Barns Associated with the former Crosse Hall, Dowgate Road Leverington, Cambridgeshire



Historic Building Recording



December 2011

Client: Mr & Mrs Barnes

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Barns Associated with the former Crosse Hall,

Dowgate Road, Leverington, Cambridgeshire

Historic Building Survey

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Site Name: Leverington,	Barns and Stables associated with the former Crosse Hall, Dowgate Road, Cambridgeshire
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Summary

On 7th November 2011, Oxford Archaeology East conducted an historical building survey at a range of storage barns associated with Beechwood House (formerly Crosse Hall), Dowgate Road in Leverington, Cambridgeshire. The work was carried out in advance of alterations to convert the site into a residential dwelling.

This work was carried out in response to a Brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Councils Historic Environment Team. The Brief required that a survey (equivalent to an English Heritage Level 2 Survey) was carried out on the existing buildings prior to major alterations to the original fabric.

The range comprises several phases, all constructed in hand-made bricks. Due to the absence or survival of any architectural features, original roof coverings, fixtures or fittings, dating and function of the various elements are difficult to establish. Historical maps have been used to establish the presence of the building as early as the 18th century and the buildings are shown in their current layout by the late 19th century 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map.

Until recently, the surveyed buildings, referred to as barns, were associated with Beechwood House, previously known as Crosse Hall which has its origins in the 16th century. There are still elements of the early building in Beechwood House with which the earliest phases of the surveyed buildings may be contemporary.

Several phases of extension and alteration were identified during the survey beginning with the construction of a single storey rectangular building, perhaps a stable, possibly in the 17th century to which a second floor was added at a later date. A second rectangular shaped building was added onto the southern end with two large opposing double doors. An additional wing was added onto the western side, possibly during the 18th century followed by another two storey addition built onto the road-frontage with two arches and first floor accommodation above. The addition of windows throughout the building in the 19th century may indicate alteration to accommodate living areas or to facilitate the storage and sorting of seeds as census data reveals the owners of Beechwood house were seed merchants in the mid-late 19th century.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 An historic building recording survey was conducted at the disused barns believed to be associated with Beechwood House in Dowgate Road, Leverington in the Fenland district of Cambridgeshire (Figure 1). The work was carried out in advance of alterations to convert the existing site into a residential use (Planning Application F/YR11/0151/F).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell (McConnell 2011) of Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) supplemented by a Specification prepared by Oxford Archaeology East (Fletcher 2011).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to adequately record the structure in its current state before the alteration work began. The specific aims of the project were:
 - To make a permanent record of the structures, as they are, in order to preserve by record the character, state, preservation and architectural and historic significance of the building.
 - To collate information about the building in order to compile a record of the structure, with analysis and interpretation of the structure
 - To include a suitable level of documentary research, including consultation with the CHER to set the site in its historical context, following English Heritage Guidance (English Heritage 2006)
 - To produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to 'preserve by record' the buildings in their current form.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the Cambridgeshire County Stores (Accession Code: LEVBWB11) in due course.

1.2 Location and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on Dowgate Road on the southern outskirts of Leverington, just over a mile north-west of Wisbech, centred at grid reference TL 4463 1069 (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 Leverington is located in the Fenland district of north Cambridgeshire, close to the county border with Lincolnshire. The parish extends westwards into the Fen to include Gorefield and Parson Drove, and is bounded to the west by the River Nene.
- 1.2.3 Leverington village has developed into two areas divided by an open tract of land. The northern half, which has expanded to the north and west along Gorefield Road, contains the historic core and is centred on the 13th-14th century Grade I listed Church of St Leonard's (Listed Building 48100). The southern area is more linear in nature, hugging the river along the length of Dowgate Road (Fenland District Council 2011).
- 1.2.4 The site falls within the Dowgate Road Conservation Area of Leverington. The historic development pattern in the southern half of the village has been determined by the curve of the 'White Engine Drain', the stream, which runs the length of Leverington Common and Dowgate Road.



1.3 Acknowledgements

1.3.1 The author would like to thank Mr Joe Barnes for commissioning the work and Chris Walford of Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd for supplying the plans and elevations used in the report. Thanks also to the staff at Wisbech Library and Cambridgeshire Records Office and especially to Robert Bell at Wisbech Museum for assistance with the background research and for permission to reproduce the historic maps. The author managed the project throughout and carried out all on-site recording, photography and background research.



2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of this investigation was to carry out a historic building survey equivalent to English Heritage Level 2 (English Heritage 2006). The specific aims are set out in Section 1.1.3. The site comprised a range of disused buildings which have been empty for some time and fallen into a dangerous state of disrepair. The buildings are labelled as per the architects plans provided and are represented on Figure 2.

2.2 Site Conditions

- 2.2.1 The buildings were vacant at the time of recording and conditions within and around the buildings were generally good, allowing measured and photographic survey to take place. Having been disused for some time, the buildings are nearing a derelict state with the roof missing on the southern end of the range and partial collapse of the roof in other areas. Vandals had also entered the site and removed a number of timber joists.
- 2.2.2 There are no significant remaining architectural features, fixtures or fittings of historical value surviving.
- 2.2.3 Access to all parts of the building was possible except the first floor of the workshop which was inspected using a ladder from the ground floor. As there was no electricity connected at the site, additional lighting for photographs was obtained using Halogen lamps powered by a portable generator.

2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 The measured survey was carried out using basic equipment. All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (2001) and was undertaken by an experienced buildings archaeologist. Scaled architect's drawings, supplied by the client were used for field notes and were annotated and amended on site as necessary. These have been reproduced with the architects permission for Figures 2, 9 and 10.
- 2.3.2 Photographic survey (equivalent to English Heritage Level 2) was carried out by the author using a 35mm camera (monochrome and colour) with additional digital photographs using a high resolution Canon EOS 450D digital SLR camera. For the purposes of the report, some of the plates used have been "stitched" using "Autostitch" software. This is for illustrative purposes only. Such images do not replace, or feature in, the photographic archive and are clearly identified in the plate captions.



3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Leverington History

- 3.1.1 The first reference to Leverington, which lies 1km to the north-west of Wisbech, in its current spelling is *c*. 1130. The name is derived from a personal name '*Leofhere*', with the common suffix 'ington' meaning 'farm of'. However, the 'ington' name is itself an Early Saxon form (Reaney 1943). It is a very attenuated village with development along several roads, as well as along the original Nene frontage. Most of the northern part is relatively modern and it appears that the church was once quite isolated.
- 3.1.2 The hamlet of Gorefield meaning 'fen field' arose along a track west from Leverington church and is part of the same civil parish. The route of this track may have originally been more direct than that of the modern road. The present parish of Parson Drove was originally part of Leverington.
- 3.1.3 The earthwork known as 'Roman Bank' within the parish (and 'Sea Bank' elsewhere) is misnamed in the former label, as it is now thought to be a medieval construction (Hall 1977). Waterlogged timbers removed from beneath the bank have been radiocarbon dated to AD 1250±40 years, which may indicate a response to documented flooding in 1251 (Hall 1996). One of the modern fields retains the name Sea Field, which may refer to 'the field next to the sea'.
- 3.1.4 Until the 1663 Bedford Level Drainage Act, sea-borne goods were brought right into the village along the various creeks. Trade would have made the inhabitants prosperous, and many 17th and 18th century houses were built as a result, a number of which still stand. The Act allowed low lying marshland between the Nene outfall and Roman Bank to be enclosed or divided up into approximately two acre parcels and allotted to the inhabitants (Fenland District Council 2011).
- 3.1.5 There were two medieval manors in the ancient parish, one known as Richmond Hall in Gorefield and a second manor at Fitton End. Two lesser estates were Leverington Hall near the church which would have been the principal house in the village and Crosse Hall, now known as Beachwood (the focus of this survey), the Grade II Listed dovecote of which survives. The boundaries of the ancient parish remained the same until the Fen portion containing Parson Drove and the hamlet of Gorefield were separated for ecclesiastical and civil purposes (Fenland District Council 2011).
- 3.1.6 A school was provided in 1789, earlier than in many parishes, by the Town Lands Charity, which also provided twenty free almshouses for the poor. The school was held in a building which later became the parish workhouse. It is thought that the almshouses may have been built on the site of 'St John the Baptist Hospital' in Little Dowgate, formerly Poor House Lane. By 1868 the hospital had been demolished but its name still survives in 'Spittle Field' that adjoins the road (Fenland District Council 2011).
- 3.1.7 In the late 19th and early 20th century the settlement pattern of Leverington changed with the suburban development of Wisbech and the arrival of the railway. A proliferation of smallholdings appeared beside the river along Dowgate Road and Leverington Common giving this portion of the village a distinctive linear style of development. More recently, development pressures have meant that the open land within the settlement has been built upon, eroding the historic integrity of the village. The 'style' of new build properties is too frequently at odds with the traditional styles of the area, leaving parts of the neighbourhood with a distinctly fragmented appearance (Fenland District Council 2011).



3.2 Archaeological Background

Roman

3.2.1 The site of Rabbit Hill Round Barrow, (CHER 04104, SM 264) is located 250m to the immediate east of the site and to the south of the Wisbech Road. Another tumulus to the north, previously thought to be Bronze Age, is now considered more likely also to be Roman in date, given that the area would have been too wet during the prehistoric period (CHER 04003, SM 265).

Medieval

3.2.2 Aside from the Sea Bank mentioned above (CHER 04448), medieval pottery and a saltern were found to the north-east at Church End during the construction of a new bungalow (CHER 03960). To the north-west of Little Dowgate, the Hospital of St John the Baptist was built in 1487, the name of which survives, as in so many places, in the name Spitalfields.

Post-Medieval

3.2.3 A medieval or post-medieval windmill was marked on the 1843 Inclosure Map, to the north-west of the site but no other references to it exist (CHER 03974).



4 SITE BACKGROUND

4.1 Documented history

4.1.1 The study site is believed to be associated with Beechwood House (sometimes referenced Beachwood) which is located on the adjoining site, 25m to the immediate west (Plate 1). The following description has been taken mostly taken from the Victoria County History (Pugh (ed) 2002), possibly from the works of WGW Woodbridge whose original notes are held at the Wisbech and Fenland Museum and were consulted as part of the background research: "The house at the south end of Church Lane, sometimes called Crosse Hall but now Beechwood, was probably built by Thomas Crosse who died there in 1633. In 1624 Crosse was apparently living in Wisbech, which had been the home of his father and grandfather and other members of the family who had played a prominent part in the life of the town. Thomas's second son John (d.1639) succeeded to Crosse Hall and was succeeded in turn by a grandson John II (d. 1666) and a great-grandson John III (d. 1704). The next owner was John IV (d.1743), the eldest son of John III. He was succeeded by a son Edward, who in 1788 was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the Isle. In 1762 he inherited a further 200 acres under the will of Adam Hawkins of Leverington, but he appears to have dissipated much of his fortune through horse racing. Several of his race horses are buried in the paddock, including the noted Alonzo whose grave was marked by two pines. Much of Edward's property was sold at his death (1795), but Samuel (1763-1847) his third son, Fellow of Peterhouse and Vicar of Hunstanton, retained a part of it including Crosse Hall. His son Samuel Massey Crosse (d.1861) succeeded to Crosse Hall. In 1853 the remaining property (190 acres) was sold by auction and S. C. Crosse went to live at Barton Lodge, Wisbech, and subsequently in London. Henry Sharpe subsequently lived for many years at Beechwood (or Crosse Hall) where he kept his shrievalty. On his death (c. 1930) the place was sold to E. J. Newborn, upon whose death it devolved upon his daughter Mrs. Tansley."

4.2 Crosse Hall and associated surviving structures

- 4.2.1 A rough drawing of the house in an earlier state is given in the map of the Leverington Hall estate made in 1782 by John Wattee. This map is held in a private collection and unfortunately could not be located or consulted for this survey. From this it can apparently be seen that the house consisted of a central block with wings extending forward on each side, something like an "H". Sharpe demolished much of it in 1892 and built a completely new front with large rooms behind. The 19th century alterations are evident on the north-facing elevation (Plate 1), however, the east-facing elevation (Plate 2) clearly shows evidence of the earlier house, elements and features of which are likely to be contained within the current building. The east-facing wall has the steeply-pitched roof line of the earlier, possibly original Crosse Hall and closer inspection reveals the ghost-line of another roof line with tumbling-in brickwork, pre-dating the present one, presumably added as the front was extended and altered.
- 4.2.2 The walled garden is most likely associated with the original house and several sections survive between the buildings surveyed and Beechwood house (Plate 3).
- 4.2.3 The dovecote (Plate 4) is believed to be 18th century in date. It is an octagonal brick building with ingress through the top and inside has an octagonal wooden funnel, more than 2m long. Around the inside of the building are over 800 brick-built nests, arranged in tiers. Access to these was provided by a revolving ladder, which could be swung round in any direction to provide approach to every nest in the building.



- 4.2.4 The listed building description of the dovecote is as follows: "Dovecote, 18th century. Octagonal. Red brick with hipped roof of tiles now collapsed. Two storeys with band between storeys and entry in west side. Inside the nesting boxes are intact."
- 4.2.5 The surveyed buildings are believed to be associated with Crosse Hall and cartographic sources (see following Section 4.3) indicate this was the case until recent years.

4.3 Historical background of the site from cartographic and original sources

As part of the background research, a number of historic maps were consulted to assist with providing a date for the building. Each map is briefly described and evaluated below in chronological order.

Late 18th century plan of Leverington

- 4.3.1 Held in the collections of Wisbech and Fenland Museum, a map thought to date to the 1770s shows the earliest visual representation of the site (Figure 3).
- 4.3.2 This map depicts what is considered to be Crosse Hall (now Beechwood) with the dovecote which is still present. The land in which the buildings are located is labelled "2" which is Farthingfield on the corresponding table.
- 4.3.3 Although the plan does not show the buildings surveyed, it does not mean they were not in existence. The reason for the creation of the map is uncertain and as only a few buildings are represented, it is most likely only showing those of importance such as Crosse Hall, The Grange, windmills and the church.

Leverington Inclosure Map, 1843

- 4.3.4 The Inclosure Map of 1843 also lacks detail of buildings (Figure 4), showing only the church, public house and a small number of buildings as simple coloured blocks.
- 4.3.5 It does show the names of the owners/occupiers of lands and the site upon which Crosse Hall would have stood is shown as being owned by Reverend Samuel Cross. It appears that the site was still in the hands of the Cross family during the mid 19th century. The accompanying award makes no mention of any buildings associated with the land and simply describes it as containing "twelve perches bounded on the north by the First Public Road on the south by an old Enclosure of said Samuel Cross and on the west by an allotment (No.37a) to Henry John Adam".
- 4.3.6 The road which separates Crosse Hall and the land to the west is labelled as "fourteenth private road", the accompanying description of which states that it "commences on the west side of the first public road between the allotments of Henry John Adam and proceeding westward to a lane at the north west corner of an Old Enclosure of the Reverend Samuel Cross"

Leverington Tithe Map, 1843

4.3.7 The Tithe Map of 1843 is the first map to represent the surveyed buildings (Figure 5). Still set within Farthingfield, a dotted line may indicate a walled boundary or perhaps a parcel of land following subdivision The subdivided area in the north-west corner of Farthingfield is likely to still have been associated with the rest of the plot as it does not have a separate number. Unfortunately the schedule or award which usually accompanies the maps listing the owners *etc.* was not present.



- 4.3.8 A building which is presumed to be Crosse Hall is set in the middle of the square of land and a rectangular building is set to the right, against the boundary; this is assumed to be part of the building range surveyed. The shape of Crosse Hall is an L in plan and perhaps represents the building layout prior to the alterations made by Henry Sharpe in 1892.
- 4.3.9 The rectangular building (which is that surveyed) does not have the protruding wings occupied by the stable and tack room as are currently present.

1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1885

- 4.3.10 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1885 provides a scaled and reliable representation of the site in the late 19th century (Figure 6).
- 4.3.11 If the previous map (Figure 5) is a true representation, then between 1843 and 1885 an addition was made on the western side of the building which is no longer present today.
- 4.3.12 The curved edge of the south-western corner of the building continues round to join up with the main building to the west, now Beechwood and the two buildings are clearly associated.
- 4.3.13 By the time of this map, Crosse Hall/Beechwood is depicted in the "H" shape which was attributed to the works of Henry Sharpe (Pugh 2002), interestingly however, this map was created seven years earlier than this work supposedly took place,
- 4.3.14 Dotted lines representing tracks and footpaths indicate that access was gained from the main road and further tracks lead to fields to the south and to other buildings at the rear of Crosse Hall.
- 4.3.15 A solid black line denotes the boundary wall between part of Crosse Hall and the buildings surveyed and "P" denotes the location of a pump on the immediate west.

Census returns 1871-1901

- 4.3.16 Although census returns do not reveal any information about the buildings surveyed or the associated Beechwood House, they can provide an insight into the use of the site by the occupation of its inhabitants.
- 4.3.17 The Leverington census return for 1871 list a Henry Sharpe and family living at Margerys Croft. Although there is no mention of Crosse Hall or Beechwood, we know from WGW Woodbridge's account that Henry Sharpe occupied the estate between 1853 and 1930. Sharpe, who lived with his wife Sarah and two servants stated his occupation as "Seedgrower and Farmer (of 382 acres) employing 20 women and 20 boys"
- 4.3.18 In 1881, Henry Sharpe and his wife Sarah, a cook and a servant are now listed as living in "Upnewlands" which was a name given to the area at that time (WGW Woodbridge notes). Under occupation Sharpe is described as "Seedgrower and Merchant occupying 675 acres of land, employing 35 labourers, 30 boys and 35 women"
- 4.3.19 In the 1891 census, Henry and Sarah Sharpe were found listed, but there is no mention of area or house name etc. By this time Henrys occupation is described as "Seed Merchant and Justice of the Peace for the Isle of Ely".



4.3.20 By the last available census return from 1901 Henry is still listed as a "Seed Merchant and Justice of the Peace".

1900 Ordnance Survey Map

- 4.3.21 By the 1900 edition of the Ordnance Survey, the site had changed very little (Figure 7). The buildings surveyed are depicted almost entirely as they were in the map of 15 years earlier. One notable addition is "Home Farm", which has been hand-annotated onto this edition.
- 4.3.22 The field at the rear is no longer labelled Farthingfield, but is now part of the enlarged Margery's Croft.

1977 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

- 4.3.23 The next available map which shows the site and buildings in detail is the 1926 Ordnance Survey map (not illustrated), which shows no change to the buildings surveyed, the associated land or Crosse Hall/Beechwood.
- 4.3.24 The next map to reveal significant change is the 1977 edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8). This map provides the first representation of the site being called Beechwood.
- 4.3.25 The protruding "wing" on the western side which was first noted on the 1885 edition of the surveyed building range (Figure 6), has gone by the time of this map and there is no longer representation of the pump. Other than this, the surveyed buildings remain unaltered in plan.
- 4.3.26 A solid line denoting a brick wall/boundary has been added on the eastern side of the surveyed building range which extended to the dovecote and across to the east. this may indicate subdivision of the lands associated with Beechwood.
- 4.3.27 Beechwood House itself has undergone some alterations, reducing the size of the house including removal of part of the southern wing, leaving a detached building which was once connected. This part of the building still survives (Plate 5). A curved part of the wall on the eastern side has also been removed.



5 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

For the purposes of this report, the rooms/areas within the range surveyed are labelled as on the supplied architects plans. The layout of the building can be seen on Figure 2 which also shows the locations of plates and elevations used in the report. Figure 9 shows building elevations and Figure 10 provides an overall phase plan.

External Elevations

All elements of the building range surveyed are constructed from brick. Where there are roof coverings, they are modern corrugated iron.

5.1 North-facing elevation

- 5.1.1 This elevation fronts onto Dowgate Road and contains an arched entranceway into this element of the building (Figure 9, Elevation 1; Plate 6). Evidence in the brickwork indicates it was originally built with symmetry, comprising two arches with windows above. The roof is moderately pitched and there is cracking in the brickwork in the centre of the elevation.
- 5.1.2 At ground-floor level there is an open arched entranceway on the left and a two-part wooden horned sash window comprising four panes on the right. The window is in a poor state of repair with broken and missing glass. The ground floor window has been inserted into the brickwork when the second arch was filled in.
- 5.1.3 The arches comprised three courses of brick headers above and the existing open arch has remnants of a turquoise coloured paint inside.
- 5.1.4 At first floor level there are two wooden-framed sliding sash windows. The lower half has vertical wooden slats/posts. Close inspection was not possible so it is difficult to determine whether or not there was ever any glazing. Brick headers above indicate they are part of the original construction.
- 5.1.5 The original brickwork on this part of the building comprises pinkish red coloured bricks with diagonal pressure marks and a pale, gritty flush-scribed mortar. The bricks are laid in Flemish bond and measure on average 21.5cm x 11cm x 7.5cm (8^{1/2}" x 4^{1/4}" x 3").
- 5.1.6 The bricks used to fill the right-hand arch are slightly longer and measure 23cm x 11cm x 6.5cm (9" x 4^{1/4}" x 2^{1/2}"). They are the same colour with diagonal pressure marks and flush-scribed mortar. These bricks are laid in an English bond.
- 5.1.7 Set back from this element of the building, but with the same north-facing elevation is a wall on the immediate right (Figures 2 and 9, Elevation 1; Plate 7). This appears to be a garden wall which has been raised, constructed of hand-made bricks with an average dimension of 23cm x 10.5cm x 7cm (9" x $4^{1/4"}$ x $2^{3/4"}$). The lower part of the wall comprises reddish orange coloured bricks in an English bond and those above a darker greyish orange laid in a random bond. This element of the elevation has a bricked-up opening. The opening itself does not appear to be contemporary with the original build as the brickwork of the opening has been cut. The bricks used to fill it are a reddish orange with horizontal pressure marks, laid in a Stretcher bond with an average dimension of 23cm x 6cm (9" x $21^{/2"}$).



5.2 East-facing elevation

- 5.2.1 The east-facing elevation (Figure 9 Elevation 2; Plates 8-10) measures approximately 40m long and encompasses several phases of construction, alteration and repair.
- 5.2.2 The far southern end comprises a length of low-level garden wall which curves, continuing into the south-facing elevation (Plate 9). This stretch of wall has a brick support buttress and iron structural ties and bricks laid with outward headers indicating this was the maximum height of the wall. The bricks used are a pinkish orange colour with horizontal pressure marks and an average dimension of 23cm x 11.5cm x 7cm (9" x 4^{1/2}" x 2^{3/4}"). The mortar used is a chalky white mix with crushed flint inclusions and is flush-scribed.
- 5.2.3 The next element along is a two storey building with three windows at ground level and two in the first floor (Plate 9). Like the rest of the building, this part is in a semi-ruinous state with no remaining roof cover and damaged or missing windows. This part of the building is constructed from a reddish orange brick with infrequent diagonal pressure marks and an average dimension of 22.5cm x 11cm x 6.5cm (8^{3/4}" x 4^{1/4}" x 2^{1/2}"). All of the window openings appear to have been inserted after construction as the bricks in the openings have all been cut. It is possible that there were smaller openings previously. All of the wooden frames are in a poor state of repair and there is no glass remaining. The left hand ground and first floor windows are two part horned, vertical sliding-sash windows with three panes in each part. The remaining two ground floor windows have empty mortices/voids in the frame indicating a central vertical wooden glazing bar; the other first floor window could not be closely inspected.
- 5.2.4 There is a large opening located roughly centrally in this elevation (Plate 8). Above this is a long wooden lintel above which the brick surround on the immediate right appeared to continue over, perhaps before the roof was damaged and lost. The opening and brick surround appear to be contemporary with the element recorded to the immediate left (described above in 5.2.3) as the brick on the right is the same. The opening has clearly been made smaller with the insertion of a narrow wooden frame and infill of bricks on the immediate right. The bricks used are a pale pink, laid in a Flemish bond and possibly 20th century in date.
- 5.2.5 The next element on the immediate right (north) is another two storey building (Figure 9 Elevation 2: Plate 10). Also constructed from brick, this building appears to have different bricks used in its construction on the first floor indicating it may have originally been a single story building which was extended upwards later. The brick used on the ground floor level is a dark orange colour with diagonal pressure marks and are the longest bricks recorded with an average dimension of 24cm x 11.5cm x 6.5cm (9^{1/2}" x 4^{1/2}" x 2^{1/2}") laid in an English bond. Those at first floor level could not be measured but appear smaller, perhaps re-used broken bricks and laid in a random bond. There are also iron ventilation grilles inserted between the floor levels located at regular intervals. The ground floor windows are not original (indicated by the "cut" bricks surrounding them and the use of much later brick headers above). At first floor level, the windows are all different. On the left is a six pane horned sliding sash, the central window of which has no surviving glazing bars etc. whilst the far right window comprises a vertical sliding horned sash with diagonal vents on one part (as recorded on the first floor of the north-facing elevation). The first floor openings may all be contemporary with the addition of this floor. This element has a corrugated iron roof which spans the remaining length of the building to the north.
- 5.2.6 The final element of this elevation is also two-storeys and contemporary with the northfacing elevation with arched entrances (Plate 10). There are two window openings; one



on each floor. The ground floor window only has a wooden frame remaining and the cut brick surrounding the opening indicates it has been inserted. At first floor level there appears to be in an original opening, although close inspection was not possible; here only the frame with central vertical wooden glazing bar remains. The bricks used are the same as those recorded on the north-facing elevation (see Section 5.1.5). This element is considered to be a later addition to the adjoining earlier phase.

5.3 South-facing elevation

- 5.3.1 As with the north-facing elevation, this comprises two elements with one set back (Figure 9 Elevation 3; Plate 11).
- 5.3.2 The curving wall recorded on the east-facing elevation continues around to the northfacing side where it obscures some of the set-back elevation. This curving wall appears to have been "cut" and ended with a straight edge of bricks. It may have originally been part of a garden or boundary wall which continued to curve round as depicted on the 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Maps (Figures 6 and 7). The curved wall has later been utilised by adding a roof to create a store.
- 5.3.3 Set back from the curving wall is a gable end of the main rectangular building. It has two windows on each floor; none of which are considered to be original. Those on the first floor have concrete lintels and surrounds with remnants of wooden frames. On the ground floor there are two more wooden-framed windows which appear to have been inserted, and brickwork beneath that on the left replaced and repaired in the 20th century. At first floor level there is a blocked-up window with arch above created using brick headers. This window is contemporary with the construction and the bricks used to block it look to be similar: orange, hand-made bricks with diagonal pressure marks. This element of the building is considered to be contemporary with the southern-most part recorded on the east-facing elevation. It has the same orangey-pink coloured brick with diagonal pressure marks, measuring an average 22.5cm x 11cm x 6.5cm (8^{3/4"} x 4^{1/4"} x 2^{1/2"}).
- 5.3.4 On the immediate left and recessed further back is a small range comprising what are referred to as a stable and a tack room, all constructed from brick with a corrugated iron roof. This element has clearly undergone several phases of construction, repair and alteration. On the immediate left the wall appears to be contemporary with the boundary wall which separates this building from Beechwood House, constructed from thin, pale pink bricks with horizontal pressure marks and an average dimension of 23cm x 10cm x 6.5cm (9" x 4" x 2^{1/2}"). An iron gate is located across the opening which has the same bricks on the other side. Pink-coloured 20th century bricks have been used to repair or rebuild on the immediate right and then much earlier bricks continue to meet the main building. A doorway within a wooden frame appears to have been inserted to create access to the tack room.

5.4 West-facing elevation

- 5.4.1 This elevation (Figure 9 Elevation 4) comprises several elements and has been recorded in separate sections, some of which are accessed from inside later building additions.
- 5.4.2 The northern most section comprises two storeys and is considered to be contemporary with the north-facing elevation. It is constructed using the same pinkish coloured bricks, laid in Flemish bond and measuring on average 21.5cm x 11cm x 7.5cm (8^{1/2}" x 4^{1/4}" x 3") (Plate 13). There are wooden-framed windows on the ground and first floor, both of which appear to be in original openings. There is also a door providing access at



ground floor level with brick header arch over and a wooden frame; this is also considered to be original.

- 5.4.3 The next element is adjoining on the immediate right and the change in the brickwork clearly indicates a different phase (Plate 14). This element also comprises two storeys and a change in the brickwork indicates the building was raised to add a first floor as noted on the corresponding east-facing elevation. The brickwork recorded at ground floor level comprises dark orange coloured bricks with diagonal pressure marks and an average dimension of 24cm x 11.5cm x 6.5cm (9^{1/2}" x 4^{1/2}" x 2^{1/2}") laid in an English bond. Those above were not accessible to measure but are a lighter, pink colour, of varying sizes and laid in a random bond. There are two openings at ground floor level; a wide wooden-framed opening with hinges for a set of double doors on the left and a door way, also with wooden frame on the right. Both have brick arches above and although the doorway opening appears to be contemporary with the construction, the wider opening appears to have been inserted into the wall and the brick headers in the arch above indicate this may be contemporary with the addition of the first floor. At first floor level there is a wooden-framed loading door and two-part window, also with wooden frame. Although close inspection was not possible, they appear to be contemporary with the first floor construction as the brickwork respects the openings.
- 5.4.4 The next element of this elevation is accessed from inside of the "tack room". This part of the elevation is continued from that recorded above (Section 5.4.3) with the same brickwork and, from inside of the tack room, there is evidence of two blocked-up doors (Plate 15). Both doorways have brick arches above and have been blocked up using very similar coloured and sized bricks. The doorway to the right has the wall which supports the tack room and stable built up to it, indicating the opening was concealed before the tack room was constructed. This element of the building continues and is accessed from outside. Where the wider opening has been bricked up, a window has been inserted (Plate 16), presumably after the tack room was built.
- 5.4.5 The next element comprises a wide opening with wooden lintel above which is opposite that recorded on the east-facing elevation (Plate 16). The brick wall on the left of the opening comprises light orange coloured bricks with diagonal pressure marks and an average dimension of 22cm x 10cm x 7cm (8^{3/4}" x 4" x 2^{3/4}"). On either side of the doorway are large iron brackets which would have supported two large doors.
- 5.4.6 The next element to the right is a two-storey brick-built building with window openings only at first floor level (Plate 17). Constructed using an orangey-pink coloured brick with diagonal pressure marks, and measuring an average 22.5cm x 11cm x 6.5cm (8^{3/4}" x 4^{1/4}" x 2^{1/2}"), this is a continuation of the gable end wall recorded on the south-facing elevation. Only one of the two windows at first floor level survive, and that on the right appears to be a wooden framed two-part horned, vertical sliding-sash window with three panes in each part; only the wooden frame survives in that on the left.
- 5.4.7 The final element of the west-facing elevation is a store which has been created by utilising the curving boundary wall as noted on the east and south-facing elevations (Plate 18). This part of the building has a mono-pitched corrugated iron roof, supported by the curving wall and an additional short length of brick wall to the right of the opening.



Internal Description

5.5 Workshop

- 5.5.1 Located on the ground floor, at the northern end of the building, this room measures 5.57m by 3.36m. It is accessed via the archway on the north-facing elevation and also via a door on the west-facing elevation.
- 5.5.2 The floor in this room is covered mostly with concrete however there are patches of exposed brick indicating the potential survival of a brick floor below (Plate 19). The walls are painted green on the lower part (to floor level) and white above (to ceiling). The ceiling joists are exposed, however there are marks on the joists indicating it once supported a plasterboard ceiling. All timbers used are machine sawn.
- 5.5.3 There is a possibility that there was once a fireplace situated between the arches (Plate 19). Scarring in the brickwork, also visible on the external elevaion, suggests some repair work has taken place here and a raised plinth may indicate the location of a hearth. There is also a fireplace in the first floor room directly above which would further support this suggestion.
- 5.5.4 On the opposite wall, on entering through the archway, there is evidence of a blockedup door which would have connected this room to the adjoining Barn 1 (Plate 20). The opening has two courses of brick header in the arch above and measures 1.28m wide.

5.6 Workshop - First Floor

- 5.6.1 Above the workshop, there is an additional first floor room. This was not safely accessible as the floor had been removed other than the joists and there was no safe access. Although full access was not gained, it is possible to take photographs using a ladder from a doorway in Barn 1 as recorded on Plate 25.
- 5.6.2 This room is painted white with remnants of a mustard yellow paint on the north and eastern walls (Plate 21). The floor comprised the exposed ceiling joists as noted in the workshop below and the inside of one of the window frames is painted turquoise blue.
- 5.6.3 There is a centrally located opening from which the fireplace and any associated decorative features have been removed.

5.7 Barn 1

- 5.7.1 This area is accessed via the doorway and wide opening as recorded on the westfacing elevation and measures 11.80m by 6.13m. At the time of the survey this area was being used for storage of large stones and rocks in wooden crates which could not be moved.
- 5.7.2 The floor in this part of the building is entirely covered with concrete and a blue plastic membrane indicates this has been laid within recent years (Plate 22). The walls are mostly covered with white paint. The roof is covered with corrugated iron sheeting, supported by machine sawn wooden beams.
- 5.7.3 There is evidence along the walls that a first floor ceiling had previously been in place. The client advised that until recently a series of wooden beams spanned the width of the room however these had been removed without permission. The sawn off remains of these beams can be seen in Plate 23.
- 5.7.4 The change in brickwork as noted on the east and west-facing external elevations is also noticeable from inside this room (Plate 23). At the northern end of the room, one beam remains which has a possible carpenter's mark or graffiti (Plate 24).



- 5.7.5 At the southern end of the room, the blocked-up doorway as recorded in the workshop can be seen (Plate 25). Located centrally on the first floor is another doorway which linked the first floor above the workshop to that which was recently removed in Barn 1.
- 5.7.6 On the western internal wall the detail of the blocked-up openings recorded on the opposite side are visible (Plate 26). The evidence of a wider opening with inserted window and two blocked doors to the immediate right is clearer from inside the building.

5.8 Barn 2

- 5.8.1 Barn 2 measures 11.50m by 6.47 and adjoins the southern end of Barn 1.
- 5.8.2 The barn is subdivided by a lower-level internal wall which creates a separate area with the two opposing large doorways with wooden lintels above as noted on the east and west-facing elevations. This area measures 6.47m by 3.91m and the floor is covered with grey coloured floor bricks, (Plate 27) however there are some red bricks closer to the threshold with Barn 1 (Plate 28). The opening leading into Barn 1 appears to have been widened or even created as a new opening, and pale, modern 20th century bricks used to surround it.
- 5.8.3 The original gable end of Barn 1 can be seen and an iron tie has been used to add structural support. Closer inspection of the brickwork in this same corner reveals that the Barn 2 was constructed against it in a later phase, but not tied in (Plate 29).
- 5.8.4 The low-level wall appears to be a different, and possibly later, phase than the rest of Barn 2, added to create separate areas within it. It has a brick support buttress on one side and capped with a layer of header bricks (Plate 30). The bricks used have horizontal pressure marks and measure on average 22.5cm x 11cm x 6.5cm (8^{3/4}" x 4^{1/2}" x 2^{1/2}").
- 5.8.5 On the other side of the wall, the floor is covered with tarmac which appears to conceal grey and red floor bricks (Plate 31). There are a series of rectangular voids in the brickwork indicating the previous presence of a first floor.
- 5.8.6 On the western wall there is a recessed blocked-up window of which there was no evidence on the external elevation (Plate 31) and on the gable end (as recorded on the south-facing elevation) there are four windows with a centrally located bricked-up window that has a wooden lintel above (Plate 32).

5.9 Stable

- 5.9.1 Part of the protruding western wing has been labelled by the clients architect as a "stable", however there are no surviving elements, fixtures or fittings to indicate any specific function. This room measures 4.96m by 3.77m and is only accessed from a wide opening on the southern elevation.
- 5.9.2 This element of the building has been constructed on top of the garden/boundary wall and evidence of this is found inside on the left on entering where the curved top of the wall is visible (Plate 33).
- 5.9.3 The roof covering comprises mono-pitched corrugated iron sheeting which is supported by modern sawn timbers (Plate 34). There is a blocked up opening with wooden lintel above on the wall between this room and the adjoining tack room (Plate 34). On the rear wall of the room (opposite on entering) is a possible bricked-up window (Plate 35). This was concealed by shrubbery on the opposite north-facing elevation and may indicate this room was constructed with a second storey. The floor is covered mostly with concrete, however, there are areas of exposed red brick (Plate 36).



5.10 Tack room

- 5.10.1 The tack room adjoins the stable and is built up against Barn 1. It measures 3.78m by 3.52m and is accessed only via a door on the south-facing elevation.
- 5.10.2 The floor of the room is covered with concrete and all of the walls are bare, exposed brick. On the left wall on entering, the bricked-up opening as recorded from (and providing access into) the stable building can be seen (Plate 37).
- 5.10.3 On the right wall on entering are the bricked-up openings as recorded on the western elevation (Plate 15) and the roof covering is a continuation of that recorded in the stable. On the rear wall, directly in front on entering, is the wide blocked-up opening as recorded on the north-facing external elevation (Plate 38).

5.11 External brick structure with chimney

5.11.1 Although there are no fixtures or fittings relating to a tack room or stable, just outside, against the boundary wall is a brick-built structure with chimney and openings for a fire/grate (Plate 39). This may have been associated with work being carried out in the tack room/stables as it was common to have heating (ie a small range) associated with such buildings (to stop leather mildewing etc). The bricks used to construct it appear to be late 19th century in date; a "P" usually denoting a pump appears in this location on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 6).

5.12 Store

- 5.12.1 The store is an open-fronted brick construction, created by utilising a curving garden/boundary wall as recorded on the southern end of the west-facing elevation. This area measures 7.17m by 3.75m and the floor is covered with concrete.
- 5.12.2 Internally there is little detail of note other than a curved low-level wall and two wooden saddle hooks located at the southern end (Plate 40).



6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Phase 1

- 6.1.1 The first phase of building comprises a single storey range with a number of openings on the west-facing side allowing for direct access from Crosse Hall. An additional door is located on the road-facing elevation. This building may have been a stable given the number of openings (later blocked up) present on the west-facing elevation located so closely together.
- 6.1.2 Attributing dates to many of the phases is difficult given that the majority is constructed using local hand-made bricks and also the re-use of many bricks for re-building and for new constructions. It is possible that this phase dates to the 17th century and provided the stables for Crosse Hall, however interpretation of date and function remain uncertain.

6.2 Phase 2

6.2.1 A second floor was added to the original range to create additional storage. The addition also includes a loading door at first floor level.

6.3 Phase 3

6.3.1 The next phase of construction sees the addition of a second building, Barn 2, with access from either side through sets of tall, wide doors to allow for carts. Buildings with sets of opposing doors are most usually threshing barns with high doors to allow for loaded carts and wagons and, once inside, access on either side for unloading and areas for threshing and winnowing. This phase may indicate a change in agricultural practices with the use of the buildings for crop processing.

6.4 Phase 4

6.4.1 After the addition of the second barn, a boundary wall seems to have been added to separate the building from Crosse Hall. Perhaps the wall marks a separation of the agricultural uses of the building away from the main house.

6.5 Phase 5

6.5.1 Openings on the east-facing elevation of Barn 1 are concealed in the next phase and the existing boundary wall utilised to create the tack room and stable using re-used bricks. This may indicate that the building was now entered from the north-facing elevation, particularly as the site is separated from Crosse Hall by the recently built wall. An external brick structure with chimney is also constructed outside of the stable at this time.

6.6 Phase 6

6.6.1 Construction of a two storey addition on the north side of the building allows for carriages and carts to access directly from Dowgate Road and a first floor room with windows and a fireplace provided accommodation. This work most likely took place in the 19th century, being completed by the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 6). The census data indicates that the owner of Beechwood/Crosse Hall was a seed merchant and as such may have required storage for carts used for making deliveries into Wisbech.



6.7 **Phase 7** (not illustrated)

6.7.1 The last major phase sees one of the arches bricked up and a window inserted in the workshop. Other wooden-framed sash windows are also inserted at first and ground floor level allow for accommodation (in the barns) or for an activity which required additional light.



7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The building recording survey has confirmed the presence of an historical building which has several clear phases of development. The earliest phase of building is thought to date to the 17th century, however, the lack of surviving internal detail, fixtures or fittings has made any interpretation of function difficult.
- 7.1.2 The buildings are of vernacular style, using local materials and traditional methods of construction as opposed to fitting into a readily datable form or style. There are no academic or historical architectural models into which such a building easily fits in order to date it other than the opposing doors typical of threshing barns.
- 7.1.3 Attributing dates to many of the phases is difficult given that the majority were constructed using local hand-made bricks and also the re-use of many bricks for rebuilding and for the construction of new elements. Brick dimensions cannot provide a precise date of construction and the diagonal pressure marks noted on many bricks in almost all elevations only indicates a pre-late 19th century date (Ryan 1999). However, flush-scribed mortar as recorded on Building 5 are typical of the late Georgian period (Parissien 1999) and may denote a building of some importance or significance.
- 7.1.4 Such traditional farm buildings are increasingly becoming redundant in a rapidly changing industry. They play an integral part in giving a landscape a sense of place and character. These vernacular buildings are now under threat from conversion or demolition and are a diminishing resource in our towns and countryside. New uses frequently alter the original fabric and character of the building, and it is beneficial to create a record of the structure before alteration or demolition. This survey has not only provided a record of the structure before conversion, but also through observation and research, traced very different origins than perhaps originally thought, in particular uncovering an association with the 16th century Crosse Hall.



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$M_{\text{APS} \text{ and other } Sources \ Consulted}$

Description	Date	Document Location and Reference (where relevant)
A Plan of Leverington with Parsons Drove	1770s	Wisbech and Fenland Museum
Inclosure Map of Leverington	1843	Cambridgeshire Archives EQ/RDc
Tithe Map of Levertington	1843	Wisbech and Fenland Museum
1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1888 (1" to 25 miles)	1885	The Fenland Collection, Wisbech Library Cambridgeshire IV.15
1900 Ordnance Survey Map (1" to 25 miles)	1900	Cambridgeshire Archives 1900 Cambridgeshire IV.15
WGW Woodbridge's Leverington History Notebooks	1950's	Woodbridge Collection, Wisbech and Fenland Museum
1977 Ordnance Survey Map (1:2500)	1977	Purchased from www.old- maps.co.uk

WEBSITES CONSULTED

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.lincstrust.org.uk

www.heritagegateway.org.uk

www.old-maps.co.uk



APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	
Project Name	
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	Finish
Previous Work (by OA East)	Future Work

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

Annotated Sketch	Photogrammetric Survey
Dendrochronological Survey	Photographic Survey
Laser Scanning	Rectified Photography
Measured Survey	Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods List feature types using the NMR Monument Type Thesaurus and significant finds using the MDA Object type Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".					
Monument	Period	Object	Period		

Project Location

County	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	
Parish	
HER	
Study Area	National Grid Reference



Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Supervisor	

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones			
Ceramics			
Environmental			
Glass			
Human Bones			
Industrial			
Leather			
Metal			
Stratigraphic			
Survey			
Textiles			
Wood			
Worked Bone			
Worked Stone/Lithic			
None			
Other			

Notes:





Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011 Figure 1: Site location showing the investigation area (red)





Figure 2: Plan of buildings showing location of plates and elevations used in report (from data supplied by the client's architect)

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Plate 1: Road-facing elevation of Beechwood House



Plate 2: East-facing elevation of Beechwood House





Plate 3: Garden wall



Plate 4: Dovecot to south east





Plate 5: Detached former southern wing of Beechwood House



Plate 6: North-facing elevation





Plate 7: Recessed continuation of north-facing elevation



teasteas





Plate 9: East-facing elevation



Plate 10: East-facing elevation





Plate 11: South-facing elevation



Plate 12: Recessed continuation of south-facing elevation (created using "Autostitch")





Plate 13: West-facing elevation



Plate 14: West-facing elevation





Plate 15: West-facing elevation (from inside tack room)



Plate 16: West-facing elevation





Plate 17: West-facing elevation



Plate 18: West-facing





Plate 19: Internal view of workshop



Plate 20: Internal view of workshop





Plate 21: Internal view of first floor room over workshop



Plate 22: Internal view of Barn 1





Plate 23: Detail of internal wall, Barn 1



Plate 24: Possible carpenter's mark, Barn 1





Plate 25: Internal view of Barn 1





Plate 26: Detail of internal wall showing blocked-up openings, Barn 1



Plate 27: Detail of large door opening, Barn 2





Plate 28: Detail of large door opening, Barn 2





Plate 29: Detail of gable end of Barn 1 from inside Barn 2





Plate 30: Internal sub-dividing wall, Barn 2



Plate 31: Internal view, Barn 2





Plate 32: Internal view of gable end, Barn 2





Plate 33: Detail of former garden wall from inside stable



Plate 34: Internal view of stable





Plate 35: Possible blocked window, from inside stable



Plate 36: Detail of brick floor inside stable





Plate 37: Detail of blocked doorway inside tack room





Plate 38: Detail of blocked opening inside tack room





Plate 39: Structure with chimney against garden wall, outside of stable





Plate 40: Internal view of store



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