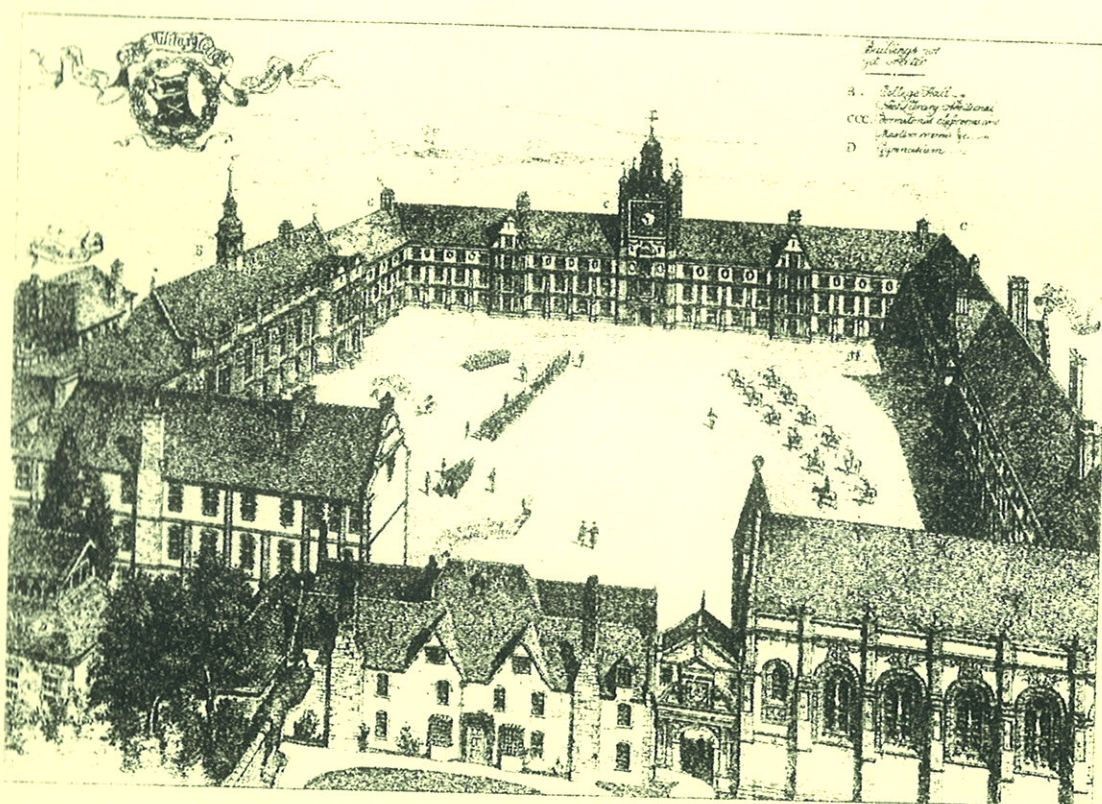


Excavations and building survey on the site of Temple Cowley Manor House, Temple Cowley, Oxford

by Jeff Muir and Kate Newell

*with contributions by Paul Blinkhorn, Jon Chandler, Cecily
Cropper, Ian Scott and Nicky Scott*



Oxford Archaeological Unit
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SUMMARY

In November 1997 the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) were asked to undertake a field evaluation on the site of the former Nuffield Press and Oxford Military College, Hollow Way, Temple Cowley. The evaluation was carried out ahead of ground works for separate residential developments by Wimpey Homes Ltd and Thomas & Co. and was to be integrated with a separate field survey of the extant manor house wall.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The surveys, excavations and publication of this report were funded by Wimpey Homes Ltd and by Thomas & Co. The field survey of the manor house wall was undertaken by Rob Kinchin-Smith, Kate Newell and Paul Mann. All archaeological illustrations were produced by Mike Middleton. The illustrations of the extant manor house wall, the map regression and site location were produced by Kate Newell. The report was edited by Theresa Durden. Jeff Muir would like to thank his excavation team for their excellent work under difficult circumstances. Thanks also to Neil Bailey of Wimpey Homes and Steve Cook of Thomas & Co. for their courtesy and co-operation on-site.

LOCATION OF THE ARCHIVE

The archive has been microfilmed and is currently held by the Oxford Archaeological Unit. More detailed reports exist for certain of the finds categories. These are available for consultation along with the rest of the archive.

INTRODUCTION

by Jeff Muir

Location and geology (Fig. 1)

The site was located on a natural rise (OD 77.5 m) immediately to the north of Oxford Road between Temple Road and Hollow Way, Temple Cowley, Oxford (NGR SP 548 046). The natural was composed of orange sand.

Project background

Planning permission was granted with respect to separate residential developments to Wimpey Homes and Thomas & Co. on the site of the former Nuffield Press and Oxford Military College, Holloway, Temple Cowley (Planning Application 97/1414/NFH). Parts of both developments were to impinge on the site of the 17th century Manor House of Temple Cowley, which was largely demolished in 1957 (Plate 1). Substantial sub-surface remains, including cellars, were known to exist on the site and were likely to be impacted by the development. In addition, the back wall of the Manor House, which had been retained and incorporated into the Nuffield Press buildings, was to be demolished.

As part of the requirements of planning permission a full survey of the extant Manor House wall was to be undertaken prior to demolition and the results integrated with a field evaluation of the sub-surface remains.

Archaeological and historical background

The Victoria County History records that evidence for the early occupation of Cowley has been recovered in the form of isolated flint artefacts dated to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age. Pottery was manufactured in the area in the Roman period (VCH 1957, 76), a fact illustrated by the close proximity of the Roman kiln site at Between Towns Road, Temple Cowley (Fig. 1; Green 1983).

The history of the Manor of Temple Cowley is complex and has often been erroneously confused with the manorial holdings at Church Cowley. The Oxfordshire VCH gives a history of the Temple Cowley Manor from which this brief summary is drawn (VCH 1957, 80-81). The manor has its origins in the 13th century when the Templars amalgamated two separate holdings, the largest of which consisted of a mill on the Cherwell just below Magdalen Bridge. The other consisted of lands around Temple Cowley, which were a gift from Queen Maud, Countess of Boulogne.

According to the VCH the Templar preceptory at Cowley probably stood near Temple Street (VCH 1957, 77). Its exact location is unknown, however, and it is possible that the preceptory was built on or within the present development area. The site has the advantage of being situated in a prominent position on a natural ridge of high ground. Wherever its precise location the preceptory probably reverted to secular use after 1240 when the Templars established a new preceptory at Sandford-on-Thames.

In 1308 the Templars were suppressed and the land probably reverted to royal ownership. Shortly after this it went to the Hospitallers who rented it out to a number of people, including a lease to Cardinal College (later Christ Church) in 1528. In 1541 the Hospitallers were dissolved and the land went back into royal ownership until 1564, when it was leased by Elizabeth I to Sir Francis Knollys. At the Commonwealth a bill for the sale of the manor was drawn up, although it is unclear who bought the property.

From the beginning of the 18th century the manor was the property of the Phipps family. It is thought to have remained in their ownership until the Revd. James Phipps bequeathed the 'Manor or Lordship of Temple Cowley and Littlemore' to Pembroke College and to the Master of the College 'the farms, lands, tenements and hereditaments' (Pembroke archives, 3/11/1). The manor came into College possession in 1778 although the will does not specifically mention the manor house.

During the 19th century the building was much altered by a succession of owners. In 1841 it was occupied by the Diocesan School of Cowley College. A chapel designed by E. G. Brunton was added to the east of the manor in 1870. By 1876 the buildings were for sale as part of the Hurst's Grammar School. A delay in the reoccupation of the site must have caused damage as by the 1880s, when the Oxford Military College Ltd bought the site, the buildings were described as being in a wretched state of repair. In 1877 the East Wing of the college was built as part of an ambitious architectural design by Thomas Graham Jackson. The South Wing was added after 1881 but the majority of Jackson's grand quadrangle was never built. Financial problems and poor management had dogged the college since its foundation and by 1896 it finally went bankrupt.

The site was sold in 1899 to Alfred Breese Ltd, a London based company of engineers who manufactured bicycles on the site. During this time the manor house was refurbished and became a private residence again. In 1912 the site was purchased by William Morris who set up production of his now famous motor cars. As the company expanded Morris set up an in-house press in order to produce 'The Morris Owner' a magazine devoted to owners of Morris vehicles. When Morris became Viscount Nuffield in 1942 the much-expanded printing operation was renamed the Nuffield Press.

Structure of the report

The report is sub-divided into three separate but related sections. The first part provides a full map regression analysis of the excavation area, drawing on a variety of cartographic sources from 1605 to 1995. Part two describes the results of the excavation, starting with a basic description of the archaeological features on a trench by trench basis. The features are then discussed under broad phases and conclusions offered. The third part of the report brings together building survey of the extant parts of the manor house with documentary research into the building's history and origins.

MAP REGRESSION

by Jon Chandler

Summary

Building A is first shown in 1853 (Fig. 2b), and is possibly shown on a map of 1797 (Fig. 2a). According to the VCH it was demolished in 1957 although the building is still shown on the OS map of 1962 (Fig. 5b).

Building B is first shown in 1853 (Fig. 2b). It is shown on the OS map of 1995 (Fig. 5d), although it has been considerably altered since 1921, with the additions of annexing buildings.

Building C is first shown in 1900 (Fig. 4a). It is depicted in Jackson's drawing of the Military College (buildings not yet built), dated 1883 (Fig. 3). The southern half of the building was demolished between 1962 and 1970.

Building D is first shown in 1853 (Fig. 2b), and is possibly shown on a map of 1797 (Fig. 2a). It is not shown on the map of 1921 (Fig. 4b) and was demolished some time after 1900.

Results

The earliest available map that shows the site of the manor is dated 1605. This map is representational and large-scale and shows no buildings. The site of the excavation is situated in the north-east corner of an open (unenclosed) area bounded by Oxford Road (then named 'Berrye Lane'), Hollow Way ('Hollow Waye') and Temple Road ('Butchers Lane').

Davis' *New Map of the County of Oxfordshire* (1797) is large-scale and therefore only representational, but shows buildings (Fig. 2a). Four buildings are shown fronting Oxford Road on its north side, between Hollow Way and Temple Road. The eastern-most two buildings appear to lie within the Development Area (Building A/B and Building D?).

The *Enclosure Map of the Parish of Cowley* (1853) is the first detailed map of the area (Fig. 2b). Within the Development Area the map shows:

A large L-shaped building. This is probably the manor house - Building A and Building B (hereafter referred to as such).

A large rectangular building, aligned north-south, in the western half of the Development Area. One end of the building fronts the Oxford Road. This is probably Building D (hereafter referred to as such).

An L-shaped building, extending eastwards from the north-eastern end of Building D. The L-shaped building (hereafter referred to as Building X) appears to be connected by a small building (a connecting passageway?) to Building A.

A boundary, aligned north-south. The boundary runs from the south-west corner of building A southwards to Oxford Road. Jackson's drawing of Oxford Military College (1883) shows this as a stone wall.

The *Tithe Award of the Parish of Cowley* (1856) shows the same detail as the Enclosure Map (Fig. 2c). Buildings A, B and D are listed in the Tithe Apportionment as one property, 'House, School, Playground and Orchards' (No. 105). The owner is given as John Bennet. The Tenant is Robert Harman.

The *Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st Edition 25" Map* (1886) shows the same general layout as the Enclosure Map and the Tithe Map (Fig. 2d). The buildings are shown in more detail. Building D comprises two sections (the wall between the two sections = the east-west robbed-out wall?). A small annexe has been built in a 'corner' formed by Building D and Building X. A tree is marked beside the northern end of the boundary wall. Jackson's drawing of Oxford Military College (1883) also shows a tree here.

Jackson's drawing of Oxford Military College of 'Buildings not yet erected' (1883) shows a different building layout (Fig. 3):

Building B is not shown. Plans to demolish the building were not executed.

Building A is shown, connected to a chapel by an arched entranceway to the east.

A north-south rectangular building is shown against the western end of Building A. This is probably Building C (hereafter referred to as such). Construction of the building may have involved the removal of the connecting passageway between Building A and Building X.

Building C is depicted in front (south) of a new large east-west building of three floors (Building Y). The eastern end of this building is situated in the north-west corner of the Development Area. It may possibly be associated with the new Military College.

The *Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map* (1900) shows Building C, Building Y and the new chapel (Fig. 4a). Building X has been demolished. This map also shows Building D divided into three sections, but is otherwise unchanged. An annexe has been added to the north side of Building A. It is possible that this is Building E, the position of which is shown on Figure 6.

The *Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Revised 25" Map* (1921) is the same as the OS 25" Map of 1900 except that Building D has been demolished (Fig. 4b). A narrow rectangular building, aligned east-west, has been built against the west wall of Building B.

The *Ordnance Survey 25" Map* (1937) is similar to the OS 25" Map of 1921 except for the following (Fig. 5a):

An extension aligned north-south has been added to the southern side of building Y.

It appears that the western wall of Building C has expanded.

The new east-west annexe of Building B appears to have grown.

Oxford Road has been widened to its present position and lies slightly further north of its previous course. It is likely that any foundations of the southern end of Building D that may have survived demolition were impacted during road widening.

The *Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Scale Map* (1962) is the same as the OS 25" Map of 1937, other than extensions to the annexe on the north side of Building A and on the west side of Building B (Fig. 5b).

The *Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map* (1970) shows considerable change (Fig. 5c). Building A has been demolished, although the annexe to the north has amalgamated with the annexe to the west of Building B to form one building. The southern half of Building C has also been removed. Trees have been planted in the area where Buildings A and D once stood.

The *Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map* (1993) shows no change.

The *Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map* (1995) shows no change except that the trees are not shown; the letters 'Nc (Scat)' are marked in their place. (Fig. 5d)

THE EXCAVATION

Methodology

The investigation initially comprised 8 trenches of varying length and width (Table 1) which were situated following discussions with the Oxford Archaeological Advisory Service (OAAS) in order to provide the maximum amount of information possible about the nature, extent, date and depth of sub-surface archaeological deposits.

Trenches were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision using a mini excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were cleaned and sampled as appropriate by hand before being fully recorded.

Recording included photographic evidence using both colour slide and black and white print film, a written record of every feature and deposit on pre-printed context sheets and a drawn record consisting of appropriately scaled plans and vertical sections drafted onto plastic drawing film.

Each trench was given a separate identifying number and the deposits within each trench an individual number sequence. At a later date it was decided to augment the information gathered from the initial trenches by excavating a further three trenches (Table 1) which had the effect of joining the originally separate excavation trenches together.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION

by Jeff Muir

Trenches 1 – 3

Trenches 1 – 3 were located in the northern half of the site (Fig. 6). The trenches were of variable size (Table 1) but identical composition, consisting of a modern make up layer (1/1, 2/1 and 3/1) overlying natural, orange sand (1/2, 2/2 and 3/2). The natural sand in Trench 1 (1/2) contained a number of large, unworked sarsen stones. None of the trenches contained any feature of archaeological significance and are not discussed further.

Trenches 4 and 5

Trenches 4 and 5 were located immediately to the north of the extant manor house wall and were positioned in order to investigate the area behind the structure (Fig. 6).

Trench 4 was oriented north-east by south-west and measured *c.* 10 m by 1.2 m (Fig. 7). The natural was reached approximately 0.60 m below the surface and consisted of the same orange sand revealed in Trenches 1-3. The earliest feature in the trench was a flat-bottomed pit or linear feature of uncertain date and function (4/7; Fig. 7 - endplan). The feature had been heavily truncated by a substantial drainage cut (4/33) *c.* 1.20 m wide which crossed at right angles to the trench on a north-west by south-east orientation (Figs 7 and 8). The base of the cut was filled by a substantial limestone drain (4/31) which consisted of two rough dry stone 'walls' of undressed limestone blocks which were bridged by a series of substantial capstones. At its south-eastern end the drain turned through 90° to run approximately parallel with the edge of the trench for a distance of 5.5 m on a north-south orientation. The drain was backfilled with redeposited, natural orange sand (4/39, 4/32 and 4/18; Fig. 8). Deposit 4/32 contained pottery dating to the 11th century or later.

To the south-west of 4/31 was a second drain of similar characteristics and proportions (4/34). The drains ran parallel to each other and were clearly of the same phase. Both appeared to empty into a large square chamber which had been constructed with limestone blocks and a whitish, very hard mortar (4/24; Fig. 7). The surface of the chamber was level and had been laid with flat limestone blocks while at each side of the chamber the stones had been placed on edge and flush with the surface.

A number of features of varying shapes and dimensions were cut through the backfill of drain 4/31 (Fig. 8). Feature 4/17 was a shallow, linear gully, which was oriented north-west by south east. The gully was 0.60 m wide x 0.15 m deep and was filled by a dark brownish-grey silty sand with mortar flecks. Feature 4/17 was slightly truncated by a broad linear feature (4/15) which appears to have been cut or perhaps 'worn' during the construction of a linear wall (4/8). The trench was backfilled with a number of mortar rich fills which presumably represent construction debris.

Following the backfilling of 4/15 the ground was levelled and a thin layer of crushed pink daub or plaster was deposited (4/11). The deposit was less than one centimetre

thick and quite patchy in places, suggesting that its deposition was incidental to the construction work rather than a deliberately laid floor surface.

Immediately overlying 4/11 was a series of 10 stub walls (4/9), all of which shared the same north-west by south-east orientation as the wall 4/8 (Fig. 8). The stub walls were of a very simple construction consisting of a rough limestone facing with a cement rubble core. Each wall was approximately 0.30-0.40 m wide and spaced 0.20-0.40 m apart. In no case were they raised higher than 0.40 m above ground surface and were clearly designed to bear the weight of a raised wooden floor. Wall 4/8 and the stub walls 4/9 were clearly part of a relatively late structure (Building B) which had been built onto the back of the manor house (Fig. 2b).

Following completion of the structure or perhaps during the construction, the ground to the north of the building appears to have been raised and levelled (4/2, 4/5 and 4/12) and a brick path or yard surface laid out.

A stone-lined chamber 4/13, located at the southern end of the trench had been cut through the floor of Building B (Fig. 7). The chamber clearly butted the manor house wall 4/10 and was accessed by a modern, brick-built service hole. A stone-capped drain which followed the course of the manor house wall emptied into the chamber, which was presumably built to replace the earlier stone chamber 4/24.

The uppermost layer in the trench was a thick layer of rubble brick and cement which was clearly part of the general demolition layer deposited when the manor house was demolished in 1957.

Trench 5 was laid out approximately 5-6 m to the west of Trench 4 (Fig. 7). It was oriented north-east by south-west and measured 9.5 m x 1 m. As in Trench 4, the natural consisted of a silty orange sand which was reached approximately 0.60-0.80 m below the surface.

The earliest features in the trench were the large pit 5/1 (Fig. 10) and a construction trench for a robbed out wall (5/3, Figs 7 and 9). Pit 5/1 was located close to the northern end of the trench. It was a relatively substantial feature measuring 2.4 m wide x at least 0.80 m deep (not fully bottomed). It had an irregular profile with a steep south-western edge and a rather shallower north-eastern edge. As the feature only partially fell within the trench its full extent is unknown, but the regularity of the visible half would suggest that the original shape was approximately circular. The feature had three separate but quite similar sandy fills (5/10, 5/2 and 5/11), which were all quite stony in character. The ceramic assemblage was extremely small but indicated a probable date of the 13th century AD or later. A relatively modern pit (5/17) containing small fragments of brick was cut into the upper fill of (5/11).

Construction trench 5/3 was located approximately 1.3 m to the south-west of pit 5/1. The trench was a maximum of 1.00 m wide x 0.60 m deep and appeared to be distinctly curved in plan. The feature had been backfilled with an orange silty sand which was clearly redeposited natural (5/5). The fill of the trench had been largely cut away by a second, smaller trench (5/8). This was filled with a similar orange, silty sand but also contained an abundance of broken limestone fragments, the largest of which measured 0.18 x 0.13 x 0.10 m. It seems highly probable that the second

trench (5/8) was a robber trench which had been dug to remove dressed blocks of stone from a foundation wall, either for re-use or to clear the ground. Once again dating evidence was sparse but the few sherds that were recovered appeared to be of a similar date to those recovered from pit 5/1.

Sealing both pit 5/1 and robber trench 5/8 was a variable layer (0.15 – 0.20 m thick) of darkish brown silty sand (5/6 and 5/12; Figs 9 and 10). The layer is of uncertain date but was picked up in Trench 6 where it sealed a large capped drain thought to date to the 17th century (see Trench 6, below).

Above deposit 5/6 and 5/12 was a sequence of modern dump and demolition layers which presumably relate to the site's later industrial use (see historical background). The deposits culminated in a thick layer of tarmac and concrete.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was excavated ahead of a sewer trench which was to be constructed (Fig. 7). It has been divided into two sections for ease of description. The western half of the trench was located to the south of the Jackson building and was 17 m long x 1.10 m wide. The majority of this part of the trench had been badly truncated by modern disturbance. Towards the extreme western end of the trench was a sequence of layered deposits of uncertain age (6/65, 6/20 and 6/70; Fig. 11). Deposit 6/65 was the earliest of the three and consisted of a compact, greyish brown clay silt. This was overlain by 6/20, a mid orange brown sandy silt (0.25 m thick) which contained a moderate amount of small limestone fragments. The most recent deposit in the sequence was a friable, orange brown sandy silt, similar to 6/20 but without limestone fragments.

All three of the deposits had been cut through by a construction trench for masonry wall 6/29. The wall was oriented approximately north-south and survived up to four courses deep. The wall appeared to be of poor construction, with roughly squared blocks of limestone measuring on average 0.33 x 0.37 x 0.09 m laid onto a sandy silt matrix. There was no obvious bonding. The whole structure was 0.60 m high x 0.60 m wide with a visible length of 1.2 m within the trench. Immediately to the west of the wall and running perpendicular to it was a linear trench (6/25) filled with an orange brown sandy silt (6/26), with occasional limestone fragments (Fig. 7). Although the trench contained only a little limestone debris it did connect with the construction trench for the wall 6/29. It therefore, seems probable that 6/25 was a robber trench which had removed a wall which was a part of the same structure as 6/29 (Building D; Fig. 2b). The backfill of the construction trench for 6/29 contained a single sherd of pottery dated to the 13th century or later.

The layers above 6/29 had been cut away by a relatively large area of modern disturbance (6/72) which deepened towards the west before truncating a late cement and brick drain 6/24.

To the east of Building D was a more modern structure which consisted of three, evenly spaced brick and concrete walls approximately 1.6-1.8 m apart (Building C, Figs 2d, 7 and 11). All three of the walls were step shaped (0.30 m max. height x 0.60 m wide) and had been finished in such a way as to suggest that they had never been

any higher. It seems probable that the walls were footings for a relatively light structure. Overlying these was a sequence of relatively modern build-up layers (6/18, 6/62 and 6/59), which contained tile, brick and other demolition debris.

The eastern half of the trench was oriented north-east by south-west and measured 10 m x 1.3 m, with a slightly enlarged area at its north-eastern extreme (Fig. 7).

The earliest features were in the north-eastern end of the trench. Although the remains were very fragmentary it was possible to pick out a low wall which was oriented north-west by south-east for most of its length, before turning towards the north-east at its western end. The wall was constructed from rough limestone blocks (c. 0.10 x 0.20m) which appeared to have been held in a matrix of earth rather than mortar. At its best preserved the wall was no more than two stones high and did not have regular courses. Butted against the northern side of the wall was a loose cobbled surface. Both the wall and cobbled surface had been very badly truncated by later features. The north-western corner of the wall had been cut away by a feature (6/64) which was filled with a friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt 6/72 (Fig. 12). This had been truncated by later features so that its extent was uncertain.

Further towards the south-west was a thick layer of orange silty sand (6/54) through which most of the features relating to the manor house had been cut (Fig. 12). It is possible that the layer was a deliberate sandy make-up for the manor house floor. The layer had been cut by a linear feature 6/39 (Fig. 12) which was oriented north-west by south-east and deepened significantly towards the south-east (0.40–0.80 m deep). Both 6/39 and 6/64 had been truncated by a deep linear trench 6/36 (Figs 7 and 12). The trench was not fully excavated for safety reasons but was 1.8 m wide and a minimum of 1.2 m deep and was oriented north-south. It was filled with a sequence of rubble and mortar layers separated by a grey sandy silt. It is possible that 6/36 was a robber trench though it was not matched by corresponding trenches elsewhere.

The south-eastern end of 6/36 was truncated by a construction cut for the masonry well 6/9 (Fig. 7). The well was constructed with large sub-angular blocks of limestone, some of which had been shaped, and was bonded using a coarse yellow mortar. The well had been filled with brick and rubble probably dating from the 1957 demolition.

A stone-capped drain 6/11 which lay immediately adjacent to the well was almost certainly of the same phase (Fig. 7). The drain was 0.60 m wide and constructed using a double layer of thick (0.10 m) limestone caps, which were staggered in order to prevent silt from falling into the drain.

The western wall of the manor house lay approximately 2 m to the south-west of the drain (6/15). The wall was oriented north-east by south-west and measured 0.66 m wide x 0.62 m high (Fig. 11). The upper course of the wall was faced with shaped limestone blocks and filled with a rubble core. The lower part was constructed from rough limestone blocks which were not laid in recognisable courses. The bonding material was not obvious but traces of loose, sandy mortar were noted between the blocks.

Both the manor wall 6/15 and drain 6/11 were abutted by a silty clay deposit 6/43 (Fig. 11) which was probably a make-up layer for a compacted mortar floor which directly overlay it (6/42). The mortar floor was quite thin measuring 0.02 m and, although compacted, was very soft. Where it butted the drain 6/11 the mortar was not flush with the masonry but left it standing proud by *c* 0.08 m suggesting that the compacted floor surface was not a real floor but a bed for flags which have been subsequently robbed.

The remnant of a thin internal wall (6/34) constructed from squared limestone blocks sat upon the compacted mortar floor adjacent to drain 6/11 (Fig. 7). The wall was only one course high and very fragmentary as a modern gas pipe trench had been dug alongside it.

A second, perhaps more modern, internal wall had been constructed at the north-eastern end of the trench using brick and concrete (6/6; Fig. 7). A third wall of similar construction (6/73) had been built perpendicular to 6/6) and flush alongside the north manor wall 6/7, perhaps as deliberate underpinning for the older structure. It is unclear whether construction trench 6/14 was related to the old manor wall (6/7) or to its more recent underpinning.

Overlying all of the archaeology in this part of the trench was a thick layer of demolition debris relating to the destruction of the manor house in 1957 (6/23, 6/41, 6/51 and 6/63).

Trenches 7 and 8

Trenches 7 and 8 were relatively short trenches excavated in order to mitigate the impact of a proposed new haul road. Both contained the same orange, sandy natural as the other trenches, reached approximately 0.60-0.70 m below ground surface.

Trench 7 was oriented north-west by south-east and measured 7.5 m x 1.10 m (Fig. 7). The natural was overlain throughout the trench by a layer of dark brown clay silt which contained no dating evidence (7/17). Cutting through that layer were five separate linear features, all of which had a north-west by south-east orientation (Fig. 13). Three of the features (7/4, 7/6 and 7/8) which were of similar width and depth (1.00–1.3 m wide x 0.30-0.35 m deep), terminated just short of the western baulk, suggesting that they may have been contemporary with each other. All three of the features were filled with a similar mid-dark brown sandy silt. Feature 7/10 was different to the three features described above. Although on the same alignment, the ditch was deeper (0.60 m) and did not terminate within the trench. It had a steep V-shaped profile at the base of which was a narrow slot *c* 0.10 m wide. The ditch was filled with the same dark brown sandy silt as the other features (7/9). Immediately to the south of 7/10 was a broader, linear feature of a quite different character. The only edge which had not been truncated by modern features was gradually sloping, which suggested that the feature would have been much broader than the other linear features within the trench. It too was filled with a dark brown sandy silt, the southern half of which had been cut away by the construction trench for a modern brick and concrete wall (7/14).

Overlying all of the features in the trench and butting the modern brick wall was a relatively thin layer (0.16 m deep) of dark silty soil (7/2). Overlying that layer was a brick and stone hard standing or pathway (7/18) which had been sealed under a thick layer of tarmac (7/1).

Trench 8 was oriented north-east by south-west and measured 7 m x 1.10 m (Fig. 7). It contained similar layered deposits to Trench 7 but none of the linear features. Overlying the natural orange sand was a thick layer of mid-dark sandy silt (8/5), very similar to 7/17. Overlying 8/5 in the southern end of the trench was a thin layer of slightly darker silty sand (8/4) which was comparable to 7/2. Layer 8/4 was sealed by the same brick and stone hard standing noted in Trench 7 (8/3). Although the tarmac which covered the stone and brick hard-standing was absent in Trench 8, a layer of ash and clinker (8/2) of a similar depth was present. At the northern end of the trench the tarmac was cut by a very modern ditch which had been recently backfilled.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was oriented north-west by south-east (Fig. 7). The trench was 6 m x 2 m and defined on its southern and western sides by the extant manor house wall.

A number of inter-cutting pits and postholes, which appeared to cluster into two groups, were cut into the orange sandy natural. The earliest features in the westernmost cluster were posthole 9/8 and a shallow pit 9/12. The posthole was sub-circular 0.36 x 0.30 m wide x 0.12 m deep. It was filled with a compact, mid reddish brown, sandy silt. The earliest pit in the group (9/12) was partly buried by the modern sequence of layers which made up the northern baulk of the trench. It appeared to be circular or sub-circular, was 0.75 m wide x 0.12 m deep and was filled with a dark, reddish brown sandy silt (9/11). Pit 9/12 was truncated by a second, deeper pit (9/10) which was also partly buried by the baulk and contained a similar but distinguishable fill. Its visible dimensions were 0.60 m wide x 0.40 m deep. This pit in turn was truncated by a third pit 9/04, which was again, partly buried by the baulk and contained a mid yellowish brown fill.

Posthole 9/6 was sub-circular on the surface (*c* 0.50 m in diameter) but had a square socket at the base which reflected the shape and size of the original post (*c* 0.20 x 0.20 m). The feature truncated the earlier posthole 9/8 and was filled with a mid brownish grey sandy silt. It was itself truncated by a sub-circular, sharply defined pit with steep, near vertical sides and a rounded base (9/2). Pit 9/2 was deeper than the others (0.65 m wide x 0.47 m deep) and was filled with a mid brownish grey, sandy silt. None of the pits or postholes within the western cluster of features contained dating evidence.

The eastern cluster of features consisted of two postholes and a shallow pit. Posthole 9/13 was sub-circular in plan, 0.30 x 0.33 m wide and 0.21 m deep. It was deeper on its northern-western side and was filled with a dark orange brown sandy silt. Posthole 9/19 was much deeper than 9/13 and consisted of a very clear post-pipe 0.33 m deep (9/21) set within a larger post-pit. The post-pipe was 0.20 m wide at the top tapering to 0.14 m wide at the base. The post-pipe fill consisted of a mid greyish brown sandy silt with fragments of angular limestone. Part of the fill collapsed into a central void during excavation which suggest that the post had at some stage been removed and

the posthole poorly infilled. The post-pit was filled with a compacted mid orange brown sandy silt, which contained mortar flecks. The top of the post-pit had been truncated by a shallow, scoop like feature (9/17) which was probably excavated in order to remove the timber post. The feature was filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt (9/18) and was itself truncated by a shallow pit (9/15), which was 0.56 x 0.75 m wide x 0.20 m deep and was filled with a compact, dark greyish brown sandy silt.

Posthole 9/13 and pit 9/15 contained a small number of pottery sherds with a *terminus post quem* of the 11th century and the 13th century respectively.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was cut by contractors working for Thomas & Co. after the main excavations had ended and monitored as a watching brief by OAU. The trench was located immediately adjacent to the chapel on the eastern edge of the site. No features of archaeological significance were found.

Trench 11

One of the earliest features within the trench was a deep, sub-square pit with near vertical sides (11/133; Fig. 7). The pit was 0.80 x 0.85 m wide and a minimum of 0.70 m deep (not fully excavated). Its lower fill (11/138) was packed with lenses of mortar and broken fragments of limestone up to 0.20 m across (Fig. 14). The nature of the fill was strongly suggestive of construction debris which had been thrown into the pit to clear the ground around it. A single sherd of possible late Saxon pottery was recovered from 11/138. The upper pit fill was much cleaner, consisting of orange sandy silt. The pit was clearly truncated by the later wall slot (11/100).

Immediately adjacent to 11/133 was a second pit (11/135). The feature had almost totally been destroyed by a concrete pier for the Nuffield Press building (Fig. 7). Enough survived, however to suggest that the pit was sub-rectangular in plan. The pit contained two fills (11/136 and 11/137) which were mid orange brown sandy silts. Neither fill contained any dating evidence but the upper fill (11/137) had been truncated by the later wall slot (11/100).

A third pit (11/145) was revealed slightly further down the trench towards the south-east. Pit 11/145 was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of 0.60 m and depth of 0.08 m. It had a single fill which consisted of mid, orange brown sandy silt. No dating evidence was recovered. Approximately half of the pit had been cut away by the later pit 11/110. Posthole 11/158 was located further down the trench *c* 1.5 m towards the south-east. The feature was sub-circular in plan, had a diameter of 0.30 m and was relatively shallow (0.10 m deep). Immediately adjacent was a second posthole or small pit 0.50 m wide x 0.15 m deep (11/160). Both features contained a mid grey sandy silt and were truncated by the later wall slot 11/147.

Wall slot 11/147 was linear in plan with a visible length of 2.5 m (Fig. 7). It was 0.50 m wide and was filled with a dark, mortar rich, grey sandy silt to a depth of 0.20 m. The slot had been truncated by a modern drain to the south-east and appeared to end

in a rounded terminal to the north-west. The feature was very similar in form and fill to wall slot 11/100 to the north-west.

Slot 11/100 was also linear in plan with a visible length of 2.5 m. It was 0.39 m wide and was filled with a similar mortar rich, sandy silt as found within 11/147. The feature was 0.15 m deep and appeared to turn towards the south at its north-western end where it was truncated by the manor wall. The south-eastern end of the wall slot was cut away by the later pit 11/111.

Both wall slots were oriented north-west by south-east and it is highly likely that they were part of the same structure (Building E). The north-western terminal of 11/147 was well defined and it is possible that it marked one side of a north-east facing entrance.

Immediately to the south of wall slot 11/100 was a sub-rectangular post pit (11/106) at the base of which was a circular posthole. It is possible, given its location, that the posthole was part of the entrance arrangements of Building E. Any corresponding posthole adjacent to wall slot 11/147 would have been destroyed by a later drain (11/168).

A sub-rectangular pit 11/110 was revealed immediately adjacent to the entrance of Building E. The pit was a minimum of 0.78 m wide x 0.34 m deep and clearly truncated the earlier circular pit 11/145. Pit 11/110 was itself truncated by pit 11/111 which also cut the wall slot 11/100 (Fig. 7). Pit 11/111 was very clearly defined, being 0.73 m wide x 0.50 m deep with a flat base. The feature was sealed by a thick layer of sandy silt (11/108) before being severely truncated by the construction cut for masonry well 11/97.

The well was constructed from roughly shaped limestone blocks *c* 0.20 x 0.20 m which appear to have been drystone built and externally lagged with stiff grey clay to prevent seepage. The well stood two courses high above the natural sand and had been sealed by a large capstone. Its internal diameter was *c* 1.00 m.

Immediately to the east of the well was a masonry wall which had been constructed on top of layer 108 (11/169; Fig. 15). The wall was oriented north-east by south-west and of faced limestone construction (blocks up to 0.22 x 0.18 m) with a rubble core. It survived three courses high (0.40 m) and was probably the western wall of Building B.

A gravelly layer which was external to the wall was probably laid down as a contemporary yard surface (11/109). Overlying 11/109 was a dark grey sandy silt (11/170). Although the layer appeared either side of wall (11/169) there was no obvious construction cut for the wall. Cut through that silty layer was a stone lined chamber (11/171) which was capped by concrete. Presumably both the silty layer 11/170 and the concrete capped chamber post-dated the demolition of Building B. A thick layer of demolition debris sealed the wall 11/169 and silty layer 11/170.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was excavated as a northern extension to Trench 6 and followed the line of a proposed new sewer pipe. The trench was 11 m x 0.80 m and oriented north-east by south-west. An L-shaped extension was cut at its southern end (Fig. 7).

The earliest feature in Trench 12 was a small pit or posthole (12/127; Fig. 16). The posthole was 0.30 m wide x 0.30 m deep and filled with a friable mid brown sandy silt. It contained no dating evidence and was truncated by a sub-circular pit 12/76. Pit 12/76 was 0.80 m wide x 0.70 m deep and contained a mixed fill of orange and greyish white silty sand. Overlying 12/76 was a layer of orange sandy silt (12/92), which covered most of the trench and contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the 15th century or later. The next phase of activity was a series of four sub-circular pits which cut through 12/92 and contained mortar-rich fills and an abundance of limestone cobbles (12/101, 12/84, 12/103 and 12/123; Fig. 7). The pits were approximately 0.70 m wide and of variable depth (0.25-0.60 m) but otherwise were very similar in character. It is possible that they functioned as post-pits and that the cobbles were packing, but no obvious post-pipes were visible. Two of the pits (12/84 and 12/101) were truncated by the manor house wall and contained pottery dating to the 13th century or later.

At the north-eastern end of the trench was a large pit or linear feature (12/112). The feature was oriented north-west by south-east and much truncated by later features, so its true extent and plan was uncertain (Figs 7 and 16). Its south-western edge appeared to be linear and consisted of a shallow slope which steepened towards the centre of the feature. It was 0.70 m deep and at least 2 m wide. The feature was filled with a sequence of dark orange brown sandy silts, one of which (12/114) contained a small number of pottery sherds dating to the 13th century or later.

The feature was cut by a pit (12/89) on its south-western side and a possible linear feature to the north-east (12/115).

Pit 12/89 only partially fell within the trench, but from the visible portion appeared to be sub-square in plan (Fig. 7). The pit was 0.60 m deep x 1.45 m wide and was filled with a mid orange brown sandy silt (12/90) which contained a number of pottery sherds dated to the 15th century or later.

To the north of 12/89 and cutting through 12/112 was a possible linear feature 12/115. As with the other large features in that part of the trench, its full extent was uncertain but its south-eastern edge was very straight and oriented north-west by south east. The feature was 0.40 m deep and at least 1.2 m wide and was filled with the same dark orange sandy silt as 12/89 and 12/112.

Sealing all of the features described above was a thick (0.45 m) layer of orange brown sandy silt (12/92) which thinned noticeably towards the south-west and contained a single sherd of pottery which dated to the late 15th century AD or later. Overlying and cut through this layer was a sequence of modern build and service features. A single feature of note was a deep sub-square pit with vertical sides (12/78; Fig. 7). This feature contained a large sheet of thin copper alloy at its base which proved unrecoverable. The pit was presumably related to activity at the Nuffield Press.

THE POTTERY

by *Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 78 sherds with a total weight of 1385g, all of which was Saxo-Norman or later, with the exception of a single residual Romano-British sherd from context 90 in Trench 6. All the fabric types are common finds in Oxford, and the codes used are those of the Oxford Type-Series (Mellor 1994). The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 2.

The range of wares present would suggest that activity at the site started during the Saxo-Norman period, and continued until the early post-medieval period, after which there was no deposition of ceramics until recent times.

THE ANIMAL BONE

by *Nicky Scott*

A total of 82 animal bone fragments were found of which 34 % were identified to species and anatomical part. Sheep / goat and cattle were the predominant species although pig, horse and fowl were also represented. There was evidence of some canine activity on site due to the number of gnawed bones present. One horse tooth from context 6/40 exhibited a curious curve which may have been caused by disease resulting in malformation or perhaps by pulling on a horse bit. There was some evidence for butchery, represented by fine knife marks on some of the bones. There was no burnt bone. The full animal bone data is held in the archive.

THE GLASS

by *Cecily Cropper*

A total of seven fragments of glass were recovered, including four pieces of 19th and 20th century window glass and three pieces of post-medieval bottle glass.

Bottle glass

The three fragments came from post-medieval wine bottles. The diagnostic rim and neck (context 11/108) indicates an early cylindrical form dating to around the mid 18th century. Comparable bottles were seen from the assemblage from St Ebbe's, Oxford, in particular Haslam's Type 10 (Haslam, 1984; fig. 41, 233).

1. Rim and neck, light green glass, oxide-stained and strain-cracking. Rim vertical and broken off. Single rounded, prominent string situated close to rim. Neck virtually parallel, shoulder rounded. One neck fragment included. Mid-18th century. (Context 11/108).
2. Body fragment from a cylindrical bottle, mould blown. Light green, oxide-stained and iridescence on internal surface. 18th century. (Context 6/16).

Window glass

All the glass is colourless. Two fragments, from contexts 4/26 and 4/14, exhibit opalescent lamination and a 19th-century date is suggested for these. The other two fragments, from contexts 4/2 and 4/30, are of 20th-century date.

THE METALWORK

by Ian Scott

The metalwork is undistinguished and comprises for the most part nails. There are 6 objects (3 iron and 3 copper alloy) and a minimum of 25 nails. At least two of the objects - a piece of cast iron drainpipe and a length of copper pipe - are modern. These two objects, together with a modern wire nail, were recovered from layer 2 in Trench 4. The remaining objects comprise a probable L-shaped iron drop hinge staple (context 4/30), part of a rectangular iron buckle frame (context 7/9) and two pins with wound wire heads (contexts 12/77 and 12/85). The pins are of late medieval or post-medieval date. A fuller report on the metalwork including a table of contexts is held in the archive.

DISCUSSION

The excavations were designed to mitigate against the impact of the proposed new developments. That impact was limited to a number of narrow trenches designated for piling work and the Wimpy sewer trench. As a result, it was never envisaged that the work would provide a fully coherent picture of the site development. Nevertheless, the investigation was able to discern a number of broad phases of activity (see Fig. 6). The earliest activity was represented by two sherds of residual pottery, one dating to the Roman period, the other to the late Saxon period.

Phase 1 (13th-15th centuries)

Although 11th-century pottery was recovered from the site, the first recognisable phase of activity seems to have begun some time during the 13th century. There was no definite evidence for masonry structures during this period but there was a certain amount of circumstantial evidence which points toward their probable existence. The majority of features which have been ascribed a 13th century origin were clustered in the vicinity of the site of the later 17th century manor house. A group of four sub-circular pits at the southern end of Trench 12 (12/101, 12/84, 12/103 and 12/123) may represent a structure. The pits were all filled with a similar mixture of limestone cobbles and mortar-rich deposits and three out of four contained pottery dated to the 13th century. The fourth contained a single sherd of an 11th century ware which was thought to be residual. The precise function of the pits remains uncertain. The spatial organisation of the pits might suggest that they were used as post-pits to hold timber uprights, but the limited nature of the trenched excavations meant it was impossible to pick out the plan of any such structure. Whatever their function, it seems clear that the pits were backfilled with material relating to the construction or repair of a nearby masonry structure.

A fifth pit in nearby Trench 11 (11/133) was also filled with mortar and limestone rubble. Although of a different plan and depth to the other pits the very close similarity in fills suggest that the pits were all contemporary, even though the square pit contained a single sherd of late Saxon pottery.

The upper fill of pit 11/133 was truncated by the shallow wall slot 11/100 which formed part of a rectangular structure (Building E). The full extent of the structure is unknown as it appeared to be cut away to the south by the construction of the 17th-century manor house (Building A). Enough survived, however, to suggest that it had an approximate east-west orientation with an entrance half way down its northern wall. Posthole 11/106, which lay adjacent to the western entrance terminal, contained a sherd of 13th-century pottery and may have been a part of the entrance structure.¹ Although Building E is not securely dated, it was clearly later than pit 11/133 but earlier than the masonry well 11/97.

A group of pits and postholes located further to the east in Trench 9 may also have belonged to this period. All of the features had been truncated by modern disturbance, so their ascription to this period relies heavily on the recovery of a minimal amount of pottery. The dating evidence consisted of a single sherd of 13th-century pottery from the small pit/posthole 9/15 and a sherd of an 11th-century ware from the adjacent posthole 9/13.

Although several of the features were intercutting and could not have been precisely contemporary, the clustered nature of the features in an otherwise blank area suggest that they may have been cut with a recurrent or similar purpose in mind. A minimum of four of the features were certainly postholes which suggests that some kind of structural activity was taking place, but once again the limited nature of trenching made the recovery of any coherent plan unobtainable.

Other features of this period were located further away from the site of the manor, towards the north in Trenches 5 and 12. In Trench 5 a large, steep-sided pit had been dug into the sand to a depth of c 1 m (5/1). The fill of the pit gave no indication of its function but did contain two sherds of pottery, one of 11th century and the other of 13th century date. To the south of the pit was a length of curved ditch which contained five sherds of 13th century pottery. Although the trench was too narrow for this to be certain the ditch appeared to respect the pit and curve around it. The fill of the ditch contained a certain amount of limestone rubble and the feature had the appearance of a robber trench.

A few metres to the north-west in Trench 12, a linear feature (12/112) containing three sherds of 13th-century pottery was revealed. The feature did not appear elsewhere and its function remains uncertain. A few metres further north a second, narrower linear feature was revealed within Trench 7 (7/10). The feature may have been a boundary. Immediately to the north of that were three shallow linear features which are probably best interpreted as truncated garden features. The features (7/4,

¹ Map regression analysis has shown that a late annex was attached to the 17th century manor in approximately the same area as Building E. The late annex was approximately 4 m wide, however and stratigraphic evidence clearly shows that Building E could not have been the same annex but was much earlier. The later annex was almost certainly destroyed with the construction of the Nuffield Press buildings although wall 11/169 may be a surviving remnant.

7/6 and 7/8) were regularly spaced and terminated within the trench, giving the impression of ordered beds or trenches. Three of the features in the trench contained pottery. Linear ditch 7/10 and one of the bedding trenches (7/8) contained four sherds of 13th-century pottery while another of the bedding trenches (7/6) contained two sherds of 16th-century pottery. While it is possible that the features were of different phases, their spatial coherence as a group argues that they were probably contemporary. Since two separate features contained 13th-century pottery the group as a whole has been ascribed to that period, but with the clearly stated acknowledgement that a 16th century date could also be argued for.

In the western end of Trench 6, the masonry wall 6/29 may have belonged to this period also. The wall was part of a long rectangular structure (Building D) which was first located with certainty on the Cowley Parish Enclosure Map of 1853 (Fig. 2b). The backfill of the construction trench, however, contained a single sherd of 13th-century pottery.

Phase 2 (15th-18th centuries)

During the 15th-16th centuries activity seems to have been relatively limited. An occasional pit was dug to the north of the manor (12/89) but in general the area remained undisturbed allowing a thick layer of soil to build up (12/91). During the 17th century the manor house was constructed or remodelled into the basic form which survived until modern times (Building A; see 'The building survey and documentary evidence,' below). It is probable that the large capped drains located in Trench 4 were constructed ahead of the manor house. Although the backfill of the drains contained a minimal amount of 11th century pottery, there is no evidence that a structure requiring such large drains occupied the site before the 17th century.

Phase 3 (18th-20th centuries)

It is clear from stratigraphic considerations that Building B was not part of the original 17th-century manor but was built some time between the end of the 17th century and 1886 when it appeared on the OS 1st edition map. The extent and evolution of modern buildings around the manor are described in the map regression analysis above. It is sufficient, therefore, to note that the excavations added little to the documentary research.

CONCLUSIONS

There was no direct evidence to show that a manor house existed on the site before the 17th century, although there was considerable evidence indicating that the site had been occupied in some form since the 13th century. Certain aspects of the evidence point towards the early construction of masonry buildings and the robbed outline of one such building was located (Building E).

THE BUILDING SURVEY AND DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

by *Kate Newell*

Introduction

The Oxford Archaeological Unit was commissioned by Thomas & Co. to undertake pre-demolition recording of a surviving wall of the Temple Cowley Manor House. The manor house itself had been demolished in 1957, however the rear wall had partially survived and had been incorporated into the industrial buildings of the Morris/Nuffield Works.

The record made of this surviving wall includes a series of measured drawings of both sides of the wall, noting the different fabric types and features within the wall. A black and white negative and colour slide photographic record of the wall was also made. In addition to this a watching brief was carried out during the demolition of part of the wall with further information being recorded, again with a photographic record. During the excavation two cellar areas were partially excavated and these are reported on here.

This section of the report will first discuss the manor house using the documentary evidence available. This includes historic photographs, inspection notes from a 1938 RCHM visit made as part of their 1939 *Inventory* of Oxford, and a subsequent measured survey of the building. The survey is dated 'Sept. 1954' and includes plans, sections and front elevation of the building; although the drawings have a reference number MHC/839/1 their provenance is unclear (MHC must stand for Manor House Cowley). It is thought that they may represent an early example of an historical record being made before demolition and may have been produced by the City Council.

The vast majority of the pictorial evidence of the manor house concerns the front elevation of the building. Therefore the investigation of the back wall was a chance to add to the information known about the building. The discussion of the manor house is followed by an examination and interpretation of the surviving wall fabric. This section ends with the additional information that was recovered about the wall during the watching brief carried out during its demolition and a description of the cellars that were partially excavated.

The Manor House

Historic background

The historic background to the manor house is given at the start of this report. It is sufficient here to note that the ownership history of the building is complicated and often slightly unclear. The catalogue of the Pembroke archive was consulted for this report, but unfortunately the College deeds relating to the manor were lent outside the college before 1934 and were never recovered. A letter of that year describes them as 'a number of old deeds and documents (two to three hundred years old) belonging to the College and relating to its interests in Cowley'. The Oxfordshire County Record Office was also searched but no further documentation discovered. The Centre for

Oxfordshire Studies holds copies of the 1954 survey and two pamphlets on the manor house. Unfortunately one of the pamphlets is lost and the other confuses the building with Church Cowley Manor House and uses unconnected documents held by Christ Church to discuss the building.

The 20th-century photographic record of the building shows its descent into a state of neglect and structural failure. A photograph of 1938 shows the front façade being heavily supported by wooden shoring (Plate 4). The building was listed Grade II in the Provisional List of June 1950. However it was eventually demolished in 1957, with the rear wall partially surviving.

Building description

Despite this loss of information a surprising amount can be extrapolated from the documentary evidence that does survive. From the stylistic evidence of the front façade, the building has been dated to the 17th century and appears to have undergone large scale alterations, including re-fenestration and enlargement in the 18th century (RCHM inspection notes, 1938). It is unlikely to have been constructed during the social turbulence of the civil war and Commonwealth, and so either dates to before this period, and the ownership of Sir Francis Knollys, or afterwards when the ownership is, at present, unknown.

From the photographic images of the building it can be seen to be of limestone walling with stone slate roof covering (Plates 1 - 4). The north and south elevations of the building were faced with dressed stone blocks, with rubble being used for the side elevations and the interior surfaces of the walls.

Jackson's drawing of the Oxford Military College entitled 'Buildings not yet erected' and dated October 19th 1883 provides an early image of the building (Fig. 3 and Plate 1). The front façade is largely symmetrical. The illustration shows a double-pile building of two floors with two levels of attics. In the centre of the building the roof line is raised with a hipped section containing the second level of attic space lit by a dormer window. The main gable ends have parapet coping stones finishing onto moulded corbels (RCHM Notes, 1938) The façade has a central door flanked by two bay windows on the ground floor and two gables in the roof line. At the extreme ends of the roof are two dormer windows and to the inner side of these are two projecting chimneys framing the central portion of the building. The fenestration of the central bay of the building is of segmental headed windows with plain stone architraves to ground and first floor (examples of these architraves survived on the external face of the surviving wall, see Plate 5). The windows are not symmetrically placed in the elevation. Two windows are seen in the east end bay of the building.

The 1954 plans provide a large amount of information and allow a discussion of the house (Figs 17-25). The plans are colour washed with grey and brown shading defining the stone and timber materials. Although the front elevation (Fig. 17) suggests the symmetry of a one-phase building there is clear evidence, in the survey drawings and photographs, that this is not the case. From this evidence it is suggested that the phase I building consisted of a three-unit plan of kitchen to the west end, possible screens/through passage and living area at the east end. This was later

surrounded by further additions at the west end and to the north of the three-unit building. There is some evidence that the west end extensions are of two separate phases and that the area to the north of the phase I house is of a further and separate phase. However, given the nature of the evidence, these different phases cannot be dated.

The phase I three-unit building is clearly seen in the ground floor plan (Fig. 21). The large stack to the east would presumably have projected from the gable end of the building. The connecting doorway to the south of the range is clearly secondary and cut through the stack. Examples of connecting doorways being cut at an angle through this original end wall to link the different phases of the building are also visible on the first and second floor plans. A blocked window is shown in the original northern wall positioned immediately to the east of the range. This provides evidence that the wing to the north, with the stair, is a later addition. A further feature of interest along this original back wall is a large opening midway along the length of the building which is shown to be blocked with later timber partitioning. The opening is seen on both ground and first floors and may represent the position of the original stairs, possibly housed in an adjoining stair turret.

The three cross sections through the building in 1954 show a difference in floor level between the front and back of the manor house and differences in roofing. Unfortunately the sections do not detail the roof construction but seem simply to show the attic partitions in the roof space, and it may be that the construction was concealed behind plaster at the time of the survey. Section A-A (Fig. 18) is taken through the western additional phases of the building. It shows the front and rear of the building to be roofed separately with different ridge heights and different first floor levels. This suggests that the west end of the building is of two separate phases of addition, although no sufficiently solid structural wall is visible between the two portions in any plan other than that of the second floor. A structural stone wall is visible in plan between the western additions and the extension to the north of the phase I building. Further fabric evidence collected during the archaeological recording of the wall (reported below) also provides support to the suggestion that these additions are of a different date, which explains the deep cut-through connecting doorways seen in ground and first floor plans. Section B-B (Fig. 19) again shows a difference in floor levels between the north and south sides of the building and shows the stair, although not in enough detail to be able to suggest a date. Section C-C (Fig. 20) is taken through the phase I three-unit building.

The symmetry of the front elevation is therefore misleading although there is some evidence of the multi-phased nature of the building visible in it. The central raised roof line providing the second floor of attics is clearly not original and may be one of the factors in the eventual structural failure of the building. The further difference in roof heights, confirmed by photographs, of the west and east extents of the building also supports the theory that these parts of the building are of a different date. On close inspection the projecting chimney stacks are also different in design and size. The spacing of the windows is one of the factors which decreases the symmetry of the front and this is due to the junction between the phase I building and the additional south-west extension. Other points of note include the blocking of the dormer window at the west end of the front elevation and the addition of the two segmental headed, stone architraved windows inserted into the first and ground floors of the west

extension. With the additions to the west of the building it seems that the symmetry of the front façade was a conscious aim. Photographic evidence (Plate 3) shows a clear difference in walling material between the phase I building and the western extension which proves that the front elevation is not a re-facing but that it was adapted and added to in order to confer a level of uniformity.

The surviving back wall

When the majority of the manor house was demolished in 1957 most of the back wall was retained and incorporated into the new industrial buildings. Figures 26-28 illustrate the fabric survey carried out for the current investigation prior to the demolition of this surviving wall. The position of the standing wall in relation to the rest of the manor house is shown in Figure 21. The west end of the north wall was partially demolished leaving only the ground floor walling but the eastern walls of the north extensions and the original rear wall of the phase I building at the east survive to two storeys. The figures are labelled with context numbers referring to Table 3, which provides a brief description of the nature of the fabric and offers an interpretation of its significance. The original external side of the wall had become the interior of the industrial buildings and had been thickly plastered with cement. Therefore, the fabric survey of the original interior side of the wall was more informative. The blocking of the majority of the features seen throughout the wall was presumably carried out during the period of neglect prior to demolition (the Provisional List description of June 1950 states that the ground floor windows on the front elevation were blocked), or after demolition during the making good of the surviving wall.

By comparing the fabric evidence of the surviving wall and the 1954 building survey the northern elevation of the manor house can be interpreted. Figure 26 shows the walling of the north-west extension. Several features, described from west to east, are obvious in the fabric. The two windows on the ground floor plan, serving the additional kitchen (Fig. 23), are blocked by materials 4, 7 and 8. The westernmost window, blocked by material 4, may have originally been a doorway as from sill level down to floor level an opening, the same width as the window, is blocked with red brick finished with a cement render (5). To the east of the window blocked by 7 and 8 is a blocked door (blocking materials 11 and 12). This is shown on the plan as providing access to one of the less substantial buildings to the north of the manor house. It had a tiled sill, visible at ground level. Immediately to the east of this doorway is the scar of a former north-south wall (13). Seen on plan this wall divides the two phases of extension on the northern side of the building. Due to the use of larger faced stones to the east of the wall and the abutment of the door opening to the west it is likely that this was the external wall of the eastern extension holding the staircase, possibly evidence that this phase of the additions predates that of the north-west. At the east end of this wall is a further door providing access to a lean to structure to the north of the manor house. The door is blocked by materials 19 and 20 and retains its wooden lintel (18). To the east of the door is the scar of another north-south stone wall (21). On the plan this wall separates the room with the staircase from a small room, possibly a lavatory. The brick blocking with partial cement render (23 and 24) are features within this small room. They may represent the blocking of

the off-centre window seen on the plan, although are probably at too low a level for this, and may alternatively be the blocking of a plumbing arrangement.

Figures 27a-c show the eastern walls of the northern extensions (25, 27 & 28). These walls were rendered and so no features were recorded. The only thing of note on these elevations is the shouldered buttress (26) which can be identified as the partially demolished east-west dividing wall of the small room.

Figure 28 shows the eastern end of the original rear wall of the phase I manor house. The external stone architrave surrounds of the windows were retained in the interior of the industrial building (Plate 5). Their blocking was identified on the south elevation of the wall as materials 41, 42 and a mixture of 34, 35, 36. To the east of the standing wall the scar of the former east end wall of the phase I manor house was visible as materials 45 and 46. The use of a distinctive fabric, 29 and 30, at the west end of the wall may represent making good after the demolition of the rest of the manor house. Feature 32, which consists of poorly coursed, squared fabric surrounded by quoin stones, may be evidence for an earlier window which was not re-fenestrated with the rest. The remainder of the fabric, although of mixed nature, forms the general walling material.

The watching brief

A watching brief was carried out during the demolition of the western end of the wall. An area of render was removed from the northern side of the wall revealing the large ashlar facing of the external elevations, as seen in the historic photographs. The stone reveals of the two blocked windows at the west end of the wall were also examined (Plate 6). The jambs of the windows were of stone and splayed inwards. A groove to hold the glazing was visible. An investigation of the rubble spoil heaps from the demolition of the rest of the wall produced a number of worked stones (Plate 7). All the pieces recovered were of limestone. The stone sill of a window was recovered, again with a glazing groove and sockets for glazing bars and a sloping face to throw water. A moulded stone with a curving profile, possibly a post-medieval console, was recovered, as was a large stone with embattled moulding and sloping surface which possibly had been a component of a chimney/ fireplace, possibly medieval. Also recovered was an ovolo window mullion with glazing groove which would fit a 17th-century date. Unfortunately, as the pieces were recovered from the spoil heap it is impossible to say if they were *in situ* within the wall. The possible console had a skin of the internal cement render of the industrial building on its unmoulded side, implying that the moulding detail was buried in the core of the wall. This suggests that at least some of the pieces were reused materials, possibly imported from a different site. The stone sill and window mullion seem more likely to have been in their original positions given the evidence of the stone window jambs.

The cellars

During the excavation two areas of the cellars (Figs. 21 and 22) were partially excavated by machine. Figure 21 shows the cellars in relation to the ground floor of the manor house. The northernmost cellar to be investigated had a flight of red brick

stairs covered in concrete at the east end (Plate 8). These stairs are not shown on the ground floor plan but are outlined on the cellar plan. The floor of the cellar was of red brick or tile. The northern wall was rendered and an area of this render was removed revealing the rubble stone wall and blocked light vent, seen on the plan. The rubble of the wall was brought to course and consisted of a wide variety of sizes (from 0.1 – 0.6 m). The light vent had been blocked with two large pieces of faced stone. From the top of the wall at ground level a section through the wall showed that originally the opening was recessed by 0.32 m from the wall face. It probably had a grille opening at ground level to allow light into the cellar.

The southern cellar also had rendered walls and a laid brick or tile floor (Plate 9). The eastern light vent was observed recessed into the wall with a battered slope. At floor level a rubble plinth was seen along the north and east walls. The plinth was set out from the wall face by 0.27 m and was 0.31 m high. Its function is unclear.

Discussion and conclusions

The evidence of the 1954 plans, historic photographs, fabric survey of the surviving rear wall and the watching brief during its demolition have provided a surprising amount of information about Temple Cowley Manor House. The building is clearly of a number of phases with origins as a three-unit building, of hall-house or derived type. This phase one building was then extended to the west and to the north. It is suggested that these extensions may represent a number of phases, with the northern extension appearing to pre-date those of the west. These additions greatly increased the amount of accommodation available and provided a further kitchen on the ground floor to the north-west.

Due to the lack of direct physical evidence it is difficult to date the phases of the building. Although the symmetrical façade of the building suggests a 17th-century date, with later 18th-century re-fenestration, it is possible that the three-unit building could have medieval origins. As to the date of the extensions it is impossible to say other than they existed in 1883 in Jackson's illustration of the site.

If confirmation of the interpretation and dating of the phases of the building was desirable, further evidence of the demolished building would be required, including internal photographs. That this evidence exists is not out of the question and finding the provenance of the 1954 survey could lead to such material. In addition further research about the ownership of the property could be enlightening, together with any documentation concerning the demolition of the listed building that may have been required.

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Victoria County History, Oxon, 1957 vol. 5.

APPENDIX 1

List of sources consulted

Archival sources

Pembroke College archives:

- Unfortunately, the College deeds relating to the manor were let outside the College before 1934 and never recovered. A letter of that year (28/1/18) describes them as 'a number of old deeds and documents (two or three hundred years old)' belonging to the College and relating to its interests in Cowley
- 3/11/1 - Rev. James Phipps will of 1763 bequeathing the manor to the College, came into possession in 1778

Oxfordshire Public Record Office:

- No relevant documents discovered

Centre for Oxfordshire Studies:

- Historical Photograph Collection
- Oxfo 728.8 Cowl:
- 1954 survey – including front elevation, plans of the cellar floor, ground floor, first floor and second floor and three sections through the building
- *The Manor House, Temple Cowley*, undated pamphlet – missing
- *Notes on Cowley Manor House*, F A Yockney, c 1954 – NB this document refers to a lease of 1671 held by Christ Church archives, and does not relate to the Manor of Temple Cowley but to that of Church Cowley

Cartographic Sources

Abbreviations: OA = Oxfordshire Archives. OLSL = Oxfordshire Local Studies Library

- The description of no. of tenem(te) in Hockmore Streete in the parish of Cowley...beinge parcell of the possessions of the presidente and schollers of (Corpus Christi) College in ye university of Oxford (1605). C.C.C. Mun. Langdon.
- A New Map of the County of Oxfordshire. Davies (1797). Sheet XI
- Cowley, Iffley and Littlemore. Sketch Map Before the Inclosure (published in VCH III, 119)

- Enclosure Map of the Parish of Cowley (1853) OA/B.24
- Tithe Award of the Parish of Cowley (1856) OLSL/IR29/27/40 (award)
OLSL/IR30/27/40 (map)
- Oxford Military College. JG Jackson, Architect (drawing showing elevations)
(1883)
- Nuffield Press Fire Assembly Points (undated)

- Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6" Map (1886). Oxon Sheet XXXIX.NE
- Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6" Map (1900). Oxon Sheet XXXIX.NE
- Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Revised 6" Map (1919). Oxon Sheets XXXIX.NE

- Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" Map. Oxon Sheet XXXIX.4 (1879) and
XXXIX.8 (1886)
- Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25" Map. Oxon Sheet XXXIX.4 (1899) and
XXXIX.8 (1900)
- Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Revised 25" Map. Oxon Sheets XXXIX.4/8 (1921)
- Ordnance Survey 25" Map. Oxon Sheet XXXIX.8 (1937)

- Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Scale Map (1962) Sheet SP5404/SP5504
- Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map (1966) Sheet SP5404SW
- Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map (1970) Sheet SP5404SE
- Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map (1980) Sheet SP5404SW
- Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map (1988) Sheet SP5404SW
- Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map (1993) Sheets SP5404SW/SE
- Ordnance Survey 1:1250 Scale Map (1995) Sheet SP5404SE

Table 1 Trench dimensions

Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Comments
1	10	5.5	Empty
2	10	8	Empty
3	11	1	Empty
4	15.3	1	Building B
5	14.5	1	
6	30	1	Building A, C & D
7	7.7	1	
8	7.5	1	
9	6	2	
10	15	1	Watching brief
11	8.5	2	Building E
12	15	0.80	
13	10	2	Building A, cellars & manor wall

Table 2 Pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds (in g.) per context by fabric type

Context	Romano-British	OXAC	OXAQ	OXY	OXAM	Tudor Green	Cistercian ware	Red Earthenware	Misc. 19 th /20 th C	TPQ	Comments
<i>Trench 4</i>											
2										20 th C	
25					2 (11)					13 th C +	
26					1 (9)					13 th C +	
32			1 (13)							L.11 th C +	
<i>Trench 5</i>											
2			1 (20)							L.11 th C +	Combed decoration.
4		3 (39)			2 (12)					13 th C +	
11					1 (6)					13 th C +	
16					1 (1)					13 th C + ??	
27										19 th C +	
41						1 (1)			2 (4)	15 th C +	
43									1 (7)	20 th C	
46									6 (13)	20 th C	
<i>Trench 6</i>											
16									6 (50)	19 th C +	
26					1 (22)					13 th C +	
32					1 (6)					13 th C +	
38					1 (25)					13 th C +	
40					1 (7)					13 th C +	
43				2 (141)*	2 (5)					13 th C +	*full-profile of internally glazed jar.
49				6 (63)*						16 th C +	*late forms
<i>Trench 7</i>											
5		1 (7)						1 (59)		16 th C +	
7		1 (12)			1 (1)					13 th C + ?	
9					2 (30)					13 th C +	
11					2 (24)*					15 th C + ?	*late form
<i>Trench 9</i>											
14			1 (7)							L.11 th C +	
16					1 (2)					13 th C + ?	
<i>Trench 11</i>											
107					1 (7)					13 th C +	
138		1 (1)								L.Sax ??	
<i>Trench 12</i>											
85										L.11 th C +	
90	1 (2)	1 (10)	1 (13)							15 th C +	Cross-join with 91
91		2 (12)	1 (16)		3 (525)*	1 (20)				15 th C +	*near-complete base of very large ? jug.
92					1 (11)					15 th C +	*late form
102					1 (2)					13 th C +	
114		1 (35)			2 (19)					13 th C +	
Total	1 (2)	10 (116)	5 (69)	2 (141)	41 (915)	2 (28)	2 (12)	1 (59)	15 (74)		

Table 3 *The manor house wall*

Context Numbers:	Fabric Description:	Interpretation:
1	Coursed faced stone	Modern making good after demolition of the rest of the manor house
2	Quoin stones	Quoin stones of the original north-west corner of the building
3	Uncoursed rubblestone	General walling
4	Coursed rubblestone	Blocking of window opening – see Fig. 23
5	Cement rendered brick work	Blocking of possible doorway
6	Area of faced stones	?Modern making good following the demolition of the rest of the manor house
7	Large squared blocks laid in courses	Blocking of window opening – see Fig. 23
8	Uncoursed rubblestone	Blocking of window opening
9	Cement rendered brick work	Brick sill
10	Uncoursed rubblestone	General walling
11	Uncoursed rubble	Blocking of door opening – see Fig. 23
12	Poorly coursed faced stone	Blocking of door opening
13	Rough surface, core rubble	Scar of former N-S wall, possibly originally an external wall of one of the phases of building – see Fig. 23
14	Area of large faced stones	Possibly the extent of one phase of building with 13 representing the return wall
15	Uncoursed very small rubblestone	Unclear significance
16	Uncoursed rubblestone	General walling
17	Uncoursed rubblestone with occasional faced squared blocks	General walling, unclear if any significant difference with 16
18	Timber	Lintel to former door
19	Mostly uncoursed rubblestone	Blocking material of former door
20	Coursed faced squared blocks	Blocking material of former door, unlikely that difference with 19 is significant
21	Rough surface, core rubble	Scar of former N – S wall – see Fig. 23
22	Uncoursed rubble stone	General walling material
23	Red bricks	Clearly associated with 24 but significance unclear
24	Red brick work partially covered with cement render	Blocking material, unclear what feature being blocked, Fig. 23 shows for this, possibly drain / plumbing as size of the room suggests it was a lavatory
25	Grit faced cement rendered wall surface	
26	Grit faced cement rendered 'buttress' with battered top	Buttress is the remains of the east-west wall enclosing a small room, possibly lavatory – see Fig. 23
27	Grit faced cement rendered wall surface	
28	Grit faced cement rendered wall surface	
29	Coursed stone with many squared blocks and quoins	Possible modern making good following the demolition of the rest of the building
30	Coursed fabric	As 29
31	Uncoursed rubblestone	General walling
32	Poorly coursed squared fabric, surrounded by quoin stones	Possible blocked window – if so represents an early window that was not re-fenestrated with the stone architraves seen on Plate 5
33	Coursed rubble stone	General walling
34	Coursed, squared and faced stone	Partial blocking of window with stone architrave surviving on northern elevation of wall – see Plate 5 and Fig. 23
35	Poorly coursed rubblestone	As 34
36	Coursed stone including some faced blocks	As 34
37	Coursed rubblestone	General walling
38	Coursed stone, including some squared and faced blocks	As 37
39	Coursed rubblestone	General walling
40	Uncoursed rubblestone	General walling
41	Coursed material including some squared and faced pieces	Blocking of window with stone architrave surviving on northern elevation of wall – see Plate 5 and Fig. 24
42	Coursed material with some squared and faced blocks	Blocking of window with stone architrave surviving on northern elevation of wall – see Plate 5 and Fig. 23
43	Poorly coursed rubblestone	General walling
44	Uncoursed rubblestone	General walling
45	Uncoursed rubblestone with some faced pieces	Scar of demolished N-S external wall of phase 1 manor house – see Fig. 23 and 24
46	Uncoursed rubblestone	As 45

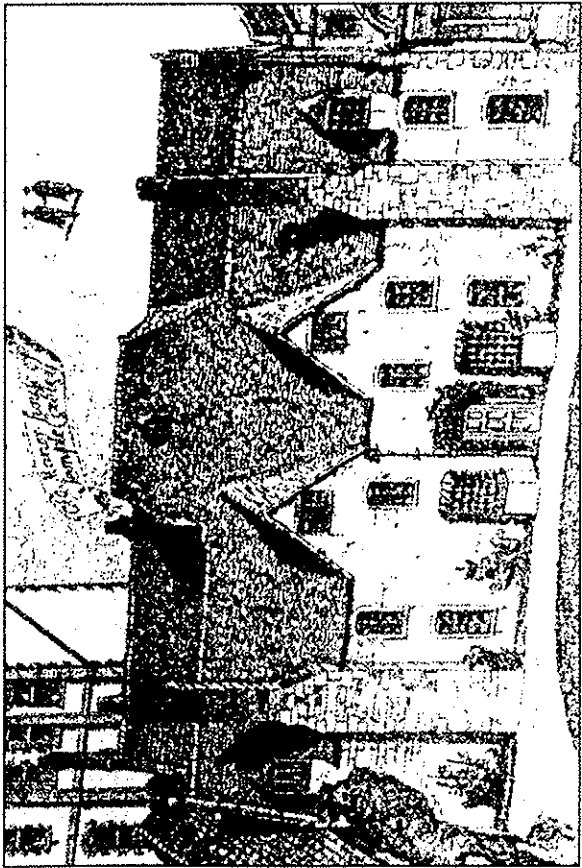


Plate 1: Temple Cowley manor house. Extract from Jackson's 1883 drawing (see figure 3)

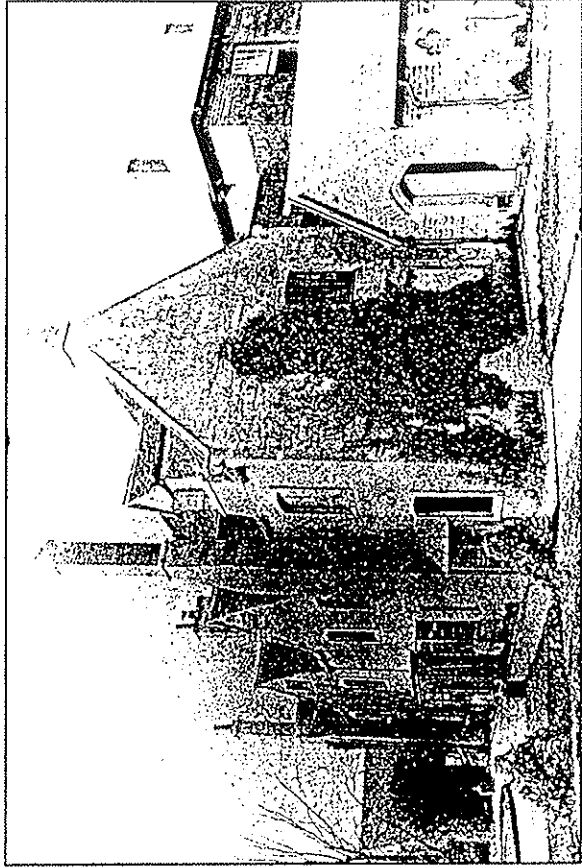


Plate 2: Undated view of the manor house (Centre for Oxfordshire Studies 1973/75/57)

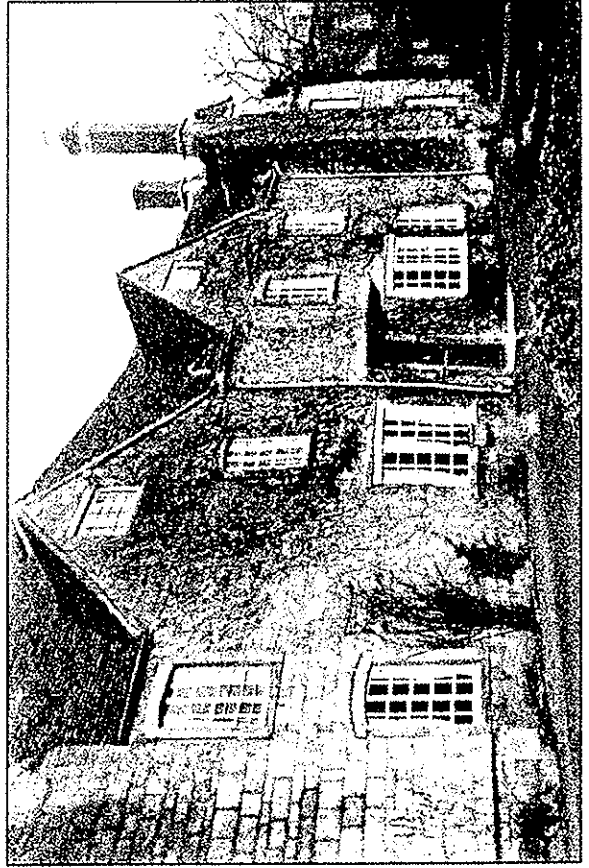


Plate 3: Undated view of the manor house (VCH, 1957)

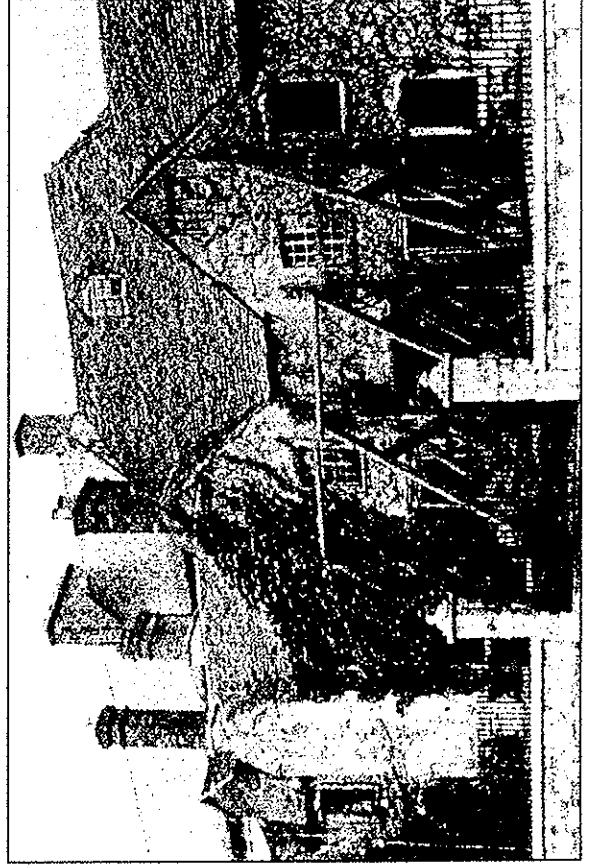


Plate 4: 1938 view of manor house with shoring (Changing Faces of Cowley, 1994)

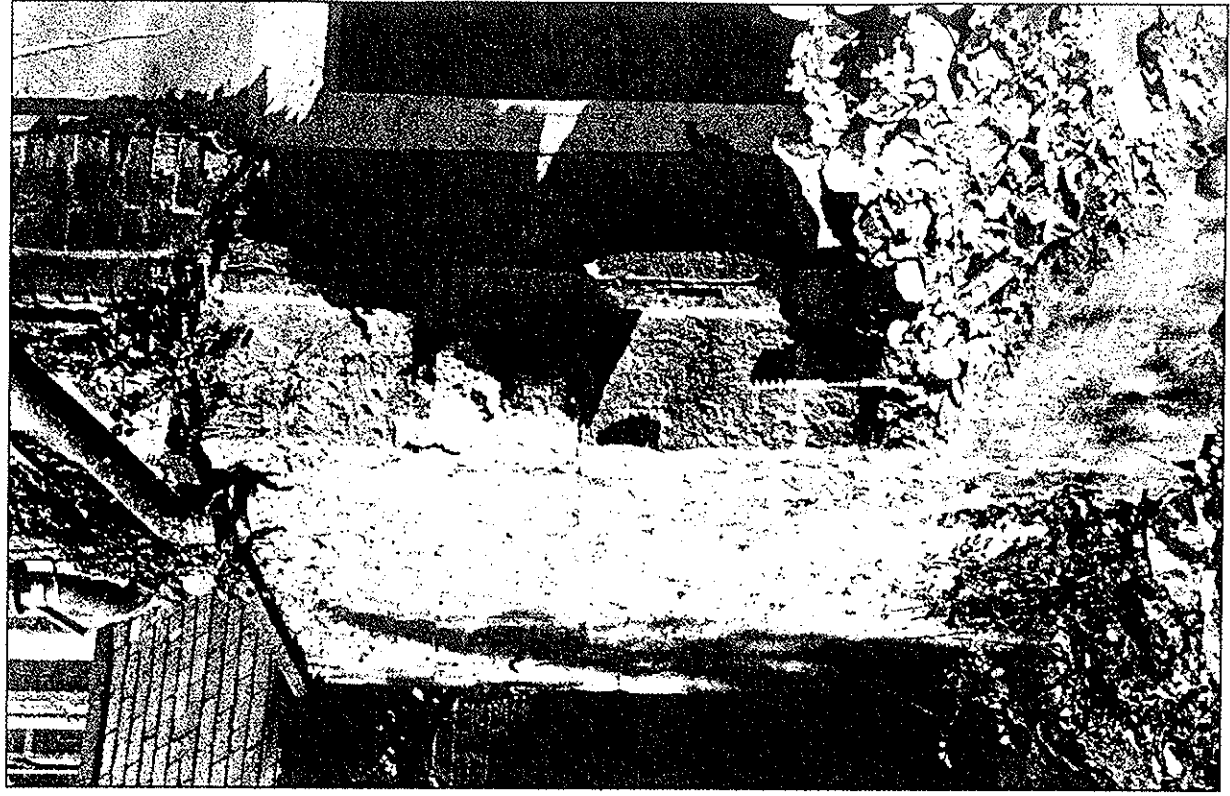


Plate 6: Stone window jamb exposed during demolition of rear wall

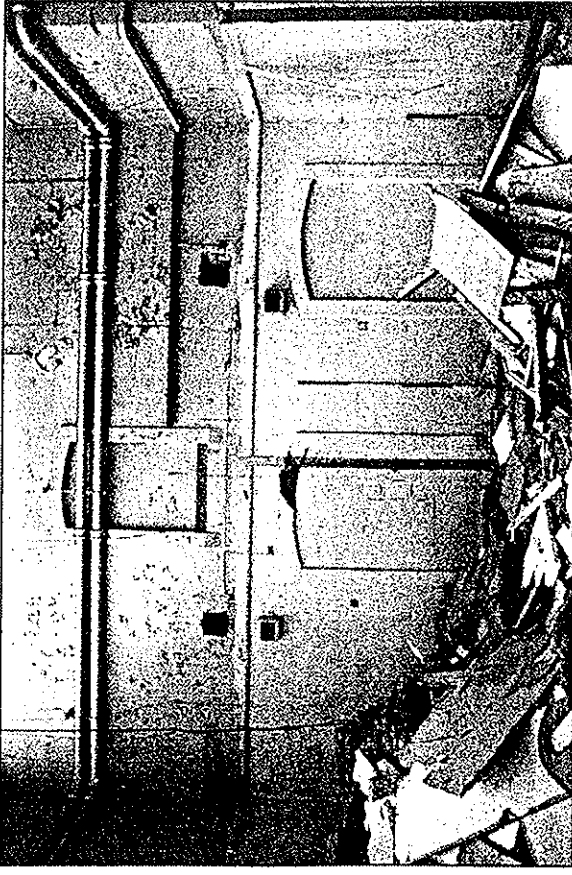


Plate 5: External stone architraves of the rear wall of the manor house incorporated into industrial buildings



Plate 7: Pieces of worked stone recovered from wall rubble

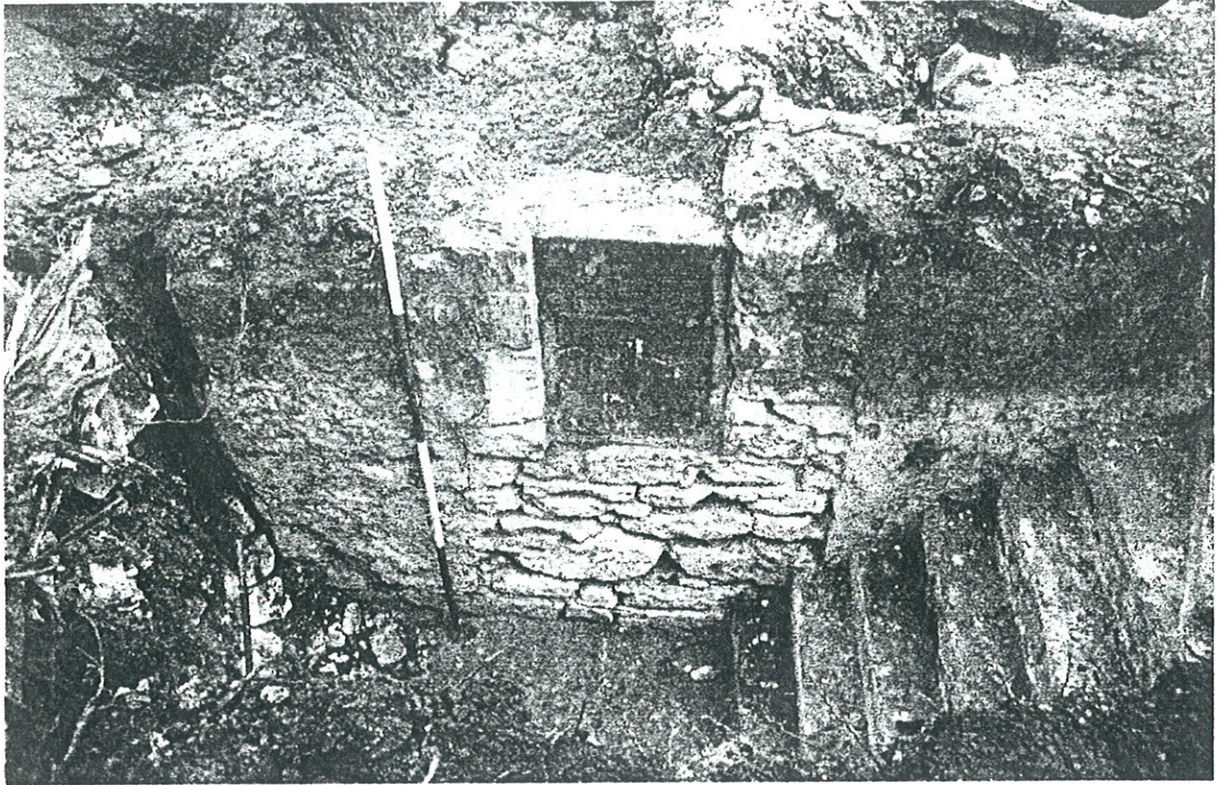
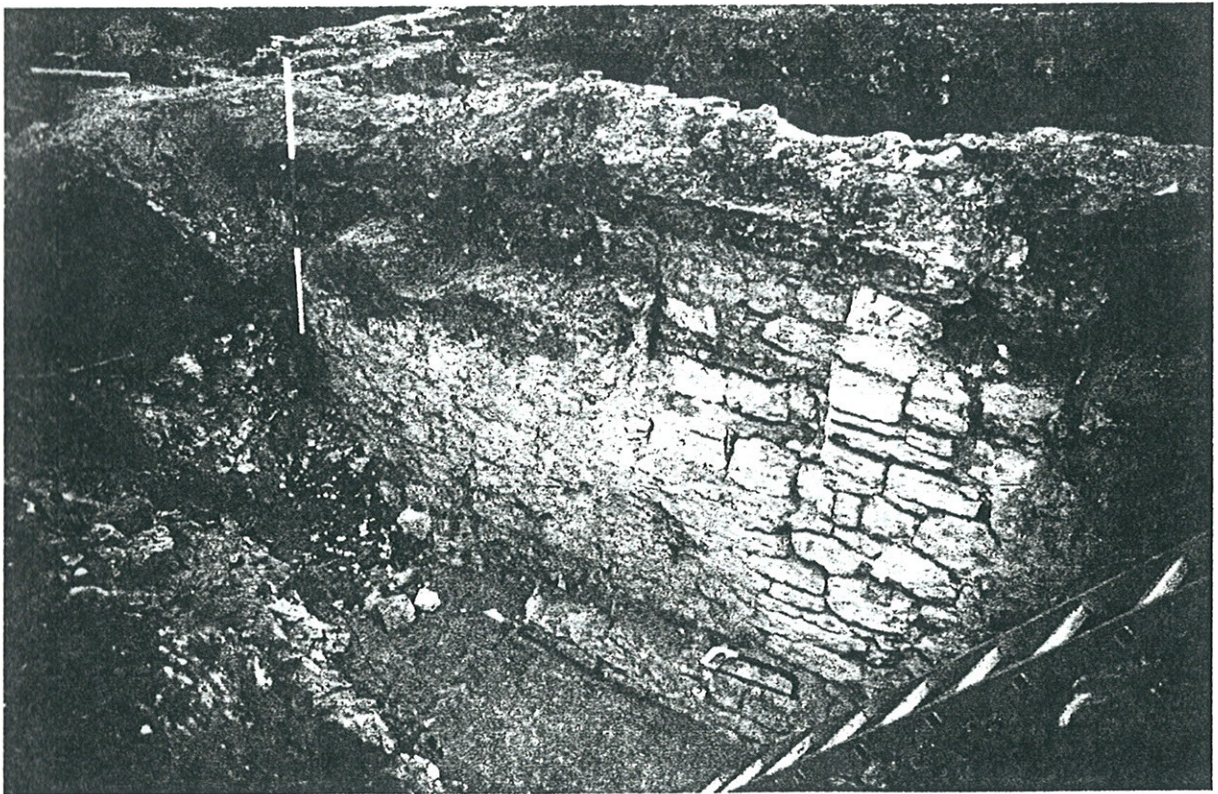


Plate 8: Northern cellar partially excavated

Plate 9: Southern cellar partially excavated



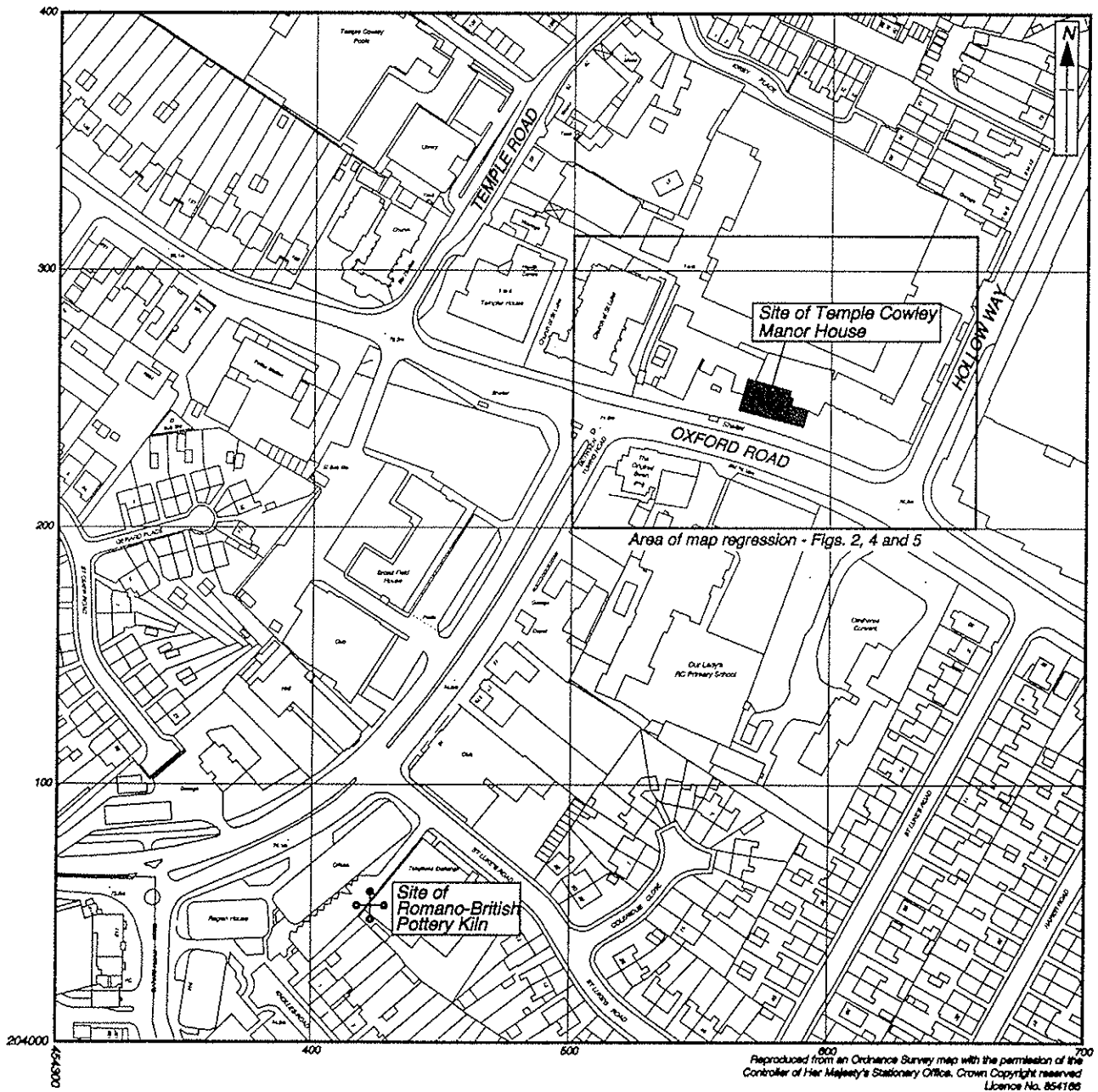
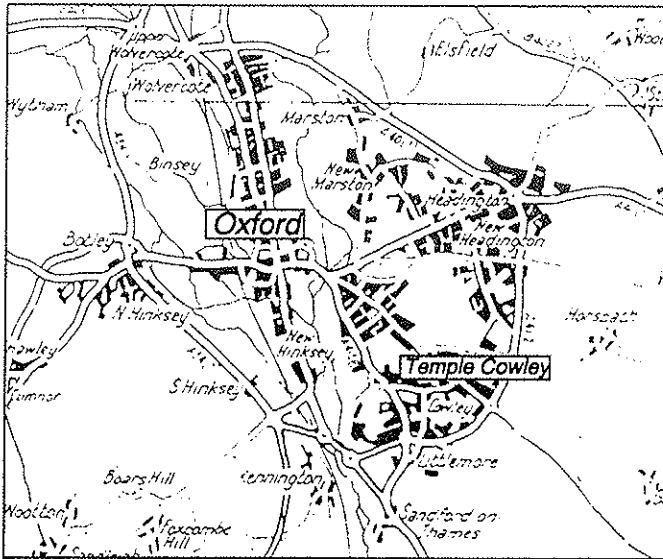


Fig. 1: Site location

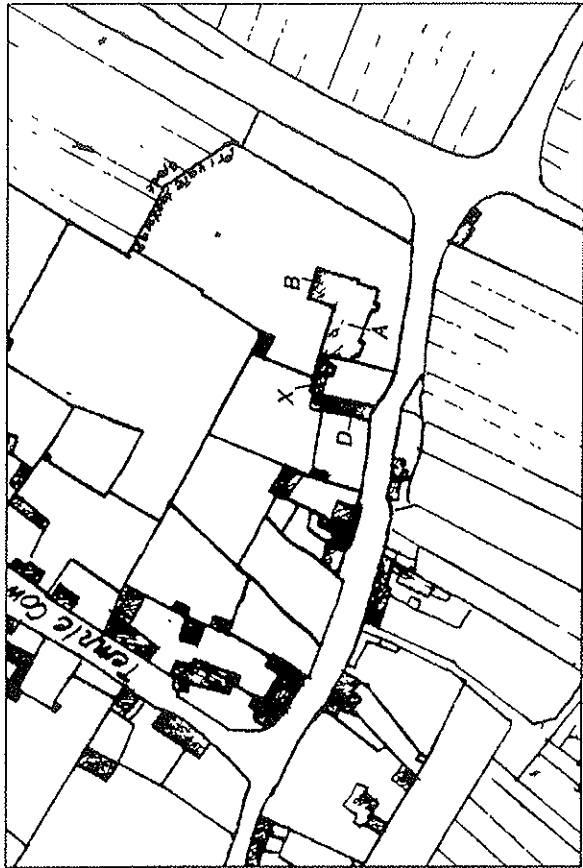


Fig. 2b: Enclosure map 1853 (Traced extract)

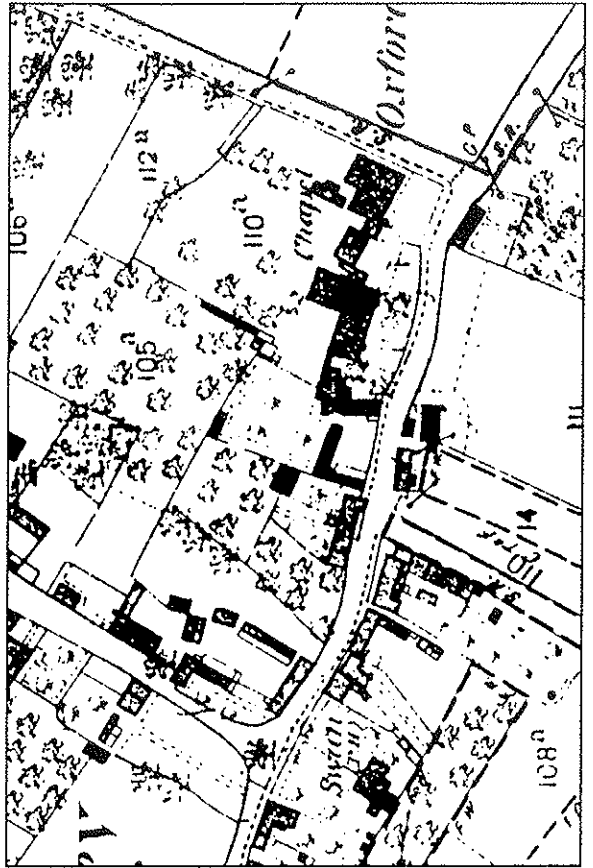


Fig. 2d: OS 1st edition 25" 1886

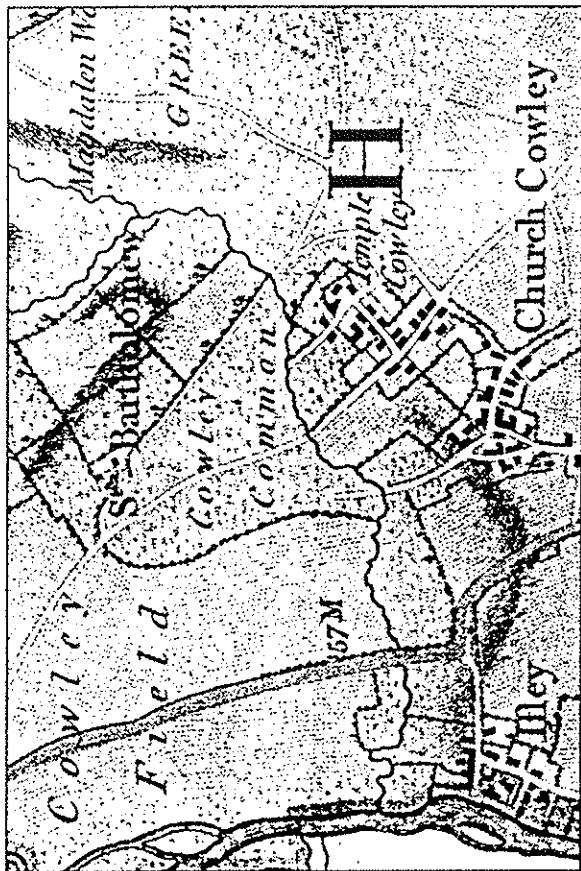


Fig. 2a: Davis map 1797

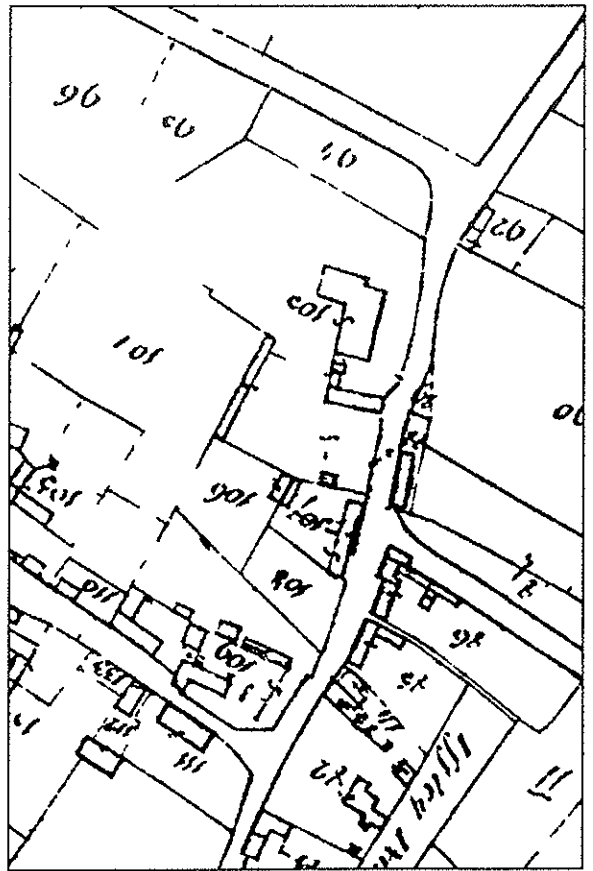


Fig. 2c: Tithe map 1856

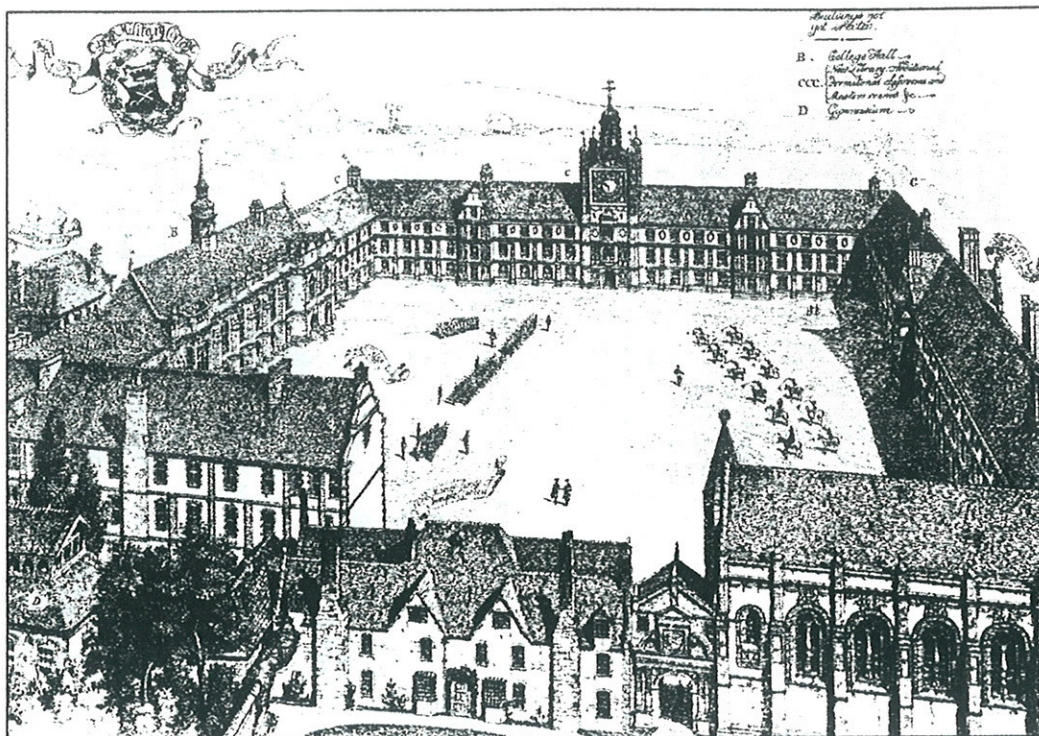


Fig.3: Jackson's 1883 drawing, showing existing and proposed buildings

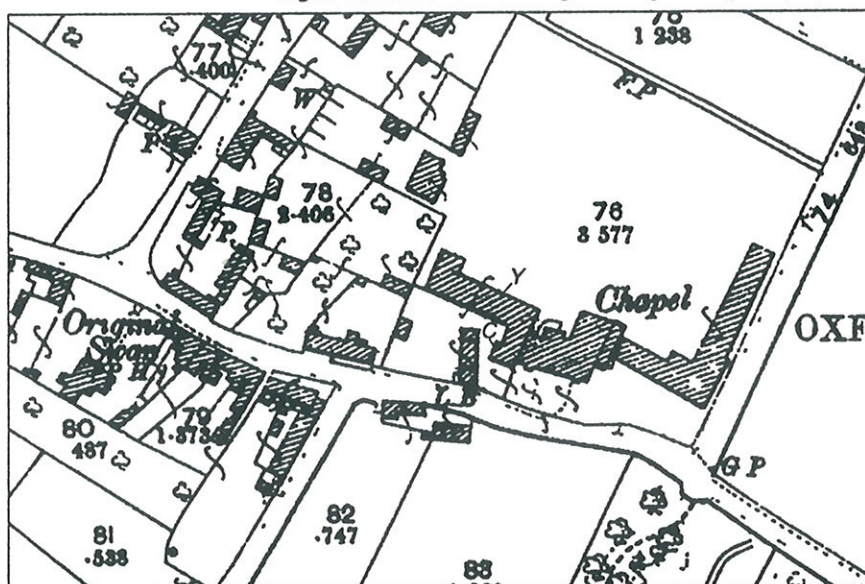


Fig. 4a: OS 2nd edition 25" 1900

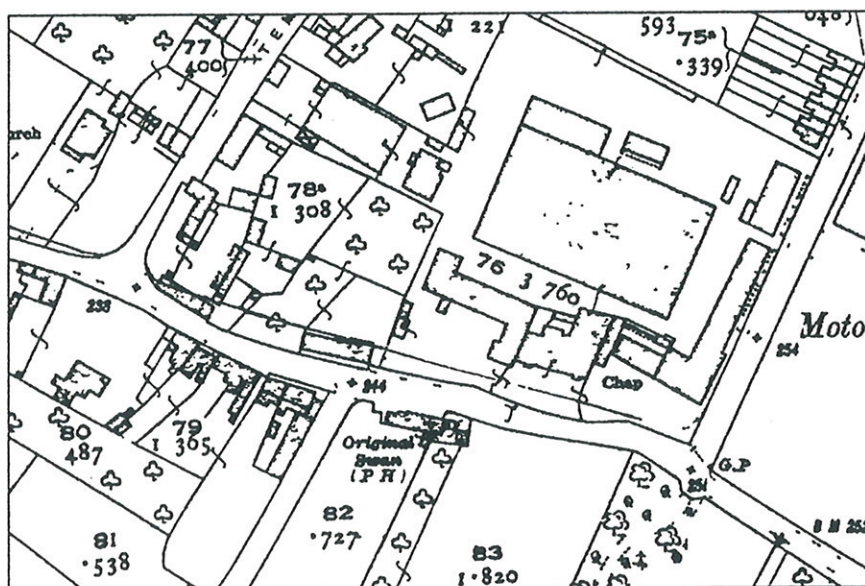


Fig. 4b: OS 25" 1921

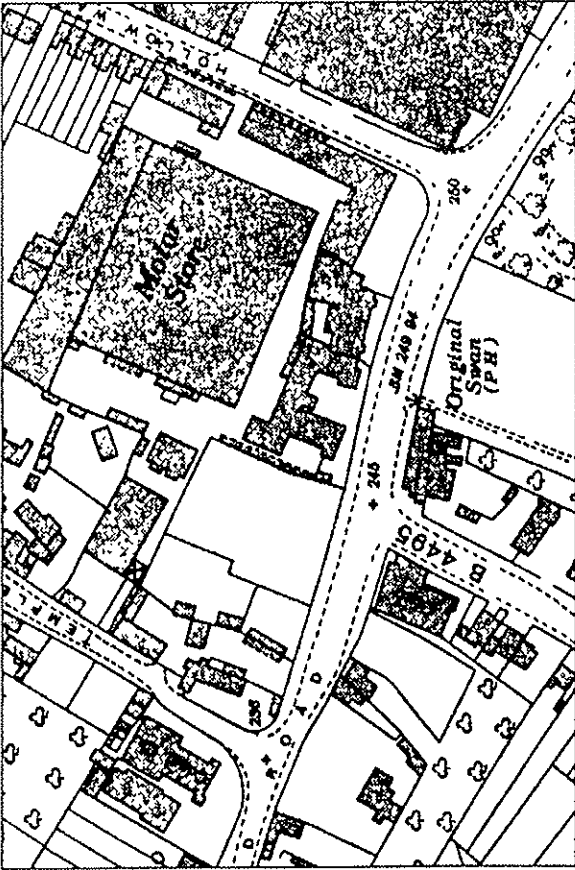


Fig. 5a: OS 25" 1837



Fig. 5b: OS 1:2500 1962

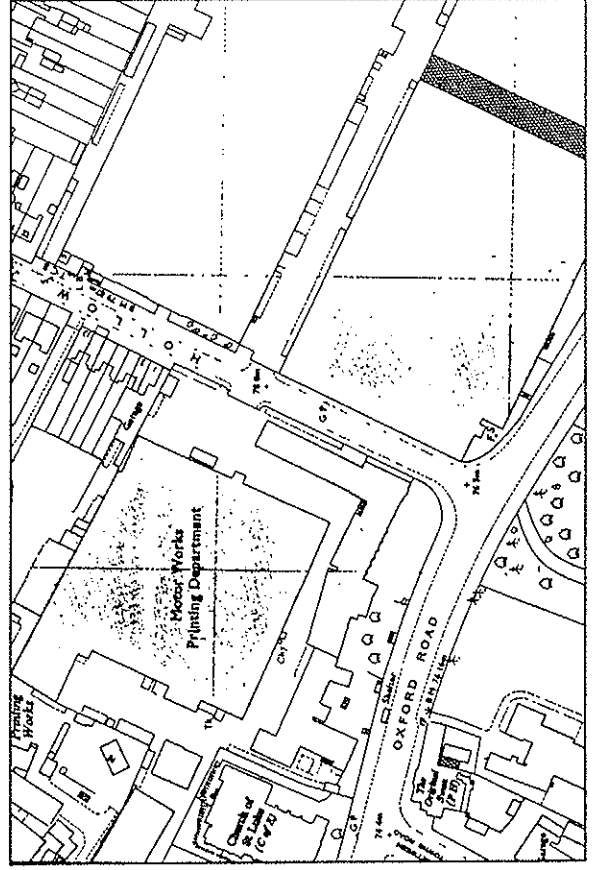


Fig. 5c: OS 1:2500 1970

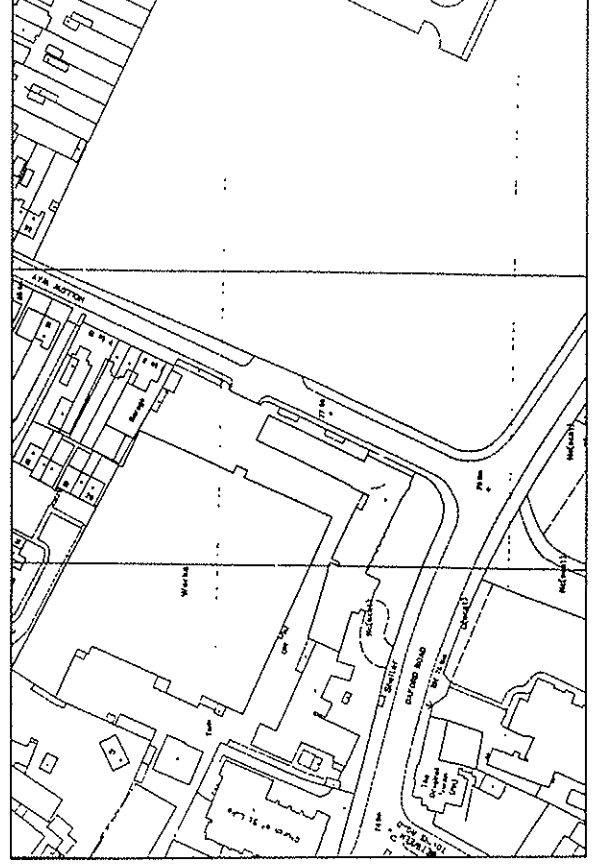


Fig. 5d: OS 1:2500 1995

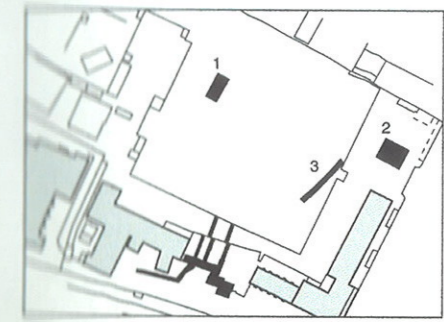
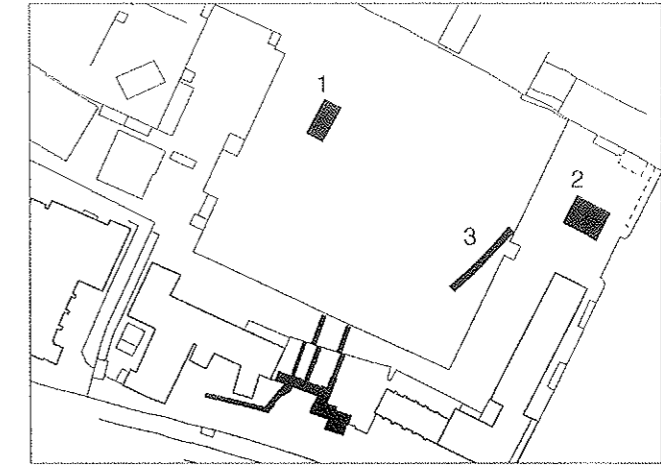


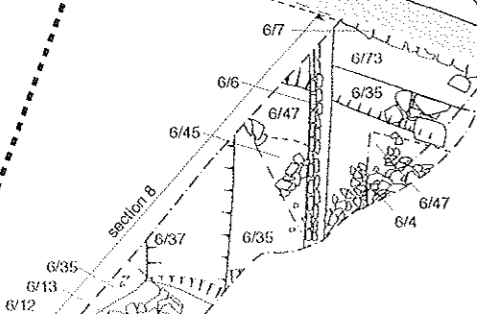
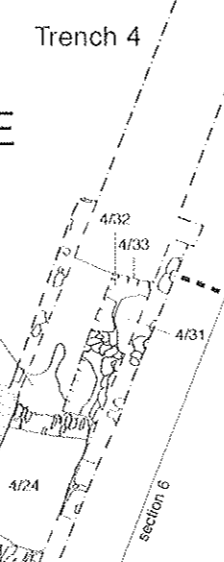
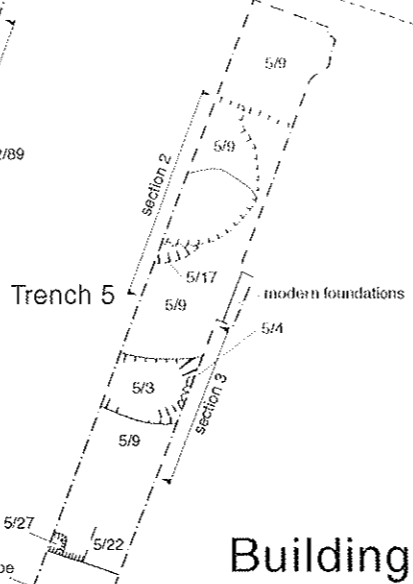
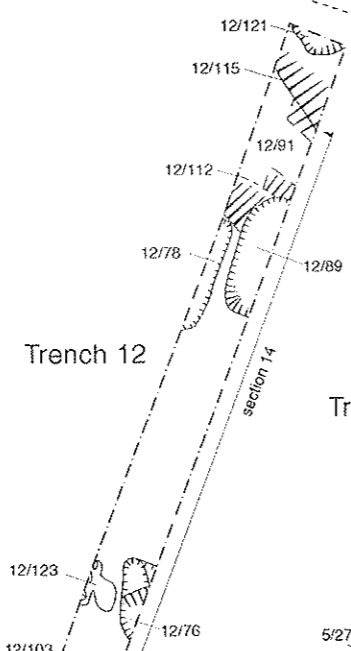
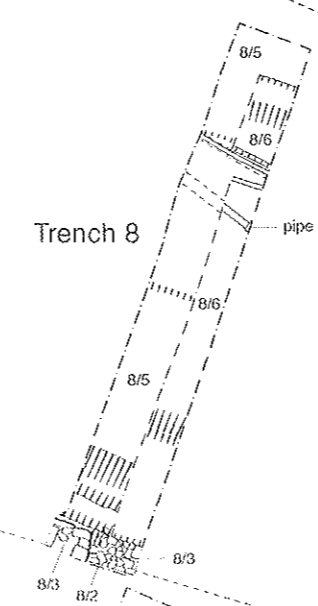
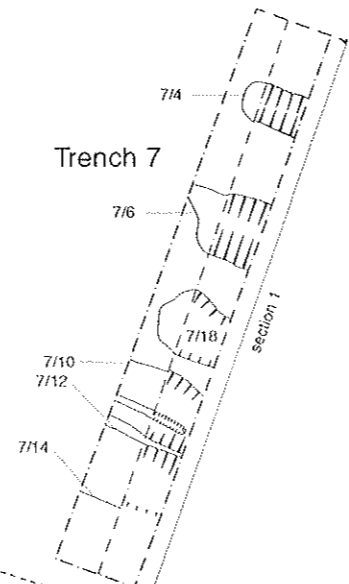


Fig. 6 - Trench location plan and phasing 10m



-  Remains of the manor house wall
-  Other stone features



Building E

Building B

Fig. 7 - Site plan

10m



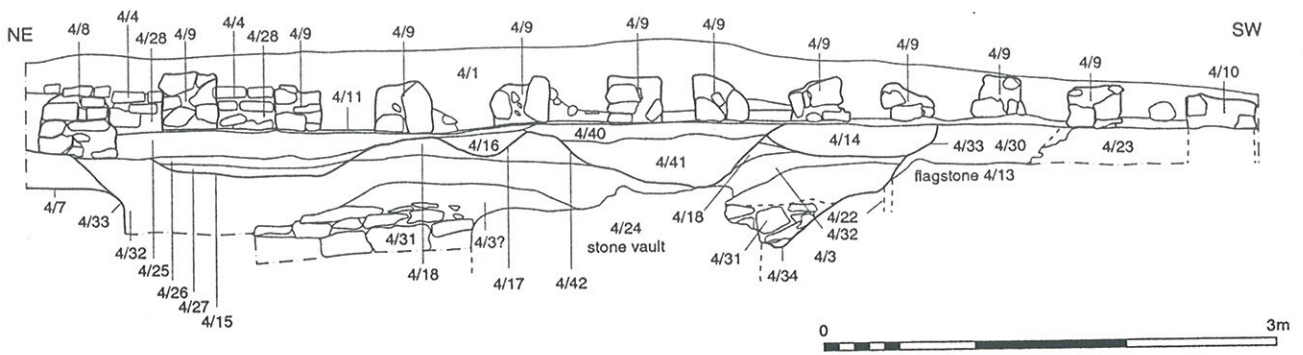


Fig. 8 - Section 6 - Trench 4

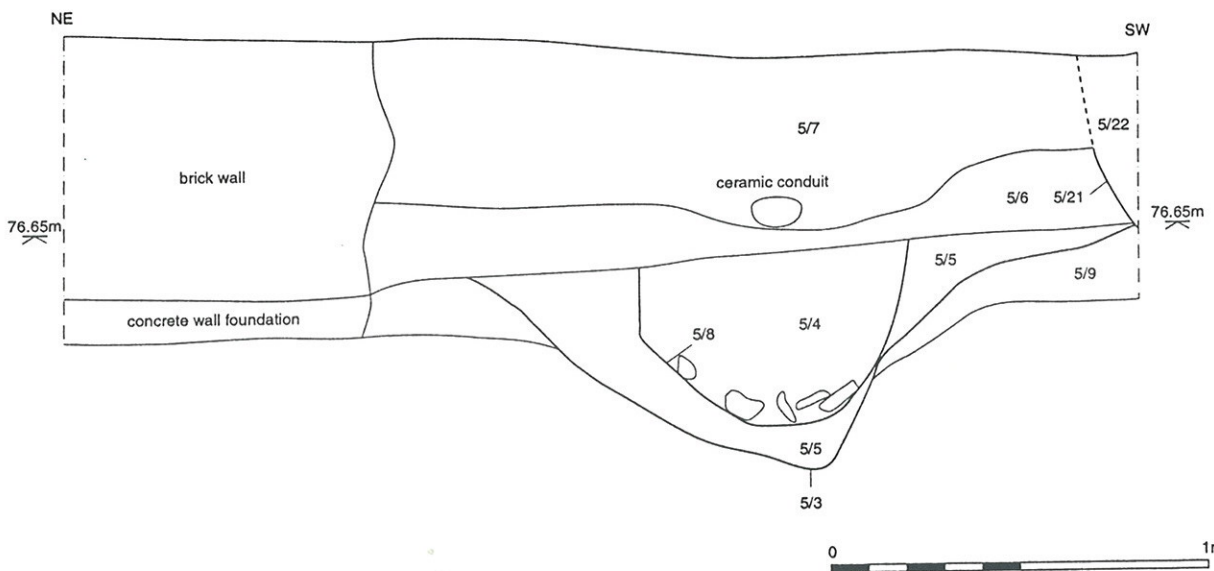


Fig. 9 - Section 3 - Trench 5

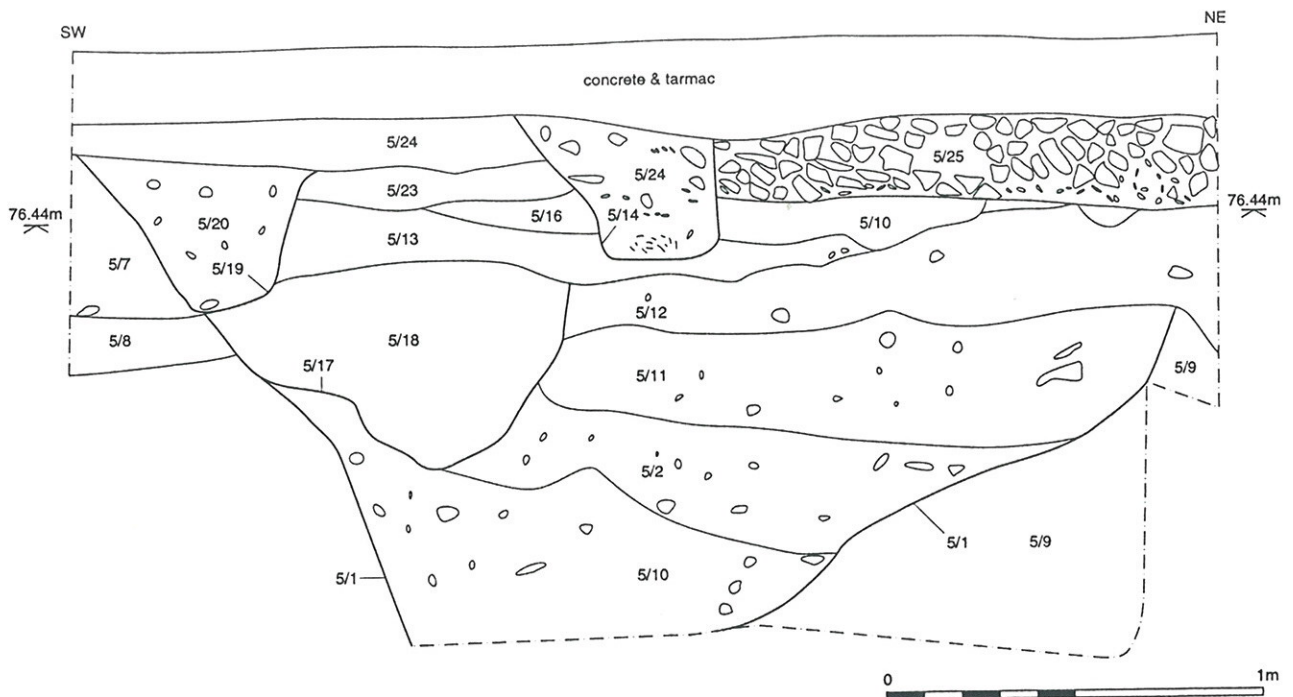


Fig. 10 - Section 2 - Trench 5

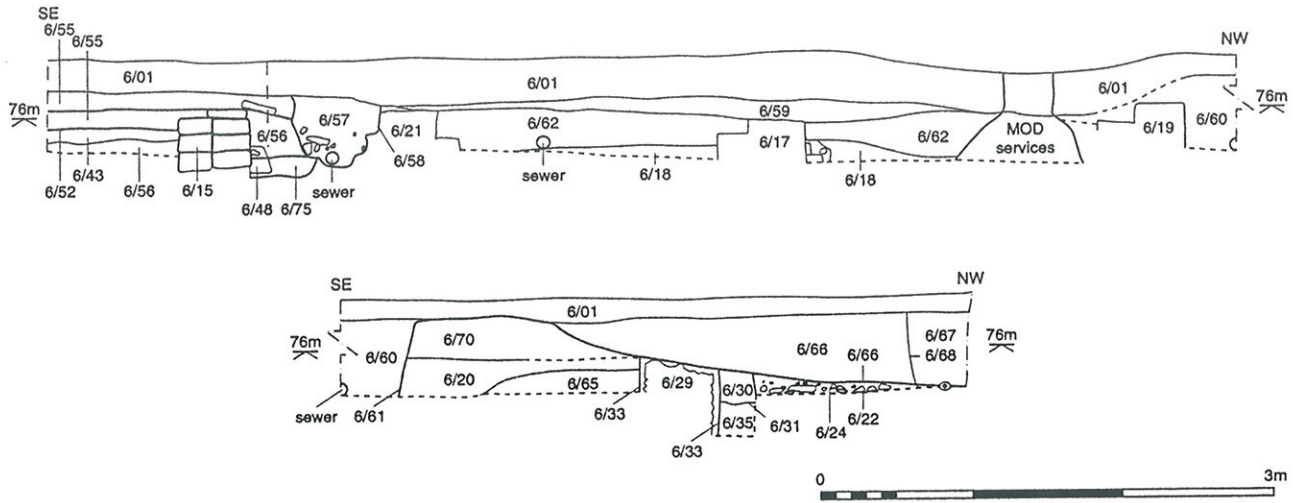


Fig. 11 - Section 11 - Trench 6

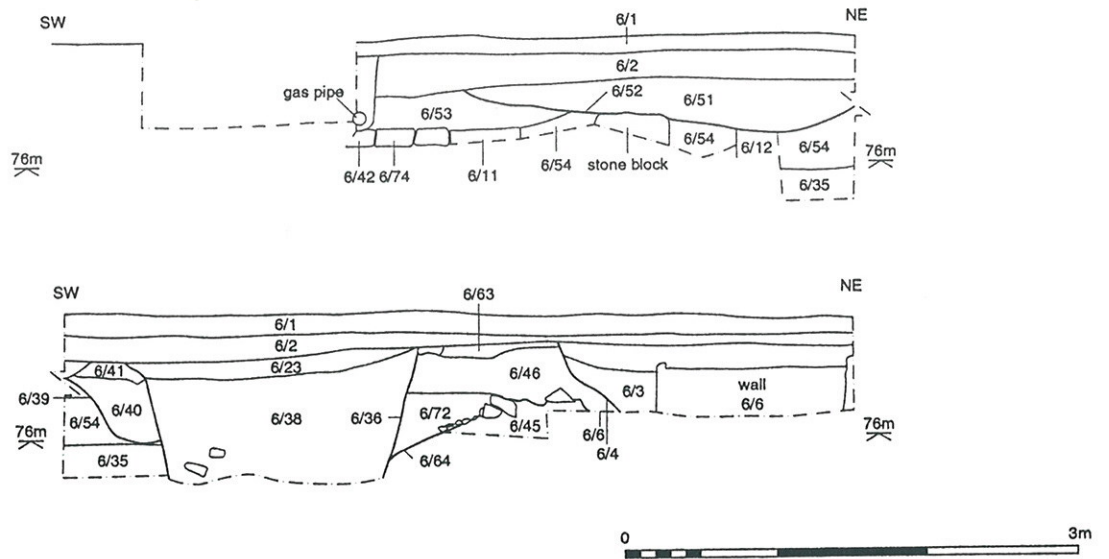


Fig. 12 - Section 8 - Trench 6

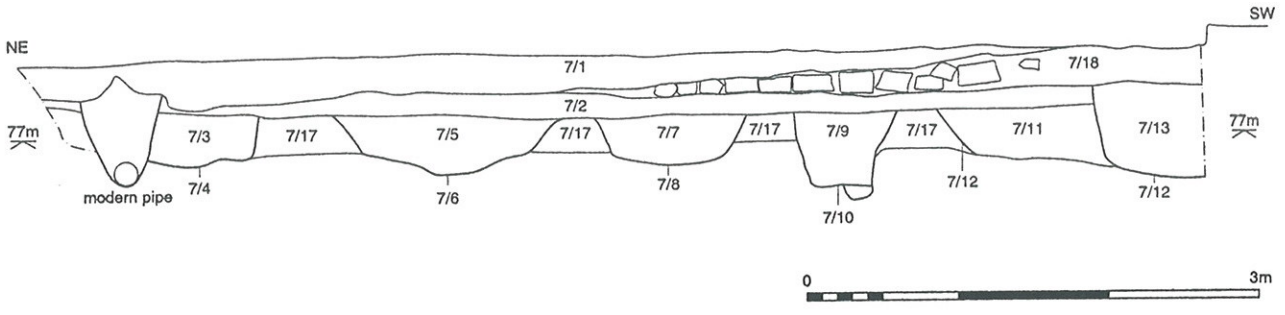


Fig. 13 - Section 1 - Trench 7

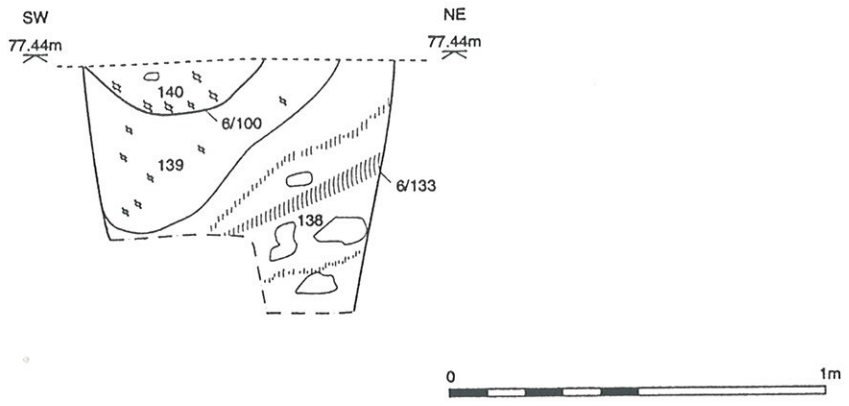


Fig. 14 - Section 18 - Trench 11

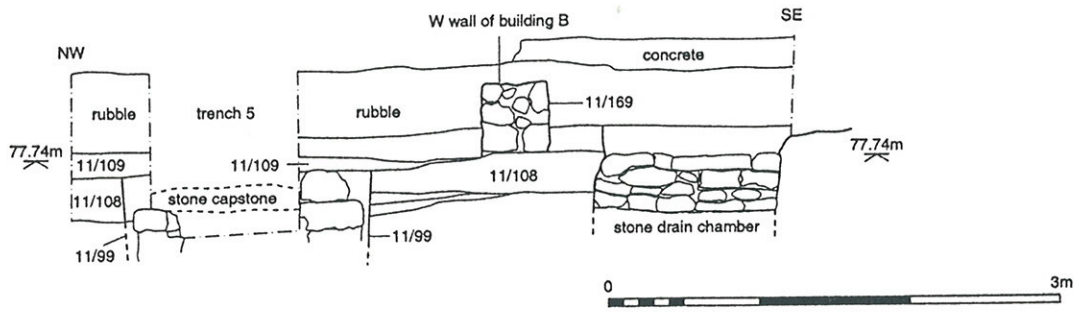


Fig. 15 - Section 25 - Trench 11

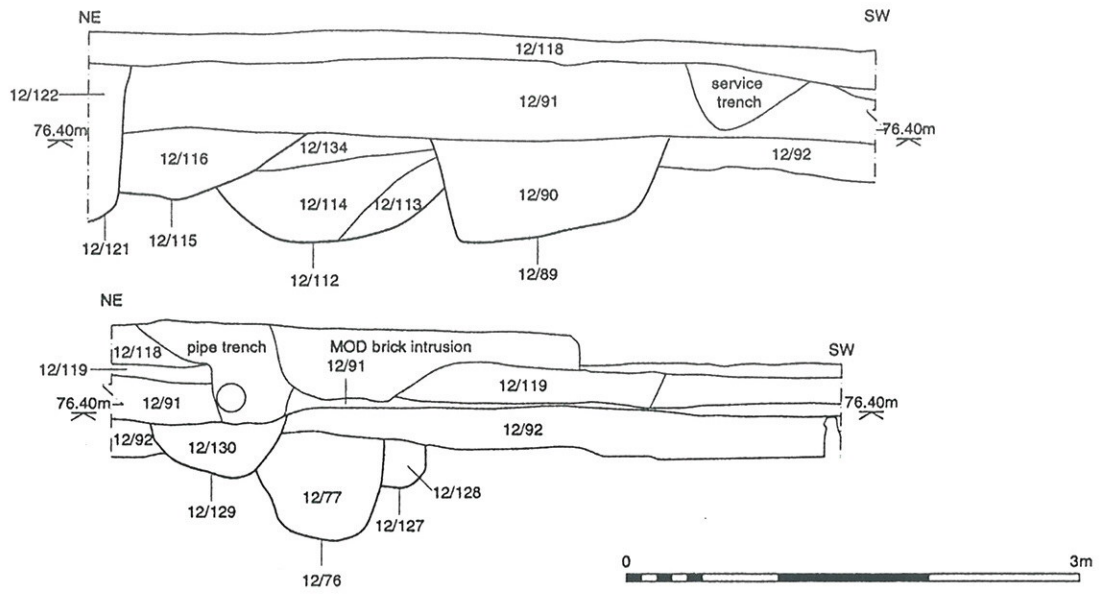


Fig. 16 - Section 14 - Trench 12



Fig. 17: 1954 survey. Front elevation of manor house. 1:100

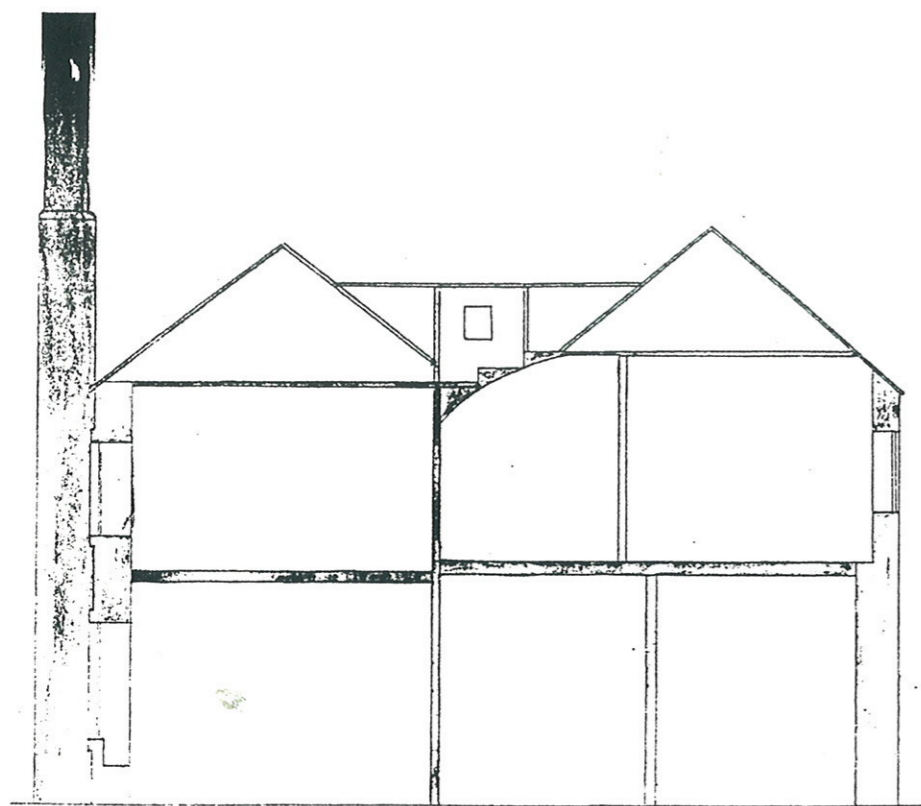


Fig. 18: 1954 survey. Section A-A. 1:100

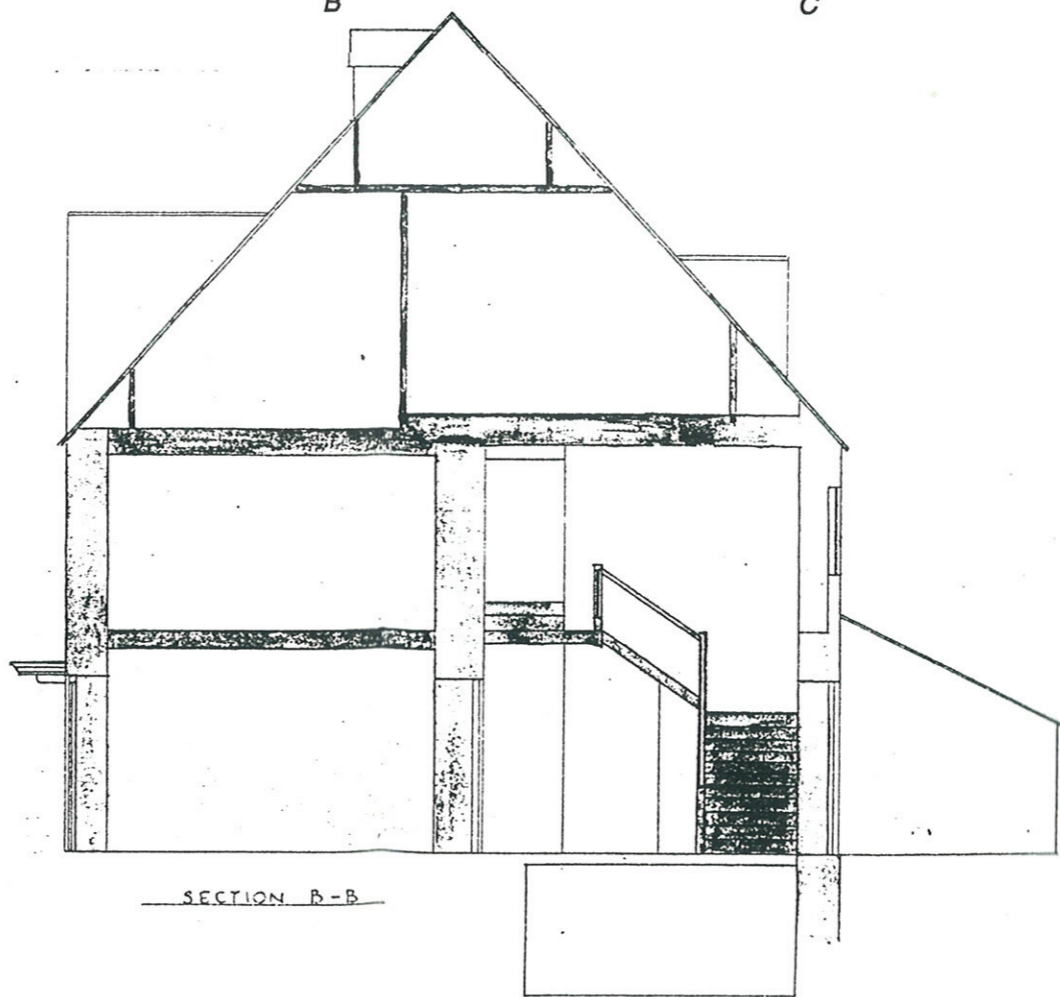


Fig. 19: 1954 survey. Section B-B. 1:100

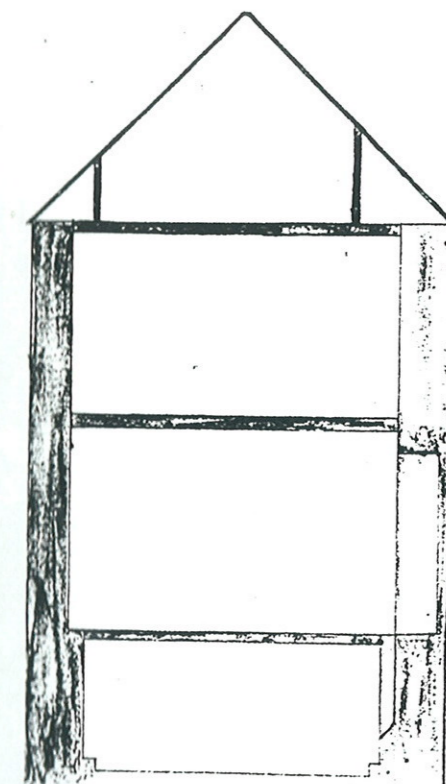
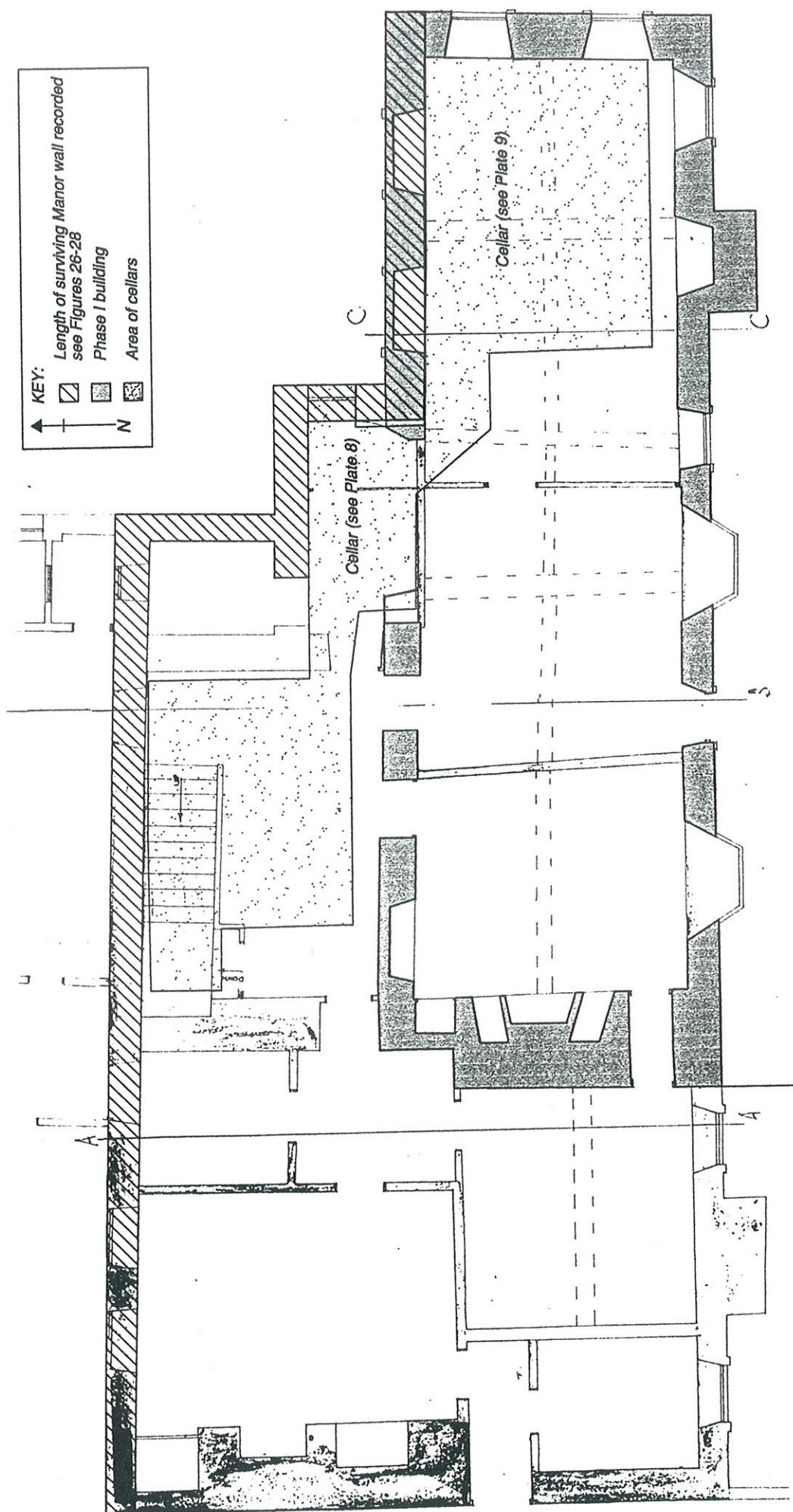


Fig. 20: 1954 survey. Section C-C. 1:100



Change in fabric seen on elevation (see Plate 3)

Fig. 21: 1954 Ground Floor Plan with annotations. 1:100

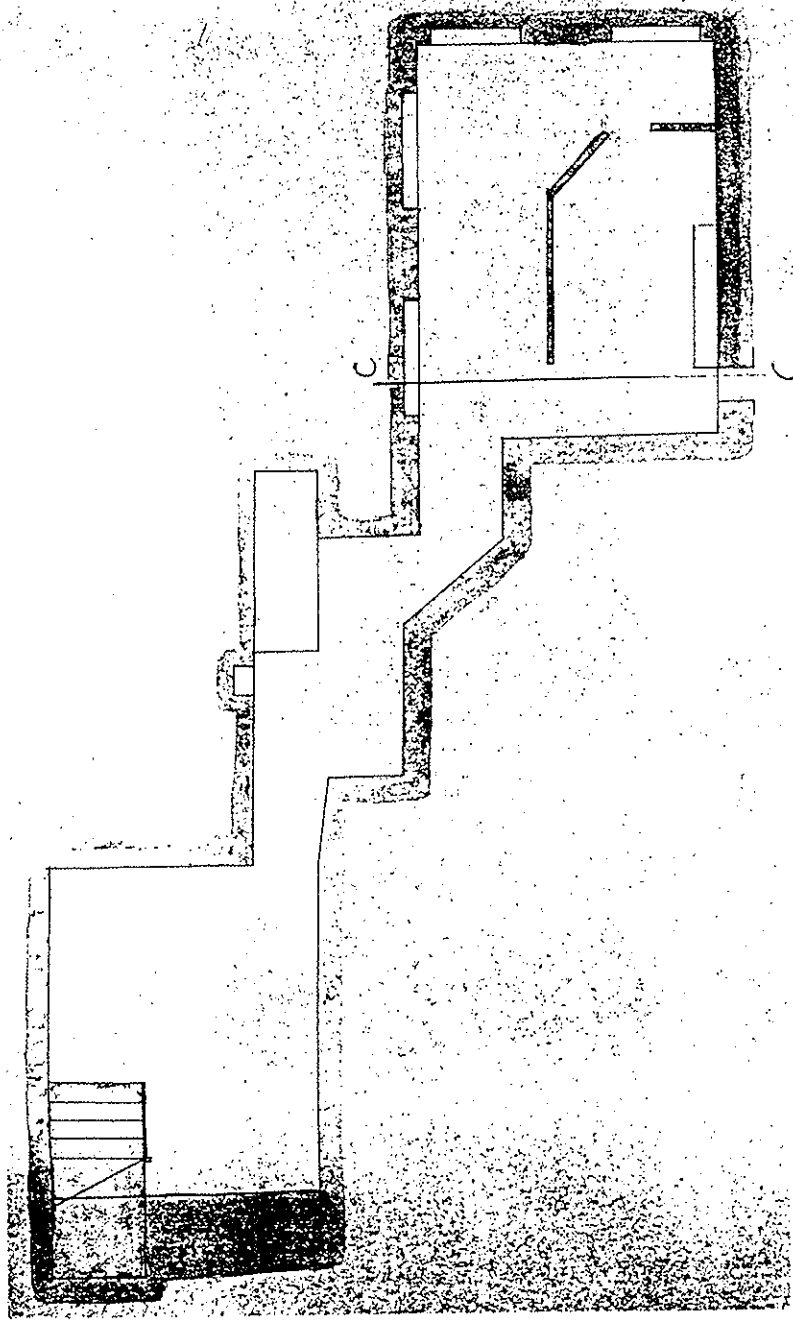
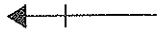


Fig. 22: 1954 survey. Cellar plan. 1:100

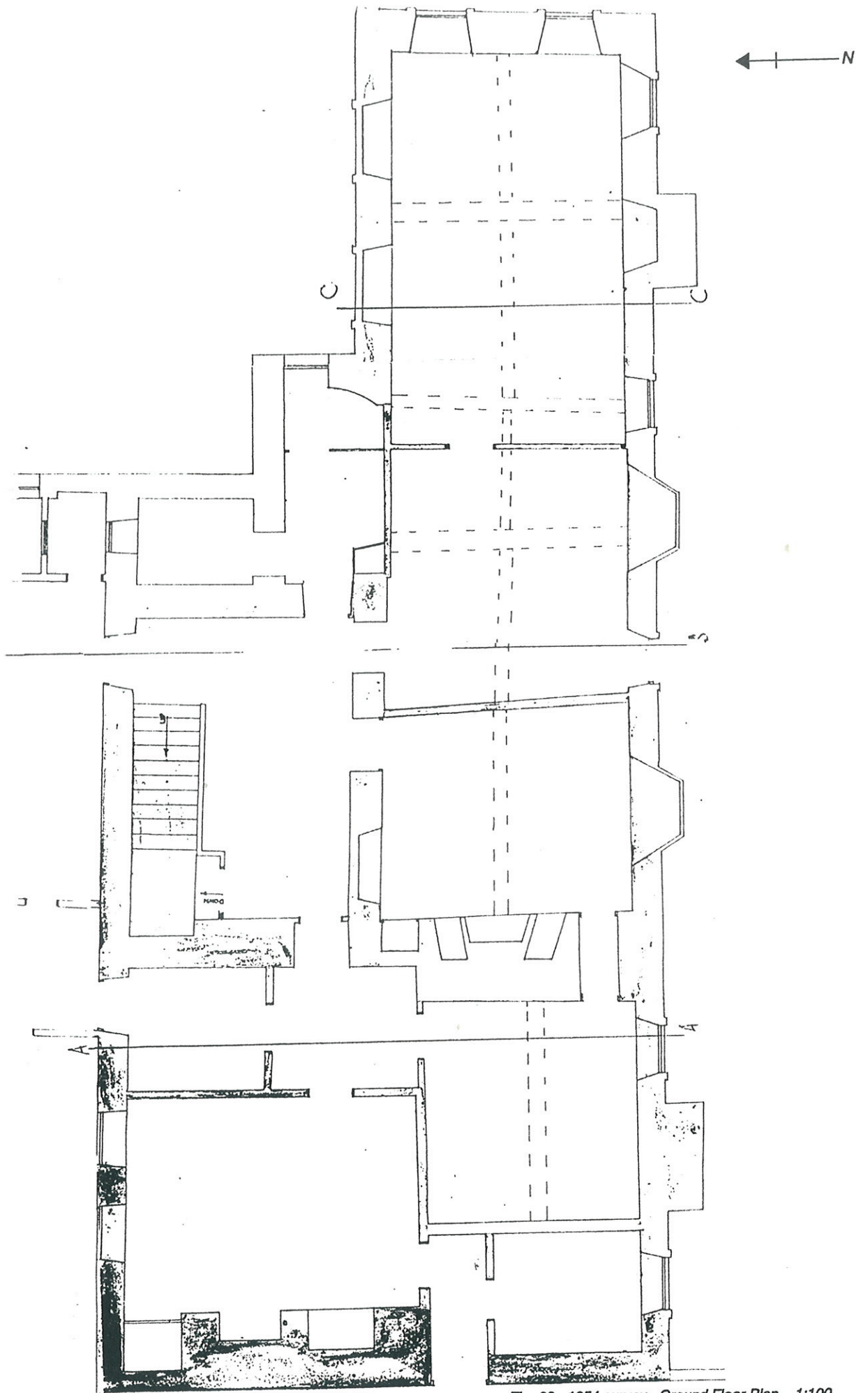


Fig. 23: 1954 survey. Ground Floor Plan . 1:100

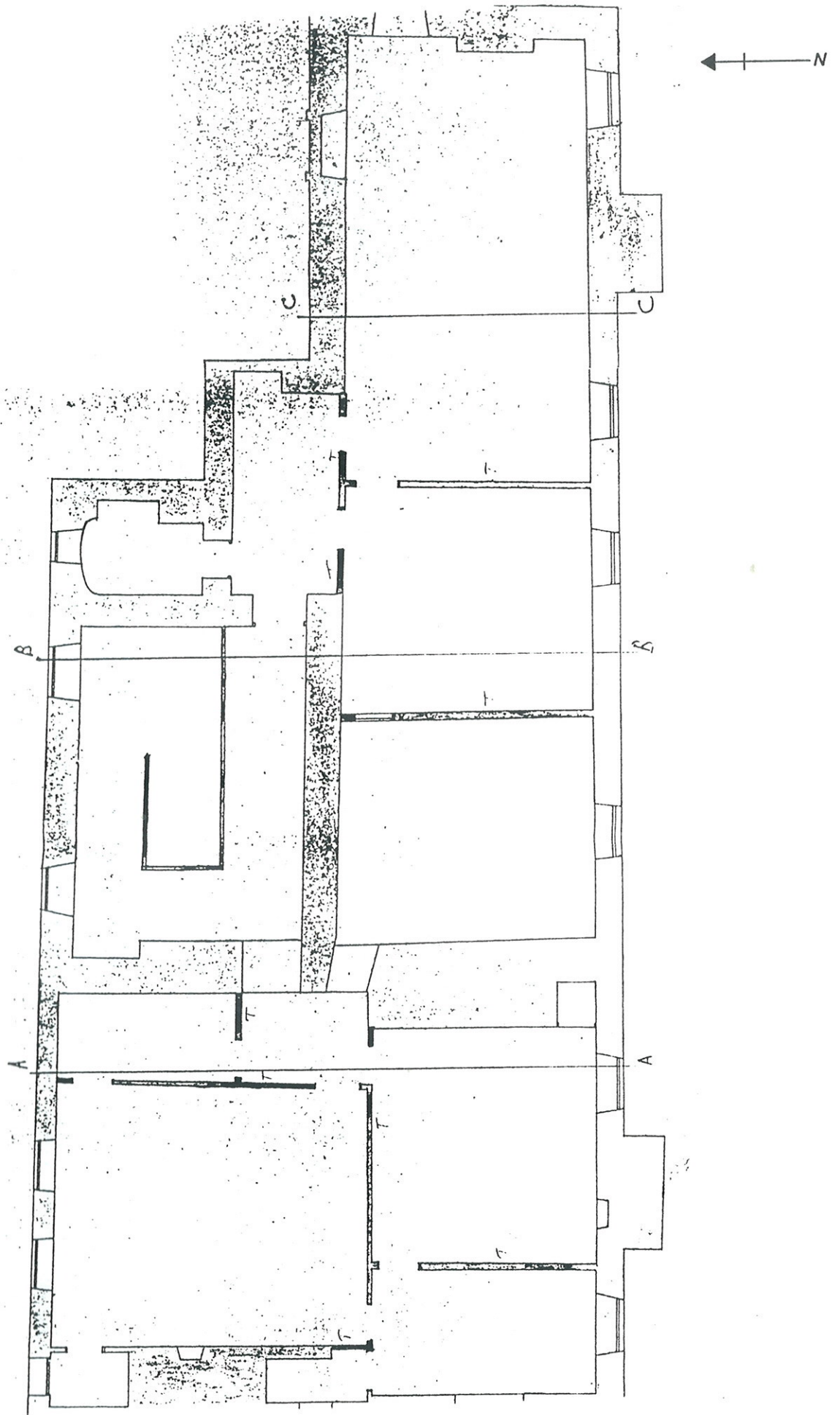
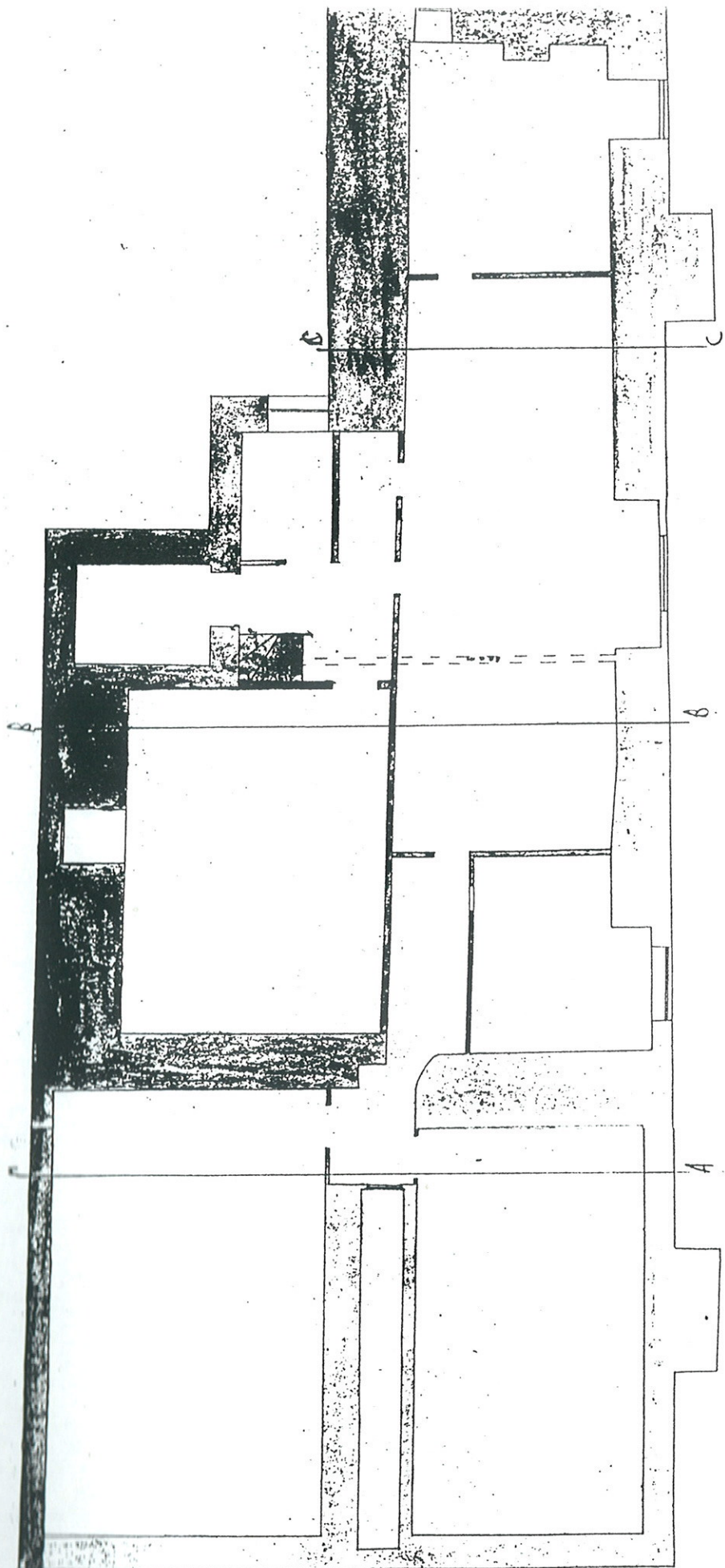


Fig. 24: 1954 survey. First Floor Plan . 1:100



← N

Fig. 25: 1954 survey. Second Floor Plan . 1:100

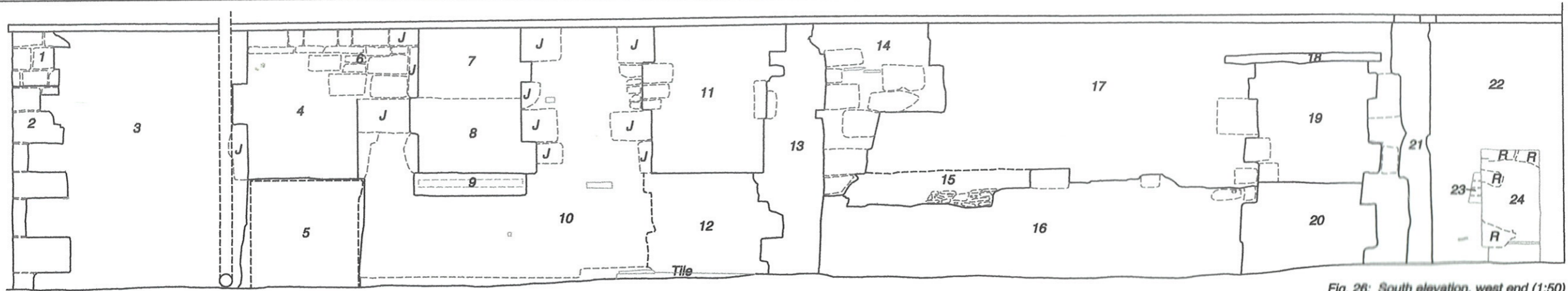


Fig. 26: South elevation, west end (1:50)



Fig. 28: South elevation, east end (1:50)

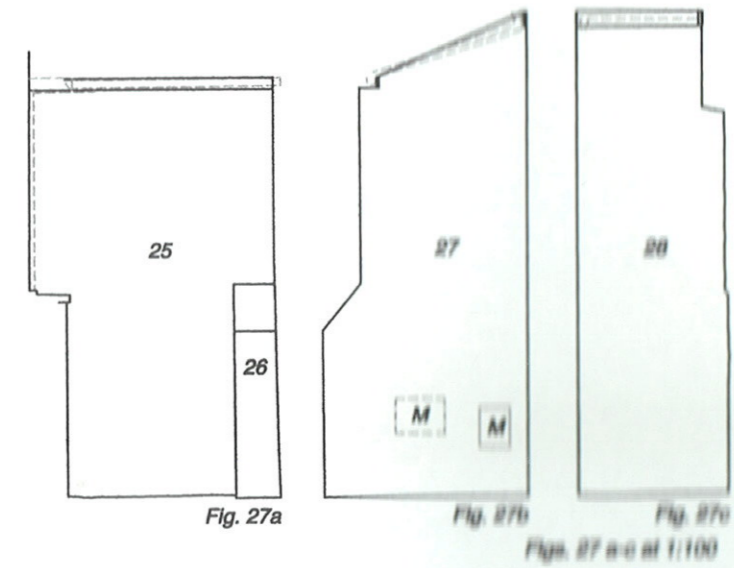
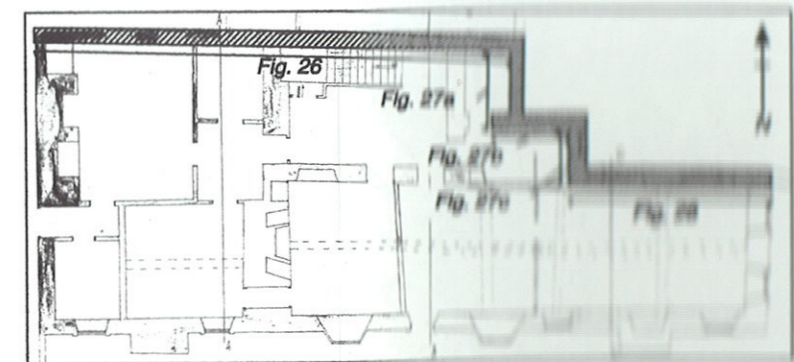


Fig. 27a

Fig. 27b

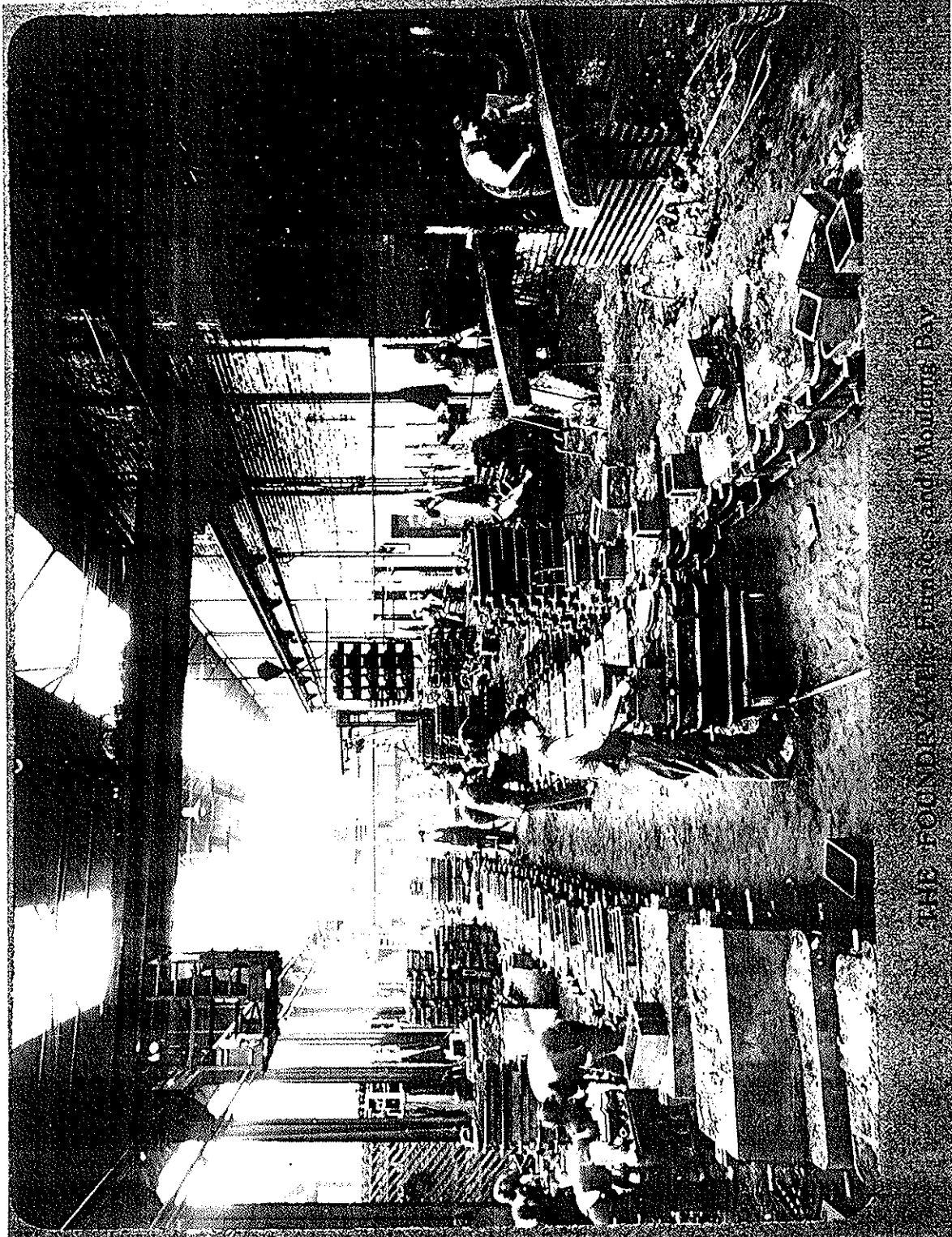
Fig. 27c

Figs. 27 a-c at 1/100

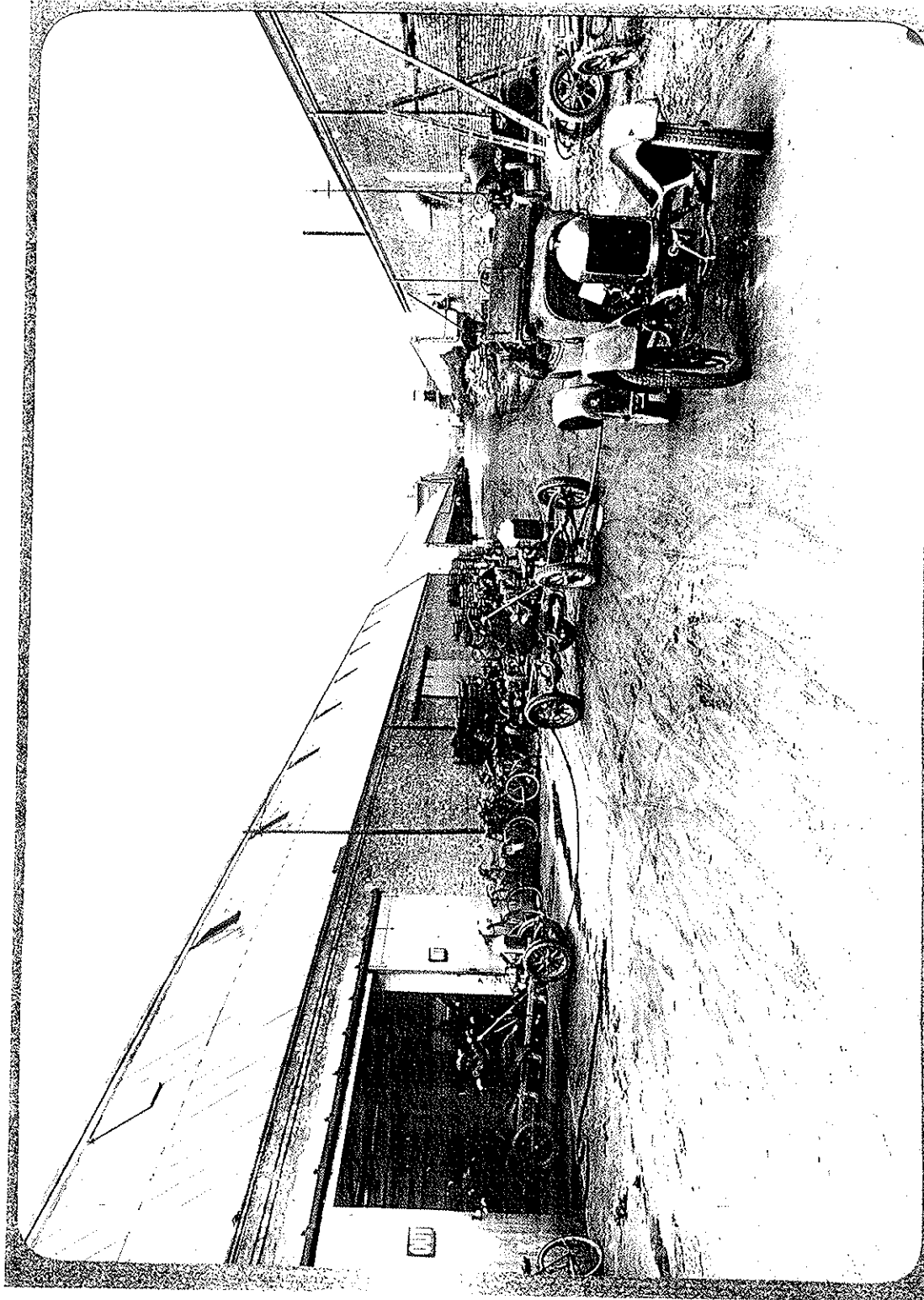


Key to figures on 1954 ground floor plan of manor house
 Numbers refer to table 3, fabric description and interpretation
 R = Render M = Modern feature J = Jamb stone

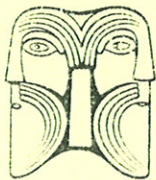
Figs. 26 - 28: Measured survey of surviving Manor house wall



THE BOUNDARY OF THE BARRIAGES AND MOJIBAY BAY



FINISHED CHASSIS BEING TOWED TO BODY MOUNTING SHOP



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