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Archaeological Building Recording and Watching Brief: Manor Oaks Farm, Manor Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire

Volume 1: Text and Illustrations



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GREEN ESTATES LTD. Manor Lodge 115 Manor Lane Sheffield S2 1UH

Manor Oaks Farm, Manor Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire

National Grid Reference: SK 3763 8685

Archaeological Building Recording and Watching Brief

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

ARCUS were commissioned by Green Estates Ltd in January 2005 to undertake a programme of archaeological building recording and monitoring at the site of Manor Oaks Farm, Manor Lane, Sheffield, South Yorkshire (SK 3763 8685).

The archive and documentary research suggests that the farm was probably laid out in the early part of the eighteenth century. This coincides with the gradual break up of the Duke of Norfolks' deer park surrounding Manor Lodge. The once open landscape which provided for hunting pursuits was gradually enclosed to form fields that were leased out to a series of tenant farms.

The layout of Manor Oaks Farm is clearly defined, with the agricultural elements concentrated to the south of a central lane; and the house and its ancillary structures and yards to the north. The house was sited to provide commanding views over the Don Valley and the developing town of Sheffield.

Cartographic evidence shows that at the rear of the house was a service yard with ranges of buildings utilised as stables, dairy, bake-house, smithy, cart sheds and cottages. Beyond this was a second, yard that may have acted as an area for the management of livestock. A raised bank beyond was formerly planted with two rows of trees. This feature would have shielded the farm from the view of Manor Lodge which is situated further up the hill to the south.

The formal frontage of the house towards the north was accessed via a gated drive that ran along the top of a prominent curving ha-ha. There appears to have been specific areas devoted to gardening on both sides of this part of the house.

Between the house and Manor Lane a rectangular kitchen garden and orchard has been identified. This had stone outer walls, with an internal brick skin typical for walled gardens of this date. As a result of its recent use as a scrap yard no evidence for earlier layouts was recorded, although the demolition of a modern shed has exposed a spine wall with evidence of a former glasshouse and potting shed.

Throughout its historical development six main phases of structural development have been identified. Evidence revealed during the restoration of the house suggests that the earliest date for the structure is probably the early eighteenth century. It is interesting to note that over the time that the house developed and expanded in size its visual appearance was enhanced to create a longer west façade by the addition of a blind wall.

The archaeological watching brief conducted during the groundworks and demolition phase of the restoration revealed evidence for the nature of the earlier structures on the site. The pottery assemblage from these trenches dates from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

1 INTRODUCTION

In January 2005 ARCUS were commissioned by Green Estates Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological research and fieldwork at the site of Manor Oaks Farm, Manor Lane Sheffield. Manor Oaks Farm comprises a number of derelict and semiderelict buildings situated within a series of walled yards. The works undertaken at Manor Oaks Farm have involved; the restoration of Manor Oaks House and it conversion to office accommodation, the demolition of a number of derelict buildings to the rear of the house, new build and a scheme of soft landscaping.

The site and the buildings within it are deemed to be of historical and archaeological significance; a conservation statement produced by Field Archaeology Specialists (Clark, J. and Jack, S. 2002) highlighted the site of the farm as a potentially important part of the former Sheffield Manor Lodge estate. Resulting from this South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) issued a brief specifying a programme of the archaeological recording required for the site (Appendix I).

This document presents the results of the scheme of documentary research and archaeological fieldwork carried out by ARCUS. The work undertaken included:

- a watching brief on geotechnical testpits excavated in the rear yard
- archive research and map regression analysis
- archaeological building recording of a stone built barn
- the rapid survey and assessment of outbuildings and boundary walls
- watching brief during the reduction of ground levels in the rear yard
- detailed building recording of Manor Oaks House
- a watching brief carried out during the restoration and partial demolition of the house
- a watching brief on the excavation of service trenches across the site

The fieldwork, background research and reporting was undertaken between January and December 2005 by; Oliver Jessop (ARCUS Project manager), Mark Douglas (ARCUS Project Officer), Tegwen Roberts, Lucy Dawson, Alex Rose-Deacon, Steve Duckworth, Ben Chan, Steve Baker (ARCUS Archaeologists) and Simon Jessop (ARCUS Photographer). Reporting is by Mark Douglas and Oliver Jessop, with Mark Stenton undertaking the historical research and illustrations by Kathy Spieght.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

The aim of the archaeological recording was to create a permanent written, drawn and photographic record of the historic buildings on the site. The recording methodology adopted during this survey has been in accordance with guidelines described in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2006).

2.2 Location of Site and General Layout

The site is located to the south-east of the centre of Sheffield, South Yorkshire NGR: SK 2363 8685 (**Illustration 1**). A central lane divides the site into two areas, with the house and associated yards to the north and ancillary buildings (surveyed) and former farmyard (not surveyed) to the south (**Illustration 2**).

The site is situated on a prominent position (approx. 145m AOD) overlooking the Lower Don Valley and the city of Sheffield to the north-west, while to the south the ground rises up towards the site of Manor Lodge. The site can be separated into the following distinct zones, or areas:

- Rear yard (southern part of site) this irregular shaped yard has direct access into the central lane and also to the fields to the east of the house; it is tentatively interpreted as a fold yard
- Service yard (central part of site) this area comprised the buildings allocated to provide the domestic service functions of the house; including the brew-house, bake-house, dairy, stores, barn, smithy and stables
- Entrance Drive/Formal Garden (east of house) remains of entrance drive leading up to the house and formal gardens providing views over surrounding landscape
- Walled Garden (between house and manor lane) brick and stone walled rectangular walled garden with central spine wall. Remains of well and glasshouse to the north
- **Central Lane** (orientated west-east) narrow lane defined by stone boundary walls accessed from manor lane to the east, permitted access to all parts of site
- Farmyard (to the south of the central lane) this area is beyond the scope of this study, however it is a large enclosed area with remnants of internal structures in the form of barns and cart sheds
- Manor Oaks House this a two storey double pile structure with associated attic and cellars

2.3 Fieldwork Programme

Site fieldwork was undertaken during the restoration of the house and landscape, between December 2005 and April 2006.

2.4 Photographic Survey

The photographic record comprised a series of general and detailed shots covering all areas of the site. The record includes medium format, 35mm black and white and colour slide photography. A full list of the photographs taken is included in volume 2 of this report, along with a plan indicating the position of photographic viewpoints.

2.5 Survey Archive

The site archive containing a fully indexed field archive of primary written documents and prints of digital photographs will be deposited with Sheffield Archives. In addition, the completed report will be deposited with South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Sheffield. Copies of the report will be issued to the client, and also retained in the offices of ARCUS – University of Sheffield (report number 873b.3 (1)).

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historical Summary

The recent history of the site has previously been reported upon in an architectural and historical assessment undertaken by Woodhall Planning and Conservation (Morton 2003). This section summarises the known archaeological and historical background of the proposal area and its immediate vicinity. Historic maps and plans of the area from the eighteenth century to the present day were consulted, along with relevant documentary and secondary published sources. The South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), National Monuments Record (Swindon) and Sheffield Archives have all been consulted.

3.2 Medieval Period

During a 1281 *quo warranto* inquest, Thomas de Furnival, lord of Sheffield, stated that he and his predecessors had held hunting rights in Hallamshire since 1066 (Hey 1991, 18-19). However, this was a standard legal *topos* and there is no evidence to indicate the existence of deer parks within the Sheffield area before the twelfth century at the earliest. Further, de Furnival's statement need not have referred to the Great Park, east of the town, and its creation cannot be dated with certainty. Manor Lodge, a hunting lodge situated high above the town towards the centre of the park, was first mentioned in estate documents relating to repairs carried out at the site between 1479 and 1480 (Hey 1991, 20).

During the late-medieval period, the earls of Shrewsbury, favoured the Lodge over Sheffield Castle and the site was significantly modified and enlarged at that time. Medieval structures, including a square-towered complex on an east-west alignment located under the present-day Manor Lane (Clark and Jack 2002, 3), were retained until their demolition between 1574 and 1583, during redevelopment works which produced a new entrance road and gatehouse, a courtyard and formal gardens, and a new frontage with octagonal brick towers (Hey 1991, 20).

3.3 Post-medieval Period

John Harrison's 1637 estate survey, recorded the 'Great Parke' as a 2,461-acre site, enclosed within a 13km ring fence (Jones 1995, 36). By that date, Sheffield was no longer the primary seat of the earls of Shrewsbury, the Lodge had begun to be neglected, and Harrison noted that fifteen tenants-at-will were renting a total of 970 acres within the deer park (Hey 1991, 21). The surviving documentation does not allow us to determine when this development began but the passing of the Shrewsbury estates to the earls of Arundel in 1616, may have initiated the process. Harrison's survey suggested that the proposal area was located within 'Ye Landes', possibly deriving from the medieval term *launds*, an area of treeless pasture.

It may be possible to locate the site with greater precision, as an eighteenth-century reference to Manor Oaks House as 'Warren House' may suggest that the site had been part of an area within Ye Landes that Harrison called 'The Warren'. Place-name evidence suggesting that rabbits were concentrated in this area may be related to the post-medieval practice of creating managed warrens within deer parks, for the provision of meat and pelts. This suggests that land in the immediate vicinity of the proposal area was initially developed through a process of post-medieval estate management. Evidence of substantial landscaping around the Manor Oaks complex may be associated with this former activity.

Suggestions that Manor Oaks House, immediately north-west of the farm, may retain structural elements of a post-medieval predecessor (Clark and Jack 2002, 24) are currently unsupported by archaeological or documentary evidence. A 1663 letter to Marriott, the agent for the estate, revealed that the Duke of Norfolk had been 'Farming out Shefeild Parke into severall farmes' (quoted in Hey 1991, 21-22). However, there is no evidence to suggest that Manor Oaks Farm had been created by this process and areas at greater distances from the Lodge may have been involved in the initial alienation of land.

The seventh Duke's death in 1701 resulted in an acceleration of these land transfers

and a 1707 letter from the vicar of Sheffield stating that the Lodge had become 'ruinous and naked, by disparking as much ground about it' (quoted in Hey 1991, 22) indicates that land in the immediate vicinity of the proposal area was being affected by these changes of tenure. Following a successful 1708 application to demolish much of the Lodge, the eighth Duke of Norfolk divided the park into a series of industrial areas and tenant farms with enclosed field systems. Manor Oaks Farm displays typical elements of early seventeenth-century architecture and this period perhaps provides the most plausible context for the construction of the farm. There is currently no direct evidence to indicate that the builders utilised material taken from the Lodge.

Early historic maps of Sheffield, such as that created by Ralph Gosling in 1736, do not cover the proposal area. The 1794 survey prepared for the Duke of Norfolk by William Fairbank appears to show Manor Oaks House, but not the Farm. This may have been a cartographic device and need not indicate that the farm had not been constructed by that time. It is perhaps more likely that Fairbank had depicted only significant structures in 1794 and thus had regarded the farm as ancillary to the house. The earliest cartographic evidence for the proposal area is George Sanderson's 1835 map, 'Twenty Miles Round Mansfield'. This showed a number of small, individual structures arranged around the Manor Oaks complex, with a single square building on the farm site, abutting the west side of the future Manor Lane. It is currently not known whether any elements of this building are extant.

Fairbank had depicted a significant track or footpath running north-west/south-east across the estate that abutted the Manor Oaks House perimeter. This track followed the alignment of the fields set out during the early eighteenth century and there is currently no evidence to support suggestions that it represents an 'ancient routeway'. In 1692, the Duke of Norfolk complained that tenants and travellers were increasingly crossing the lands within the park that he had retained for his own use (Clark and Jack 2002, 5) and it is possible that the track had been established in that period, with the eighteenth-century field boundaries then being aligned in accordance with the pre-existing track.

The 1850 Ordnance Survey map (**Illustration 3**) showed the farm demarcated clearly from Manor Oaks House. The boundaries marked on this map reflected the different forms of tenure between the two sites, with ownership of the farmyard being retained by the Norfolk estate, while the house stood on land that had been sold as freehold by that date (Clark and Jack 2002, 24). The 1851 census listed the farm's tenant as William Barker, who employed five workers and farmed 121 acres (SML, 47). Also residing at the site at that time were three farm labourers and a mining steward.

It is interesting that surrounding the south and north-west boundary of the site (**Illustration 3**) are two arcs of mature trees. It is suggested that these were planted at the base, and on the top of the curved bank that forms the western boundary of the site today. They would have effectively shielded the house and part of the farm from vistas from Manor Lodge located to the south.

Coal pits, coking ovens, and quarries, including a large sandstone quarry immediately east of the proposal area on the far side of Manor Lane, were depicted on the 1850 map. A tramway or light railway marked to the north-east of the farm suggests that some of these operations may be associated with the mining engineer, John Curr, who had constructed such routes for the transportation of coal following his appointment by the Duke of Norfolk in 1778 (Clark and Jack 2002, 6). The designation 'Old Coal Pit' marked on a shaft to the north of the farm on the 1855 OS, perhaps relates to Curr's workings and may have been intended to distinguish these from the Manor Castle Colliery, to the south, which had been operational since 1840. However, the earls of Shrewsbury had leased land within the park for mining during the medieval and post-medieval periods. An estate account book for the period 1579-1582 showed an annual average production of 12,000-13,000 tons of coal per annum, while in 1636 a new mine had been established at 'Park Hill Topp' (Scurfield 1986, 168). In 1642 Francis More had paid the Duke of Norfolk £200 to lease 'colepitts in Sheffield Parke' (Scurfield 1986, 168). However, the surviving documentation does not allow us to determine whether any of these pits had been within the vicinity of Manor Lodge and it has not been possible to ascertain whether the industrial activity represented by the 'Old Coal Pit' pre- or post-dates the development of the proposal area as farmland.

White's 1857 trade directory for Derbyshire listed William Bradley, owner of the Soho Brewery on Ecclesall Road, in residence at 'Manor Oaks'. However, this entry may relate to Manor Oaks House rather than the farm, as the latter appears to have remained in the hands of the Barker family until at least 1881, when Frank Barker was listed as the occupier. By the time of the 1892 OS map (**Illustration 3**), a number of changes had occurred both within and around the area. The western part of the site perimeter and the trees that had been shown within the northern perimeter on the 1855 map had gone, while new buildings had been constructed immediately beyond the southern boundary. The railway and coke ovens were no longer present, and although the area remained largely open fields, these were crossed by many more tracks and footpaths than previously, perhaps indicating increased activity and population in the vicinity.

By 1924, new field boundaries had been established south-east of the farm; it is not certain whether these were related to changes in land use at the farm. The buildings of the Manor Castle colliery, disused in 1906, had been demolished by this date. Extensive housing development had begun to encroach from the south and south-east by the time of the 1938 OS, while a new building had been erected just beyond the north-west boundary of the Manor Oaks complex.

Within the proposal area itself, the most significant development shown on the 1956 map was the demolition of a building that had connected the large rectangular structure to the smaller buildings at the east (**Illustration 3**). By 1968, the large rectangular structure and all of the smaller buildings to the north had also been demolished. Housing had been constructed up to the western boundary of the farm's field systems and also up to the eastern side of Manor Lane by this date. Little change appears to have occurred within the proposal area during the 1980s, although a new rectangular structure and the creation of a timber yard had occurred by the time of the 1993 map.

At the time of the ARCUS survey, Manor Oaks Farm retained much of its immediate field systems; these represent one of the few surviving undeveloped areas of the former 2,641-acre medieval 'Great Parke'.

4 THE STANDING BUILDINGS

4.1 Summary

A total of sixteen distinct buildings or structures have been identified within the the survey area. These include roofed buildings, partial ruins and building scars. The level of recording attributed to each of the structures on the site varied in accordance to its significance and state of survival. This ranged from a rapid assessment, entailing a brief written description and general photographic to full detailed recording, incorporating full written description, general and detailed photography and a full measured survey. Each building is summarised in turn below (**Illustration 4**), with detailed descriptions in sections 5 and 6.

4.2 Summary of Standing Structures

Building 1: Manor Oaks House is a rectangular two storey double pile structure built from stone and brick as a constructional material. The building consists of four major constructional phases and later minor alterations. The earliest, north-east, section of the building is constructed from random sandstone rubble and coursed squared blocks, whereas the later, south-east side of the structure is brick-built. The double-pitched roof is covered with blue slate with sandstone ridge copings and rendered brick chimneys. The fenestration is predominantly of twelve-pane double-hung sashes, with those to the north-west elevations being the larger

Building 2: Part of the range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is a small rectangular structure built against the sandstone boundary wall backing onto the rectangular garden.

Building 3: Part of the range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is narrow structure with brick walls and has a mono-pitch, pantile covered roof.

Building 4: This building is centrally positioned along the range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is a brick built structure the roof of which is almost completely collapsed. Enough evidence remains to show that the building possessed a pitched roof covered with sandstone roofing tiles.

Building 5: This building also forms part of the range running along the north-west side of the service yard. A gable scar on building 6 indicates that this structure has a pitched roof, and evidence found on the floor of the building indicates that the roof covering was of sandstone tiles.

Building 6: This building is the end building of a range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is a brick building two storeys in height. Although none of the roof structure survived at the time of survey it would appear that the roof was pitched and covered with sandstone roofing tiles.

Building 7: This building appears to have originally been comprised of three cottages, although later alterations may have reduced this number to two.

Building 8: This narrow rectangular structure of three storeys with a blue slate covered pitched roof. Access to the first floor is via a brick-built stairway with stone treads. The north-west wall of the building constitutes the brick-built exterior wall of an earlier range of cottages (building 7). The remainder of the walls of building 8 are of stone construction. The roof and upper floor have been rebuilt, perhaps coinciding with a re-ordering of the ground floor. There are blocked breather slits in the exterior walls, indicating the use of the building for storage of hay, or animal fodder.

Building 9: A stone-built extension to the east of building 8. The present building is a roofless shell, however, it originally comprises a two storeyed building with a pitched roof. The walls are of coursed sandstone rubble construction.

Building 10: This building is a later addition to the south-west of building 9. Its east elevation is brick-built, however this appears to be a later rebuild. The majority of the building is of coursed stone rubble construction. The north-west wall is the earliest part of the structure, which in actuality constitutes the south-eastern wall of a now demolished adjacent building.

Building 11: The stub walls of a rectangular shed, possibly open fronted, were recorded backing onto building 10. The structure was stone built and possibly

subdivided. Machinery storage, or an open shelter shed are likely interpretations.

Building 12: Built against the western stone boundary wall of the rear yard are the partial the remains of a stone built building.

Building 13: This structure is similar in nature to building 12. It is built against the external boundary wall to the rear yard, although only faint traces of its size and layout survive.

Building 14: Built against the external face of the boundary wall to the rectangular garden is a low mono-pitch stone-built building. This structure is built against and over the north-west side of the brick wall to the rectangular garden, and is clearly outside the formal areas adjacent to the farmhouse.

Building 15: Built within the curved western wall of the service yard is a rectilinear stone building. This structure originally had a pitched slate covered roof and direct access to the central lane via a pair of double doors (blocked at time of survey). The building had a brick floor and evidence of possible access in the east wall to the garden beyond. Traces of a later building depicted on the 1892 OS map (**illustration 2**) and orientated at right angles were also recorded. The function of this building is unclear, although a cart or machinery store is possible.

Building 16: Evidence of former structures was identified as wall scars in the north face of the central brick spine wall of the walled garden.

5 MANOR OAKS HOUSE

5.1 Introduction

Manor Oaks House (**Illustrations 5-14**) is a two storey double pile structure, extending to four floors with associated attic and cellars. The building consists of four major constructional phases and later minor alterations. The earliest, north-east, section of the building is constructed from random sandstone rubble and coursed squared blocks, whereas the later, south-east side of the structure is brick-built. The double-pitched roof is of blue slate with sandstone ridge copings and rendered brick chimney stacks. The fenestration is predominantly of twelve-pane double-hung sash windows, with those to the north-east and north-west elevations being larger.

5.2 The exterior

The north-east elevation (**Plate 1 and Illustration 5**) is of four bays and two storeys. This contains the principal entrance into the building situated in the second bay from the south-east. The windows of the elevation are all of a type, that is, twelve-pane sashes set below an incised stone lintel and with a stone sill. The main door has a timber frame with a large panelled door set within it. There was originally a protruding entrance porch, evidence for which exists in scarring on the wall surface either side of the doorway and in the presence of a stone slabbed area in front of the threshold. The wall of the elevation is constructed of regular coursed sandstone blocks, which at a later date was obscured by a rendered finish; horizontally and vertically scored in order to resemble ashlar masonry.

The south-west elevation (**Plate 26**) is essentially of five bays, however, the window and door placement is irregular. There is also a later single storey extension built against the wall of the elevation. The wall is of hand-made brick construction, other than where there have been extensions and later alterations. The three upper windows are twelve-pane sashes set below incised lintels. The ground floor window openings have modern frames inserted. There are two doors, each of which allows access to separate areas of the house, thus reflecting the later internal division of the building into two separate dwellings.

The south-east elevation (**Plate 2**) is made up of two gable end walls, each of which represents both the front and the rear piles of the building. There is a clearly visible central break in the fabric, indicating the two separate phases of construction. The earlier north-east section is of random rubble construction with an incised rendered finish, the later south-western section is brick-built with a similar rendered finish. The apex of each of the gables is surmounted by identical brick and rendered stacks with moulded sandstone cornices and ceramic pots. Similarly each rake of the two gables has a decorative pierced barge board. The whole elevation contains only one small square window, which gives into room G3.

The north-west elevation (**Plates 5 and 8**) is of two bays, reflecting the two structural piles of the building and has received a certain amount of alteration. It appears from the evidence which survives, that the elevation contained four twelve-pane sash windows, two to each floor. The wall is constructed from random rubble and brick. Due to later alterations there is no distinct break between the front and rear sections of the building.

Extending from the elevation in a south-west direction is a high sandstone wall (Plate 10), which in turn forms the rear wall of the north-west range of buildings of the service yard. The south-west face of this wall contains blind windows matching those of the elevation of the house. It would appear that this wall was constructed to give the north-west elevation of the house a more imposing appearance when viewed for the west. Interestingly, this wall joins the rear of the building at the corner of the brick-built rear section. It is unclear why, when the brick south-west elevation was rendered and scored in order to appear to be constructed of ashlar masonry, the wall itself is actually of stone construction. It is possible that the stone wall is in fact of an earlier build which was only latterly joined to the house; in which event the same principal applies to the inclusion of the blind windows. However, in this instance it would be to suggest the existence of a separate building of imposing stature.

5.3 The interior

The interior of the building extends to three floors plus cellars (**Illustrations 6-9**). Six main phases of development are evident in the structural arrangement of the building, with the earliest being the stone-built section on the north.

5.4 The cellars

The cellars (**Illustration 6**) do not cover the total footprint of the building, only the central and north-west section of the front pile are cellared. The extension to the cellar, C1 is effectively a later linking corridor allowing access from the rear of the house to the main cellar area.

Room C1 (**Plates 27 and 28**) is access by a stone stair leading down from ground floor room G9. The room is in two sections with the north-east section being part of the original cellar and the south-western section representing a later linking corridor allowing access to the cellar after the division of the house into two dwellings. There is a clear truncation of the original cellar wall present at the mid-point of the room. To the south of this the walls are constructed of brick. In the earlier part of the room the walls are of stone rubble construction other than the south-east wall which is of brick and is a later insertion. There is also a blocked doorway set within this wall, indicating that at some point the two areas of the cellars where reconnected.

Room C2 (Plate 29) measures 4.10m by 4.10m and represents the cellar beneath the

earlier building. Access to the room is gained via a flight of stone steps leading down from G2 (**Plate 30**). The floor is concrete and the original ceiling, which is partially covered with modern plaster-board, has exposed floor joists and the underside of the boards of the upper floor. There are two large slate cooling tables in this room, indicating the use of the space as a food storage area (**Plate 31**). Against the northwest wall are two piers of machine pressed brick, these support the chimney breast and hearth located on the floor above (room G6). The relatively late date of these piers suggests that the fireplace on the upper floor was a later insertion into the building. In addition the piers, the north-west wall also contains a low doorway at its southern end, linking this room to room C3. The doorway is complete with a 'meat safe' timber framed door with metal mesh panels (**Plate 33**). At the extreme northern end of the wall there is a narrowing in the thickness of the fabric to allow the entry of light from the window situated in the south-east wall.

Room C3 (**Plate 34**) measures 4.10m by 2.17m and is accessed via room C2. The north-west wall is a later insertion, constructed in order to demarcate this area of the cellar from the cellar C1. The room is empty of any original features; although it is likely it was used for food storage. There is a similar narrowing of the fabric of the south-east wall as is evident in the adjacent room C2, however, the window in the north-east wall has been partially blocked.

5.5 The ground floor

The ground floor of the house (**Illustration 7**) consists of six principal rooms with entrance hall, connecting corridors and a single storey rear extension.

Room G1 measures 4.22m by 2.74m, and is a small kitchen extension on the southwest side of the building (**Plate 35**). The floor was originally boarded with a low moulded skirting running along the base of the walls. The ceiling is of lath-and-plaster with a single beam spanning the space from north-east to south-west. There is a chimney breast with a tiled hearth located on the south-west wall, within which is contained a 1930s enamelled cast iron range with a timber surround (**Plate 36**). The door in the north-west wall leads to the exterior yard of the building, via a small porch (dismantled at the time of the survey). A second doorway, located in the north-east wall, allows access to the rear section of main house (**Plate 37**).

Room G2 (**Plate 40**) is a short corridor through the later south-western side of the building. This space which measures 3.72m by 1.5m may, along with room G3, originally formed part of a larger space. The floor comprises of 16cm timber boards and the ceiling is lath-and-plaster. The south-east wall is a thin timber partition which has a door to room G3 and a small vertical sliding sash window with a protruding shelf/counter below (**Plate 41**). The north-west wall contains a doorway leading directly to the foot of the 'back stair' of the building. At its north-eastern end the corridor turns to the north-west giving access to room G7 and a cupboard located below the stair. In the north-east wall there is a doorway giving access to a low through passage/cupboard leading to the main hallway (room G5). There is a further door in this wall giving onto the head of the cellar stair.

Room G3 (**Plate 44**) measuring 5.16m by 3.79m, is the largest room on the southern side of the building. The floor was originally boarded (removed by the time of the survey) and the ceiling is of lath-and-plaster. It is evident that the floor itself was a later replacement and not contemporary with the initial construction of the building, as the floor joists are supported by two courses of modern machine pressed brick. There are moulded architrave surrounds to the two doorways and a moulded picture rail running around the upper section of the walls. Located on the south-east wall is a

chimney breast with a large stone hearth. The fireplace having been removed by the time of the survey; however, it is clear that the original fire opening had been reduced in size by a brick infilling in order to accommodate a fire place with a smaller firebox (**Plates 45 and 46**). The north-east wall is of stone rubble construction and forms a spine wall running through the centre of the building, and which corresponds to the earlier phase of the house. Set within this wall is a doorway with panelled jambs and soffit, leading to room G4 and the front section of the house. There are three windows in this room; in the south-west wall there is a non-opening four pane timber framed window, a small square opening directly adjacent to the chimney in the south-east wall and in the timber partition north-west wall as already discussed.

Room G4 (**Plate 47**) is the largest ground floor space located within the earlier section of the house, measuring 4.53m by 4.10m. The floor is of 16cm boards, painted yellow and the ceiling is lath-and-plaster with a large timber beam spanning the room. The floor, as that of room G3, is a later replacement having the joists supported on two courses of modern brick. It is clear that the re-flooring of the two rooms was undertaken at the same time as one of the brick supporting walls runs beneath the connecting door in the south-west wall. There is moulded architrave to the two doors and a deep moulded skirting to the base of the walls. Running around the upper portion of the walls is a moulded picture rail above which there is a shallow moulded ceiling cove. It is evident that the picture rail is a later addition to the room as there are remnants of an earlier wall paper concealed beneath it. The walls are of stone rubble construction covered with a layer of lime based render and a thin skim of plaster.

There is a shallow brick-built chimney breast to the south-east wall. (**Plate 48**) This is a later addition to the building and there is no evidence of any form of earlier chimney breast or fireplace. There is a splayed window opening in the north-east wall, the twelve-pane double-hung sash having been removed by the time of the survey, however, the architrave surround and the internal shutters remain. It appears that the decorative timber work and the window itself was a later addition to the building (see room G6) as there is evidence for the window opening having been enlarged and the splays extended; the splay on the south-east having been refaced in brick. A similar situation is found concerning the door in the north-west wall. Here the later timber panelling and soffit have been introduced into what was originally a taller opening. The removal of an area of lath-and-plaster patching from above the door head revealed the original opening to be some 25cm higher than the present and containing three oak timbers acting as a lintel.

Room G5 (**Plate 56**) the entrance hallway and main staircase measures 4.10m by 2.20m overall. The floor of the hallway is boarded with the addition of a mat-well close to the sill of the main entrance doorway. The ceiling is of lath-and-plaster with a shallow moulded coving. The entrance door had been removed by the time of the survey; however the door frame and the panelling set within the splay and soffit remained. The suggestion that the panelling was a later addition to the building is supported by the evidence presented by the main entrance splay. It was clearly apparent, upon investigation, that the panelling employed to clad the splay of the doorway was initially intended for a window opening as it contained internal shutters. The shutters, however, had been fixed in the open position. The timber dog-leg staircase, which has turned balusters and newels and a moulded handrail, leads to a half-landing before returning to the first floor (**Plate 57**). The through passage of the hallway, which leads to the rear of the house via the low passage/cupboard, runs along the side of the staircase which is panelled and glazed. The north-west wall of room G5 is a later insertion into the building indicating that both this space and the

adjacent room G6 were originally a single large space. There is also evidence, in the form of chased brickwork discovered after the removal of the internal plaster, that the timber staircase was inserted into the building sometime after the construction of the internal dividing wall. It is highly likely that the insertion of the staircase and the alteration of the windows are contemporary events.

Room G6 (**Plate 58**) is the second principal room within the earlier section of the earlier house, measuring 4.11m by 4.50m. The floor is boarded, the ceiling is lath-and-plaster with a shallow moulded coving and a large timber beam spans the room. The walls are of a stone rubble construction with a grey render and thin plaster finish. There is a deep moulded skirting to the base of the walls with a moulded picture rail running around the upper section. Above the picture rail is a frieze of embossed paper and surmounting the window in the north-east wall is a decorative plaster pelmet (**Plate 62**). The panelled door in the south-east retains its original door furniture and is set within a frame surrounded by a moulded architrave. The splayed window opening, as in room G4, shows evidence of being widened in the past, with the south-east splay showing particularly heavy re-facing: the underside of the window opening has also been rebuilt.

Located on the north-west wall there is a fireplace and brick-built chimney breast (**Plate 59**). The fireplace itself had been removed by the time of the survey but the tiled hearth remains. The plain green tiles are interspersed with some showing a stylised lily pattern (**Plate 61**). The *Art-Nouveau* style of the decorative tiles points to date somewhere between the late nineteenth and early part of the twentieth century. The chimney breast itself is a later addition to the building as the brick piers in the cellar (room C2) clearly demonstrates. There are two further doors in this room; one in the south-west wall leads to the rear of the house and a through passage (room G7), the second is a blocked opening located in the south-west chimney alcove. This room also retains fixtures and fitting relating to the early form of gas lighting in the house. There is a gas mantel rose fixed to the ceiling and the associated lead gas-pipe running from the cellar and up the side of the chimney breast. There is also hinged metal plate set into the floor which covers a small gas stop valve (**Plate 63**).

Room G7 (**Plate 66**) measures 3.79m by 1.5m, and is a through passage leading from the earlier front section of the house to the rear door and yard. The floor is boarded and the ceiling lath-and-plaster. There is a moulded low skirting and architrave to both doors and running along both long walls are edge moulded boards carrying several iron coat hooks (**Plate 67**). There are also several larger hook suspended from the south-east side of the ceiling. Above the north-east door is a gas mantel rose.

Room G8 (**Plate 71**) is the first of three rooms on the ground floor which constituted a separate dwelling in the final phase in the structural development of the building. This space, which measures 3.73m by 2.56m, has been heavily refashioned and was used as a kitchen area in the last phase. The floor is concrete and the ceiling lath-andplaster. The walls have been recovered with a modern plaster finish. Against the north-east wall is a protruding section of wall which appears to represent a chimney breast, however, there is no evidence for its continuation on the floors above. There is a modern door in the south-west wall adjacent to which is an original window opening containing a later inserted two-pane casement timber frame (**Plate 72**).

Room G9 (**Plate 75**) is again a room which has been heavily altered in order to create a separate dwelling on this side of the house. Measuring 3.74m by 3.68m, the floor is boarded and the ceiling is lath-and-plaster. Both the south-west and north-east walls are later insertions. The south-west wall (**Plate 76**) is of a thin lath-and-plaster construction and was built to accommodate a staircase to the first floor (**Plate 77**) and a second stair leading down to the cellar (room C1). The north east wall is brickbuilt and now separates this space from that of G10, which together with G9 originally would have constituted one large open room. There is a brick-built chimney breast located against the south-east wall adjacent to which is a modern timber cupboard. Concealed within the upper part of this cupboard is the remains of the original ceiling cove (now removed from the remainder if the room). There is a modern door inserted in the original splayed window opening in the north-west wall, adjacent to which, is a blocked original fireplace opening, now cut by the later inserted wall. The evidence contained on the exterior of the north-west wall shows that the upper wall at this point is supported on a large timber beam.

Room G10 (**Plate 79**), which measures 3.70m by 3.68m, is also heavily modernised and latterly fire damaged, retains nothing in the way of original features. The original boarded floor is covered with chipboard and the ceiling has been recovered with sheets of shuttering plywood. Both of the windows had been removed by the time of the survey; the internal splays remain. Against the south-east wall is a modern fireplace constructed from brick and breeze block (**Plate 80**).

5.6 The first floor

The first floor of the house (**Illustration 8**) consists of six bedrooms accessed by two separate stairs with connecting corridors and a bathroom and toilet.

Room F1 is a bedroom measuring 2.92m by 2.72. The floor is boarded and the ceiling is lath-and-plaster. There is a low moulded skirting and a moulded architrave surrounding the panelled door in the north-east wall (**Plate 84**). The window in the south-west wall is a twelve-pane double-hung sash (**Plate 86**). There is a further panelled door on the north-west side of the room, which leads to a cupboard located above the 'back stair.'

Room F2 (**Plate 91**) is a narrow space, 2.76m by 1.20m, which houses a toilet. The floor is boarded and ceiling of lath-and-plaster. There is a toilet bowl and small cistern against the south-west wall. This wall also contains a small square window. There is a three-pane window and a gas mantel rose located in the south-east wall.

Room F3 (**Plate 93**) is a bathroom measuring 3.75m by 2.50m with a boarded floor and lath-and-plaster ceiling. There is a twelve-pane double-hung sash window in the south-west wall, below which is a roll edged cast iron bath with claw feet (**Plate 96**). Located against the south-east wall is a narrow chimney flue. The north-west wall contains a doorway leading to the front section of the house. This has a panelled door with moulded architrave and panelled jambs and soffit. Adjacent to the door is a timber airing cupboard and a gas mantel rose.

Room F4 (**Plate 100**) is the principal bedroom located within the earlier part of the house, measuring 4.47m by 4.06m. The floor is boarded with extremely wide (28cm) boards the ceiling is lath-and-plaster with two timber beams spanning the room from north-east to south-west. In the south-east wall there is a shallow brick-built chimney breast which contains a cast iron fireplace under a stone mantel (**Plate 104**). Within the north-east chimney alcove is a timber cupboard. The splayed window opening located on the north-east wall retains its internal panelling and moulded architrave; however, the twelve-pane double-hung sash window had been removed by the time of the survey. The internal panelling differs from that of the ground floor rooms in that it does not contain shutters. The distorted head of the doorway in the north-west wall, which has a similar moulded architrave and panelling, shows the extent of the foundation settlement on this side of the building.

Room F5 (**Plate 107**) is the first floor landing and measures 4.10m by 2.20m. The floor is covered with the same wide boards as in F4 and the ceiling is lath-and-plaster. The timber stair leads up to a half landing before returning to the attic level (**Plate 108**). The splayed window opening in the north-east wall retains its twelve-pane double-hung sash window (**Plate 122 and Illustration 15**) and the internal panelling does not contain shutters.

Room F6 (**Plate 113**), which measures 4.06m by 3.90m, is the second bedroom located within the earlier part of the house. The floor is boarded and the ceiling lathand-plaster with a timber beam spanning the room from north-west to south-east. There is a low moulded skirting to the base of the walls. In the north-east wall is a twelve-pane double-hung sash window. There is a shallow, brick-built, chimney breast against the north-west wall with an offset fireplace opening. A thin walled partition has been inserted into the western corner of the room (**Plate 114**). This curved wall, which cuts across the corner of the previously rectangular room, was added to the building in order to allow a separate access from the rear to the front part of the later dwelling created within the building.

Room F7 (**Plate 117**) is a bedroom and measures 2.89m by 2.74m. The floor is boarded and the ceiling is lath-and-plaster. There is a twelve-pane double-hung sash window in the south-west wall (**Plate 118**). The two doors within the room have moulded architrave, with the door in the north-west wall being a later insertion.

Room F8 is a through corridor which measures 4.15m by 2.5m. The floor is boarded and the ceiling lath-and-plaster. In the north-west wall there is a doorway leading to the head of the inserted staircase and a second doorway giving access to room F9. At the extreme north-east end of the corridor is an inserted opening leading to the front of the house and room F10 (**Plate 240**). It is evident that this opening and the curved wall beyond were added to the structure in order to facilitate the alteration of the house into two separate dwellings.

Room F9 (**Plate 120**) is a bedroom measuring 4.00m by 3.78m with a boarded floor and lath-and-plaster ceiling. This room appears to have been refashioned when the living space of the house was divided. The floor is boarded and the ceiling is of lathand plaster. There is a splayed window opening in the north-west wall containing a twelve-pane double-hung sash window. This, like the windows on the ground floor, has internal panelling complete with shutters (**Plate 124**). There is a redundant chimney breast in the south-east wall. Adjacent to the window in the north-west wall is a fireplace, complete with a cast iron fire surround: probably an inserted feature (**Plate 125**). To the south-east is an inserted partition wall which obscures the inserted staircase, which leads to the ground floor (**Plate 123**).

Room F10 (**Plate 127**) is another bedroom associated with the divided dwelling, measuring 4.11m by 3.75m. This is access via the curved partition leading from room F8. The room has been heavily fire damaged with the original boarded floor having been replaced with sheets of plywood. The ceiling is of lath-and-plaster with a timber beam spanning the room from south-east to north-west. There is a splayed window opening in the north-west wall containing a twelve-pane double-hung sash window complete with internal panelling and shutters. There was originally a second splayed window located in the north-east wall this, however, has been blocked and converted into a wardrobe, probably at the time of the division of the house (**Plate 128**). There is a six panel door in the south-east wall with moulded architrave.

5.7 The attics

The attics (Illustration 9), located on the north-east side of the building, represent

the least altered part of the original house. The three rooms are set within the roof space with low external walls, sloping ceilings and exposed roof timbers. They are accessed from a small landing situated at the head of the main staircase leading from the ground floor of the house. It is probable that during the nineteenth century extension of the house the attics were employed as servant's quarters.

Room A1 (**Plates 131 and 132**) measures 4.50m by 4.10m with a boarded floor and sloping lath-and-plaster ceiling. Running across the ceiling are the exposed, but plastered, purlins and ridge piece of the roof structure. These timbers are of riven oak (**Plates 133 and 135**), other than the lower purlin of the south-west side, which is a softwood replacement. There is a small square skylight situated between the purlins on the south-west side of the ceiling. The north-west wall contains a low doorway, with its original plank door and door furniture (**Plates 136 and 137**). Above the doorway and enclosed within the fabric of the wall is an oak collar beam.

Room A2 (**Plate 138**) is a small landing situated at the head of the staircase. There is a balustered handrail above the stairwell (**Plate 140**). The ceiling contains the continuation of the exposed purlins from room A1. These have steel meat hooks located along their length. There are doorways in both the south-east and north-west walls.

Room A3 (**Plates 141 and 142**) measures 4.10m by 4.00m with a boarded floor and a sloping lath-and-plastered ceiling. Plaster covered purlins and ridge piece are again present in this room with a skylight located on the south-west side. The south-east wall contains a low doorway, with its original plank door and door furniture (**Plates 143 144 and 145**). Again above the door there is a collar beam enclosed within the fabric of the wall. There is a later inserted door set within the north-west wall, which gives access to room A4 part of the second phase of the buildings development.

Room A4 (**Plate 151**) measures 4.10m by 3.75m with a boarded floor and a lath-andplaster ceiling. The exposed roof structure in this room provided evidence of the building's development. The purlins are re-used oak timbers originally forming part of a single hipped roof, which sloped to the north-west. The purlin on the south-west side contains original peg holes and adze marks on its faces (**Plates 153 and 154**). When the building was later extended towards the south-west the ridge piece and the hip rafters were truncated in order to allow for the addition of the roof structure and the accommodation the roofline of the new building. There is a skylight situated on the south-west side of the ceiling and a hatch leading to the roof space of the later part of the house (**Plate 158**).

5.8 Watching brief

Following the completion of the archaeological recording carried out on the house a further watching brief was maintained during the later conversion and demolition work. The watching brief proved necessary, not only as a matter of completeness, but also due to the complicated nature of the phased construction and alteration of the structure. The opportunity to investigate certain areas of the building in greater detail and to view hidden aspects of the structural arrangements of the house provided important and useful information. In addition to these observations a number of detailed drawing of the surviving historic timberwork was made prior to there removal as part of the renovation (**Illustrations 16-18**).

The main operations carried out as part of the later conversion of the house included, the removal of the internal plasterwork of the front section of the building, the demolition of the rear, brick-built, section and the removal of the exterior render from the west elevation. The removal of the internal plaster revealed the presence of earlier window jambs in the internal north walls, at both ground and first floor level. In the attics a horizontal break revealed that the earlier phase of the building had in fact been raised in height at some stage.

The scars of one jambs of earlier splayed windows were revealed within ground floor (**Plates 346 and 347**) rooms G4 and G10. Further scars were revealed on the first floor in rooms F4, F6 and F10 (**Plates 352-362**). The spacing of the scars situated on the first floor, particularly those in rooms F4 and F6 would appear to indicate that these first floor windows were either extremely large or are in fact that each pair of vertical scars relates to two smaller windows. There is no apparent evidence as to why the configuration of the windows was changed. It is probable that the alteration took place at the same time as the front elevation of the house was refaced and the style of the building transformed in order to conform to the current fashions in early nineteenth century house design.

The removal of the exterior render from the north-west elevation revealed that this side of the building did receive a great amount of alteration and modification over time. Centrally placed at the base of the elevation is the remains of a blocked fireplace (a larger amount is visible on the interior of the house (**Plate 351**). It appears that some of the scarring on this side of the wall may be due to the removal of an earlier external chimney flue, and the rebuilding, into the fabric of the wall, later flues from the fireplaces in the first floor rooms.

Evidence noted in the attic level of the building demonstrates that the walls of the earlier section of the building (conforming to the area covered by ground floor rooms G4, G5 and G4) have been raised by approximately 40cm. This is indicated by a horizontal break in the colour and composition of the plaster, from grey/brown on the lower section to a cream/white in the upper (**Plate 363**). The interface between the two plastered areas is further emphasised by the fact that the upper edge of the lower plastered has a rounded corner where it finished at the head of the original wall (**Plate 368**). It is probable that the walls of the building were raised in order to create extra height within the attic to accommodate servant's quarters.

The demolition of the rear section of the house provided no clear evidence as to the nature of the earlier phase of the structure. As was noted earlier, sections of the south side of the spine wall of the two pile house, particularly in the area of the first floor passage, did have a covering of limewash beneath the later plastered finish. This would indicate that this wall was always part of the interior of a structure. It was also noticeable that there were no windows in the rear elevation of the original single pile structure (this wall being the southern face of the central spine if the building). This fact also adds weight to the suggestion that there originally existed a rear extension.

The demolition of the rear section of the house and the subsequent excavation of service trenches along the line of the external wall (**see illustration 26**) did not provide conclusive evidence as to existence of an earlier extension. A stone built foundation wall was uncovered, which may point to the existence of an earlier stone-built structure, but was in no way certain as other brick-built structures on the site possess stone foundations.

5.9 Phased Development of the house

It is evident that there was a distinct phased development of the building both in terms of size, status and function. It is a possibility that in its earliest phase the structure was in fact an agricultural building similar to the barn/grain store (building 8) situated on the opposite side of the rear yard. This building is likely to have

corresponded in plan to the two ground floor rooms G4 and G6. There is also evidence which suggests that this first phase building was in fact larger than this. (See discussion below). The building was then extended towards the north-west, with the building of room G10 and F10, and a hip was added to this side of the roof. A brickbuilt dividing wall within room G6 was added to create a stairwell and access to the first floor of the building. Later a further extension was added to the end of the building (rooms G9 and F9). At this point it appears that the front north-east elevation of the building was refaced and the fenestration altered. Later the brick rear pile of the house was constructed creating a substantial house of some quality. This house was subsequently divided into two separate dwellings with the associated construction of internal dividing walls and the creation of a second access stair to the cellars. It is also at this point that a dividing wall was inserted between G9 and G10. It would appear that at the same time as the division of the main structure was carried out the single storey extension was added to the rear of the house. This layout has remained until the present day with little alteration taking place other than the modern wall finishes and floors mentioned in the room descriptions.

5.10 Discussion

The house associated with Manor Oaks Farm is a multi-phase structure with a complex development. The building recording carried out at the site has revealed a certain amount of information regarding the history of the building. The partial removal, for health and safety reasons, of some of the wall surfaces and internal fixtures of the house has allowed some inferences to be made concerning the phasing of the structure. However, the exact nature of the earliest phases of the building remains obscure. The removal of the internal wall plaster during the second phase of the restoration of the building and the exposure of concealed structural features aided the interpretation.

The present indications are that the initial structure was in fact an agricultural building connected with a larger farm site. A possible date for the construction of this earliest phase is the later part of the seventeenth century when the Duke of Norfolk's deer park was divided into a series of industrial areas and tenant farms (Jessop 2005). There are indications that the earlier building on the site may have been larger than is at first apparent. This is in the form of a lime-washed finish beneath the plaster on what was original the rear (south-west) wall of the earliest phase of the building. This indicates that this was not in fact an external face, but rather the internal face of an earlier structure extending towards the south-west.

It is not clear at what date the building were first converted into dwellings, and the lack of indications of early fireplaces is problematic. It would seem that there is the possibility that the enlargement of the house followed soon after with its extension towards the north-west and the re-facing of the north-east elevation. At this point the larger windows were inserted.

The total refashioning of the house, including the building of the rear brick-built section, appears to have been carried out sometime in the mid nineteenth century. This possibly coincides with the purchase of the property by William Bradley, the owner of the Soho Brewery, Sheffield (Jessop 2005). The house was transformed into a substantial residence with the addition of a 'back stair' and bell-pull wiring system, indicating the presence of servant's quarters in the attic spaces. The interior of the house was also refashioned with the insertion of ceiling coves, panelled timberwork to window reveals and door jambs (**Illustrations 14-15**) and possible the construction of the main staircase.

At a later date the house was sub-divided into two separate dwellings with the

addition of partition walls and the insertion of access doorways.

6 THE ANCILLARY BUILDINGS

6.1 Introduction

In addition to the main dwelling house a number of ancillary buildings, (**Illustration** 4) for the most part surrounding the rear yard, were investigated. These include complete stone-built-structures to derelict brick-built sheds. Most of the buildings appear to have had, or originally possessed, an agricultural function.

6.2 Building 2

This building (**Plates 190 and 192**) is part of a range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is a small rectangular structure with brick walls and is built against the sandstone boundary wall backing onto the rectangular garden (**Plates 193 and 194**). It has a mono-pitch pantiled roof with a single lower course of stone tiles. Internally the structure has been subdivided with a wooden partition to form two spaces. One of these contains a manger built against the rear wall. The other space may have originally performed the same function, however, in its later phase was employed as a small workshop. In its original phase the building probably functioned as a small milking parlour, providing milk for the house and dairy (building 5).

6.3 Building 3

This building is part of a range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is narrow structure with brick walls and has a mono-pitch, pantile covered roof. Its use is unclear, although it is likely to have been used as a coal store. There is a window and doorway set in to the south-east wall. The interior of the structure has a flagged floor and lime-washed brick walls.

6.4 Building 4

This building (**Plates 197 and 198**) is centrally positioned along the range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is a brick built structure the roof of which is almost completely collapsed. Enough evidence remains to show that the building possessed a pitched roof covered with sandstone roofing tiles. The interior of the building retains certain feature which suggests that its original function may have been a wash-house or brew-house. There is a chimney breast built against the south-west wall with a square fire-place, partially blocked with brick (**Plate 199**). The chimney breast is flanked by a water boiler and a stone sink. The water boiler is a metal bowl set into a brick plinth with a stoking hole beneath. The interior walls of the building are lime-washed brick; however, the rear north-east wall is sandstone rubble. The floor is paved with sandstone flags. The front of the building is now completely open with no evidence of walling. As the wall on either side of the opening are well built brick walls with no indication of demolition scarring, it may be presumed that the building possessed a timber frontage.

6.5 Building 5

This building (**Plate 200**) is interpreted as a dairy and forms part of the range running along the north-west side of the service yard. A gable scar on building 6 (**Plate 205**) demonstrates that this structure has a pitched roof, and evidence found on the floor of the building indicates that the roof covering was of sandstone tiles. The interior space is divided by a light partition wall of lath-and plaster construction forming a rear room within the structure (**Plate 202**). This contains a half-glazed door and a four-pane window which is has fly-mesh in place of glazing. Within this rear space there is a stone table running along the rear and north-east walls (**Plate 204**). Again as with building 4, the front wall of the structure is not present. It would appear that this structure also possessed a timber frontage.

6.6 Building 6

This building (**Plates 206 and 207**) is the end building of the range running along the north-west side of the service yard. It is a brick building two storeys in height. Although none of the roof structure survived at the time of survey it would appear that the roof was pitched and covered with sandstone roofing tiles. The ground floor functioned as a stable, with a continuous brick manger along the rear wall (**Plates 210** - **213**). The south-east wall contains a central entrance doorway complete with an oak frame flanked by small oak framed windows. The ceiling of the ground floor room has collapsed, however, a central pine beam spanning the long axis of the room and several pine floor joists survive. The first floor may have been used for the storage of hay or as the evidence of a sixteen-pane window in the upper section of the north-west wall suggests, it may have functioned as accommodation for stable hands. At the south-western end of the range is a through passage leading to the rear yard. This has an extremely worn stone flagged floor and a door in both the south-east and north-west walls, both of which had been blocked in later phases (**Plates 215 and 216**).

6.7 Building 7

The only extant part of this building was a low section of brick walling along the southern part of the Service Yard (**Plates 220 and 223**). This building appears to have originally comprised three cottages, although later alterations may have reduced this number to two. Traces of an attached brick chimney stack (**Plates 225 and 226**) and associated features were recorded in the north elevation of the building 8 (**Plates 231 and 232**). The building extends along the northern section of building 6. The building was further uncovered during the watching brief phase of the archaeological investigations. This is discussed in section 8.3.

6.8 Building 8

This narrow rectangular structure of three storeys with a blue slate covered pitched roof (**Plate 234**). Access to the first floor is via a brick-built stairway with stone treads. The external measurements of the building are 6.8m by 5m and the construction material are a mixture of coursed stone and brick. The north-west wall of the building constitutes the brick-built exterior wall of an earlier range of cottages (building 7) which occupied the site adjacent to the barn. This section of the wall shows some evidence of actually pre-dating the cottages and may actually represent the remains of an earlier brick-built barn, which was later converted to domestic use. The remainder of the walls of building 8 are of stone construction. The roof and upper floor have been rebuilt, perhaps coinciding with a re-ordering of the ground floor to accommodate three stalls for horses. There are blocked breather slits in the exterior walls, indicating the use of the building for storage of hay, or animal fodder.

6.9 The exterior

The north-east elevation of the building (**Plate 235** and **Illustration 19**) faces into the service yard and the rear of the farm house. This contains two windows, one at ground and one at first floor level: the upper window however, appears to have originally functioned as a taking-in door. The one sided arrangement of the fenestration on this elevation is unusual and may reflect the original function of the building as a perhaps a grain/seed store with less emphasis on lighting the interior space and more placed on ventilation. There are two small square voids situated in

the upper portion of the wall which have the appearance of empty beam slots and may represent the former presence of a structure built against this side of the building. If this was the case then any structure formerly present must have been of an ephemeral nature, possibly timber, as no trace of it was discovered in the subsequent watching brief. The vertical joint between the earlier brick barn and the later stone structure is clearly visible at the northern side of the wall. Unusually there is no indication of the 'tying-in' of the two separate structures. The stair, which allows access to the first floor rises from this side of the building this is a brick-built structure with sandstone treads. The stair rises six steps to a square landing before returning along the south-east elevation and up to the first floor entrance of the barn.

The south-east elevation of the building (**Plate 240 and Illustration 20**) has witnessed a certain amount of alteration and rebuilding and again the emphasis in this elevation is placed upon access rather then lighting. There is only one small window present on the second floor; which in itself is a later addition. Built against this elevation are the remains of a two storey stable and cart shed, building 9. This is partially collapsed and roofless appears to have been constructed at a later date than the barn. Two inclined sockets for the purlins of the roof structure of the stable are present in the elevation, however, there is no physical evidence for the position of the ridge piece. The first floor of the stable is represented by the remains of a large timber beam and a row of floor joist sockets.

The lower portion of the wall, that below the line of the floor joists, is covered with a lime-wash finish. There is an opening giving access to the round floor of the building. This communicates with the interior of the stable and appears to be a later insertion into the fabric of the structure. The original door is located directly beneath the landing of the exterior stair. However, this doorway was subsequently closed with a stone blocking, presumably when the function of the ground floor of the barn changed from storage to stabling. In this case direct access between both buildings would appear to have been more desirable. The door itself has a reused oak timber employed as a lintel, also the northern jamb would is made up of bull-nosed machine pressed brick. The relatively modern appearance of these bricks may, point to the date of the conversion of the ground floor of the barn, probably to the early part of the twentieth century. There is an entrance doorway to the first floor situated at the head of the external stair. Again this door utilises re-used oak timbers in the lintel. The upper section of the gable show obvious evidence of being rebuilt. The masonry of the lower part of the wall is made up of coursed sandstone rubble set in a buff lime mortar whereas the upper section, which is clearly demarcated, is made up of smaller pieces of sandstone with a black ashy mortar. Within this upper section is a further taking-in door and a small window. The presence of a taking-in door within the gable of this elevation would seem to suggest that the rebuilding of the upper part of the gable was completed prior to the building of the attached stable, as access to it would have been restricted.

The south-west elevation (**Plate 236 and Illustration 21**) is the least altered. It is a relatively blank wall containing only one small window and a blocked doorway to the ground floor, the window being inserted when the ground floor was converted to stabling, and two narrow ventilation slits at first floor level. The wall is again constructed of coursed rubble.

The north-west elevation of the building (**Plate 231 and Illustration 22**) actually represents the former interior wall of the earlier brick-built barn and cottage range. This side of the building exhibits a number of interesting features relating to the earlier building and its subsequent refashioning. The original exterior wall of the barn

is constructed of hand-made brick and in places shows evidence of having a limewashed finish. Against this original wall are built two flues, the larger of which show two phases of construction. Contained within the upper section of the wall, corresponding to the second floor of the building, there are at least three, and possibly a fourth, nest boxes intended for pigeons. Each box is built into the brick wall and has a short stone projecting stone sill. The keeping of pigeons provided an important source of fresh meat up to the early part of the twentieth century and were regularly housed on the upper floors of agricultural buildings, or in separated purpose-built dovecotes.

Situated in the upper wall is a doorway which communicated between the two buildings. This has evidence of being blocked with brick and is also partially obscured by the construction of the later flue. The upper section of the wall is also plastered, presumable added after the conversion of the barn into residential use. The lower section of the original brick wall has a lime-wash finish and contains two triangular headed ventilators. There is also a similar opening at the apex of the gable. The two flues were added when the barn was converted to domestic use. They are constructed from hand-made brick (9¼" x 4¼" x 3"), slightly larger than those of the earlier wall. The larger central flue has a wide chimney breast at ground floor with a containing a hearth and arched fireplace, possible original intended to house a cooking range. There is a second narrow fireplace situated at first floor level. The lower, wider section of the central flue is a later modification and may well relate to the installation of a range. The second flue is built at the extreme northern side of the wall, within the angle of the extent building and the demolished south-east return. The base of this flue, corresponding to that original contained within the ground floor of the dwelling, is constructed at an angle across the corner of the exterior walls. This type of arrangement is commonly met with in association with coppers or water heaters and may indicate that this area of the cottage was employed as a scullery or wash house.

6.10 The interior

The interior of the building comprises of three floors (**Illustration 23**) with the ground floor given over to stabling and the upper floor being used for storage.

The ground floor is a small rectangular room measuring 5.75m by 4.3m (Illustration 24). The entrance into the ground floor is via a doorway in the south-east wall. As already discussed this doorway is a later insertion into the fabric of the building, probably added when the ground floor of the original seed store was converted to stabling. The original blocked doorway is situated directly adjacent to the present entrance. Against the south-west wall are three stalls complete with stone feeding troughs and timber mangers (Plates 243, 245 and 248). There are two windows, both with splayed jambs, to the south-west and north-east walls. The interior walls are lime-washed and the floor is beaten earth, however this may conceal a more substantial floor coving beneath. The ceiling has softwood joists with exposed floorboards and is a later replacement; however, one original oak beam survives, spanning the shorter axis of room. This beam has chamfered lower edges. The replacement ceiling also contains three hatches located directly above the timber mangers, through which fodder was dropped from the floor above.

The first floor is of similar dimensions (**Plate 250 and Illustration 24**) to that of the first floor. The entrance to the first floor is via an external stair and a doorway in the south-east wall. This opening, which retains a plank ledge-and-brace door, has a sandstone sill and lintel to the exterior and two re-used oak beams to the interior. The taking-in door situated in the north-east wall has a similar arrangement of sill and

lintels; there is also a large iron hook driven into the lintel directly above the centre of the opening. This presumable was used for hanging a pulley with which materials were hoisted into the upper floor. Against the south-east wall is a timber stair leading to the second floor of the building (**Plate 251**). The stone walls of the room are rendered to a point 0.9m above floor level. The floor is of pine boards with three hatches located along the north-west wall. The ceiling appears to be original, with two large oak beams, complete with stop-chamfered edges, spanning the shorter axis of the room. There is a section of ceiling between the opening through which access is gained to the second floor and the north-east wall which has either been replaced or added to an original open area of the ceiling.

The second floor is again of similar dimensions to the floor below (**Plates 254, 255 and Illustration 24**). Access is gained via the internal timber stair from the first floor. There is a taking-in door situated in the south-east wall with a small window, with timber frame, adjacent (**Plate 253**). Both of these elements are set within a rebuilt upper section of the building. The upper face of the sandstone sill of the taking-in door contains two shallow square depressions at either end which may relate to its former employment as an element of a mullion type window. In the north-west wall is the door which originally communicated with the brick barn. This has a concrete lintel and a timber frame. A scar of an earlier roof line running down the western side of the wall shows that the roof of the brick-built barn was adjusted when building 8 was constructed. This is due to the fact that the later building is slightly wider in ground plan. The roof structure is a simple double purlin and rafter type with a central ridge piece; all of softwood construction.

A large quality of documentary material was discovered within the upper floor of the building, all of which dated to the 1930s and the use of the site by a local butcher, Harold Savage.

6.11 Building 9

A stone-built extension to the east of building 8. The building at the time of survey was a roofless shell, however, it originally comprised a two storey building with a pitched roof. The walls are of coursed sandstone rubble construction. The north east elevation is almost completely taken up by a large opening set beneath an extremely long timber lintel (Plate 257). The lintel is a later insertion into the fabric of the building and the low section of wall above is a rebuild. The opening is divided by a timber upright positioned to the north of centre, thus creating two distinct entrance doorways. Evidence on the interior would suggest that the doorway to the south-east was indented for the movement of a cart or gig in and out of the building and that the door to the north-west was for the movement of horses and also to gain entry to the ground floor of building 8. The south-east elevation (Plate 258) survives intact to the height of the apex of the gable and contains a square pitching door, complete with timber frame and planking ledge-and-brace door and door furniture. This door would have allowed access from the central lane to the first floor of the building, which would have functioned as a hay loft. The south-west elevation is a blank wall, now forming the interior north-east wall of building 10. To the north-west building 9 was abutted against building 8. The form of this wall has already been discussed above.

6.12 The interior

Within the interior of the building only the ground floor survives, the timber ceiling and floor above having been removed. However, enough survives within the building to enable an attempt to be made as to how the building functioned. Against the southwest wall, but not taking up all of its length, are positioned two stone feeding troughs set on brick plinths (**Plate 262**). These troughs represent the former location of two stalls, which would have originally been subdivided from the rest of the interior space by half-height timber partitions. The remainder of the interior, that to the south-east, would have been given over to the storage of a cart or gig. No substantial evidence for the presence of the timber partitions remains; however, the demarcation of the internal space can be further detected by consideration of the differing floor coverings employed within the building. The area of the floor which equates to that taken up by the stalls, that is from the south-west wall to a line 1.5m from the opposite wall, is covered with hard ceramic tiles, presumably intended to withstand the effects of pounding hooves. The remainder of floor directly adjacent to the northwestern entrance is of sandstone sets. The area to the south-east, that employed as a cart shed, is paved with sandstone flags (**Plate 260**).

The first floor of the building would have been employed as a hay loft and possibly tackroom, however, no evidence for an internal stair survives. Sockets for the floor joists are evident in both the north-west and south-east walls. The length of the building is such that the joists would have needed further support at the mid-point. This would have been provided by a timber beam spanning the short axis of the building. No evidence for the timber beam now remains; however, there survives towards the centre of the floor space a decorative timber post (**Plate 263**), which would have supported the underside of the beam. The post has octagonal base section surmounted by a ring and is then cylindrical above. The position of this post also corresponds to the central division of the two stalls, to which it was presumably structurally related.

Attached to the north-eastern corner of building 9 is an irregular shaped low walled enclosure partly formed by the curved yard wall. This appears to have functioned as a midden for waste from the stable.

6.13 Building 10

This building is a later addition to south-west of building 9. Its east elevation is brickbuilt, however this appears to be a later rebuild (Plate 266). The majority of the building is of coursed stone rubble construction. The north-west wall is the earliest part of the structure, which in actuality constitutes the south-eastern wall of a now demolished adjacent building (Plate 272). There is a clear break in the fabric of the walling on this side of the building showing where the two structures where connected, with the later building extending further to the south-west. The southwest wall is of coursed rubble construction and contains the only windows lighting the building (Plates 268 and 271). The south-east wall is a later brick rebuilding of what was presumably an earlier stone wall (Plate 266). This section of the building appears to have been quite a late addition; the bricks used are of a late machinemade type. It is conceivable that this rebuilding coincided with the use of the building as a garage for the storage of motorised farm machinery. It is therefore highly likely that the rebuilding was a necessary to widen the central lane to allow for the passage of this type of traffic. Access is via a pair of double doors in the elevation fronting onto the central lane. No roof survives. The interior of the structure was heavily overgrown at the time of the survey, however, it appears that there where no internal divisions and the interior walls were of exposed stone or brick.

6.14 Building 11

The stub walls of a rectangular shed, possibly open fronted, were recorded backing onto building 10. The structure was stone built and possibly subdivided. Machinery storage, or an open shelter shed are likely interpretations.

6.15 Building 12

Built against the western stone boundary wall of the rear yard are the fragmentary remains of a stone built building (**Plates 273 and 274**). Still extant are the rear wall with attached partial of end walls and a central dividing wall. The remains of a concrete floor were observed although none of the roof structure survived. The most likely interpretation of the building is that it was used for animal pens. Directly adjacent to the north wall is a shallow recess let into the boundary wall of the yard, within which there are two circular stone well covers (**Plate 275**).

6.16 Building 13

This structure is similar in nature to building 12. It is built against the external boundary wall to the rear yard, although only faint traces of its size and layout survive (**Plates 276 and 277**). The floor of the building is visible and is of concrete. Very partial remains of the end walls of the structure survive, but no evidence for the front wall or the form of the roof structure. The blank wall forming the rear of the structure (the actual boundary wall of the site) contains nothing to indicate the existence of a roof for the structure. It may be the case that these remains represent an open stock pen.

6.17 Building 14

Built against the external face of the boundary wall to the rectangular garden is a low mono-pitch stone-built building (**Plate 278**). This structure is built against and over the north-west side of the brick wall to the rectangular garden, and is clearly outside the formal areas adjacent to the farmhouse. The doorway into the structure (**Plate 279**) is only 1.4m high and does not appear to present a viable access to the building. However, when the location of the building is considered, being at the entrance to the access track into the rear yard, and its actual form it suggests that this building was used as a dog kennel presumably to guard the site.

6.18 Building 15

Built within the curved western wall of the service yard are the low remains a rectilinear stone building (**Plate 282**). Archive photographs of the site show this building having a pitched slate covered roof and direct access to the central lane via a pair of double doors. The building had a brick floor (see section 8.4) and evidence of possible access in the east wall to the garden beyond. Traces of a later building depicted on the 1892 OS map (**Illustration 2**) and orientated at right angles were also recorded. The function of this building is unclear, although a cart or machinery store is possible.

6.19 Building 16

Traces of a series of structures were identified as wall scars in the north face of the central brick spine wall of the walled garden. These are depicted on the OS maps for the site (**Illustration 2**) and are interpreted as glass houses and associated potting sheds. Footings may still remain below the existing ground level.

7 THE FARM COMPLEX AND ITS LANDSCAPE SETTING

7.1 Introduction

The various stone walls surrounding and subdividing the whole of the Manor Oaks complex form an interesting feature of the site (**Illustration 25**). The planned nature of the construction lines of the walls are clearly intended to demarcate areas and create routes through the complex. The walls can be divided roughly into two areas,

those which appear to be focused on the house and the walled garden and those connected with the central lane and rear yard. The fabric of a vast majority of the walls is sandstone with copings created from crozzle, (lumps vitrified slag, a by product of the cementation process). The open and sharp nature of this material means that it ideally suited as a coping material specifically indented to discourage unauthorized entry.

7.2 The ha-ha wall

The walls to the north and north-west of the house are clearly designed to afford views from the main façade out across the sloping landscape down to the lower Don Valley (**Plate 366**). The major feature of interest is the curving ha-ha which forms the northern boundary of the site. This wall runs from the garden area to the north-west of the house to the corner walled garden to the south-west (**Plate 292**). The wall is of dry-stone construction of closely laid coursed blocks 1.20m high, and acts as a retaining wall for the platform of higher ground on which the house stands. The below ground depth of the natural bedrock in the area is between 0.50m and 0.60m therefore it is evident that the ha-ha wall was constructed and the house side of the wall then being backfilled to create the platform. The base of the wall is furnished with drainage holes to prevent water-logging above the bedrock (**Plate 293**). An early photography of the house taken from the north-east shows the ha-ha surmounted by a hedge remnants of which remain today. However, as originally conceived, no hedge would have been present and the ha-ha would have allowed for unrestricted views across the landscape.

7.3 The walled gardens

Two walled garden areas of the site are present on the site (**Illustration3**), one to the north-west of the house and a larger area to the east, adjacent to Manor Lane. The walls enclosing these areas are both of brick and coursed sandstone construction. Both areas show features that suggest they date from the eighteenth century.

The walled area to the north-west of the house (**Plate 296**) is formed by three walls of differing construction types. Running along the north-west side is a 2m high stonebuilt wall, which is an extension of the line of the curved northern boundary wall. This is constructed of well laid snecked sandstone with a coping of crozzle cemented into position. The northern end of this wall contains a short section of brick walling of at least two phases, which is the exterior wall of building 15 (**Plate 298**). The junction of the two fabrics is marked by a distinct vertical joint. The brick section of this end of the wall appears to represent an earlier gate pier complete with finial. The south–east side is formed by the rear wall of the range of building running along the south-west side of the service yard. The south-western end of the garden area is closed off by a 3m high brick wall topped with a coping of sandstone flags (**Plate 327**), whereas, the employment of brick on the interior walled gardens is a technique often used; the dark brick helping to warm the wall and therefore extend the growing season. A single door in this wall leads to the south-west side of the wall and the yard beyond.

The second much larger walled garden area, that to the east of the house, is similar to the smaller garden in that it encloses an area intended for the protection and cultivation of plants and fruit (**Plates 315, 316 and 317**). The walls of the garden are constructed from two fabrics, a brick face on the interior and stone to the outer, again a common feature of walled gardens of the eighteenth century. The historic maps of the site (**see Illustrations 3**) clearly show the extent of the walled garden at

this time, including structures against the north wall, possibly glass houses, and trees (presumably fruit trees) planted within it.

The walls which remain on the site demonstrate a high degree of rebuilding and alteration. The north wall of the garden is a complex fabric incorporating stone and brick. The predominant building material is, however, hand made brick the sandstone having been used for later alterations. The wall is 3.m high topped with a coping of triangular stone blocks. The southern and western walls of the garden appear to be of the same phase with both being constructed form sandstone blocks 1,60m high, with later mortar re-pointing. The head of the wall has a coping of crozzle of alternate large and smaller blocks. There is an opening in the west wall which gave access to the formal garden to the south-east of the house.

7.4 The central lane

The central lane which approaches the house from the direction of Manor Lane runs between walls on either side (**Plates 303 and 304**). The northern wall is the same wall as the southern boundary wall of the walled garden; the southern wall is of the same phase and is of a similar method of construction. The northern wall also contains the main entrance gateway into the formal garden in front of the house. The gateway is recessed back from the main line of the wall with curving returns, to either side of the opening are square stone gate piers with pyramidal capping hung with decorative wrought iron gates (**Plate 305**).

7.5 The rear yard wall

The wall surrounds the area to the west and south-west of the house and service yard (**Plates 319 and 320**) appear to be more agricultural in nature and clearly demarks the area of the working farm from the surrounding fields. This wall appears to be of at least two phases of construction. There is an alteration in the height of the wall directly to the north of the demolished building 12; from just over 1m to 2.20m. It would appear that the taller northern section of wall and the lower courses of the southern section, which are constructed form well laid sandstone blocks, are of one phase. The southern wall has however, been truncated in the past and then subsequently rebuilt in random coursed dry-stone blocks (**Plate 322**). The whole wall encloses and area to the rear of the service yard and was originally accessed by gates located to the north and south. It is likely that this enclosure was used for stock management.

7.6 The wider landscape

It has already been suggested in this report that the physical location of the farmstead appears to have been carefully chosen. The house has commanding views over the Don Valley, and an excellent aspect over the western part of the former deer-park. The date and therefore original use of the site is unclear at present, however if for example, as has been suggested by Clark and Jack (2002), that there was a warren located at Manor Oaks then landscape features may offer an important insight into its historic development.

The sighting of trees, fences, or built structures are potentially landscape features related to the farmstead. It is possible that planned vistas were laid out to provide specific views from rooms within the house and as such, the inter-relationship of the house and its surroundings needs to considered important.

The original layout and subsequent adaptation of areas of parkland and associated buildings is broadly understood in terms of changing historic trends in landscape design, however the impact of enclosure and advances in agriculture within a parkland landscape is less understood. This is especially relevant in relation to Manor Oaks, where the immediate landscape was heavily industrialised being exploited for coal extraction and also coke production.

7.7 The soft landscaping

The principal focus of this programme of archaeological recoding has been directed towards the standing structures on the site, however there are a few elements of 'soft landscaping' features' that are worth considering.

Firstly, the absence of features is important. An example of this is that the yards were devoid of trees, which emphases their 'functional' nature and is a noticeable contrast to the area described as the formal garden to the front of the house. Here, where views were afforded out into the landscape the creation of secluded private spaces containing bedding plants, shrubberies and lawns utilising vegetation and trees was important.

Unfortunately, within the confines of the site there are a few trees of significant age. The best surviving example is perhaps a fruit tree to the west of the carriage drive and also a dispersed series of trees that are located on top of the ha-ha over looking the Don Valley.

7.8 Discussion

The ongoing programme of archaeological recording at Manor Oaks has demonstrated that a relatively unprepossessing rural farmstead can have a complex development and one that is integral to the surrounding landscape. The concentric boundary and its partial concealment by a plantation to the south-west are all indicators that the site was part of a wider estate and overall management strategy presumably overseen by the appointed steward, or land agent of the Duke of Norfolk.

The precise date of the site is unknown, however the clear zoning of activity and use of space is indicative of eighteenth-century estate planning. Manor Oaks is more than a simple tenanted farmstead, it is apart of a wider landed estate, that has gradually diminished in status and only a remnant of which survives as rough pasture and grazing land.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

8.1 Introduction

The redevelopment works undertaken at Manor Oaks not only involved the demolition and refurbishment of the buildings on the site but also the alteration of the ground levels and the clearance of extraneous vegetation and debris across the site. The works (**Illustration 26**) necessitated the excavation of several service trenches running across the site. All of these groundworks provided the opportunity to investigate certain areas of the farm complex which were known or suspected to contain subsurface archaeological features. In each of the areas examined the clearance or machining was undertaken by the on-site contractor operating under archaeological supervision.

8.2 Summary of areas investigated during watching brief

Area 1, The area contains a certain amount of above ground archaeological remains indicating the presence of a former building or group of connected buildings. The ground clearance of the area took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and revealed several stone-built walls relating to the former brick-built barn

and later cottages on the site.

Area 2, This area corresponds to the site of building 15 which survives as low standing remains relating to an irregular shaped building located adjacent to the eastern entrance to the service yard.

Area 3, The area of the service yard and the former gardens to the north-east and south-west of the house was machine cleared. This entailed the removal of 20cm of topsoil from the area and the excavation of several service trenches.

Area 4, The demolition of the rear brick-built portion of the house which was demolished as part of the scheme of restoration and redevelopment works. This allowed for the investigation of the rear walls of the original stone built-building and also the excavation of trench across the area.

Area 5, A single service trench was excavated along the length of the central lane running from manor lane through the farm complex.

8.3 Area Descriptions

Area 1

The location of area 1 corresponds to the position of building 7 (**Illustration 3**) the standing remains of which pointed to the former existence of a group of cottages facing onto the service yard.

The watching brief established that archaeological deposits and features were present almost directly below the modern ground surface. These were found to be foundation walls and a floor surface associated with the former brick-built barn and later cottages on the site; they all appear to relate to the same phase of construction.

Context 101 was a foundation wall orientated NE –SW across the southern half of the excavated area. It was 0.5m wide and comprises two courses of sandstone rubble set with a lime mortar and bedded on a crushed limestone and mortar base, approximately 0.15m thick. It abutted the rear foundation wall of the building [105] and was the remains of a robbed out foundation to the front of the former structure. It appeared that this feature related to an internal division within the more substantial outer wall of the structure as a whole.

Context 102 was interpreted as another foundation wall, similar to [105] and orientated in the same direction. This feature was again 0.5m wide and was of a similar method of construction.

Context 103 was a sandstone floor surface, 4.2m wide extending between [102] and [104] in the northern half of the excavated area. It comprised rows of regular sandstone sets, with occasional patches of charcoal bedding. It neatly abutted to the foundation walls [102] and [104] indicating that it was contemporary with them and part of the same phase of construction. The top of the surface was located 0.35m below the modern ground level.

Context 104 was a slightly larger foundation wall, 0.6m wide running along the northwestern side of the excavated area. It was constructed of regular sandstone block set in a lime mortar. The blocks were dressed on north-west side suggesting that this was an external face of a stone built building. It was a more substantially built structure than either contexts [101] and [102], and was cut into the underlying shattered bedrock. At the south-western end the wall turned trough 90° towards but not actually joining the rear foundation wall, context 105.

Context 105 was a foundation wall of similar proportions to [104]. It consisted of three

courses of regular coursed sandstone blocks bedded on a thin layer of lime mortar directly on top of the underlying natural bedrock [100].

Context 106 was a cobbled surface located at the south-western end of building 6. It was constructed of large sandstone sets and abuts the north-east edge of the floor surface [103]. however, it is situated at a higher level and appears to have formed a path or walkway along the side of the outbuilding.

The watching brief conducted on area 1 identified that in this area of the site, there are archaeological deposits and features directly below the modern surface. These deposits all appear to relate to the former brick-built barn later converted to cottages which stood on the site, the south-eastern wall of which remains. The foundations all appear to relate to the same phase of construction. The construction of stone-built foundation walls above which the building was raised in brick is a method encountered elsewhere at manor oaks, particularly in the rear section of the house. Interestingly no trace of chimney bases were detected during the excavations, although an early photograph of the range shows them to be present. This may be due to the fact that because the building was originally constructed as a barn and only later converted to dwellings the added internal arrangements may have been of a more ephemeral nature and relied on the solidity of the existing walls rather than being sunk to the level of the foundations themselves.

Area 2

The archaeological watching brief carried out in area 2 (**Illustration 3**) constituted the removal of debris and accumulated material from the interior of the derelict building 15. A brick floor was exposed that overlay the natural sub soil.

Area 3

Area 3 corresponds to the area within which Manor Oaks house stands (**Illustration 3**), including the service yard and the garden to the north-east. The majority of this area was mechanically stripped to depth of 0.2m, necessitating the removal of certain walls within the yard. The stripping operations revealed that the area surrounding the house had been subjected to a certain degree of disturbance in the recent past. The general stratigraphy within the area comprised shattered sandstone bedrock [100] located at a depth of between 0.6m and 0.2m below modern ground surface. Above this was a layer of loose yellow/brown silt with occasional sandstone rubble inclusions [107]. It is evident that a certain amount of ground leveling had been carried out in the past plus the accumulation of rubble and debris that would be expected within a farm yard. This showed more to the east and north-east side of the yard and was present as a layer [108] which contained a greater amount of rubble inclusion in addition brick fragments and ceramic in a dark matrix. Areas of a dark topsoil [109] survived towards the eastern edge of the yard. However the majority of the topsoil was removed during the clearance operations.

The watching briefs conducted within area 3 included monitoring and recording carried out during the excavation of eight service trenches, the demolition of the rear brick-build section of the house and the recording of a stone covered well discovered to the south-east of the house.

The well

The stripping operations carried out in area 3 revealed a stone capped well (117) situated adjacent to the south-east wall of the house (**plates 342, 343 and 344**). The top of the well was formed by a single square slab of sandstone (0.9m by 0.9m by 0.15m thick) through which a circular hole 0.60m in diameter has been cut with a

circular rebate. The cover of the well was formed from what appears to be a re-used grindstone, with a square hole cut in the centre and a circular recess in it upper face. It is likely that the circular recess related to the pump which would have stood on the well, the suction pipe would have passed through the hole in the stone. The interior of the well was also circular with the first .60m being rendered brick. Below this was a ring of angled brick headers effectively narrowing the throat of the well as it descends into the natural sandstone bedrock. The well chamber is of a greater diameter, taking on the usual bottle shape regularly encountered in domestic wells. It is likely that this well relied on rainwater runoff from the roof of the house and the surrounding buildings for its supply and it is likely that the drain observed in trench 5 which was orientated in the direction of the well was either a route of water collection or more probable an overflow to allow water to be carried away from the well if its level became too high.

Area 4

A watching brief was conducted during the demolition of the rear brick-built section of Manor Oaks House to address questions formulated during the building recording. They concerned the original extent of the earlier stone-built house and whether the brick section was in fact a new build or indeed constructed on earlier foundations.

The demolition of the rear section of the house provided some information as the original form of the house. The internal rear wall of the stone-built section of the house was exposed following the demolition. No traces of earlier door openings or windows were detected within this wall, however, there was traces of a early plastered finish to the walls visible at first floor level. This suggests that prior to the extension of the house in brick that the house may well have been larger. The only below ground indication of this was a substantial section of stone foundation uncovered towards the north-western end of the building and located along the line of the end of the first phase of the house. Other stone foundations were also exposed during the course of the subsequent trenching although it has been noted that the existence of stone foundations does not automatically suggest that the walls above were of stone. In this case it is possible that the foundations were part of the later brick-built phase. However, the mortar used in the construction of the foundation and the brick wall above differed, with a white mortar being employed to bond the stone and a grey mortar used for the brickwork. The cartographic evidence, dating back to 1850, shows the ground plan of the house as it appears today.

Area 5

A single trench (trench 8) was excavated along the length of the central lane running from Manor Lane to the entrance of the service yard. The trench was 1.5m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.8m. The strata-graphic sequence observed was natural shattered bedrock at a depth of 0.5m above which was a 0.10m layer of compacted grayish/brown silty clay subsoil [107]. Directly above the subsoil where three deposits which appeared to be elements of early leveling and surfacing. A 0.05m deposit of compact red clay silt [118] a similar depth deposit of mid-brown silty clay with sandstone inclusions [119] and forming the earlier road surface a 0.03m layer of gritty black ashy silt with crushed sandstone inclusions [120]. The uppermost deposit was a recent 0.20m build up of a brown silt with rubble inclusions [121].

8.4 Service Trenches

A total of eight service trenches were excavated within Area 3 all of which were focused on Manor Oaks House.

8.5 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

This trench ran along the rear of the house and excavated after the demolition of the rear portion of the building had taken place. The trench was 1m wide and excavated down to the natural bedrock [100] at a depth of 0.6m. Above the bedrock was the natural yellow/brown subsoil [107]. Above this was a layer of brick bubble created by the demolition of the rear section of the house. In the south-west facing section of the trench was the sandstone foundation of the brick-built rear portion of the house. This comprised of random sandstone blocks set in a lime mortar. The only other feature revealed by the excavation was a salt glazed drain crossing the line of the trench at the south-eastern end.

Trench 2

This is a diagonal extension of trench 1 which crossed the interior of the rear section of the house. Other than revealing the width, 0.6m, of the foundation course of the former building nothing of note was revealed in this short section of trench.

Trench 3

This trench ran diagonally across the garden area to the front of the house. This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m at the western end to 1m at the east. The trench was excavated to the shattered bedrock [100] above which was a yellow/brown subsoil [107] and a 0.2m layer of dark topsoil [109]. Nothing of note was revealed in this trench.

Trench 4

Trench 4 also crossed the garden area of the house. The depth and stratigraphic composition was similar to that encountered in trench 3. However, there were traces of a shallow circular pit [110] located at the eastern end of the trench. This was filled with a black ashy material [111] including a small quantity of 19th century pottery.

Trench 5

Trench 5 ran along the along the south-eastern side of the house linking the eastern ends of trenches 1, 3 and 4. The same stratigraphic sequence was observed within this trench as appears across the rest of the area, however, the topsoil layer [109] was found to be slightly deeper, up to 0.3m. The only feature of note in this trench was a stone filled land drain [112] crossing the central section and clearly orientated towards the well discovered adjacent to the house.

Trench 6

This trench ran from the junction of trenches 4 and 8 to the north-east corner of the house. This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m and the upper surface of the shattered bedrock [100] above which was a yellow/brown subsoil [107] and a 0.2m layer of dark topsoil [109]. Nothing of note was revealed in this trench.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was excavated along the south-eastern side of the house, 2m from the south-east wall. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.5m cutting into the shattered bedrock [100]. Above this was a the natural subsoil [107] on top of which was a 0.2m deposit of crushed brick and cinder in a dark brown gritty matrix [113]. This deposit has been interpreted as a hard standing or driveway. The south-western end of the trench cut through a flagged surface. At the extreme south-western end of the trench a brick-built manhole was observed with associated salt glazed drainage

pipe.

Trench 8

Trench 8 ran across the rear service yard in a north-east –south-west orientation. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m and the stratagraphic sequence was similar to the other trenches excavated in the area. At 1.70m from the extreme south-west end of the trench a stone feature was revealed [114]. This appeared to represent the corner of a stone built foundation made up of large roughly squared blocks set in a lime mortar. A second feature observed within trench 8 was located 8.8m from the south-western end. This was a well built land drain [115] 0.6m wide with a central drainage channel. The structure was of dry-stone construction and extended to four courses in height with a slab capping. The interior of the drain was filled with a dark brow gritty silt [116].

9 POTTERY REPORT

By C.G. Cumberpatch

9.1 Introduction

The pottery consisted of twenty-seven sherds weighing 505 grams and represented a maximum of twenty-three vessels. The pottery was recovered from three trenches on the site, numbers 1, 4 and 5. The details of the assemblage are summarised in Table 1 and the abbreviations used are explained in Table 2.

9.2 Pottery description

Trench 1

Trench 1 produced only three sherds of pottery, all of them of 19th or 20th century date. The sherds of *Cane Coloured ware* are difficult to date as this type of pottery was in use throughout the 19th century and into the 20th century. The only sherd which can be more closely dates is one of the two sherds of *Whiteware* which carried a relief moulded makers name 'TAMS'. Two pottery firms used the name Tams, both based in Longton, Staffordshire. Tams and Lowe operated between 1865 and 1874 but appeared to have used only printed marks (Godden 1991:610). The firm of John Tams operated from the Crown Pottery in Longton from 1875 until 2000 when it went onto receivership with substantial debts. It was subsequently reconstituted as the Tams Group Ltd. During its history the firm used a variety of printed and impressed marks, although Godden does not mention relief moulded marks (1991:609). Between 1903 and 1912 the firm used the name John Tams and Son and was known as John Tams Ltd from 1912 onwards. It seems likely, on the basis of the character of the sherd and the information available pertaining to the marks, that the sherd dates from after 1912.

Trench 4

The largest group of pottery was recovered from Trench 4. This consisted of a mixture of mid to later 18^{th} century and 19^{th} century material with *Creamwares* (c.1740 - c.1820) and *Brown Salt Glazed Stonewares* (18^{th} to 19^{th} century) the commonest types. The latest sherd was part of a transfer printed Whiteware carver or server (Willow), with two sherds of *Cane Coloured ware* which might be contemporary with it. Other sherds were either not closely datable (*Brown Glazed Coarseware* and *Brown Salt Glazed stoneware*) or dated to a period between that of the Creamwares and the Whitewares (*Transfer Printed Pearlware*). The assemblage also included a white ceramic ball, probably used in the knurr and spell game which

was popular in Yorkshire and neighbouring areas during the later $18^{\rm th}$ and $19^{\rm th}$ centuries.

Trench 5

The pottery assemblage from Trench 5 was comparable with that from Trench 1 in terms of the date range as it included sherds of 20^{th} century date alongside slightly earlier material. None of the sherds pre-dated the mid 19^{th} century.

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Abbreviation		
BGCW	Brown Glazed Coarseware	
BS	Body sherd	
BSGSW	Brown Salt Glazed stoneware	
ext	ext External	
int	int Internal	
TP	P Transfer printed	
U/Dec	Undecorated	
URE Unglazed Red Earthenware		

Table 2. Abbreviations used in Table 1.

Trench	Туре	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
1	Cane Coloured ware	2	1	1	Rim	Flatware	U/Dec	C19th	
1	Whiteware	1	26	1	Profile	Plate	Relief moulded frieze around edge of plate	LC19th - C20th	
1	Whiteware	1	10	1	Footring base	Flatware	U/Dec	1912 +	Relief moulded maker's mark on underside; 'TAMS' and 'MA'
4	BGCW	1	243	1	Base	Pancheon	Brown glazed internally	C18th - C19th	Wear marks on underside of base
4	BGCW	1	34	1	Rim	Pancheon	Brown glaze int, red slip ext	C18th - C19th	
4	BSGSW	2	23	1	Rim	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC18th - C19th	Funnel-shaped neck
4	BSGSW	3	49	1	Rim & body	Bowl	Incised lines ext framing lines of triangular rouletted impressions	LC18th - C19th	
4	Cane Coloured ware	1	5	1	Rim	Dish	U/Dec	C19th	
4	Cane Coloured ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	
4	Creamware	1	28	1	Rim	Bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
4	Creamware	1	9	1	Rim	Plate	Wavy edged plate	c.1740 - c.1820	Secondarily burnt
4	Creamware	1	1	1	Rim	Bowl	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
4	Creamware	1	3	1	BS	Flatware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
4	Creamware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1740 - c.1820	
4	Knurr ball	1	9	1	Ball	Ball	U/Dec	C19th	Diameter 20.7mm
4	TP Pearlware	1	6	1	Ring foot base	Dish	Blue design internally, unidentified	c.1780 - c.1840	Angular ring foot base
4	TP Whiteware	1	18	1	Base	Flatware	Willow	M - LC19th	Probably a server or carver
4	URE	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	C19th	Unglazed earthenware
5	Blue Banded ware	1	3	1	Handle stump	Hollow ware	Blue-grey internally, pale blue design ext	M - LC19th	
5	TP Bone China	1	6	1	BS	Flatware	Overglaze floral design	C20th	Printed mark on reverse with a sailing ship logo and part of words; 'L TRAD'
5	TP Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Flatware	Unidentified TP design ext	M - LC19th	
5	URE	1	18	1	Rim	Flowerpot	Stamped 'YSIT' below rim	C19th - EC20th	
5	Whiteware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	M - LC19th	
	Total	27	505	23					

Table 1. Pottery from Manor Oaks

9.3 **Pottery Discussion**

The pottery from Manor Oaks falls into two very clear groups. The earliest is represented by the pottery from Trench 4 which, with the single exception of a sherd of transfer printed Whiteware, can be argued to be of later 18th or early 19th century date. The later phase consists of the sherds from Trenches 1 and 5 which are of later 19th and 20th century date. Two clear chronological horizons are thus present in the assemblage and presumably relate to phases of activity on the site.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Significance of the Buildings

The earliest structure on the site appears to be the stone-built section of the farmhouse. The constructional arrangement of the earliest part of this building and the subsequent discovery of evidence relating to the original fenestration and form of doorway openings of the building suggest that in its initial phase it was a large domestic or agricultural building, with a possible outshot to the south. The date for this phase of construction is likely to be the seventeenth century; the time by which the original deer park attached to Sheffield manor was being broken up into individual farms (see section 3: Historical Background).

The later extension to the main core of the house probably coincided with the expansion of the farm in the late-eighteenth century. The ranges of buildings surrounding the southern yard suggest that by this time the complex had evolved into a relatively self contained unit with service buildings, such as dairy and brew house, in addition to those employed for storage and the housing of stock. The substantial nature of the complex is indicated by the efforts that were made in relation to the public face of the house itself. The layout and detailing of the entrance driveway and surrounding garden and orchard, are suggestive of a dwelling of some social pretensions. The screen wall (complete with blind windows) which abutted to the north-west elevation of the enlarged house, seems to have been added to give the structure a more commanding appearance when viewed from the main route in and out of Sheffield itself.

The later further expansion of the house in the mid-nineteenth reflects the conversion of the building into a substantial dwelling inhabited by a prominent Sheffield industrialist. It was at this time that the rear brick-built rear section of the house was added with the provision of service stair and a total refashioning of the interior and the north-east façade. It is possibly that at this stage that the house itself became disassociated from the agricultural buildings to the rear of the property; the farm remaining in the ownership of the earlier tenants. The construction, or more precisely conversion of an earlier barn into, the cottages appears to have been a contemporary development on the site. The later history of the complex is less well documented; however, it is apparent that the main house was eventually sub-divided into two separate dwellings.

10.2 Subsurface Archaeology

The results historical of the analysis suggested that the site has been occupied since at least the seventeenth century. However, the subsurface archaeology provided little evidence of this continuous span of occupation. This was due in part to the limited extent of the excavations and also the nature of the physical makeup of the natural geology. The excavations did reveal evidence for the nature of some of the foundations of earlier structures on the site, particularly in the area of the service yard.

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13 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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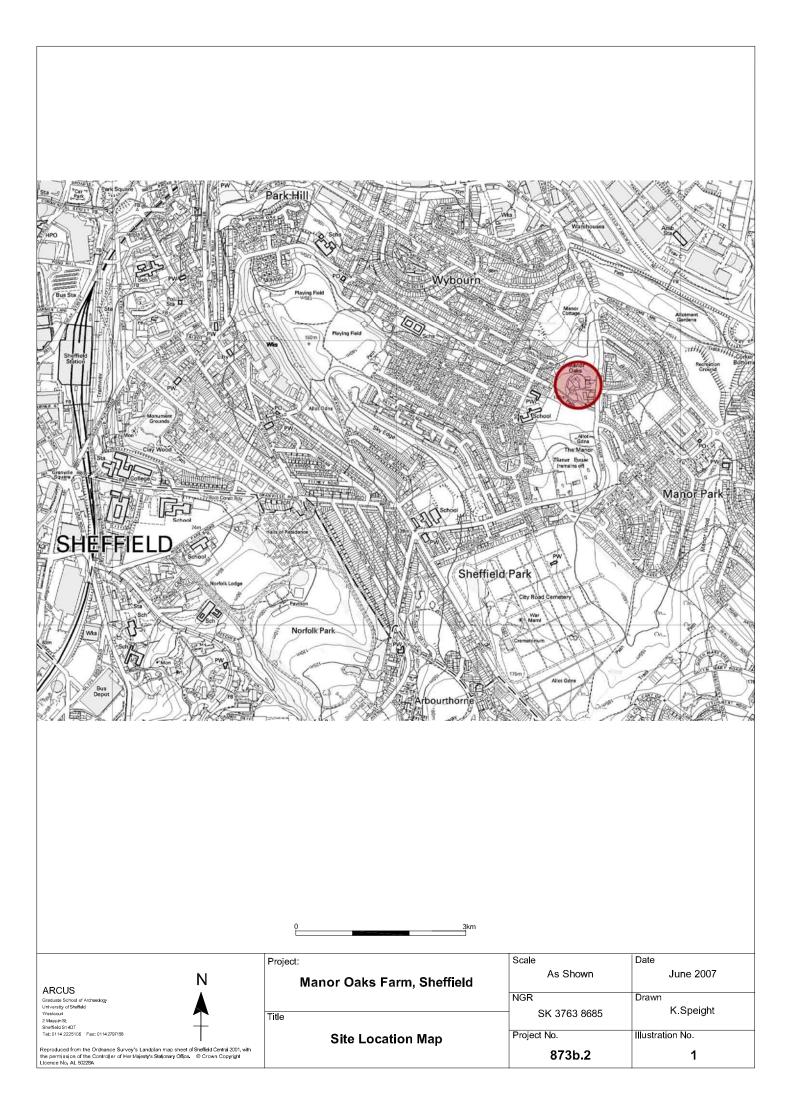
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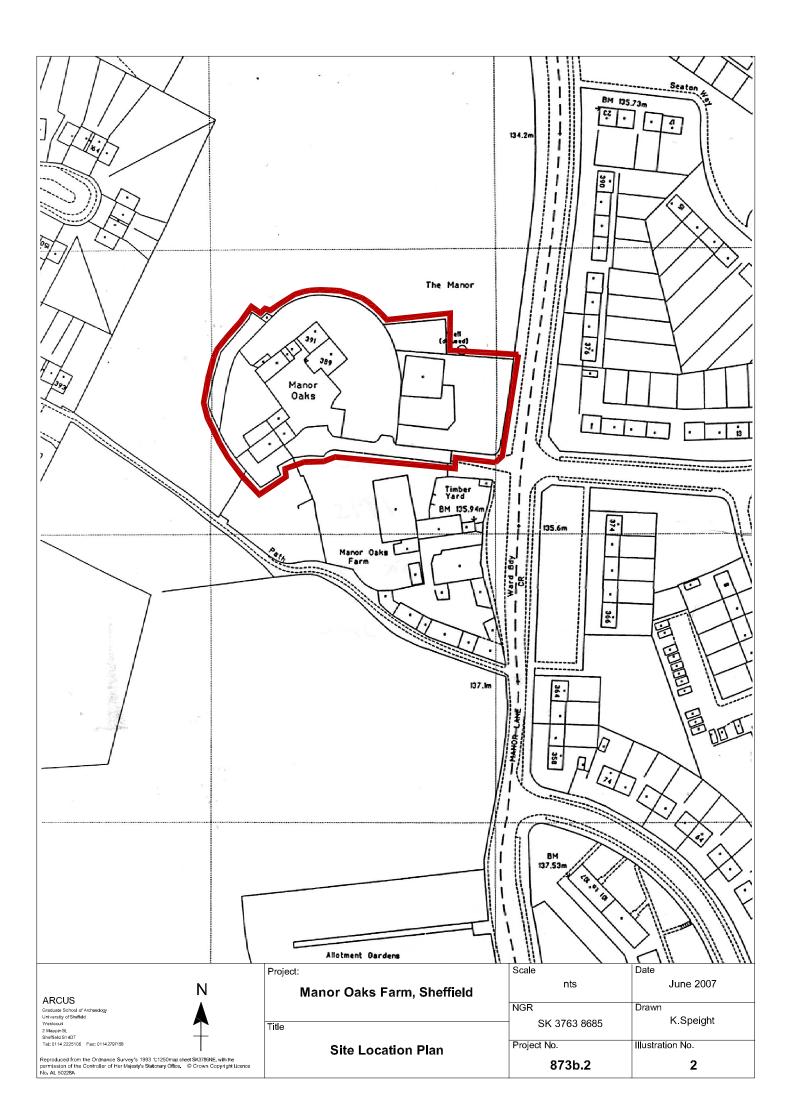
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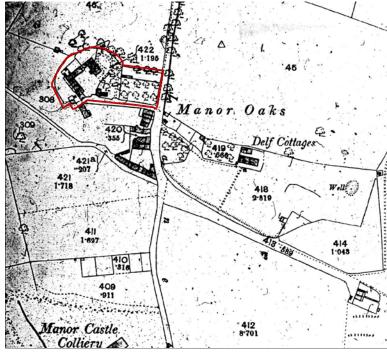
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- 1924 Ordnance Survey map sheets 294 NE, 295 NW, 294 SW and 295 SW
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15 ILLUSTRATIONS





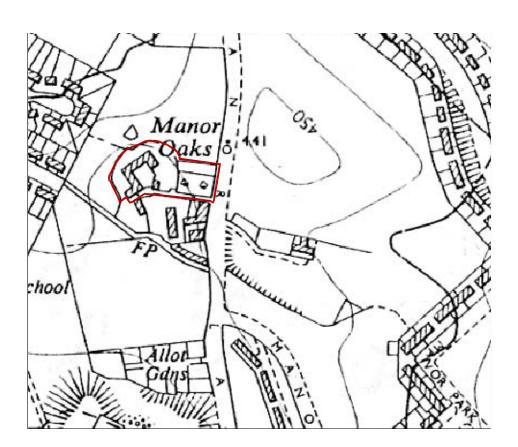
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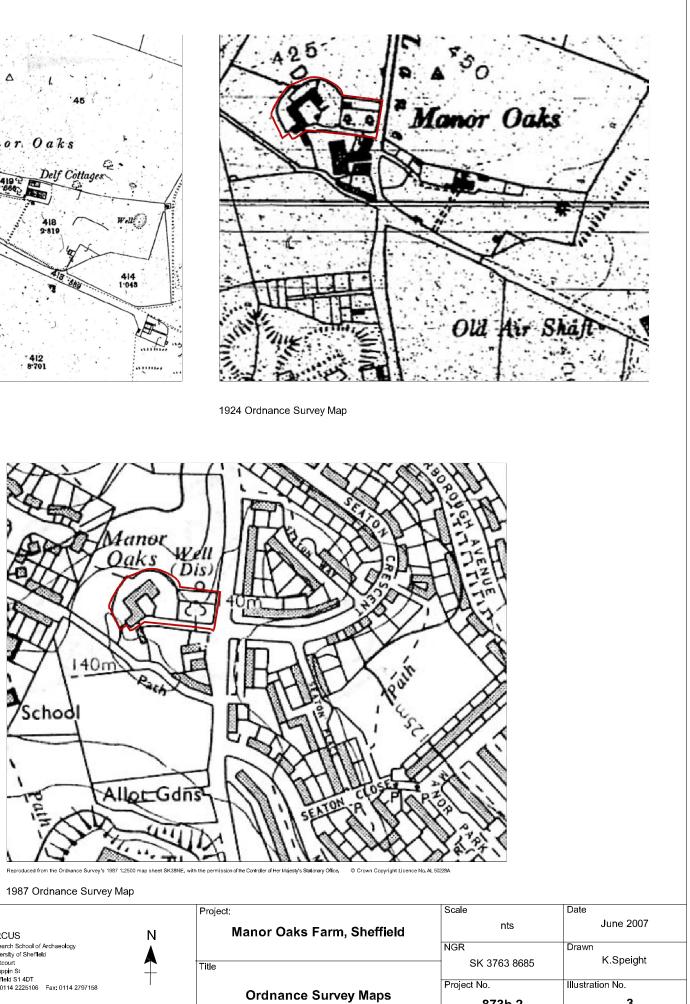


1850 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

1892 Ordnance Survey Map

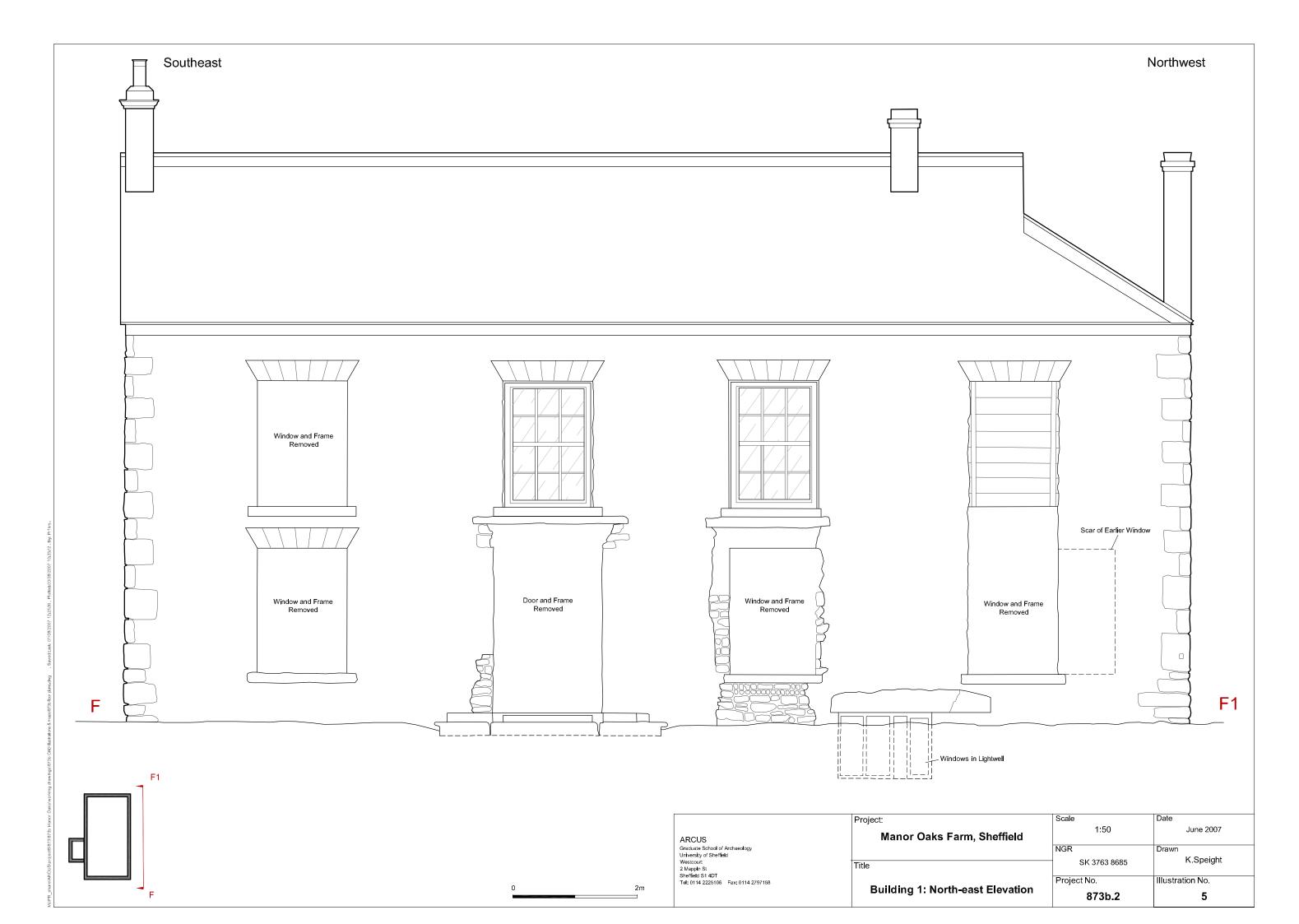


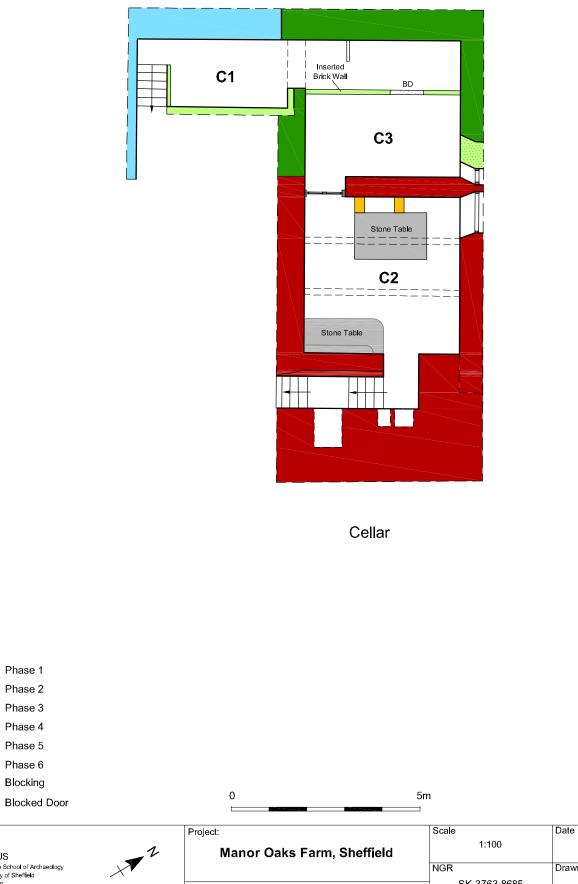
1956 Ordnance Survey Map



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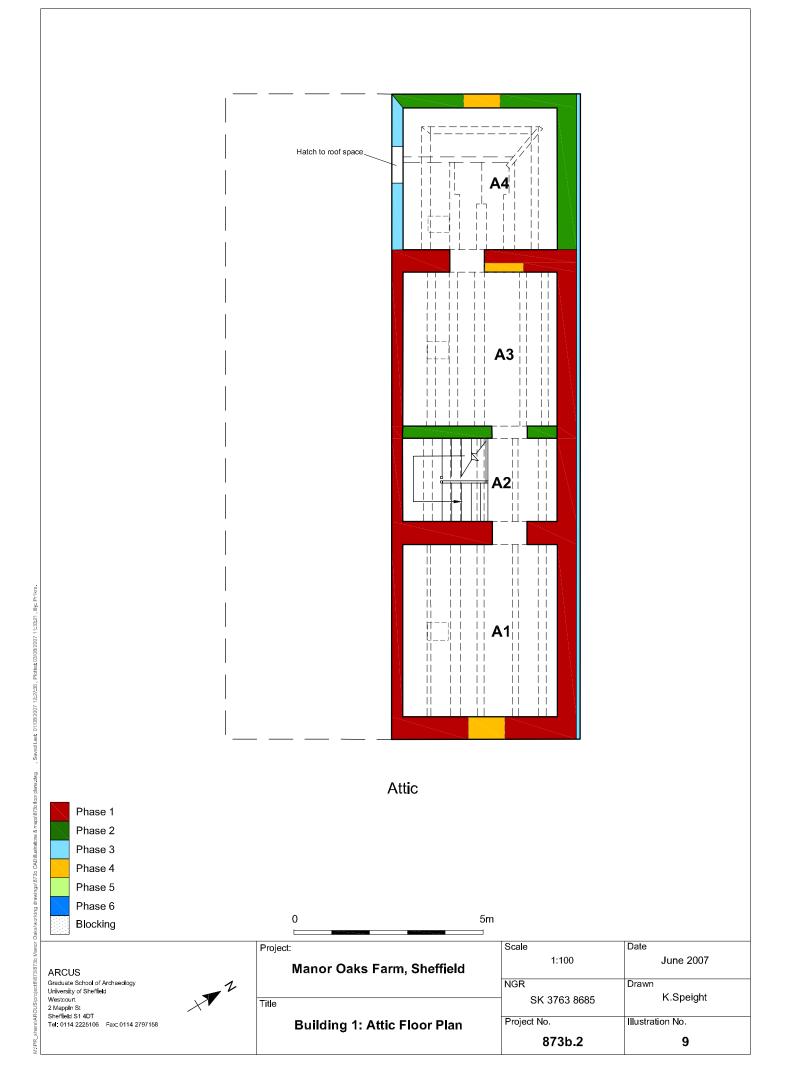
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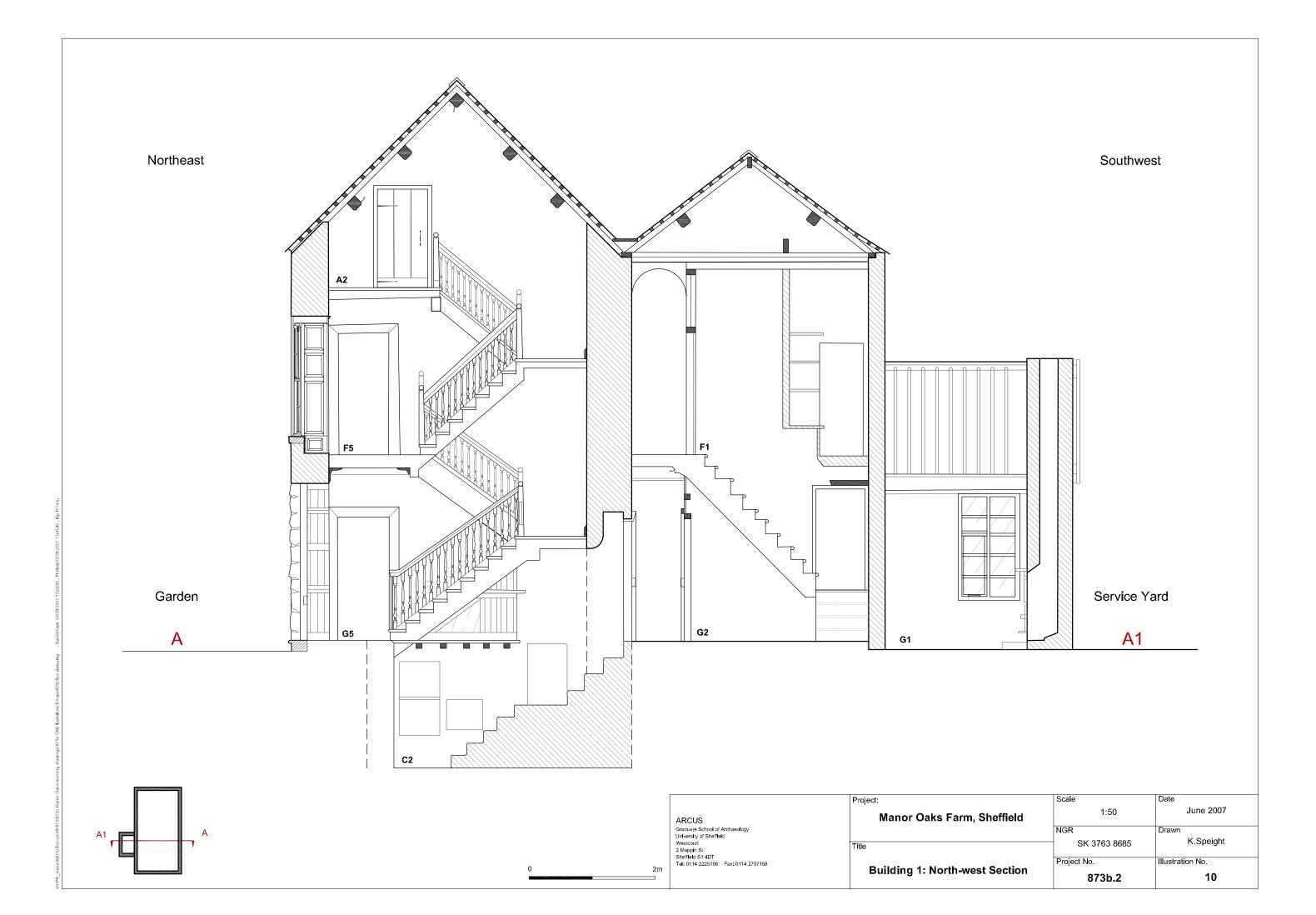
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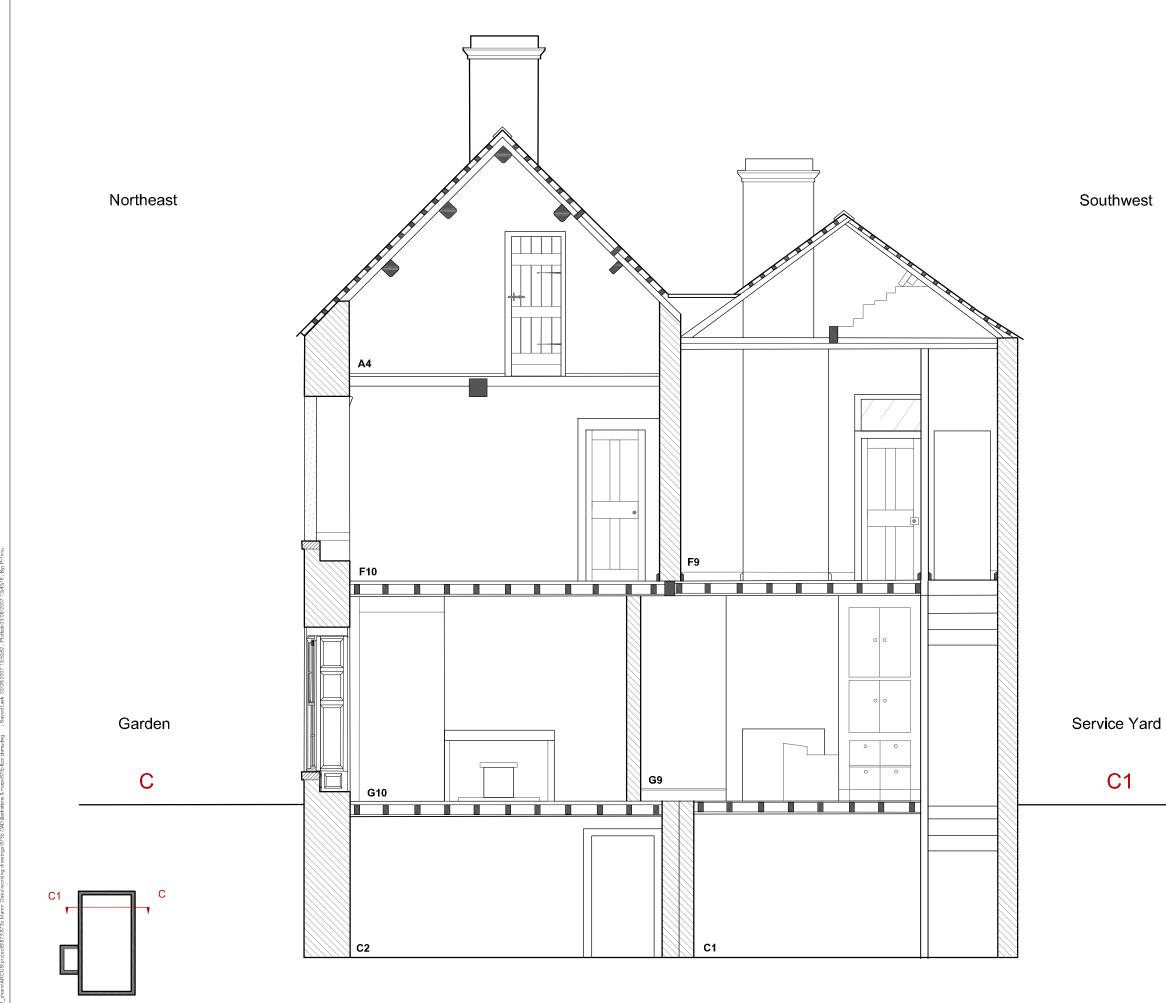
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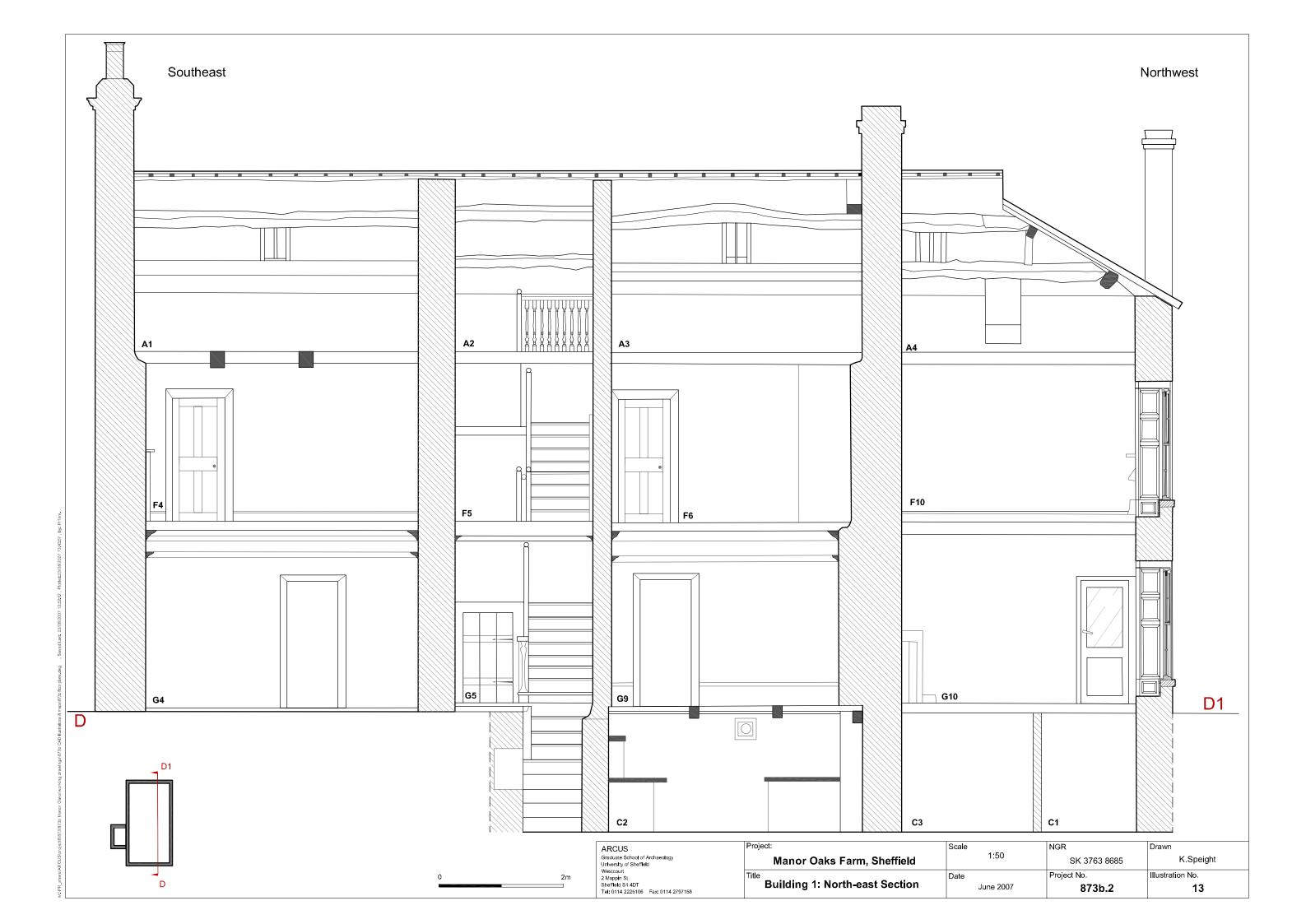
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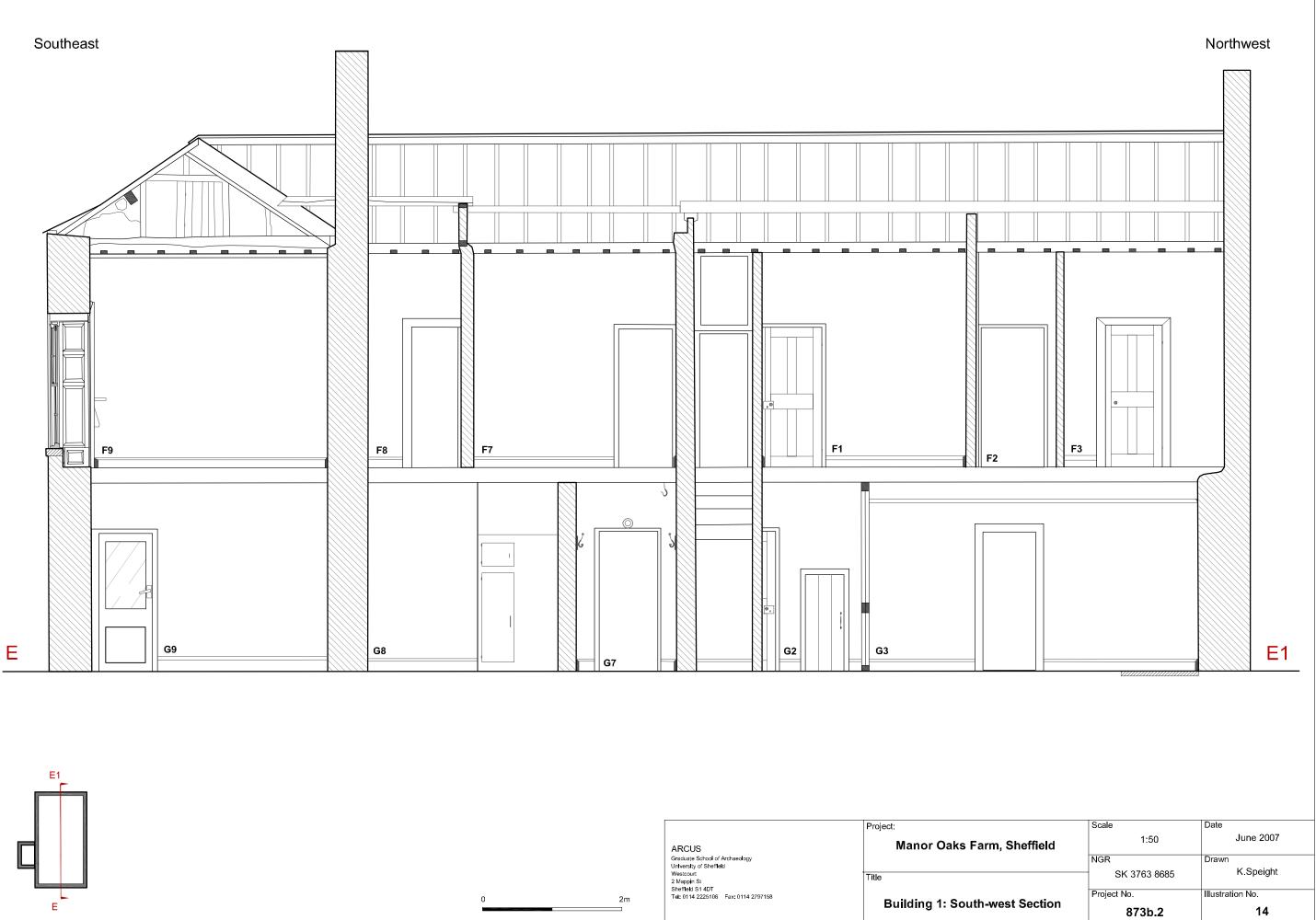


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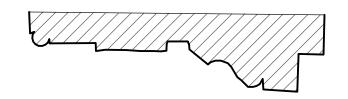


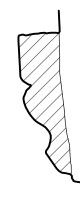
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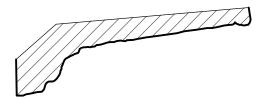
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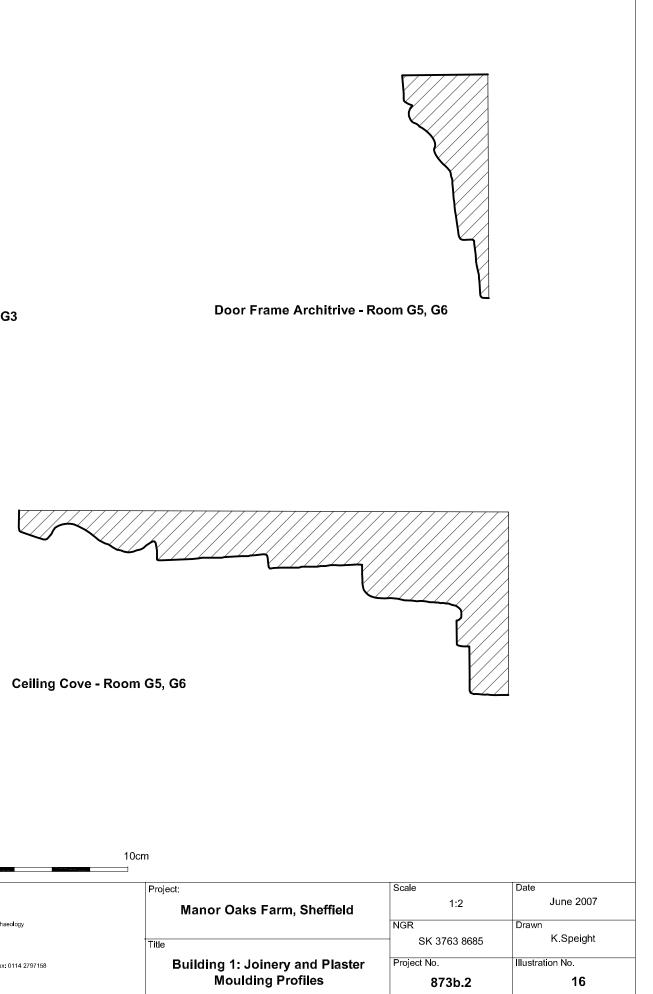


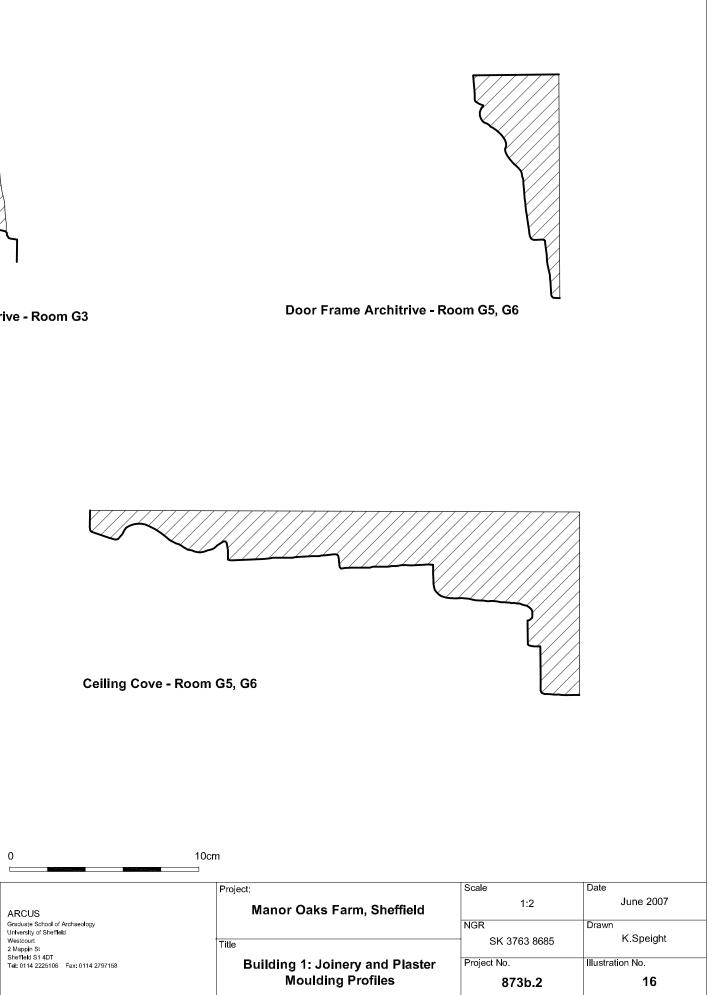
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Door Frame Architrive - Room G3



Door Frame Architrive - Rooms F4, F6, F7

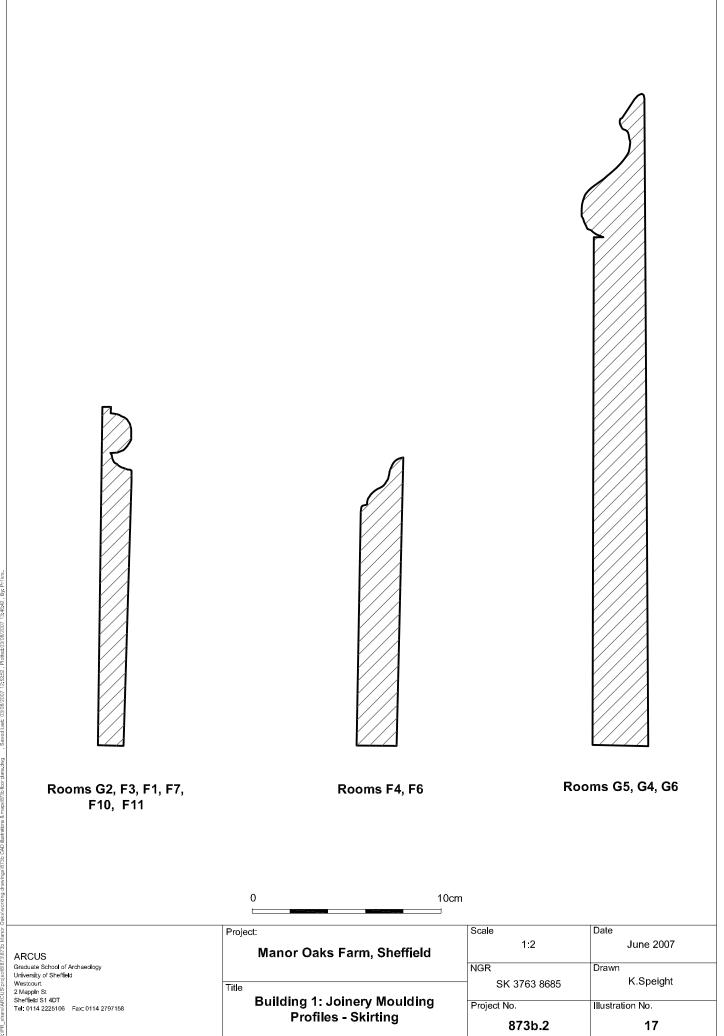


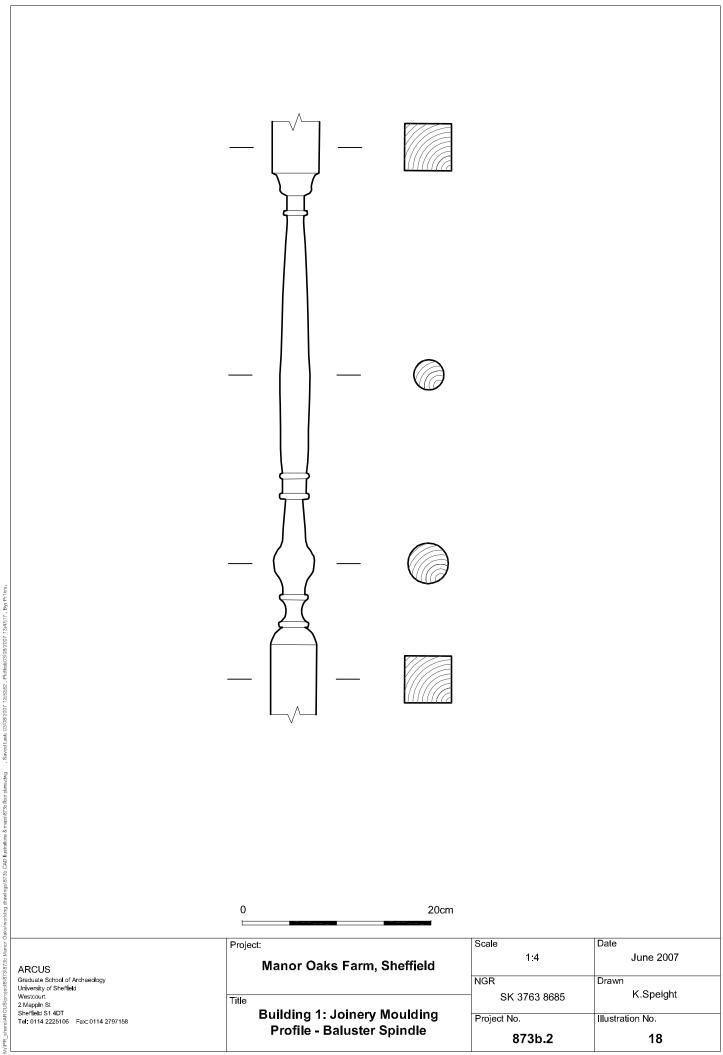




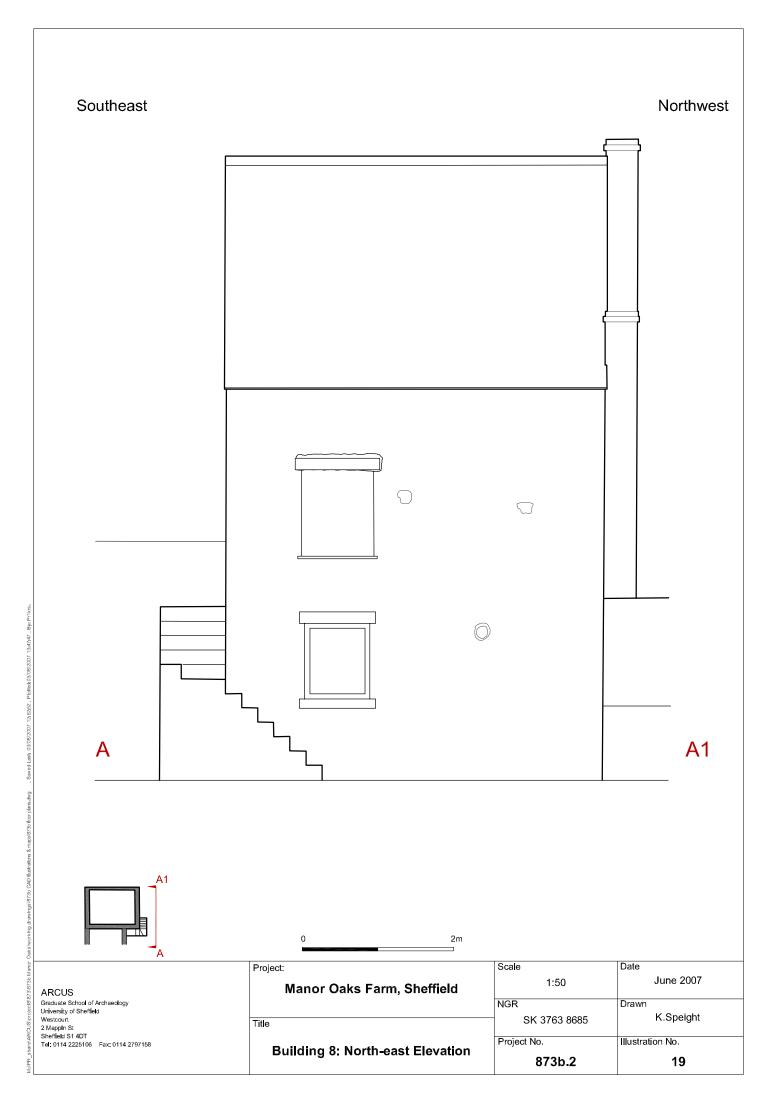
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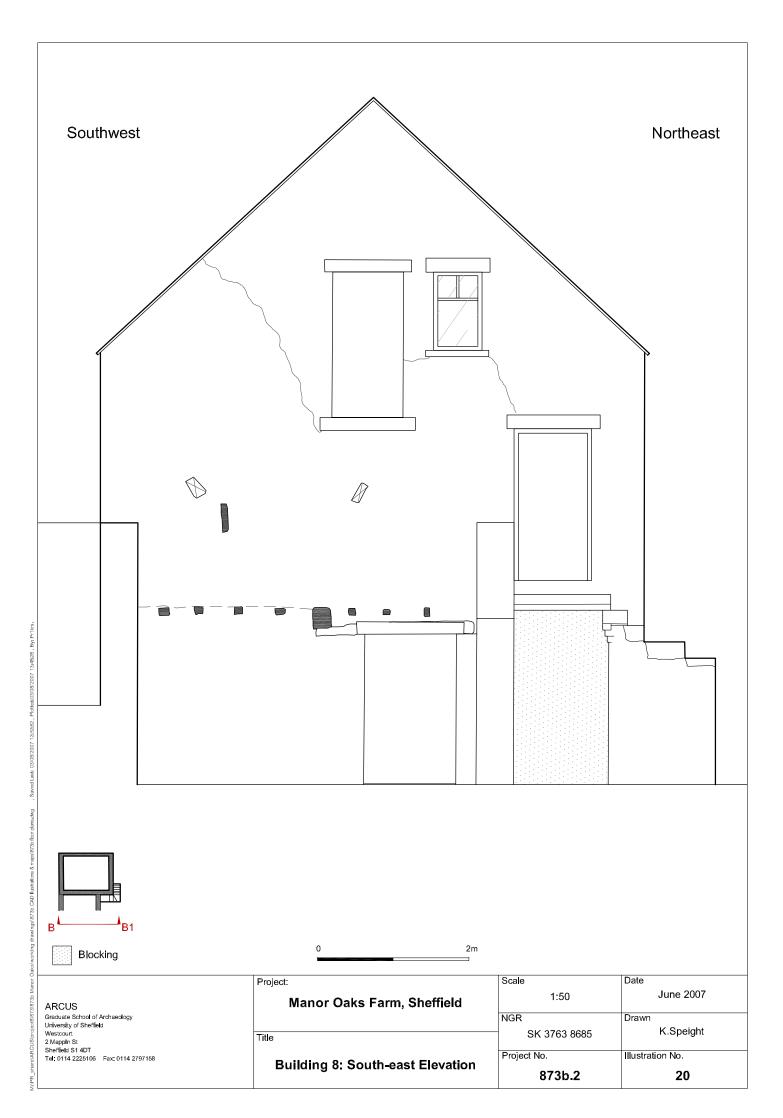
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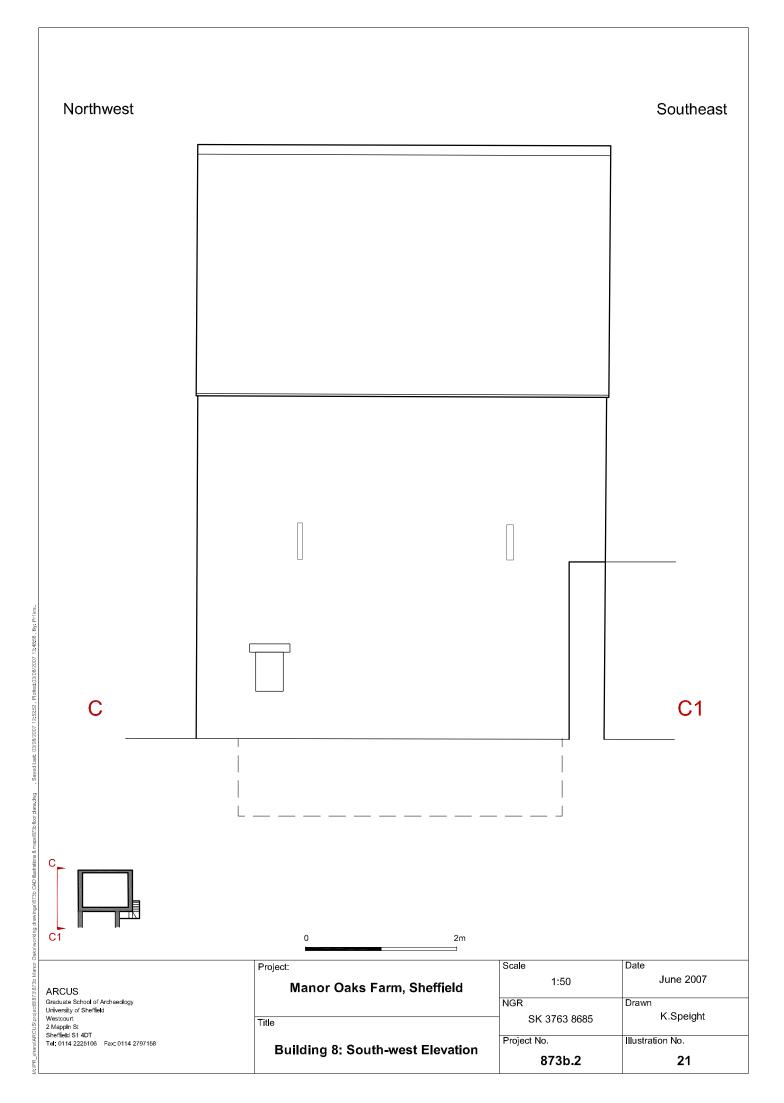


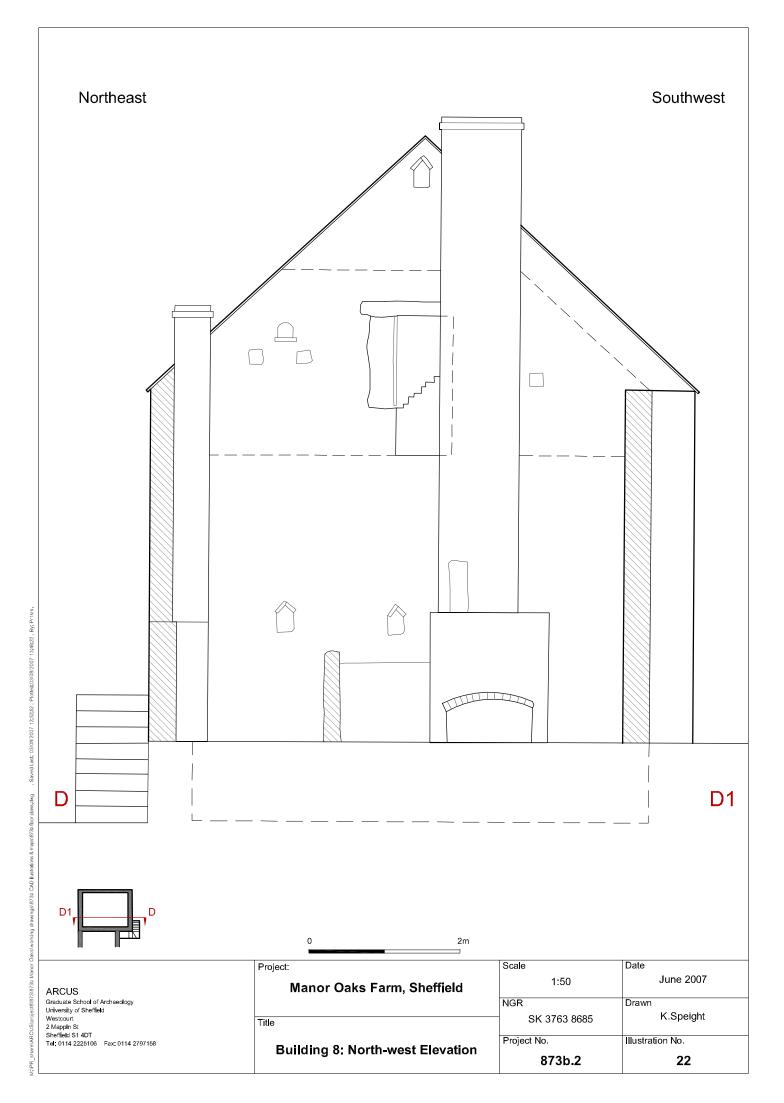


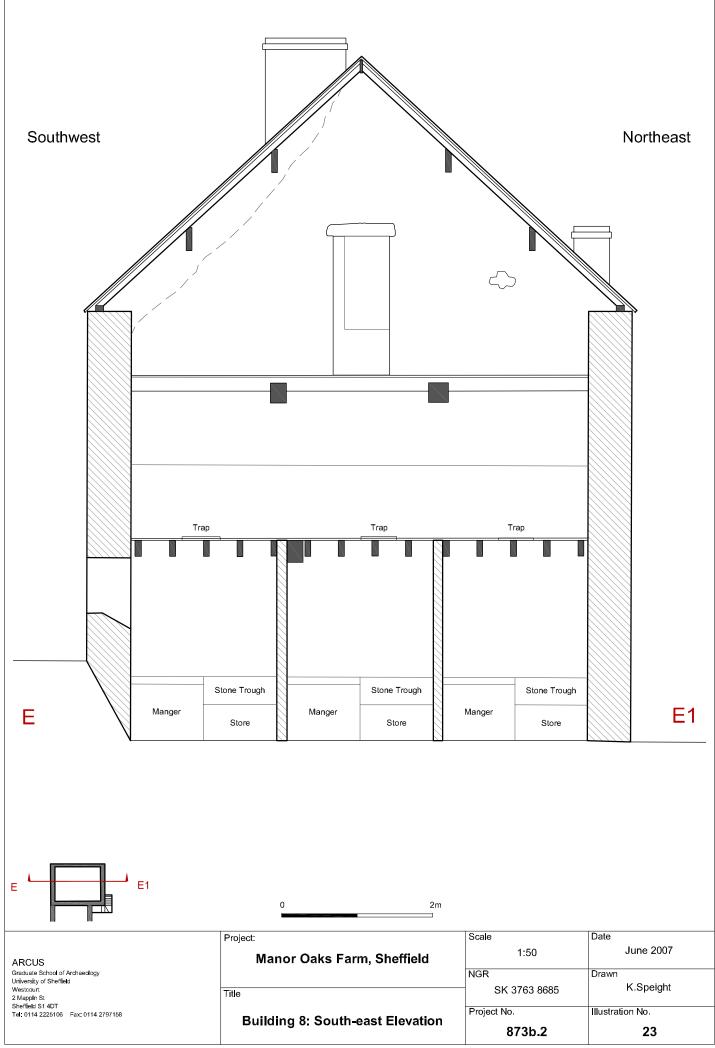
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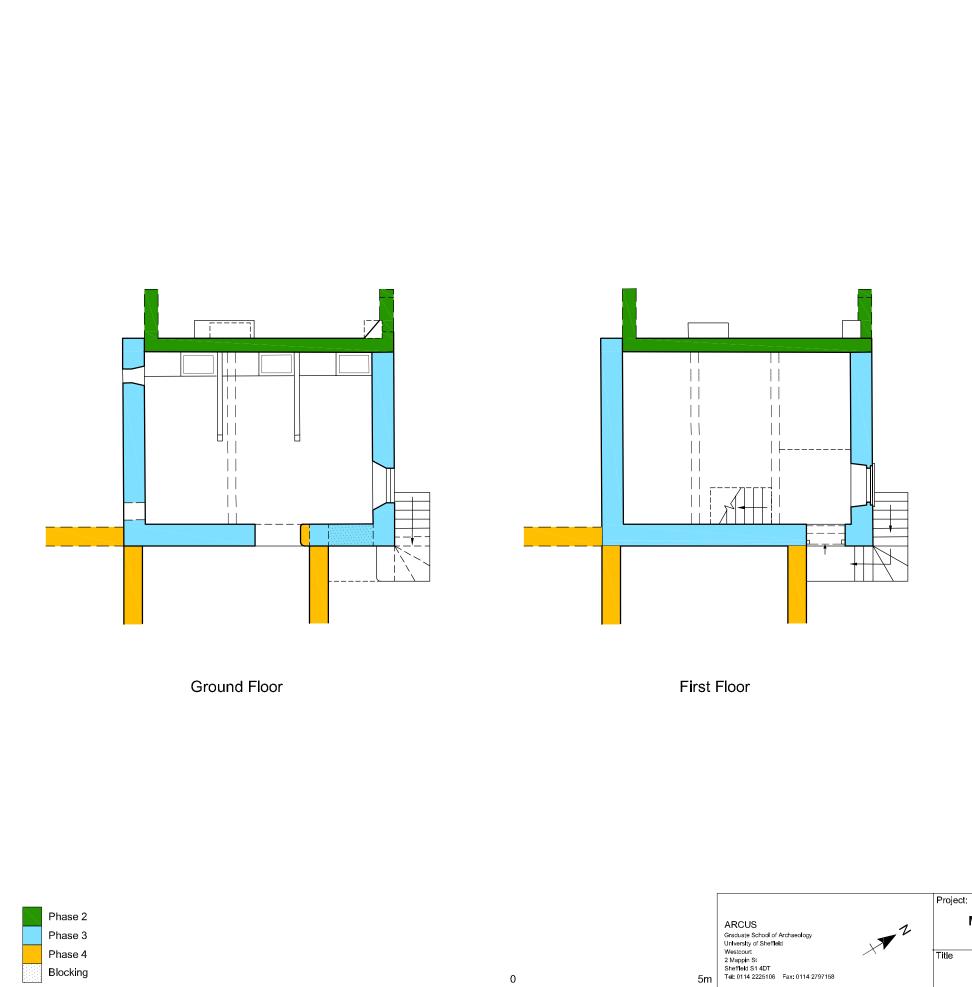












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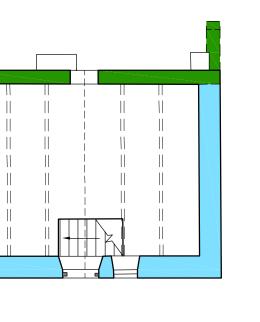
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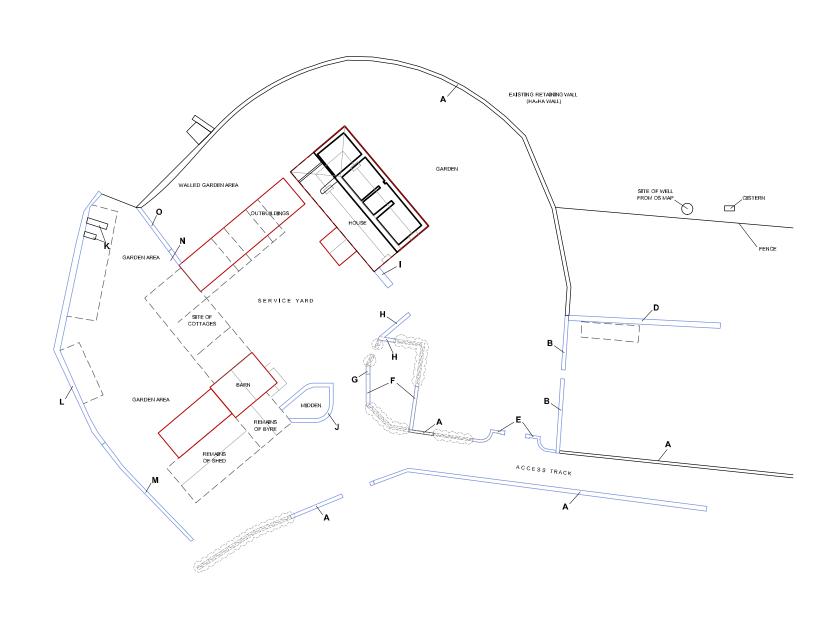
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Building 8: Floor Pla





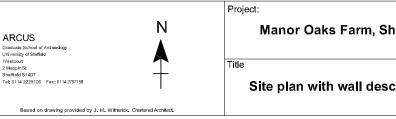
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	Project No.	Illustration No.
	SK 3763 8685	K.Speight
	NGR	Drawn
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Description of Site Walling

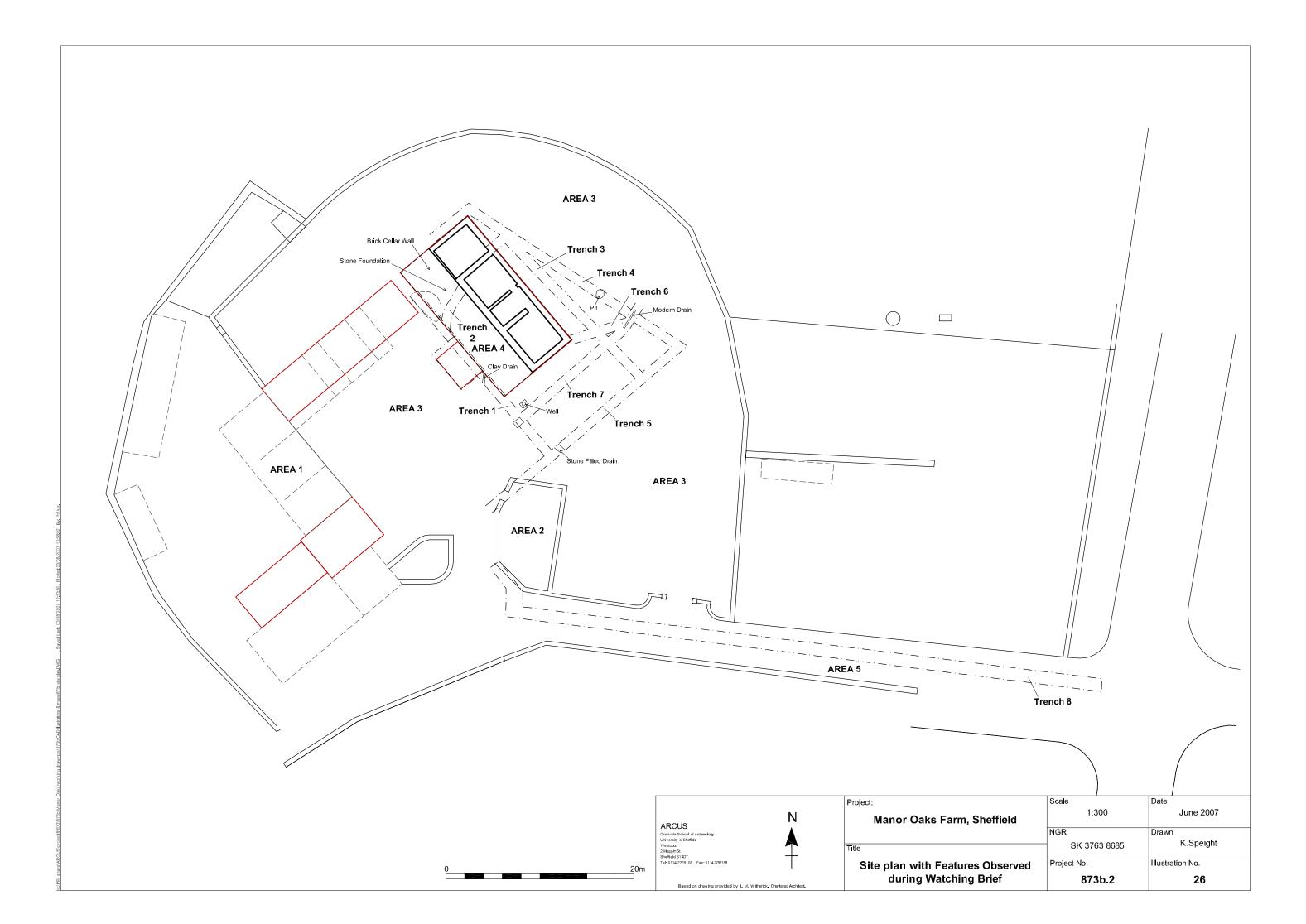
- A Dry stone construction random sandstone and coursed slab; capping course of vertical blocks often rebuilt with a roughly-faced to exterior.
- B Sandstone block/slab wall re-pointed/re-built in modern mortar; random coursed, well faced with peck marks in larger blocks with a capping course of vertical blocks of crozzle, Height 1.59m.
- C Dry stone construction regular coursed sandstone slab regularly coursed; 22 courses high. Slab dimensions 15-20 cm x 4 cm, associated with sandstone gateposts E.
- D Complex multiphase brick and sandstone wall c. 3m high; much rebuilt
- Е Dressed sandstone gateposts on block plinth base and pyramidal capping; 1.93m tall x 54cm x 54cm.
- F Substantial sandstone block wall, loose blackish mortar, abuts wall A. 120m high, 1.0m wide; 9 courses, well faced with sandstone rubble core.
- G Keyed into F but thinner blocks.
- H Dry stone construction sandstone block and flat slab course; 9 courses o.86m high; block dimensions 29cm long 9cm thick.
- Regular sandstone block wall random coursed in hard mid grey cement mortar; roughly faced. Blocks 54cm thick; capping course of large re-used blocks 18cm thick c. 8 courses, o.83m high – abuts standing building. Dry stone construction sandstone slab/block wall with secondary pointing in hard grey cement mortar; 10 J
- courses block thickness 3-10cm. Capping course of larger reused blocks.
- K Brick buttresses; up to 22 courses; 2 skins machine made plain brick, alternate header and stretcher courses, hard pale grey cement mortar. Keyed into I, probably same build.
- M Dry stone construction random coursed sandstone slab c.14 courses. Possibly same as A, but with different (later) crozzle capping.
- N Brick wall 35 courses plain handmade 3" bricks, random headers and stretchers some fragmentary bricks, lime mortar 2.5m high and sandstone slab capping.
- O Random coursed sandstone block/slab originally lime mortar bonded, with modern patching/re-pointing; 2.5m high.

Obscured by vegetation



L Sandstone slab wall in same mortar as K; random coursed. Roughly faced with crozzle capping; 2.2m high.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Inventory

Context	Context	
number	type	Description
100	DEP	Natural shattered bedrock
107	DEP	Silty yellow/brown natural subsoil
108	DEp	Sandstone rubble in a dark matrix
109	DEP	Dark topsoil
110	CUT	Pit
111	DEP	Fill of 110
112	STR	Land drain feature
113	DEP	Crushed brick and cider driveway
114	STR	Stone feature
115	STR	Land drain
116	DEP	Fill of 115
117	STR	Well
118	DEP	Compact red clay silt
119	DEP	Mid-brown silty clay with sandstone inclusions
		Gritty black ashy silt with crushed sandstone
120	DEP	inclusions
121	DEP	Brown silt with rubble inclusions