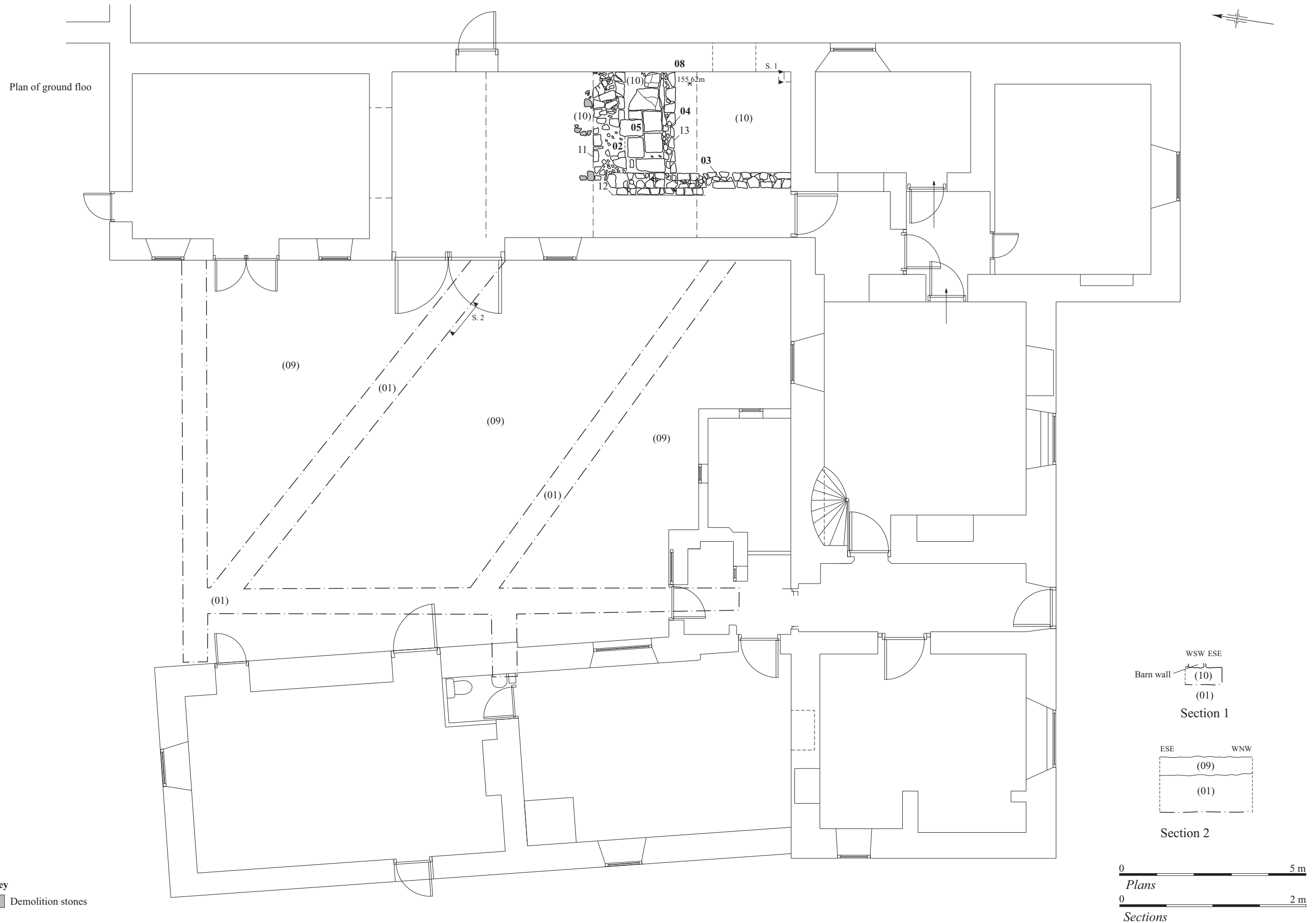


Figure 5: Plans and sections

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts, numbers in () show feature fills or deposits of material, while numbers in bold indicate structural features.

5.1 Results

Underlying both areas of archaeological investigation was deposit (01), a deposit that was a limestone and clay mix and had the appearance of Cornbrash. This was noted in a small sondage that resulted from the developers checking for the foundation depth of the current walls (Fig. 5, S.1). The OD of this deposit was 0.2m below the top of the surviving wall levels at about 155.4m.

Internal Watching Brief

Overlying the natural was layer (10) a loose mid-brown silt loam, which was originally recorded as being part of deposit (06) as they were of a similar nature. This deposit was probably about 0.2m thick.

Directly over this layer in the southeast side of room 11 was structure **08** (Fig. 5, plate 45), where excavations revealed the remains of an earlier structure that related to features noted in the east and south walls. Structure **08** was constructed from limestone blocks and consisted of east – west walls **02** and **04** that formed a corridor with a flagstone pathway **05**, and all these abutted north – south wall **03**.



Plate 45: Overall photo of structure 08 looking south

Foundation cut 12 contained wall **03** (plate 46), was orientated north – south and formed the western extent of the structure, it was 0.55m wide, 5.2m in length and exposed to a height of up-to 0.1m. The wall consisted of typically roughly hewn tabular limestone, with flat faces on two sides 0.05m – 0.1m thick, 0.2m -0.3m wide and 0.2m – 0.6m in length. These formed a three course thick wall that had the flat faces on the interior and exterior of the wall. Intermittently along the wall the stones were bonded with a very compact orange / brown clay (07) and had a thickness of between 0.02m – 0.05m and contained no finds. Traces of this wall were also evident

on the north facing wall of room 11 next to a blocked doorway that would have led into room 5.



Plate 46: Wall **03** looking south, blocked doorway highlighted in red

Foundation cut 11 contained wall **02** (plate 45) was orientated east – west and formed the northern extent of the structure, it was 0.8m wide, 3m in length and exposed to a height of up-to 0.1m. The wall consisted of typically roughly hewn tabular limestone, with flat faces on two sides 0.05m – 0.1m thick, 0.2m -0.3m wide and 0.2m – 0.6m in length. These formed a partially exposed and disturbed wall consisting of the limestone blocks utilising the flat faces on the interior and exterior of the wall. No bonding was present between any of the stones. Traces of this wall were also evident on the west facing wall of room 11 next to a blocked doorway that would have originally would have opened out to the churchyard situated on the eastern side of the wall.

Foundation cut 13 contained wall **04** (plates 47-48) was orientated east – west and bounded the corridor to the south, it was 0.3m wide and 2.7m in length and exposed to a height of up-to 0.1m. The wall consisted of typically roughly hewn tabular limestone, with flat faces on two sides 0.05m – 0.1m thick, 0.2m -0.3m wide and 0.2m – 0.6m in length. These formed a partially exposed and disturbed wall consisting of the limestone blocks utilising the flat faces on the interior and exterior of the wall. No bonding was present between any of the stones. Traces of this wall were also evident in the east wall of room 11 next to a blocked doorway that would have originally opened out to the churchyard situated on the eastern side of the wall.

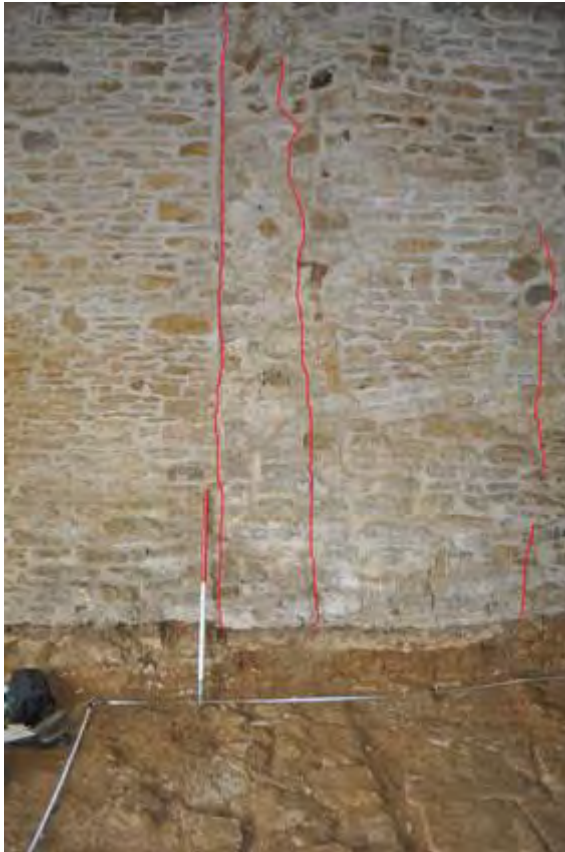


Plate 47 Lines of walls 02 and 04



Plate 48: Floor **05** with walls **02** and **04**

Butting up against walls **02**, **03**, and **04** were flagstones **05** (plates 45 & 48) that was orientated east – west, it was 1m wide and 2.7m in length and exposed to a height of 0.05m. The floor surface was constructed with mostly large rectangular limestone flagstones, 0.4m – 0.5m wide, 0.5m – 0.6m long and c. 0.05m thick.

Overlying structure 08 was layer (06) a mid-brown silty loam with frequent small to large limestone rubble that contained a single pottery sherd of Banbury ware dated to the 12th – 14th century together with a fragment of a whetstone. This was interpreted as a demolition layer. Overlying this had been a brick and stone floor.

External Watching Brief



Plate 49: General shot of service trenches



Plate 50: Banding in section in service trenches

The lowest recognised layer was (01) in the external service trench cuts (plate 47), but it is probably the case that there were at least three different layers in this context (plate 50). These layers probably included (10) and something akin to (06). The upper layer (09) was a dark grey silty loam with frequent amounts of building debris

including uncollected pottery sherds. This layer was 0.4m thick within the southern extent of the trench and decreased to 0.2m thickness northwards.

5.2 Finds

Pottery (*by Paul Blinkhorn*)

A single sherd of pottery weighing 24g occurred in context (06). It is from the base of an unglazed jar in Banbury Ware, fabric F360 of the Northamptonshire County Type-series, and dateable to the 12th – 14th century.

Such pottery is a common find in the area (e.g. Blinkhorn 1999, 16). The sherd is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified.

Other Finds (*by Simona Denis*)

Slate

A single fragment of slate, weighing 21.7g and measuring 75mm in length, was recovered from context (09). Although the item did not preserve any diagnostic feature, it is likely to be a fragment of a tile, commonly used as roofing material from the 19th century.

The slate fragment is not recommended for retention due to its extremely limited potential for further analysis.

Whetstone

One fragmentary sandstone implement, weighing 80.4g and measuring 67mm in length, was collected from context (06). The item was positively identified as a whetstone, a sharpening stone used for knives and cutting tools. The object remains undated.

6 ASSESSMENT

A statement of significance was carried out for this building prior to the commencement of archaeological work on the site. However, even though this was produced and certain features were dated, it was apparent that there was no comprehensive overview of phasing the building (see Fig. 6).

Phase 1

The timber work in the roof space S2 points to Block A of the building being of a medieval date in origin. The timbers are blackened by smoke so it is right to believe that these were in location prior to the insertion of the chimney. A 15th century date has been suggested for this part of the structure.

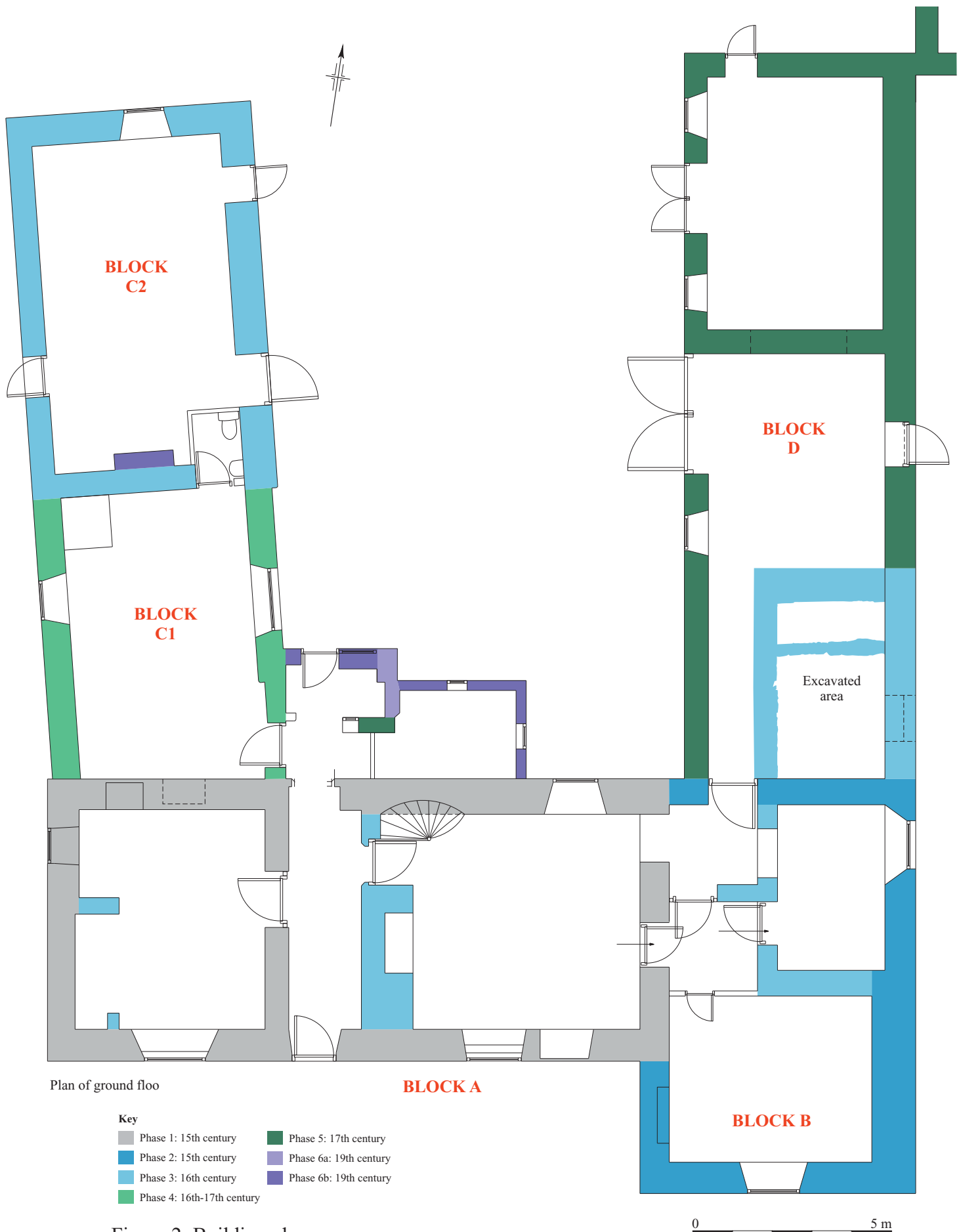


Figure 2: Building phases

One can assume at this date that the passageway (room 1) and room 2 were part of this block, although the information in the roof space is indicative of the wall between rooms 1 and 2 continuing up into the attic.

The 15th century date is assumed because there are no decorative details to date the structure externally. Thus it is given the most conservative date possible. However, in certain areas of the country many structures may have relatively plain and undatable features that could be of a relatively ancient date. The archaeology produced a pottery sherd that was dated from the 12th to the 14th century, which implies that some of the activity on the site pre-dates the 15th century suggestions.

Phase 2

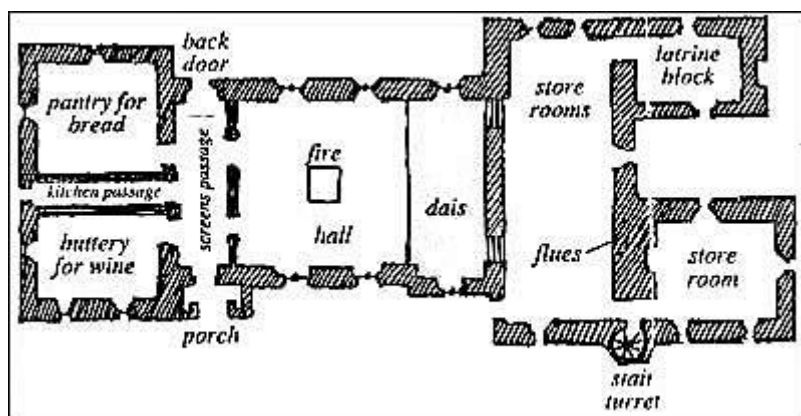


Figure 7: Castle House, Castlethorpe, plan of 1291

It has generally been assumed that Block B, a cross wing was initially divided into rooms, however, this is not the case as evident in the building observations in Block B of obscured filled in windows. This is an indication that the structure was probably a second hall type building. Block B is butted up to Block A. A comparable example for this structure is Castle House at Castlethorpe, which has a plan similar to this dated to 1291 (Fig. 7). The roof trusses have some similarities to those in the hall of Block A, and it is for this reason that a 15th century date is assumed. The room in this case was interpreted as a store room with flues in a wider wall away from the main hall.

Phase 3

A 16th century date-stone of 1581 has been identified, being re-carved and replaced in the 19th century. It is to this date that the insertion of the fireplaces is assumed to be. One must also assume at this date that the walls were inserted on the lower part of the ground floor. The reduction of the floor level in rooms 11 and 13 identified the remains of walls, which were part of an extension and presumably of this date.

Block C2 originated as a standalone structure, but no dating evidence is apparent. It is for this reason that the wing is at a different angle to the rest of the building. This is probably of an early 17th or 16th century origin on present deduction.

Phase 4

Block C1 was constructed between Block A and Block C2. There is a blocked window in the east wall that has to be part of the original stone building construction. This window has to predate the phase 5 panelling. The blocked entrance on the ground floor also has to pre-date the panelling.

Phase 5

The rear extension of phase 3 was partially demolished and the current barn structures were added as part of phase 5. The reason for considering this as part of this phase is that there is a blocked window that has an ovolo mullion. These features appear to come to an end in the 17th century (Alcock and Hall 1994).

Room F1 contained panelling with an over mantle, which was probably of a 17th century date. These additions were, however not the original working of the wing. The addition of room F3 has to occur at this time.

Phase 6

Though it is possible to determine that part of the entrance complex to the rear must have existed in some form before 1842, the rear porch structure is not shown on the Tithe Map of this date. It is thus postulated that room 12 is a phase 6a addition in the mid-19th century in stone. Room 8 was added in brick and is thus considered an addition of the late 19th or early 20th century.

7 CONCLUSIONS

Farthinghoe is a historic parish in the county of Northamptonshire. Abbey Lodge is a recognised manor that developed in that County in the high medieval period.

A watching brief and building observations were made during building work that was granted in accordance with listed building consent.

A statement of significance was produced prior to the building work being carried out. During the archaeological investigations it was apparent that a proper phasing of the building was not made in that report (on available data), and that a number of features have subsequently been observed inside the building that mean that the development of the structure was better defined.

It is suggested that there are six general phases of the building. The first phase contained Block A, which contained the hall and a ground floor passageway and rooms on two floors at the west end of the building. This is generally treated as being of a 15th century date. However, this is down to the fact that there are no earlier datable carvings on the structure.

Phase 2 saw the addition of a second hall at right-angles to the first. This also has been given a 15th century date. A building of a late 13th century at Castlethorpe has a

similar plan, which with the only recovered pottery may indicate that the stone frame of these two ranges is earlier.

Phase 3 is generally considered to be that of the date on the date-stone of 1581. This saw the insertion of the three fireplaces and the insertion of internal walls in Block A and Block B. On the north side of Block B a further series of walls were added, which produced a dated sherd to the 12th to 14th century.

The date at which Block C2 was constructed is difficult to ascertain, there was probably a stone structure there in the 16th century.

The stone structure marked as Block C1 was added to the structure. The original stone build was later reworked. This was phase 4.

In the 17th century the extension on the north side of Block B was partially removed and a larger series of barns added, treated as Block D. Also in this century Block C1 was reworked, with windows blocked and panelling of a 17th century date added. These are associated with phase 5.

Phase 6a and 6b show phases that are associated with the 19th century.

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