

18th Century Stables
of the Former
Debden Hall
Debden
Essex



Historic Building Survey



July 2011

Client: Savills

OA East Report No: 1282
OASIS No: oxfordar3-102361
NGR: TL 5495 3334

18th Century Stables of the former Debden Hall,

Debden, Essex


Historic Building Survey

By Taleyna Fletcher BA, MIfA

Editor: Chris Thatcher BA

Illustrator: Louise Bush, MA, PIfA

Report Date: July 2011

Report Number: 1282
Site Name: Debden Hall Stables, Debden, Essex
HER Event No: n/a
Date of Works: 9th-10th June 2011
Client Name: Savills
Client Ref: Debden Hall Stables
Planning Ref: UTT/0961/09 and UTT/0962/09/LB
Grid Ref: TL 5495 3334
Site Code: DNDHS11
Finance Code: XEXDHS11
Receiving Body: Saffron Walden Museum
Accession No: TBA
Prepared by: Taleyna Fletcher
Position: Project Officer
Date: July 2011
Checked by: Aileen Connor
Position: Project Manager
Date: July 2011
Signed: 

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

Oxford Archaeology East,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

© Oxford Archaeology East 2008
Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Table of Contents

Summary.....	7
1 Introduction.....	9
1.1 Scope of work.....	9
1.2 Location	9
1.3 Acknowledgements.....	10
2 Aims and Methodology.....	11
2.1 Aims.....	11
2.2 Site Conditions.....	11
2.3 Methodology.....	11
3 Historical Background.....	12
3.1 Historical Background of Debden Hall.....	12
3.2 Surviving remnants of Debden Hall Estate, associated buildings and parkland.....	13
3.3 Historical Background of the Stables from Historical Sources.....	15
4 Building Description.....	17
4.2 External Description	17
4.3 Internal Description	19
5 Discussion and Conclusions.....	26
5.1 Phase 1: early 18th century (Figure 14).....	26
5.2 Phase 2: mid 18th century (Figure 14).....	26
5.3 Phase 3: 19th century (Figure 14).....	27
5.4 Phase 4a: 1940s (Figure 14).....	27
5.5 Phase 4b: 1960s (Figure 14).....	28
6 Conclusions.....	29
7 Bibliography.....	30
Maps and other Sources Consulted.....	30
Websites Consulted.....	31
Appendix A. Sites and Listed buildings within 500m radius of the site.....	32
Appendix B. OASIS Report Form.....	34
Appendix C. Essex Historic Environment Record Summary Sheet.....	36

List of Figures

- Figure 1 Site location map showing the investigation area (red)
- Figure 2 Ground and First Floor plans showing location of plates and elevations used in report
- Figure 3 Engraving of Debden Hall, 1833
- Figure 4 Painting of Debden Hall from Debden Hall Scrapbook
- Figure 5 Photograph of Debden Hall, late 19th century
- Figure 6 Debden Estate Map, 1777, showing location of stables (red)
- Figure 7 Debden Tithe Map, 1843, showing location of stables (red)
- Figure 8 Map from 1882 Sale Catalogue of Debden Hall, showing location of stables (red)
- Figure 9 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897, showing location of stables (red)
- Figure 10 1921 Ordnance Survey Map, showing location of stables (red)
- Figure 11 1946 Ordnance Survey Map, showing location of stables (green)
- Figure 12 North west and South east facing elevations
- Figure 13 North east and South west facing elevations
- Figure 14 Ground and First Floor Plans, with phasing

List of Plates

- Plate 1 North-West facing elevation
- Plate 2 North-West facing elevation
- Plate 3 North-West facing elevation
- Plate 4 South-East facing elevation
- Plate 5 South-East facing elevation
- Plate 6 South-East facing elevation
- Plate 7 Detail of “wing” on South-East facing elevation
- Plate 8 Detail of blocked-up archway and external staircase on south-east facing elevation
- Plate 9 Detail of door on South-East facing elevation
- Plate 10 Close-up detail of door handle
- Plate 11 North-East facing elevation
- Plate 12 Detail of blocked-up doorway on North-East facing elevation
- Plate 13 Corner of North-east and south-west facing elevations
- Plate 14 Row of small wooden out-buildings
- Plate 15 Internal view of G1
- Plate 16 Detail of “hatches” in ceiling of G1
- Plate 17 Wooden panelling in G1
- Plate 18 Internal detail of door, G1
- Plate 19 Water Pump, G1
- Plate 20 Internal detail of window, G1

Plate 21	Detail of brickwork, G2, showing Cart Wheel “supports”
Plate 22	Harness/saddle hooks, G2
Plate 23	Internal view, G2
Plate 24	Detail of roof supports, G2
Plate 25	Carpenters Marks, G2
Plate 26	Internal view, G3
Plate 27	Graffiti, G2
Plate 28	Blocked Fireplace G4
Plate 29	Detail of door handle, G4
Plate 30	Fireplace, G5
Plate 31	Detail of window, G5
Plate 32	Internal view, G6
Plate 33	View of F1 showing exposed roof detail
Plate 34	View of F1 showing exposed roof detail
Plate 35	Detail of clasped purlin , F1
Plate 36	Detail of carpenters marks, F1
Plate 37	Detail of roof covering over F1 and F10
Plate 38	General view, F5
Plate 39	General View, F1
Plate 40	Internal door between F1 and F5
Plate 41	Detail of “hatch”, F1
Plate 42	Area rear of F3, showing continuation of hatches
Plate 43	Internal detail of “loading” door, F1
Plate 44	Fireplace, F1
Plate 45	Internal “window”, F2
Plate 46	Detail of window, F2
Plate 47	Detail of internal door, F2
Plate 48	General view, F4
Plate 49	Detail of internal “window”, F4
Plate 50	Internal door leading from F5 to F7
Plate 51	General View, F6
Plate 52	General view, F7
Plate 53	Fireplace, cupboard, chair rail and skirting board, F8
Plate 54	Detail of fire surround, F8
Plate 55	Internal door connecting F8 and F9 (from F8)
Plate 56	General view, F9

Summary

On 9th and 10th June 2011, Oxford Archaeology East conducted a historical building survey at the Grade II listed stables associated with the former Debden Hall (demolished in 1936) in advance of alterations scheduled to be made to convert the site into a residential dwelling.

This work was carried out in response to a brief issued by Essex County Council's Historical 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 alterations to the original fabric.

Five main phases of development were identified during the survey; construction of the principal stable building with central and end "wings" in the early 18th century, followed by the addition of a cartshed on the north-west side in the mid 18th century; perhaps at the time Debden Hall was re-modelled. There were then alterations in the 19th century, particularly on the first floor, to allow for more storage and living accommodation along with the addition of an external staircase. During the mid 20th century, there were minor alterations including internal subdivision on the ground floor as well as wooden panelling added to one room to create a self-contained living area over two floors in the 1940s. Finally, in the 1960s, two sets of double sliding doors were added on the ground floor and the pillars replaced to create an open-fronted store from the former cartshed, which enabled the storage of larger vehicles as well as the blocking of some windows.

Although no obvious alterations were made during the Second World War, the occupation or use of the stables during this time is an interesting addition to the history of the building. There is evidence on the doors of many of the first-floor rooms for uses including as a post office, gun store and an officer's mess. There is also graffiti on the ground floor which may add to the story of wartime use.

The stable building has a number of original fixtures and fittings as well as many datable features from later phases of alteration. It provides an excellent example of a stable built to accommodate the number of horses required by those living at Debden Hall.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 An historic building survey was conducted at the stables associated with the 18th century Debden Hall which was demolished in 1936 (Pevsner and Bettley 2007). The stable block is now located within the grounds of Debden Farm, Mill Road approximately a quarter of a mile north west of the small, historic village of Debden in the Uttlesford district of Essex (Figure 1). The work was carried out in advance of alterations to the existing site into a single residential dwelling.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Richard Havis (Havis 2010) of Essex County Councils Historic Environment Management Team. (Planning Application UTT/0961/09 and UTT/0962/LB), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA 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 collate information about the building in order to compile a record of the structure, with analysis and interpretation of the structure in conjunction with an associated documentary survey.
 - To determine the presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the features of the buildings, in order to make an assessment of its merit in context.
 - 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 assess the archaeological value and research potential of known or possible structures to be measured against appropriate local, regional and national research agendas.
 - 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 Saffron Walden Museum (Accession Code TBA) in due course.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The site is located within the grounds of Debden Farm, Mill Road on the outskirts of Debden, centred at grid reference TL 5495 3334 (Figure 1).
- 1.2.2 Debden is located 4 miles south of Saffron Walden and consists of the main village and the scattered hamlets of Debden Green, Purton End and Hamperden End. The name of Debden is derived from two Saxon words meaning "deep valley", in the Domesday Book the village was recorded as Depeduna and was commonly known as Depden until the Napoleonic wars, when it changed to its present name of Debden. The Saxon owner was Seward and in 1065 it was recorded that there were two acres of bearing vineyards and two acres of non-bearing vineyards. The village has retained many of its older buildings, some with thatched roofs, although several houses in the centre of the village were destroyed in the Great Fire of Debden in 1907 (www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk).

1.3 Acknowledgements

- 1.3.1 The author would like to thank John Wootton of Savills for commissioning the work and to Robert Crawford Associates for kind permission to re-use the plans and elevations. Thanks also to James Fairbairn for his assistance on site and to Louise Bush for producing all figures and plates. The author managed the project throughout and carried out the on-site recording and all 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 building comprised a single two-storey stable-block which has undergone a number of minor alterations and additions. For the purposes of this report, rooms and areas have been numbered and prefixed with **G** for ground floor and **F** for first floor (Figure 2).

2.2 Site Conditions

- 2.2.1 The building was vacant at the time of recording and conditions within and around the site were generally good, allowing measured and photographic survey to take place. The building had undergone little internal re-design or alteration and many original fixtures and fittings remain. However, vandalism in recent years has led to the removal of some fixtures as well as most doors and windows having been sealed shut or covered with trellis. The building has sat empty for a number of years and as a result there is evidence of deterioration from general neglect and disrepair such as water damage from poor guttering and drainage, loose floorboards and collapsed ceiling plaster as well as bird and vermin infestation, this did not hinder or compromise the work.
- 2.2.2 There is no live electricity supply to the building and due to the dark interior from sealed and covered windows, halogen lamps, powered by a portable generator were used.
- 2.2.3 Access to all parts of the building was possible.

2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 Background research was carried out mostly using Essex Records Office (ERO) in Chelmsford. There is a significant collection of original sources, maps, deeds and documents, not all of which could be studied within the scope of this survey. However, all sources which may contain evidence relating to the stables of buildings associated with Debden Hall, in particular maps and sale catalogues, were consulted. In addition to the records office, other sources of information include history books relating to the area and websites, all of which are referenced in the Bibliography. The results of the background research are presented within Section 3.
- 2.3.2 The measured survey was carried out using basic equipment. All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out in by the IfA (2001) and was undertaken by an experienced buildings archaeologist. Scaled architect's drawings, supplied by the client's architects in hand-drawn format, were used for field notes and were annotated and amended on site as necessary.
- 2.3.3 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. Due to the trees and shrubbery surrounding much of the building and the high elevations, most external images were obtained from an oblique angle.
- 2.3.4 Annotated elevations and plans used were provided at a scale of 1:50/1:100 and structure techniques and full descriptions of the building structure were carried out whilst on site.

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of English Heritage's catalogue of listed buildings and Essex's Historic Environment Record (EHER) was carried out over a 500m radius of the site. This revealed a number of important sites and historic buildings surviving close to the stables. These records and building are summarised in a table presented in Appendix A.

3.1 Historical Background of Debden Hall

- 3.1.1 The Grade II listed stable block (LB Number 121643) is associated with the demolished Debden Hall. Although the hall (EHER SMR No. 332) itself has gone, there is plenty of information about its development and surviving evidence within the landscape of its associated landscape and buildings.
- 3.1.2 The history of the manor of Debden Hall has been traced back as far as the 12th century and in 1214, King John held the manor of Debden Hall, although there are no details of a house of that name at that time – the first reference found is from the 14th century. Henry VIII is known to have granted the estate to Lord Audley and it continued to be passed through the family until 1660 (Silkstone, 1965). In 1685 the manor of Debden Hall had been sold to John Edwards whose son Henry, a Master of Chancery, sold it to Richard Chiswell in 1715. Chiswell was an eminent traveller and turkey merchant who later became director of the Bank of England and for almost 100 years the Chiswell family remained at Debden, acquiring land and farms, building up the estate to almost 5000 acres. The Chiswell family donated to the restoration of the church (where there is a large and impressive memorial to him) and created the parkland landscape. Richard Chiswell's son, Richard, inherited the estate in 1751 and made a number of improvements to the hall. When he died unmarried in 1772 the estate and his fortune passed to his sister's son, Richard Muilman (who later took the Chiswell name and was known for his considerable wealth).
- 3.1.3 Richard Muilman Trench Chiswell inherited from both sides of his family and is thought to have accumulated considerable wealth in excess of a million pounds (Silkstone 1965). Muilman is believed to have employed the renowned architect Henry Holland to rebuild the house in 1795 (Colvin 1995), however, the discovery of more recent evidence from a 19th century scrapbook (ERO TB172) suggests that Holland merely added to the house as opposed to completely re-building it, as previously documented in earlier historical narratives (Rush 1897 and Essex EHER number 332). It is believed that Holland added a Great Saloon and Library, decorated internally and added a Grecian portico which concealed the original house behind a façade. However the west façade remained unaltered retaining three floors, as opposed to Holland's façades, which had just two (Stroud, 1966). Richard Holland, Henry's cousin was also employed to carry out works at the parish church in the 1780s where he designed the Coad stone font, decorative chancel ceiling and an undercroft to house the Chiswell tombs.
- 3.1.4 Original sources available at Essex Records Office provide an illustration of how Debden Hall may have appeared. An engraving from 1833 (Figure 3, ERO I/Mb 115/1/4) shows a view of the hall with the lake in the foreground. It shows the Grecian portico on the south-south west-facing façade; the two-storey frontage added by Holland. Within the 19th century scrapbook of Debden Hall (ERO TB 172), there is a painting of unknown date which shows the Holland façade as well as the original three-storey on the west-facing frontage (Figure 4). The earliest known photograph of the house (Figure 5), probably taken in the late 19th century shows the west-facing façade

with two hexagonal bays, a single-storey building on the left and the ionic columns of the portico on the right.

- 3.1.5 It has been suggested by Silkstone in his parish guide (Silkstone, 1965), that Humphrey Repton may have been involved in the landscaping of the grounds as he visited the nearby Stansted Mountfitchet Hall in 1790 and may have already had a connection with the Muilman family.
- 3.1.6 Richard Muilman Trench Chiswell lost much of his wealth through poor investment and committed suicide in 1797. The estate was then passed onto his daughter, Mary, widow of Sir Francis Vincent. Debden Hall therefore, passed to the Vincent family through marriage and remained with them until 1882 when Mrs Cely-Trevilian sold the estate to William Fuller Maitland of Stansted Mountfitchet Hall who then sold it on to John Ashton Fielden of Lawrence Court in Huntingdon. The estate was later sold to Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal in 1904 who held the estate for ten years. When Lord Strathcona died he left his estates to his daughter, however later owners could not afford the upkeep of the hall and it was finally demolished in the 1930s and the estate divided up and sold (Silkstone 1965).

3.2 Surviving remnants of Debden Hall Estate, associated buildings and parkland

- 3.2.1 Despite the demolition of Debden Hall there are a number of buildings, in addition to the stable surveyed, within in the landscape of the former parklands and pleasure grounds. The remaining buildings and parklands are recorded and described in the Essex Historic Environment Record (number 332), from which much of this section has been taken.
- 3.2.2 A small cube shaped building in gault brick, with a hipped plain tile roof (said to have been a game larder), and an intact icehouse, survive just north of the footprint of the mansion. There is also a suggestion that the cellars of Debden Hall still survive.
- 3.2.3 A 17th-18th century timber-framed and plastered barn (EHER 35774), stands north of the present Debden Hall farmhouse and forms the north side of a large farmyard. On the south and east of the farmyard is an L-shaped range of 18th century outbuildings, part brick, part plastered. In the centre of the south side is a square entrance pavilion. On the south side is an oval plaque with the initials TC above the date 1782. In the centre of the east side is a square pavilion. The farmhouse itself was almost completely rebuilt in the 20th century. The symmetrical façade of the bailiff's house (dated 1783 in the external plaster), the yard and the buildings of Hall Farm are on higher ground 300m north-east of the mansion site. These are of red brick and plastered timber frame, and the fine red brick, double height courtyard gateway arch is dated 1782.
- 3.2.4 The stables of Debden Hall (EHER 35773) are the main focus of this report. The listed building description is as follows: "18th century red brick building on an H-shaped plan. Originally a stable block (to the former Debden Hall which was built in 1796 and demolished in 1936). Two storeys. On the east, front wings project at the north and south ends. The centre part is divided into 5 bays with plain pilasters. The upper storey has 3-light casement windows and the ground storey has a central entrance doorway and doors and windows with semi-circular arched heads. Roof concrete granule faced tiles, hipped over the end wings." (www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)
- 3.2.5 The main approach was from Newport lodge on the north edge of the park. This is a single storey polygonal building in gault brick with gothic windows, now much enlarged. The first section of drive runs through a woodland belt, flanked by some surviving yew

trees which show no evidence of having been cut as a hedge. After crossing a utilitarian brick culvert, it climbs the hill between a line of lime trees, with open parkland on each side. Debden Hall would not have been visible until after reaching the crown of the hill. At the bottom of the hill, the drive bifurcates. One section, now overgrown, turned west to the front of the house, the other continues past the stables, crossing the lake over a 19th century three arch bridge (recently covered with a concrete slab). It continues up the slope on the other side through former parkland and woodland to join a track between Waldegraves Farm and Rook End.

- 3.2.6 A dense plantation of spruce now obscures the area to the south of the site of Debden Hall. There is a large area of red dogwood on the west edge of the mansion footprint. To the West and East the mansion overlooked parkland. The pleasure grounds lay on the rising slope to the north of the house and are now very overgrown with no surviving evidence of how they were separated from the surrounding park (presumably by a fence, as there are no signs of a ha-ha). There is faint evidence of paths, possibly lined by some of the surviving yew trees and overgrown box bushes. There is a substantial beech (roughly in the centre) and a smaller circular planting of the same (possibly originally a clipped feature). There are a number of large yews (plus the stumps and fallen trunks of others) on the west side of the pleasure ground, possibly the remains of an avenue or walk. It is not clear how the rear of the kitchen court, the game larder and icehouse were screened from the pleasure grounds.
- 3.2.7 The park principally lies west and south of the site of Debden Hall, divided by the long cured lake. The later was formed by building a dam with an outflow at the north west angle, and is fed by a stream coming in at each end. There is a considerable amount of silting, and the level has been lowered by about 1.5m in recent years to meet water authority requirements. There is no evidence of the former island. The boathouse had become dilapidated and was demolished in recent years. West and north of the mansion, the park is still grassland with some mature free-standing timber (lime, cedar of Lebanon, beech and acer). A path, with remains of post and rail fence on each side, runs from south of the stable block to the churchyard. The church is extensively embellished with late 18th century gothic decorative details such as pinnacles and battlement parapets. Though now partly concealed by trees it was clearly intended to be seen from across the lake as an ornamental feature, as well as demonstrating the benevolence of the patron. A tall thin spire (replaced in 1930) on the west end of the church would have increased its visual impact in the landscape.
- 3.2.8 Approximately 1 mile to the north east of the site is Debden Airfield, also known as Carver Barracks. A former military airfield, opened in 1937 and closed in 1975. This airfield is today recognised as a key site in Britain's military aviation heritage. During the Battle of Britain, the base played a vital role. The base was bombed and raided twice in August 1940. Eight RAF fighter squadrons served at the base in addition to 51 Operational Training Unit (in 1941). In 1942 the base was transferred to American use, as United States Army Air Force Station 356. Today the site is considered particularly important because it features a largely intact defensive perimeter and flying-field with associated blast pens, representing one of the most complete fighter landscapes of the Battle of Britain period (www.pastscape.org.uk).

3.3 Historical Background of the Stables from Historical 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.

Debden Estate Map 1777 (Figure 6)

- 3.3.1 The earliest visual evidence of the stable is found on an estate map of Debden (Figure 6). Although this map shows little detail of the building, it shows the same location and shape in plan as exists today. This indicates that the stable surveyed was not only present in 1777, but also in existence prior to the re-modelling and major alterations which took place to Debden Hall in 1796 by Henry Holland.
- 3.3.2 The map shows that access to the stables was gained via the north, from Debden Hall and also via the south, though the fields and across the river over the small bridge which still survives today. This implies perhaps a formal and informal approach to the hall itself.

Debden Tithe Map 1843 (Figure 7)

- 3.3.3 The 1843 Tithe map shows slightly better detail and appears to show the stable as a “H”-shaped building in plan. This map suggests the building has been altered or it is representative of a building, but not truly accurate. It is possible that the map was created by a cartographer working from Debden Church, they may have thought the building was H-shaped based on the wings on the façade visible from there. There is certainly no physical evidence to suggest the building was ever that shape in plan. Oddly, the “H-shaped plan” description corresponds with the listed building description (see 3.2.4).
- 3.3.4 The renovations to Debden Hall of the late 18th century are also depicted on this map. The approach roads are more clearly shown and this map now shows the farm to the south east of Debden Hall, indicating a construction date range of 1777-1843.

1882 Sale Catalogue (Figure 8)

- 3.3.5 The next available map in the sequence is included with a catalogue to accompany the sale of Debden Hall in 1882 (ERO D/F 35/7/724). Like the previous maps, there is limited detail of the building due to the scale, however, it appears to differ again from the previous maps with additions to the rectangular form on the north western and the south eastern sides – certainly different to the H-shaped plan as seen on the previous Tithe map.
- 3.3.6 This map reveals more detail about hall as well as the associated buildings and associated parklands. It identifies the function of buildings around the estate including Hall Farm, an icehouse next to “The Mansion”, a lodge on the road by which the hall is entered, and a wooded area known as “The Wilderness” and an extensive park spanning much of the western side of the estate and covering land either side of the river.

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897 (Figure 9)

- 3.3.7 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map (1897) provides a scaled and more reliable representation of the stable in the late 19th century. It shows the plan of the stables as identical to today with the addition of a small enclosed area or addition shown as unshaded on the southern side of the south east-facing elevation.

- 3.3.8 Detail of Debden Hall and other associated buildings are also more clearly mapped and the footpaths though the park are denoted.

1914 Sale Catalogue

- 3.3.9 A sale catalogue from 1914 (ERO A101) provides a full and thorough description of Debden Hall as well as the grounds and buildings included in the lot. The description of the stables is as follows:

“Excellent Stabling arranged round a Paved Yard with Loose Boxes and Stalls for Ten Horses, Harnesses and Cleaning Rooms, and Three Rooms over for Men, large Coach-House and Motor Garage. Water by Gravitation and Soft Water Storage”

1921 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 10)

- 3.3.10 The next available map, the 1921 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 10), shows no obvious changes to the layout or plan of the stable building. An additional access route or roadway to the stable from Debden Hall has been created by this time, perhaps to allow access for a motor vehicle which would have become fashionable by this time.
- 3.3.11 Interestingly, Debden Hall has been erased from this particular copy of the map, presumably after its demolition in the 1930s.

1946 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 11)

- 3.3.12 the 1946 map is a significantly smaller scale and therefore has very little detail. However, the small enclosed/fenced area on the southern side of the south east facing elevation appear to have been removed.

1979 Ordnance Survey Map (not illustrated)

- 3.3.13 By the next available map of 1979 (viewed on www.old-maps.co.uk) what may be the paved area around the stable block has reduced in size and a cattle grid has been installed on the track way leading towards the house. On the western side, a row of small adjoining outbuildings have been added; these are wooden sheds still in existence today. An Ordnance Survey Benchmark has also been added to the northern end of the south-east facing side of the building. There are no obvious alterations to the stable building.

4 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

- 4.1.1 For the purposes of this report, all rooms on each floor were allocated a number, prefixed with G for ground floor and F for first floor (Figure 2). The layout of the rooms on each floor can be seen on Figure 2 which also shows the locations of plates referenced throughout the report. Figures 12 and 13 show building elevations and Figure 14 provides an overall phase plan.
- 4.1.2 The stable is rectangular in plan with “wings” projecting from either end of the south-east elevation and one located centrally on the north-west elevation, with a later additional covered shelter. The building measures approximately 31.25m by 17.35m (at its widest point) constructed from orange/red brick with two-storeys. It has a pitched roof, hipped over the end and central wings, covered with concrete tiles. Access to the ground floor is gained via original and later “sliding doors” on the north-east and south-east elevations and the first floor is accessed via an external iron staircase on the south-east side.
- 4.1.3 Internally, this building has a wealth of architectural detail, fixtures and fittings of note, relating to its original and later functions as a stable associated with Debden Hall.

4.2 External Description

North west-facing elevation (Figure 12)

- 4.2.1 This elevation represents two phases of building: the original brick-built stable with centrally positioned “wing” and a later addition of an open-fronted shelter on the left of centre with slate roof covering.
- 4.2.2 The open-fronted “shelter” (plate 1) rests upon painted modern brick pillars, likely to have been added within the last 50 years. There is a mono-pitched roof covered with grey slates. The brick wall support at the far north-eastern end indicate an opening, however, it is not possible to ascertain whether or not this addition was open-fronted as all evidence was removed when the pillars and reinforced steel beams above were added.
- 4.2.3 The centrally located “wing” projects on this elevation. It has a wooden panelled door with arched fan-light above with brick arch over and a square window opening directly above on the first floor. Sadly, due to recent vandalism, the windows were all covered with wooden slats (plate 2). Although the doorway opening is original, the frame and door itself appear to be a later replacement as the frame is poorly fitted and there is evidence of cutting into the brickwork on the left of the frame. The leaf-handle with flat thumb plate (which operates the lifting bar to raise the hatch) would indicate a mid-late 18th century date (Hall 2007, pg 56)
- 4.2.4 The brickwork on this elevation comprises thin hand-made red, orange and vitrified bricks laid in a random bond comprising courses of headers and stretchers and some mixed. The mortar is a white/creamy, sandy mix with crushed flint inclusions.
- 4.2.5 The southern end of this elevation has little detail (plate 3). Close inspection of this external elevation was hampered by considerably over-grown thistles and shrubbery. There are two original window openings at first floor level (concealed with wooden slats) and three small square-shaped voids added later, possibly for ventilation at ground floor level. The mortar of the brickwork suggests some evidence of repair/re-pointing and there is also heavy water-staining due to inadequate rain-water guttering.

South east-facing elevation (Figure 12)

- 4.2.6 This elevation, like that on the opposite side has been constructed with absolute symmetry, however it has wings at either end as opposed to centrally located (plate 4). There are two brick support buttresses on both wings which appear to be a later addition, possibly added in the 19th century. All windows on this elevation are concealed behind wooden slats to prevent vandalism.
- 4.2.7 All doors and windows on the ground floor have brick arches over and a decorative protruding brick surround above (plates 5 and 6) as well as a number of plain brick pilasters, not used on the other elevations. This side of the building would have been visible from the church and by those using many of the paths and trackways to the east and the south, and therefore additional detail and effort may have gone into the design of this façade.
- 4.2.8 The brickwork on this side of the building comprises red, orange and pinkish coloured bricks, laid mostly, but not entirely in a Flemish bond. The bricks have an average dimension of 9" x 2^{1/2}" x 4" and are handmade with diagonal pressure marks.
- 4.2.9 There is a centrally located set of double sliding doors with a concrete lintel and threshold. According to the site owner, these doors were inserted in the mid 20th century and the manufacturers name of "ALDAM, LONDON" was noted. The brickwork around has been cut into removing any evidence that there was ever an original entrance in this location.
- 4.2.10 Above the double doors is a door, possibly for the loading of hay from a cart directly to first floor level for storage. The door was constructed using vertical wooden panels and appears to be original to the building.
- 4.2.11 There appear to have been some minor alterations to the openings on the wings, with evidence of a blocked doorway on the inside of the southern wing (plate 7) and a blocked up archway on the inside of the wing to the north (plate 8). The window in the wing on the left (plate 5) has also been bricked-up.
- 4.2.12 There is a cast iron staircase on this elevation (plates 6 and 8) which provide access to the first floor where a doorway has been inserted. This looks to be a 19th century addition and this inference is supported by cartographic evidence which shows it was present by the 1897 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 9).
- 4.2.13 Other than the sliding doors, there are two original doors still present on this elevation of the building. Both doors are constructed of ten vertical panels beneath a semi-circular fan-light (concealed) (plate 9). The original handles and locking mechanism are still present and are of particular interest (plate 10), consisting of a hinged looped handle for closing the door and a central "button" which releases the internal latch allowing for opening. Although a comparable datable type could not be found, they are likely to be an original fitting and possibly 18th century in date.
- 4.2.14 To the immediate right of the left door was a small bricked up arch, which was possibly for drainage.

North-east-facing elevation (Figure 13)

- 4.2.15 The north-east facing elevation shows the relationship between the original building and the later, single story shelter on the north-western side of the building (Figure 13 and plate 11). The change in brickwork is clearly seen in this elevation, however, an attempt to maintain continuity of style has been made with the brick arch over the

window which has been included. The bricks used on the extension are a fraction smaller (average 8^{1/2}" x 4" x 2^{1/2}") and are almost all a uniform dark orange colour.

- 4.2.16 On the left of this elevation is evidence of a bricked up doorway (plate 12). Originally providing access into the building (into room G5), it was later partially bricked up to create a window (possibly in the 19th century) and finally, in the 20th century, totally concealed.
- 4.2.17 To the immediate right, another original opening is present displaying the same style of door with handle and opening mechanism as those recorded on the south-east facing elevation. Right of this door is another set of double sliding doors, like those on the south-east facing elevation, these were added in the early-mid 20th century, perhaps to allow vehicular access for the then modern and fashionable motor car. This would correspond with the new entrance to the stables from Debden Hall as recorded on the 1921 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 10, section 3.3.10).

South west-facing elevation (Figure 13)

- 4.2.18 This elevation was difficult to access for close inspection due to over-grown trees and shrubs (plate 13).
- 4.2.19 There appears to be little detail within this side of the building other than a blocked up window at ground floor level and a window opening at first floor level concealed behind a wooden trellis.

Other Buildings

- 4.2.20 Although not within the scope of this survey, it is worth noting the presence of a small row of wooden outbuildings on the north-western side of the stable building, opposite the single storey addition (plate 14). This group comprises two adjoining wooden "shed"-type buildings which have corrugated iron roof coverings and two-part stable doors. There were no internal details to the buildings and cartographic sources date them between 1946 and 1979.

4.3 Internal Description

Ground Floor

G1

- 4.3.1 G1 is the principal area/room of the building on the ground floor, measuring approximately 31.14m in length and 6.09m wide.
- 4.3.2 Most of the floor had been concreted over, however in places this had been removed to reveal original bricks, there was also a drainage channel running the length of the building (plate 15). A small arched opening at the far southern end of G1 allowed for drainage out of the building and may have lead out towards the river.
- 4.3.3 All of the original fixtures and fittings relating the the horse boxes, stalls etc. have been removed, however evidence is still visible on the walls where the removal of fixtures has left marks and exposed brickwork (plate 15). Although the precise time when the stalls and bays were removed is unknown, it is possible that it was during the last century to allow access for motor vehicles or farming machinery (as seen in plate 15). Also on the wall is a painted decorative "rail", the height of which may have corresponded with the top of the stalls.

- 4.3.4 There are seven wooden beams spanning the width of the building, two have been removed at the northern end. The beams all have stop-chamfers at either end and were originally designed to be exposed with a lathe and plaster board ceiling between.
- 4.3.5 Most of the original ceiling covering has been repaired and replaced, however, at the northern end, there are four small rectangular hatches within the ceiling running along the western side of the room (plate 16). Three hatches would have provided access from above to throw down the hay into troughs located on the wall below. Their positions also correspond with the locations of the stalls below as indicated by the evidence on the walls.
- 4.3.6 Although not thought to be an original fixture, a section of the wall at the northern end of the building is partly covered with panelling comprising vertically laid tongue and groove boards (plate 17). These boards were often applied to make it easier to clean the stalls, it is also possible to see the marks where the hay feeding troughs were located on the walls, directly below the hatches.
- 4.3.7 From inside this room, the reverse of the doors recorded on the external south-east facing elevation can be seen (plate 18). Sadly, due to vandalism, the original fanlight is no longer present or has been concealed behind horizontally laid boards.
- 4.3.8 There is a 19th century hand-drawn water pump located within this area (plate 19) which was manufactured by “J TYLOR & SONS, 2 NEWGATE ST, LONDON EC”, Internet research has revealed that they were hydraulic, mechanical and pharmaceutical engineers manufacturing products in the mid 19th century. Reference is made to the pump in the sale catalogue of 1914 which, in the description of the stabling, mentions “Water by Gravitation and Soft Water Storage”.
- 4.3.9 Detail of the concealed windows can also be recorded from this location. The windows all had wooden frames with glazing bars. They comprise three windows of six panes in each with a tripartite semi-circular fanlight above (plate 20).
- G2**
- 4.3.10 Room G2 is the internal space of the later extension on the north-western side of the building (Figure 2). This area measured 13.1m by 5.1m and was accessed via an open front. Although a later addition to the original building, the similar dimensions and style of brickwork, together with cartographic evidence depicting its presence on the 1777 estate map (Figure 6) would suggest that G2 was added shortly after the original building was constructed.
- 4.3.11 This part of the stables is most likely to be the “large coach house” referred to in the 1914 sale catalogue. Evidence of this is found on the rear of the internal wall where the grooves caused by, or created for, coach or cart wheels can be seen (plate 21).
- 4.3.12 Also, along the rear wall of G2 is a row of large wooden hooks, presumably for hanging harnesses, ropes, saddles etc. (plate 22). This area also has an original brick floor (plate 23).
- 4.3.13 This extension has been created using the existing external walls of the original stable building with a new single brick wall added to the western side of the northeast elevation. Within the wall at the south-western end of the room a blocked up opening can be seen which would have originally provided access into the central wing (plate 23),.
- 4.3.14 Large tie beams were inserted into the external wall of the original stable to create this addition with five struts from each leading to the principal rafters (plate 24). Carpenter's

marks were visible on some of the struts (plate 25), however, the numbers did not seem to correspond with each other, indicating the timbers may have been re-used.

G3

- 4.3.15 The centrally located “wing” on the north-west facing elevation measured 4.61m by 4.17m and is accessed only from the external door. The floor of this room had been covered with concrete and the walls mostly plastered and painted, although this had cracked and crumbled in some places.
- 4.3.16 This room too contains fixtures and fittings associated with the stabling function which are in good condition (plate 26). A wooden trough spanning the full width of the room is still present, complete with small iron rings for tethering horses. It has a wooden shelf above and an arrangement of wooden slats within a recess to hold hay behind. This room was referred to by the current owner as a “foaling room”, and certainly the size of the room and its fixtures would fit the suggestion that it housed young horses and foals. The fixtures are likely to post date the blocking up of the doorway and therefore likely to be 19th century in date.
- 4.3.17 The central recess would have originally provided access into the main stable (G1) that was subsequently blocked up to create a separate room. There was no evidence of this from G1, however much of the wall had been plastered over.
- 4.3.18 On the internal wall, on the left as the room is entered, was the profile of a face graffitied into the wall plaster (plate 27). The name “?. BUNTING” appears below, however, it was agreed during the survey that the profile bears a good resemblance to Adolph Hitler and as the building is known to have been occupied during World War Two, it is a possibility that this profile is meant to depict the German leader. Further evidence for occupation during the war is to be found on the first floor. Background research has found a strong connection with the surname Bunting in Debden (www.debden.org/list.php), perhaps it depicts or was drawn by a member of this local family.

G4

- 4.3.19 This room is the southern wing on the south east-facing side of the stables (Figure 2) and measures 5.64m by 3.68m. It is accessed via an internal door from G1.
- 4.3.20 In the corner of this room was a blocked up fireplace (plate 28). The bricks used to conceal the fireplace appear to be the same as those used to block up the window within this room and probably date to the early-mid 20th century.
- 4.3.21 The same painted rail as recorded in G1 continues in this room and a wooden shelf has been added above the fireplace and to the right. The floor was covered with modern concrete and the walls were all plastered.
- 4.3.22 Lighting was provided via a window on the wall opposite to the fire place. Originally there was also another window, as recorded on the external elevation, which was bricked up in the 20th century.
- 4.3.23 This room is likely to be either a harness or cleaning room as referred to in the 1914 sale catalogue. The door leading into this room appears to be original and the leaf-handle with flat thumb plate (plate 29) (which operates the lifting bar to raise the hatch) would indicate a mid-late 18th century date (Hall 2007, pg 56)

G5

- 4.3.24 This room is the northern wing on the south east-facing side of the stables (Figure 2) and measures 5.46m by 3.59m. It is accessed via an internal door and small step down from G6. The floor is covered with a beige coloured brick laid in a herringbone pattern across most of the room, however tiles are used for part of one end (opposite end to the fireplace).
- 4.3.25 All four walls of this room were entirely covered by vertically laid tongue and groove panels, painted in a dark wood stain. There is a small fireplace (plate 30). The fire surround had decorative brown patterned tiles down either side and a simple wooden outer surround and mantel. There is an iron patterned fireback and hood.
- 4.3.26 Detail of the concealed window can also be recorded from this location. Like those recorded in G1, the window has a wooden frame with glazing bars. It comprises three windows of six panes in each with a four-pane semi-circular fanlight above (plate 31).
- 4.3.27 The internal decorative detail and fireplace are attributed to a doctor who, according to the present owner, lived in this room and that above, in the 1930s/40s. He is thought to have made the alterations to this room including inserting the fireplace and panelling the walls. As part of the alterations, he may have added the internal division in G1 to create G6, providing a self-contained living area and accessing the room above via the external staircase.
- 4.3.28 Originally, this room is likely to have been either the harness or cleaning room as referred to in the 1914 sale catalogue, accessed from the main stable area, G1. There is evidence in the ceiling, in the corner of this room, for what may have been the location of an original opening for an internal staircase.

G6

- 4.3.29 A small area or corridor has been created during the early/mid 20th century by building a brick wall within G1, connecting the external doorway to the doorway into G5. To create a self-contained living area, this sub-division allows direct access to G5 from the outside. It measures just 5.88m in length by 1.24m wide (plate 32). The floor has a small tiled floor and the walls, of the 20th century brick, are exposed in contrast to parts of the original wall on the left, which is plastered and painted. The continuation of a chamfered ceiling beam from G1 can also be seen.

First Floor

F1

- 4.3.30 This room is the main space of the first floor, measuring a maximum 30.38m in length and 6.65m wide. This area is open to the exposed roof and has been altered in the 19th century with subdivisions to create additional rooms.
- 4.3.31 The roof is a clasped purlin using tie beams and principal and common rafters set upon a wall plate which sits on the outer brick walls. There are also collar beams which, in places have additional struts to the principal rafters (plates 33 and 35). The roof appears to be mostly original, with some replacement common rafters, perhaps added when the roof covering was replaced. The roof comprises a number of bays and carpenter's marks were noted on the tie-beams and corresponding principal rafter (plate 36). The carpenter's marks run in sequence on the south-east facing wall with numbered frames including II, III, IIII and V, the remaining frames were concealed behind later alterations. The connecting hipped-roof space over the central wing on the north-west facing side of the building was also exposed, revealing a continuation of collars, principal and common rafters (plate 37).

- 4.3.32 The floor is covered with floorboards running across the width of the room, the walls are all plastered and painted white and there are four, simple wooden-framed three-part casement windows located on the south-eastern elevation only (plate 34 and 46).
- 4.3.33 There are ten equally spaced, small rectangular hinged “hatches” running along the length of the room on the north-western side (plates 39, 41 and 42). These hatches correspond with those exposed in G1 below and allow for hay to be dropped down into the stalls below.
- 4.3.34 Located centrally on the south-eastern wall is the wooden door as recorded on the external elevation (plate 43). This door would have provided access for loading goods such as hay directly to the first floor from a hay cart.

F2

- 4.3.35 This area had been created by the addition of walls sub-dividing an area at the south-western end of the first floor which measures 8.01m by 5.24m (plate 33). This area provided access into F6, F7 and F8.
- 4.3.36 There is little detail within this room other than exposed tie-beams and the addition of a plasterboard ceiling which may suggest this room was used for living accommodation as opposed to storage in the main area (F1).
- 4.3.37 This room is likely to have been created in the 19th century, perhaps to provide accommodation for stable workers. This could be one of the rooms described in the 1917 sale catalogue which describes the stables as having “Three Rooms over for Men”.
- 4.3.38 The door which provides access into this room from F1 had the same 19th century latch and handle as that recorded in G4. Interestingly, this door had “OFFICERS MESS” written on it in chalk (plate 40). This provides further evidence of the activity/occupation of the building during the Second World War.

F3

- 4.3.39 This room is located at the north-eastern end of the first floor and is accessed via a small enclosed space leading from F5 and F1. This room measures 5.28m by 4.14m and has little architectural detail of note. Like F1, it has floorboards spanning the width of the room and a single casement window the same as those recorded in F1 which is located on the north-east facing elevation.
- 4.3.40 Like F2, the room is a later sub-division of the first floor, created by adding internal sub-divisions at this end of F1 (plate 39). the internal walls used are not to roof height and the room itself has had a plasterboard ceiling, most likely to create living accommodation. As with F2, this may be one of the “three rooms over for men” as mentioned in the 1914 Sale Catalogue.
- 4.3.41 As with F2, the creation of this room has not spanned the full width of F1, in order to allow access to the feeding hatches along the length of the building (plate 42). This implies the stable was still in active use and the rooms were created for staff residing on hand and on-site to care for the horses and provide security.

F4

- 4.3.42 F4 is accessed via a small corridor (F5) which links the main area (F1) and the external door which provides all access to the first floor. It measures 5.75m by 2.62m and has floorboards which run the length of the room (opposite to those in F1 and F3 which

span the rooms width). This room is located directly above G5 and forms the first floor element of the northern-most “wing” on the south-east facing elevation.

- 4.3.43 There is a fireplace in this room (plate 44) which appears to be a later addition, possibly 19th century in date. It is made from cast iron, has little decoration or detail and is set on the right-hand side of an internal chimney which presumably also serves the fireplace in the room directly below (G5).
- 4.3.44 The room has a wooden skirting board and plastered and painted walls. On the left of the room on entering, there is a “window” with simple wooden frame and iron bars, however there is no glass or glazing bars, suggesting it was intended or added to circulate light from this room into the adjoining area F5 (plate 45). At the far end of the room is a small cupboard space and a simple, wooden-framed, three-part casement window set within a splayed recess on the south-eastern side of the room.
- 4.3.45 The door which provided access from F5 is a plain, simple wooden door comprising four vertical tongue and groove panels. The word “GUNS” is written on the door in chalk, further evidence of use during the Second World War when perhaps it was used as a gun store.
- 4.3.46 This room has clearly been altered to provide living accommodation, and the internal features would suggest this was carried out in the 19th century. It is most likely one of the rooms as described in the 1914 Sale Catalogue as “three rooms over for men”.
- 4.3.47 The thin wall between F4 and F5 would imply that they were originally one room, subdivided to create two when the other re-modelling occurred on this floor.

F5

- 4.3.48 This area is a narrow corridor which has no obvious function or use (plate 48), measuring just 4.78m by 0.98m.
- 4.3.49 It appears that the floor boards have been replaced in this area and that the glassless “window” in F4 has been used to provide light into this space. There is also evidence in the ceiling of G5 directly below, that this was the site of the original access between the two floors. If this were the case the stairs, or most likely a simple ladder, would have linked G5 with the corridor area of F5 (which was lit by the window from G4 (plate 49)). This would provide a small contained area of accommodation over two floors perhaps for a coachman or more senior stable worker. This accommodation was most likely created in the early 19th century, however the access was altered when the external staircase was added.

F6

- 4.3.50 At the southern end of the first floor, room F6 has been created by a small subdivision in the corner of F2 (plate 38).
- 4.3.51 This small room measures 2.78m by 1.85m and has very little detail inside. There are two rows of wooden shelving and a small fold-down wooden table. The walls extend to the height of the tie beams at which level a ceiling has been inserted.

F7

- 4.3.52 On the other side of the partition which creates F2, F6 and F9 is a long narrow room measuring 7.42m by 1.24m. This room is accessed via a door from F2 (plate 50) and was most recently used as a toilet (plate 52). Along with a sign for “LADIES” and notes about potato storage, this door also has “POST OFFICE” written in red chalk. This may be further evidence of the buildings wartime function.

4.3.53 When created in the 19th century this area, like the space behind F3, had been left open to provide access to the hay feeding hatches which span the length of G1 (these can be seen in plate 52). It appears that later, during the 20th century, this area was enclosed and a toilet added.

F8

4.3.54 This room is accessed via doors from both F2 and F9. It measures 5.77m by 3.64m. Like many of the other rooms on this floor, it has been used for living accommodation. However, this room has a decorative and more elaborate fireplace, a skirting board and a chair rail and a built-in cupboard.

4.3.55 The fireplace and built-in cupboard are located in one corner of this room (plate 53). This fireplace is served by the same chimney as that in G4 directly below. It is more elaborate and decorative than those recorded in G5 and F4, and although there is evidence that it is not original to the construction of the stables, it pre-dates the other fireplaces recorded. The fire surround is made from cast iron and has wide, plain side surrounds, however, the upper surround and mantle are far more elaborate with carved dentils and foliage design which may indicate an Early Georgian date (plate 54). As the fireplace is not original to the construction of the stables, it is likely that it has been re-used from another building of higher status, perhaps Debden Hall itself, after the re-modelling in the 1790s.

4.3.56 The door between F8 and F9 (plate 55) is likely to be original to the building and is different to the plain wooden panel doors recorded elsewhere on this floor. This room is most likely to have been used as accommodation. Although it is difficult to tell if it was originally designed as such when the stable was built, it certainly has a separate function to storage.

F9

4.3.57 This room measures 5.22m by 4.16m and is accessed only from room F8. It has wooden floorboards and has a single wooden-framed three-part casement window, as recorded throughout the rest of the first floor, on the south-west facing elevation.

4.3.58 There is a wooden rail with hooks which runs around the room as well as a larger hook, perhaps for a saddle (?). The wall has been plastered and painted yellow up to the rail and white above. The ceiling is covered with chicken wire and the casement window has been covered internally and externally with wooden slats making the room very dark.

F10

4.3.59 This room is located directly above G3 and is part of the central “wing” on the north-west facing elevation and measures 4.57m by 4.18m.

4.3.60 There has been considerable recent damage within this room from birds/animals and much of the ceiling plaster has fallen down. There is a single, plain wooden framed window (as those recorded on the opposite first floor elevation) and a wooden skirting board. There are no other fixtures or fittings of note in this room.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Phase 1: early 18th century (*Figure 14*)

- 5.1.1 The first phase of building on this site is the main stable building associated with Debden Hall, with three projecting “wings”. The stable was built in perfect symmetry, tall and imposing, located within the parklands and close to the weir and stream. Built to be seen by those using the footpaths around the stable leading to the church as well as being in full view from the church, extra attention to detail and design was added to the south-east facing façade with pilasters and more windows and doors than on the opposing elevation. Accessed from the fields to the south, or from the hall, the stable was an imposing building providing stabling for up to ten horses as well as accommodation above in a single room for a coachman or senior groom.
- 5.1.2 The principal area on the ground floor was divided into stalls along the length of the building and the number of hatches accessed from above would suggest ten in total (this is certainly still the case by the time of the 1914 sale catalogue). The gully running the length of the stable would allow for water and waste to drain out and doors and windows allowed for light, ventilation and circulation of people and animals in a busy and active stable. On the ground floor, harness and tack rooms occupy the wings on the south-west facing side and access to the first floor is gained via an internal staircase or ladder from the tack room, harness room or perhaps office (G5) to a room, perhaps living accommodation above (F4).
- 5.1.3 The building is entered formally through the central wing on the north-western side and yard-based activities take place in the paved area on the other side. The brick floor was a standard amongst 18th century stables and there was facility to load hay and straw into the storage area above; this was a new feature of many 18th century stable buildings and may also have provided additional accommodation for stable hands or workers.
- 5.1.4 Interestingly, the stables are located a considerable distance from the site of the former hall. However, this location within the parklands, by the water and the little bridge leading out across the fields, would have no doubt been used to impress visitors choosing to ride out with the owners of the hall and explore the estate.
- 5.1.5 Although Debden Hall is believed to have been renovated (or even suggested rebuilt) and new façades added in 1795, cartographic evidence indicates that the stable was in existence in its current position and form in 1777 (*Figure 6*).
- 5.1.6 The first decades of the 18th century witness a dramatic change sweeping the country and the design and alteration of the country house and the associated stables were no exception. Stable buildings are rebuilt in this period, and many have projecting wings and window lighting on the first floor (Worsley 2004, pg 124). In this period, stables are not just functional buildings and shelters for animals, but architectural statements in their own right with place and setting in the landscaped parklands.

5.2 Phase 2: mid 18th century (*Figure 14*)

- 5.2.1 It appears that the major alterations to Debden Hall in the late 18th century did not extend to the stables as the second half of the century sees only the addition of the coach house and an improvement in the internal accommodation.
- 5.2.2 The single-storey addition on the north-west side of the building spoils the symmetry on this elevation and whilst it seems that the importance of aesthetics was to an extent

over ridden by a practical need to shelter the coaches, the symmetry is still maintained on the façade viewed by passers-by and church-goers. The coach house most likely had large doors on the front allowing access to coaches, which could then be secured at night. Ruts in the rear wall of the coach house suggest a larger coach was later stored, unless the ruts were deliberately carved into the wall to stable the carriage.

- 5.2.3 This phase sees a fireplace added in the corner of the rooms occupying the ground and first floor wings at the southern end as accommodation is now provided (or improved), perhaps for a coachman. The Early Georgian fireplace surround used on the first floor (F8) most likely came from Debden Hall, perhaps during the alterations taking place in the 1790s.
- 5.2.4 Buttresses are also added to the wings in the south-western side to add structural support to the building.
- 5.2.5 The estate map of 1777 indicated the coach house addition was built by this date.

5.3 Phase 3: 19th century (Figure 14)

- 5.3.1 The main alterations in the 19th century comprise the sub-divisions within either ends of the first floor storage area to create additional living accommodation. Skirting boards, chair rails and plasterboard ceilings are added to the accommodation rooms, creating a higher standard of living and a pump is installed to extract water from below ground which is also pumped up to the first floor (pipes noted in F1).
- 5.3.2 An internal chimney is created to allow fireplaces in G5 and F4 and the internal access to the first floor is now gained via an external staircase which, according to cartographic evidence, is constructed between 1882 and 1897.
- 5.3.3 Despite the additional living space now created on the first floor, stabling activity on the ground floor has altered very little in this century. Although the fixtures and fittings are no longer present, the feeding hatches have been left accessible, indicating a full stable of up to ten horses below.
- 5.3.4 During this century, the external yard is paved with small square tiles and the central entrance on the north-west facing side of the building (G3) has been blocked up and is now used as a room for feeding foals.
- 5.3.5 It is possible that these alterations came about as a result of a need for greater security. The stables are located a significant distance from the house and then, as today, would be a target for theft or vandalism, especially if there were a number of horses, coaches and goods stored within. There may have been a need for more people to be present in the building at night and by blocking off ground floor entrances the building may have been easier to safeguard. Further evidence for this may be the location of the hook places around one of the first floor rooms (F9); these might have been used for storing valuable harnesses, saddles and other equipment away from the more vulnerable ground floor.

5.4 Phase 4a: 1940s (Figure 14)

- 5.4.1 The 1940s sees the alterations to the living accommodation at the north-eastern end of the building carried out by a doctor who, according to the current owners lived here around this time. The creation of a subdividing wall in the main ground floor stable (G1) creates a new entrance from the outside via an existing door into G5 and the window on the north-eastern elevation is blocked up. The walls of this room are then panelled, a new decorative fireplace is added and tiles and bricks are laid on the floor. The

external staircase is used to access the first floor, where there are two further living rooms available (F3 and F4).

- 5.4.2 Although there is no structural evidence of occupation during the Second World War, the current owner is aware that the building was used during this time and the evidence from chalk writing on many of the first floor doors indicate the building was used as does the graffiti found within a ground floor room which *may* represent Adolph Hitler. Whilst it is impossible within the scope of this survey to find out more, notes on the doors suggest guns may have been stored there, that a post office operated out of the building and that the main first floor area (F1) was used as an officer's mess. It would be interesting to ascertain whether the nearby Debden Airfield (now Carver Barracks) carried out training at the stables or if perhaps the Home Guard trained or operated from there.

5.5 Phase 4b: 1960s (Figure 14)

- 5.5.1 Most of the alterations which occurred in the 1960s were carried out by the current owner (pers. Comm.) when the stable was mostly used as a potato store. Throughout the first floor are notes written on the internal doors noting the type of potato, weights and dates of their storage.
- 5.5.2 A number of windows in the southern end of the building were blocked up (G4 and F1) to store potatoes in cool, dark conditions. Also during this period, large double sliding doors were added to allow access for tractors and larger vehicles and machinery.
- 5.5.3 According to the present owner, the pillars on the open-fronted store (G2) were also created during the 1960s, again, perhaps to allow access for, and storage of, larger machinery.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The building recording survey has revealed the survival of an early 18th century stable complete with a number of surviving fixtures and fitting including original doors, windows, floor and roof structure. Although the original fixtures associated with the feeding, tethering and stabling of horses has mostly been removed, evidence remains including the feeding hatches, wall decoration and evidence within the internal walls of the layout of the stalls.
- 6.1.2 There is also strong surviving evidence of use and activity in later periods associated with people living in the building, the fixtures and fittings they needed and, more recently, activity associated with the Second World War and an agricultural storage facility.
- 6.1.3 The internal and external evidence maps the changes which happened within this building and how it has developed and been utilised throughout its long history. This has always been and should continue to be, a building of local interest which has played an important role in the history of Debden.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--|
| Colvin, H.C. | 1995 | A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840 (Third Edition) |
| English Heritage | 2006 | Understanding Historic Buildings – A Guide to Good Recording Practice |
| Fletcher, T | 2011 | Specification for Historic Building Recording at Debden Hall Stables |
| Havis, R | 2010 | Brief for Historic Building Recording at Debden Hall, mill Road, Debden |
| IFA | 2001 | Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings |
| Pevsner, N. and Bettley, J. | 2007 | The Buildings of England : Essex |
| Rush, J.A | 1897 | Seats in Essex |
| Silkstone, H.W. (ed) | 1965 | The Parish of Debden and the Church of St Mary and All Saints |
| Stroud, D. | 1966 | <i>Henry Holland His Life and Architecture</i> in Country Life, 1966 pg 92 |
| Worsley, G. | 2005 | The British Stable |
| Wright, T. | 1834 | The Picturesque Beauties of Great Britain – A Series of Views from Original Drawings : Essex |

MAPS AND OTHER SOURCES CONSULTED

Description	Date	Essex Record Office reference
Debden Estate Map	1777	D/DQy 6
Debden Tithe Map	1843	D/CT 112 B
Engraving of Debden Hall	1833	I/Mb 115/1/4
2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1" to 25 miles)	1897	Map Cabinet Essex Sheet XIV.2
Photograph of Debden Hall from "Scrapbook" 1878-1882	1878-1882	T/B 172/1

Sale Catalogue of Debden Hall Estates	1882	D/F 35/7/724
Sale Catalogue of The Debden Hall Estate, nr Saffron Walden	1914	SALE/A1012
1921 Ordnance Survey Map (1" to 25 miles)	1921	Essex (New Series) Sheet N XIII.12
1946 Ordnance Survey Map	1946 (provisional edition)	Essex (New Series) Sheet N XIII SE
Auction Notice, 1846 in Deeds of Debden Hall Estate	1736-1848	D/DE/T117

WEBSITES CONSULTED

www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk

www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk

www.heritagegateway.org.uk

www.old-maps.co.uk

www.pastscape.org.uk

www.debden.org/list.php

APPENDIX A. SITES AND LISTED BUILDINGS WITHIN 500M RADIUS OF THE SITE

Listed Building / Essex HER Number	Building / site name or address	Brief Description	Date	Listed Building Status/ Record type
EHER 332	Debden Hall	Debden Hall, Associated Buildings, parks, gardens, pleasure grounds,	C18th	
EHER 333 / LB 121642	Church of St Mary's and All Saints	On the west side of the village, now isolate A flint and stone church of C13 origin	C13th-18th	Grade I
EHER 16777	Cropmarks around Debden Church	While many appear as field-boundaries on the OS 1st ed. 6" series, others do not, in particular a curvilinear feature to the north		
EHER 18539	Archaeological Monitoring at St Mary's and All Saints	Archaeological Monitoring and excavation, east of the vestry revealed presence of Post medieval graves.	Post-Medieval	
EHER 10419	Pillbox, N end of Hop Wood, Debden Park	Just inside the N tip of a copse is a Type FW3/24 pillbox.	Modern	
EHER 18538	Archaeological Monitoring at St Mary's and All Saints	Archaeological Monitoring and excavation, east of the vestry revealed presence of Post medieval graves and Roman finds	Roman and Post-medieval	
EHER 396	Vicinity of Debden	Iron Age coin - gold stater of Cunobelinus, found at Debden.	Iron Age	
EHER 10416	Pillbox, NW of Debden Park Lake	Standing on a low ridge which runs along the NW side of Debden Park Lake, is a Type FW3/24 concrete pillbox facing N.	Modern	
EHER 252	Debden Hall	Site of Debden Hall, a late 18th century building, as marked on Chapman and Andre map of 1777, demolished in 1936.	Post Medieval	
EHER 10420	Pillbox, E tip of scrub, Debden Park	From the E tip of a finger of scrub an FW3/24 pillbox faces eastwards across the stream 70 yards away.	Modern	
EHER 10418	Pillbox (destroyed), Debden Park	An aerial photograph taken in 1960 shows the clear shape of an FW3/24 pillbox facing NNE towards a bridge some 100 yards away.	Modern	

EHER 334	Debden standing stone	Standing stone, not regarded by the OS as an antiquity. A glacial erratic block of conglomerate, 0.8m high and 1.0m wide and deep. <1> <2>	Undetermined	
EHER 35775/ LB 121645	L Shaped range of outbuildings to S and E of Debden Hall Farmhouse	C18 range of outbuildings	Post Medieval	Grade II
EHER 35773/LB 121643	Outbuilding in Debden Park	C18 red brick stable to (now demolished) Debden Hall.	Post Medieval	
LB 121644	Barn to north of Debden Hall farmhouse	Large C17-C18 timber-framed and plastered barn with 2 hipped entrance bays on the south side. The barn forms the north side of a large farm yard with outbuildings on the east and south sides and the farmhouse on the west.	Post Medieval	Grade II
LB 492972	Debden Church Lane	c1800 two storey cottage (formerly pair of estate workers cottages) timber framed plastered and part pargetted with a central brick stack and gabled plain tile roof.		Grade II

APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-102361		
Project Name	Historic Building Survey of the Stables of the former Debden Hall Stable		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	09-06-2011	Finish	10-06-2011
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	DNDHS11	Planning App. No.	UTT/0961/09UTT/0962/09/LB
HER No.	n/a	Related HER/OASIS No.	LB ID 121643

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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
Building - Stables	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Essex	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Uttlesford	Stables of the Former Debden Hall Mill Road Debden CB11 3LD
Parish	Debden	
HER	Essex County Council	
Study Area		National Grid Reference TL 5495 3334

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Essex County Council, HEM Team
Project Design Originator	Taleyna Fletcher
Project Manager	
Supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Saffron Walden Museum	OA East Offices	Saffron Walden Museum
DNDHS11	XEXDHS11	DNDHS11

Archive Contents/Media

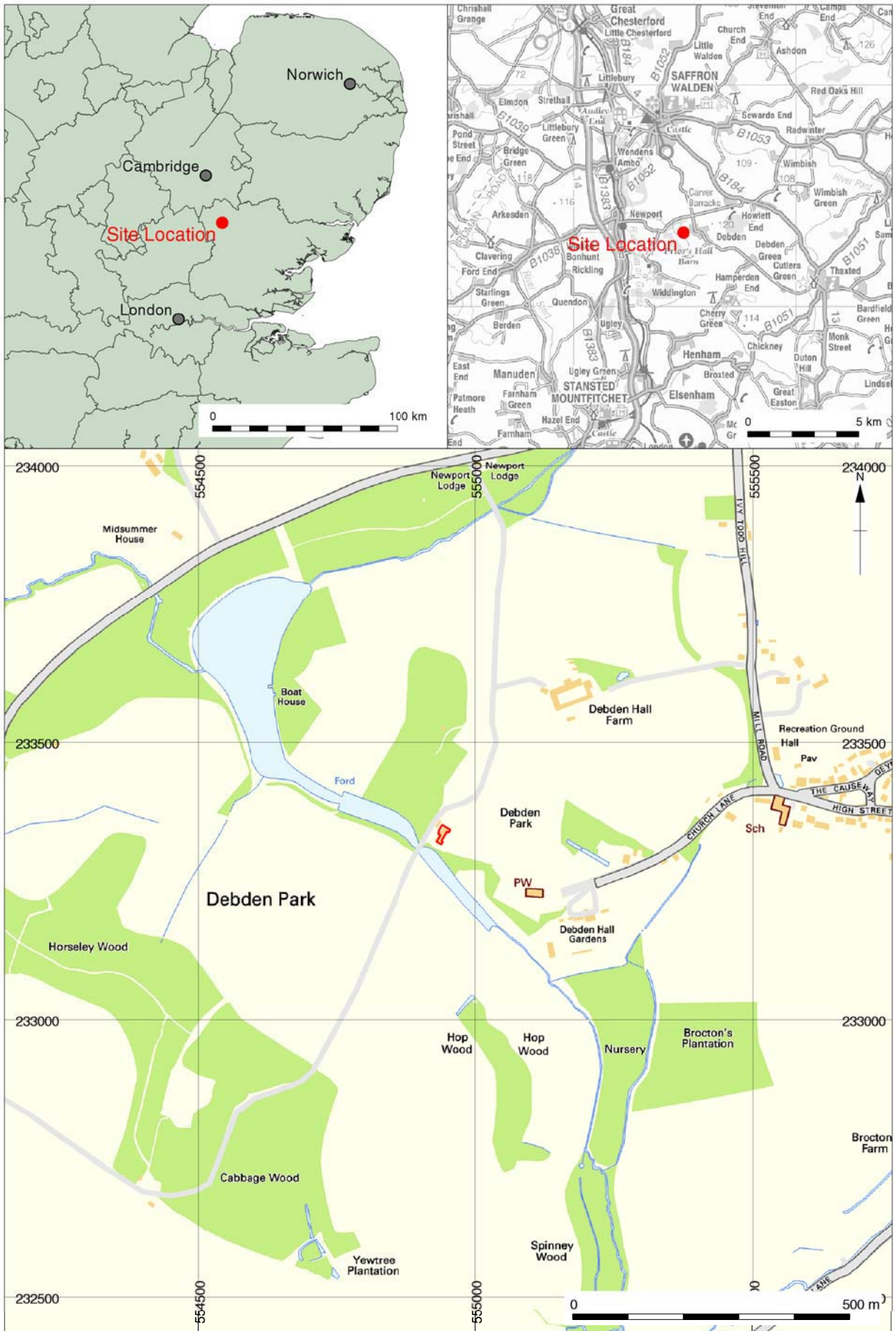
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

APPENDIX C. ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Stable of the Former Debden Hall	
Parish: Debden	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 5495 3334	Site Code: DNDHS11
Type of Work: Historic Building Survey	Site Director/Group: Taleyna Fletcher Oxford Archaeology East
Date of Work: 9th-10 th June 2011	Size of Area Investigated:
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Private Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER No.s: EHER 35773
Final Report: "18th Century Stables of the former Debden Hall, Debden, Essex"	
Periods Represented: Post-Medieval-Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>Five main phases of development were identified during the survey; construction of the principal stable building with central and end "wings" in the early 18th century followed by the addition of a cartshed on the north-west side in the mid 18th century, perhaps at the time Debden Hall was re-modelled. There were then alterations, particularly on the first floor in the 19th century to allow for more storage and living accommodation along with the addition of an external staircase. During the mid 20th century, there are minor alterations including internal subdivision on the ground floor as well as wooden panelling added to one room to create a self-contained living area over two floors in the 1940s. Finally, in the 1960s, the addition of two sets of double sliding doors on the ground floor and the replacement of the pillars to create an open-fronted store from the former cartshed to allow for storage of potatoes through the harvest time.</i></p> <p><i>Although no obvious alterations were made during the Second World War, the occupation or use of the stables is an interesting addition to the history of the building. There is evidence on some of the first-floor doors that many of the rooms were used during this time, including a post office, gun store and an officers mess. There is also graffiti on the ground floor which may add to the story of wartime use.</i></p> <p><i>The stable building has a number of original fixtures and fittings as well as many datable features from later phases of alteration. It provides an excellent example of a stable able to accommodate the number of horses required by those living in a building such as Debden Hall.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: N/A	
Author of Summary: Taleyna Fletcher	Date of Summary: 10 th July 2011



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2011

Figure 1: Site location with study area outlined red

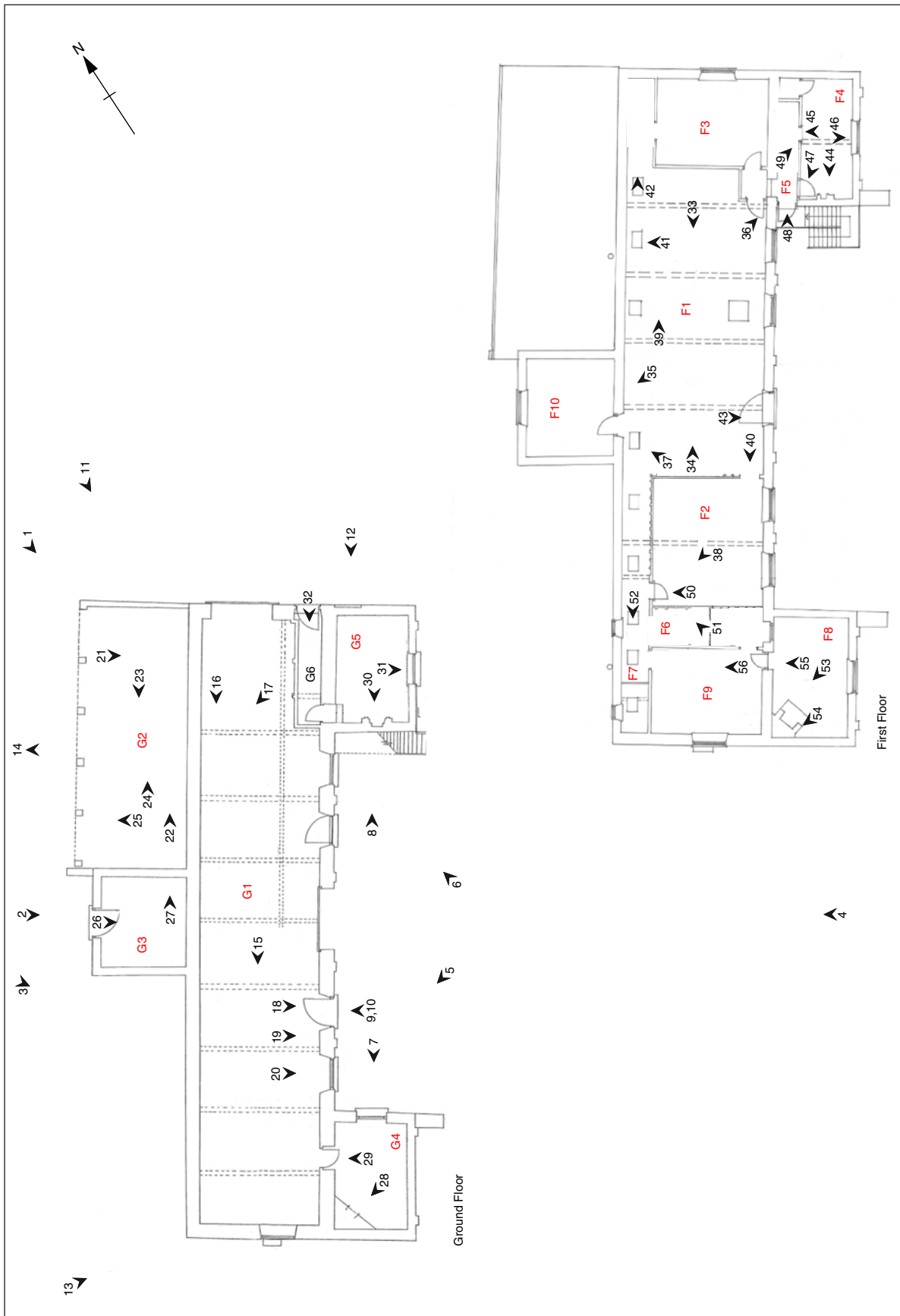


Figure 2: Ground and First Floor plans showing location of plates and elevations used in report



Figure 3: Engraving of Debden Hall 1833 (ERO 1/Mb 115/1/4)



Figure 4: Painting of Debden Hall, from Debden Hall Scrapbook (ERO TB172)



Figure 5: Photograph of Debden Hall (late 19th century), from Debden Hall Scrapbook (ERO TB172)



Figure 6: Debden Estate Map, 1777 (ERO D/DQY6) showing location of stables (red)

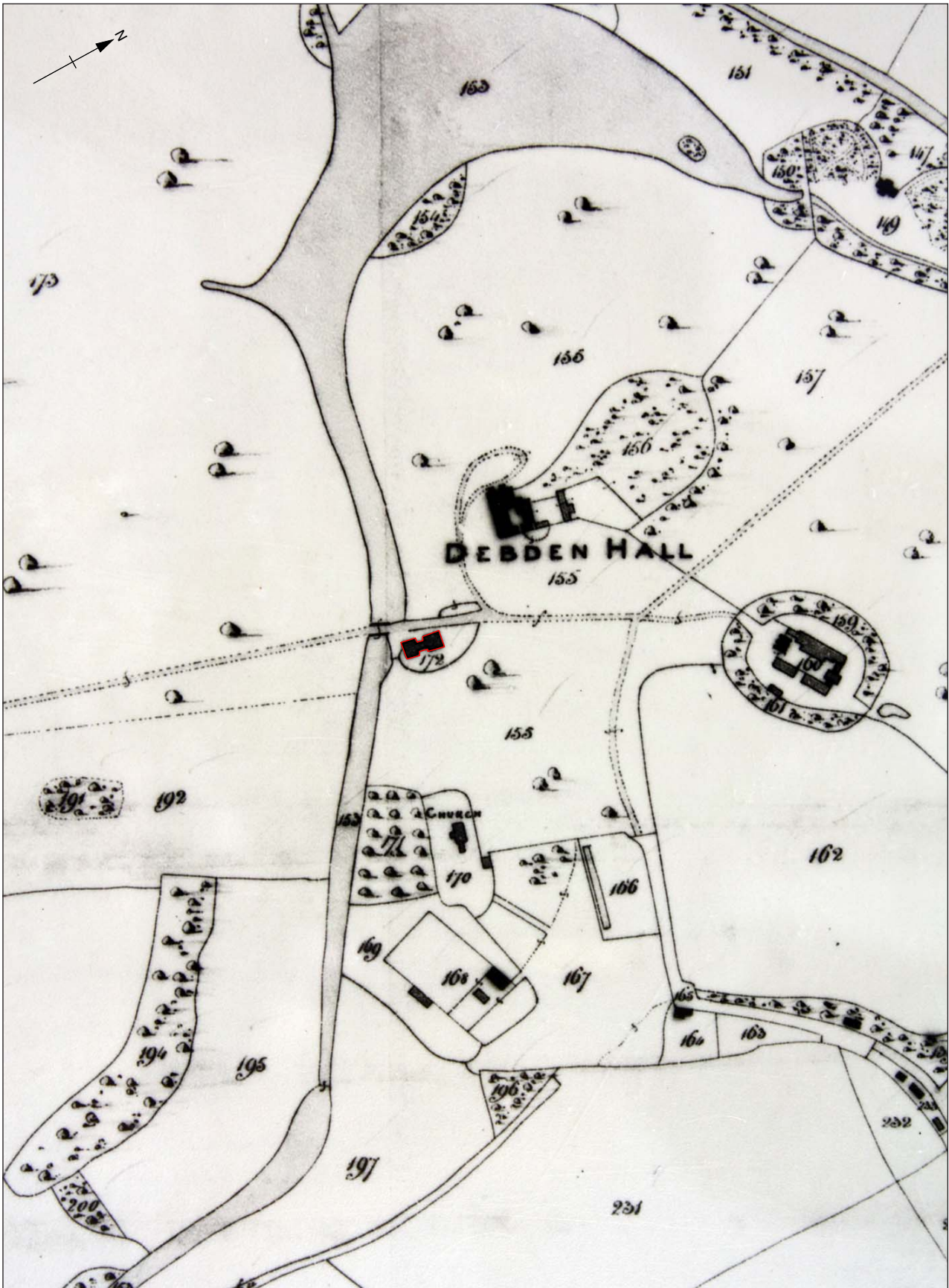


Figure 7: Debden Tithe Map , 1843 (ERO D/CT/112B) showing location of stables (red)

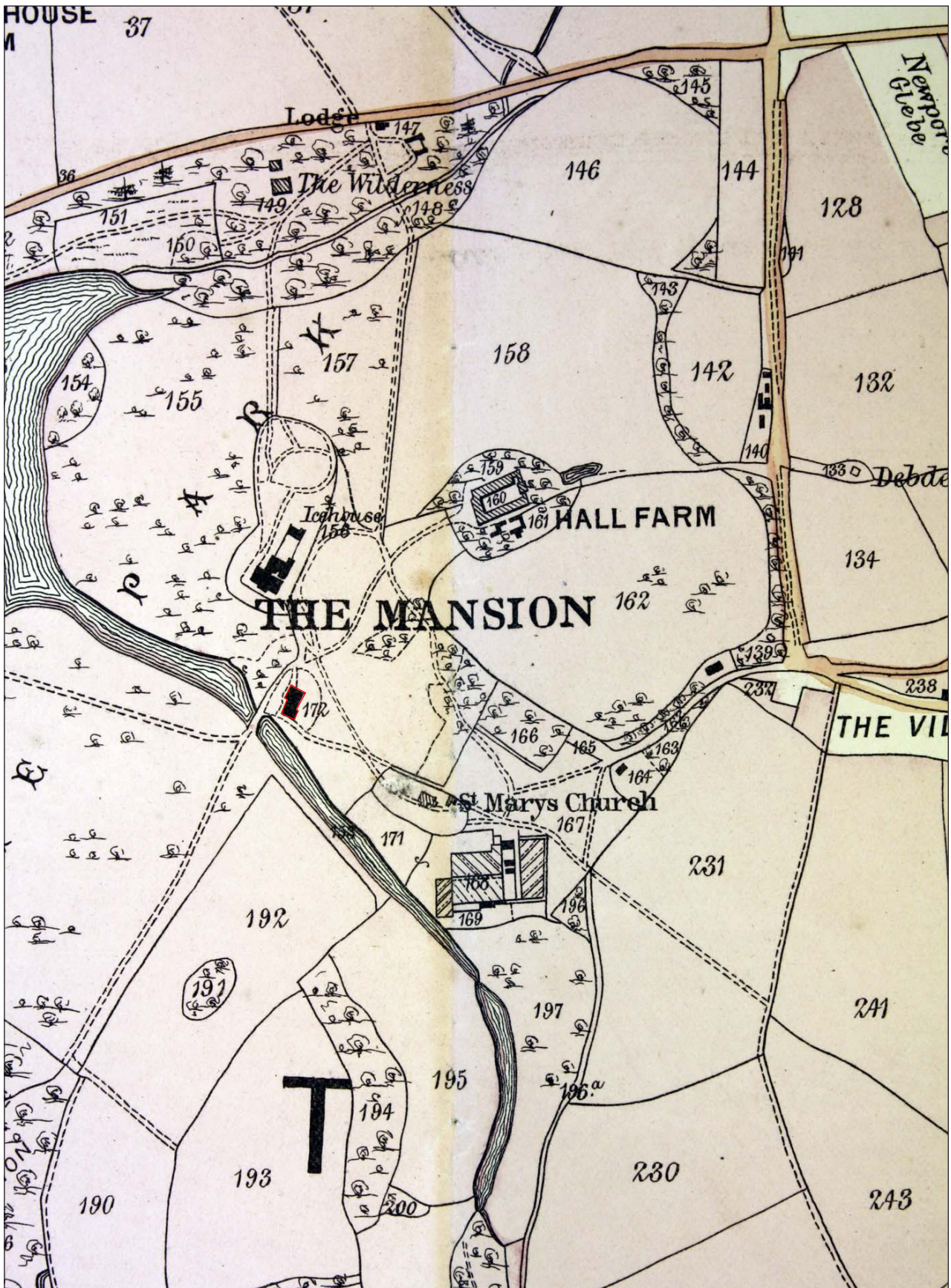


Figure 8: Map from 1882 Sale Catalogue (ERO D/F 35/7/724), showing location of stables (red)

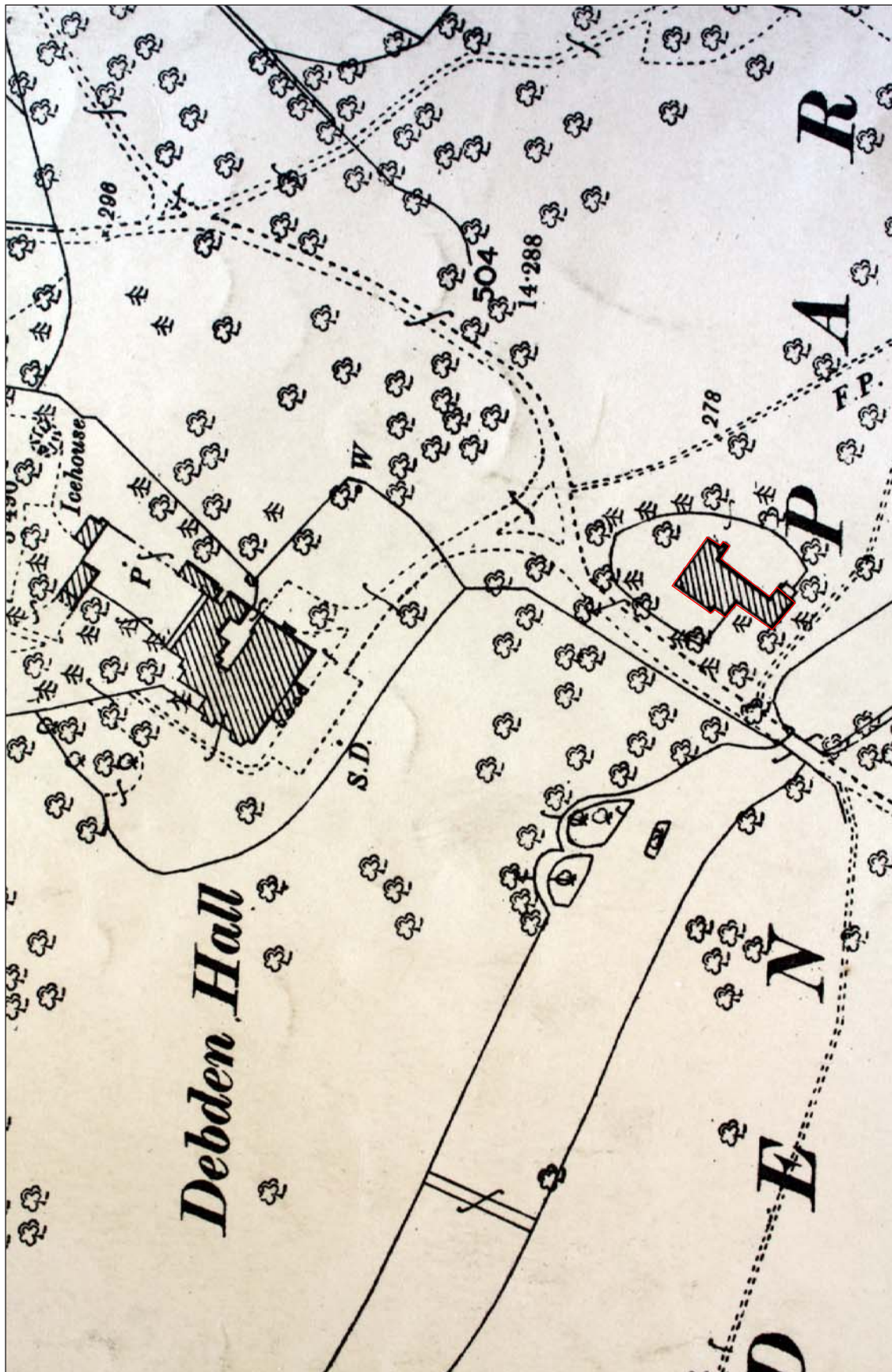


Figure 9: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map 1897, showing location of stables (rect)

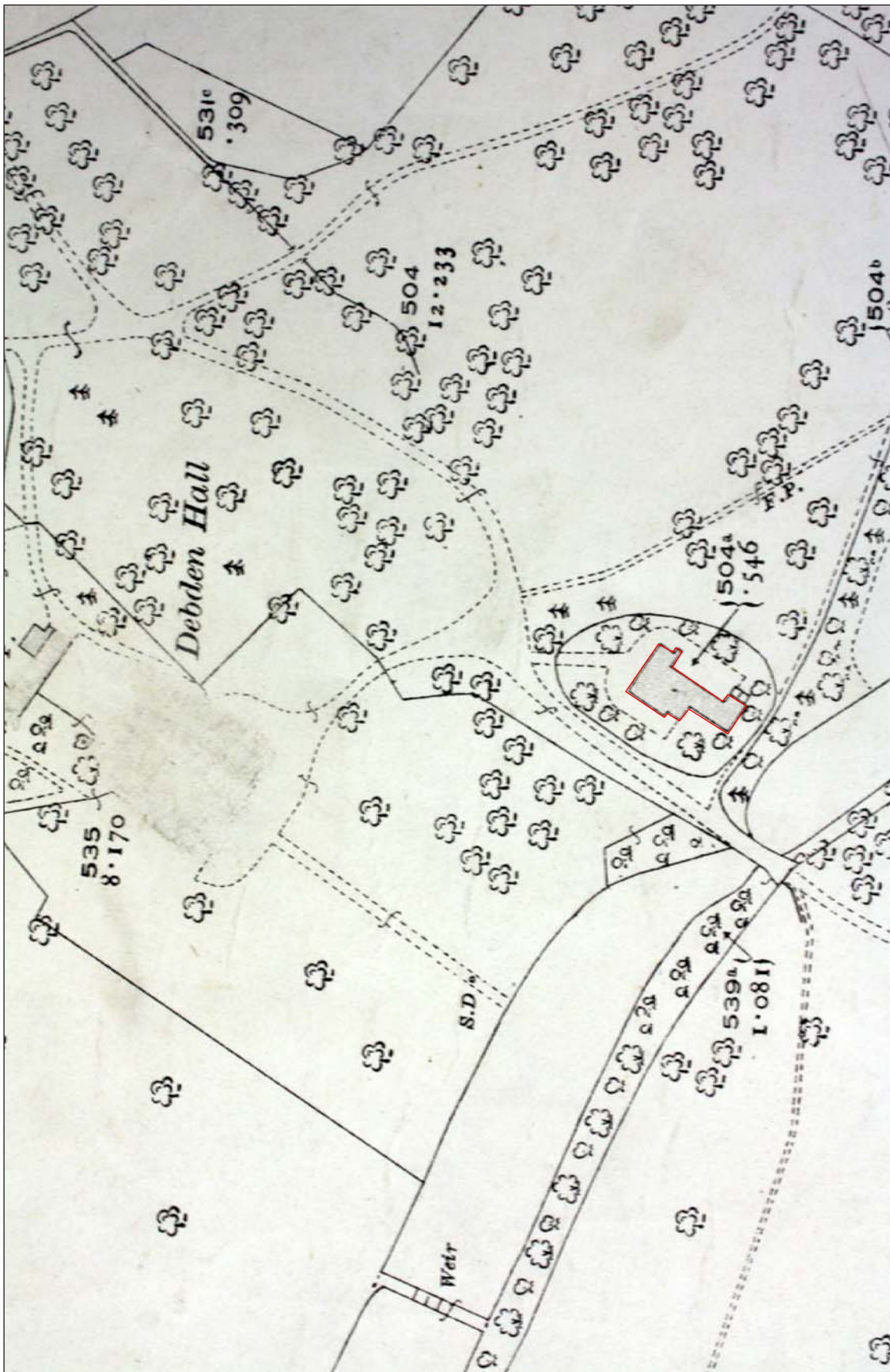


Figure 10: 1921 Ordnance Survey map, showing location of stables (red)

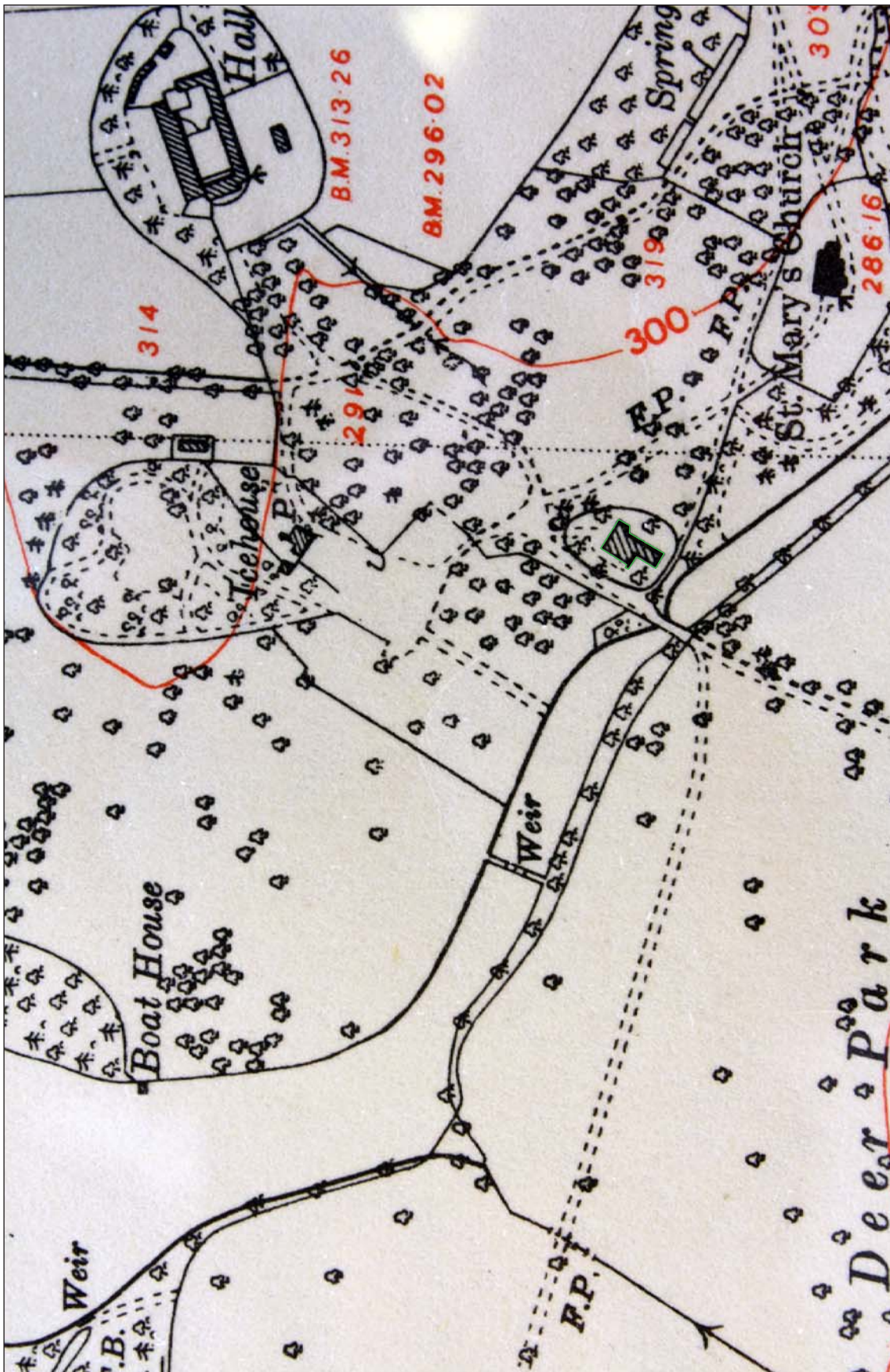


Figure 11: 1946 Ordnance Survey map, showing location of stables (green)

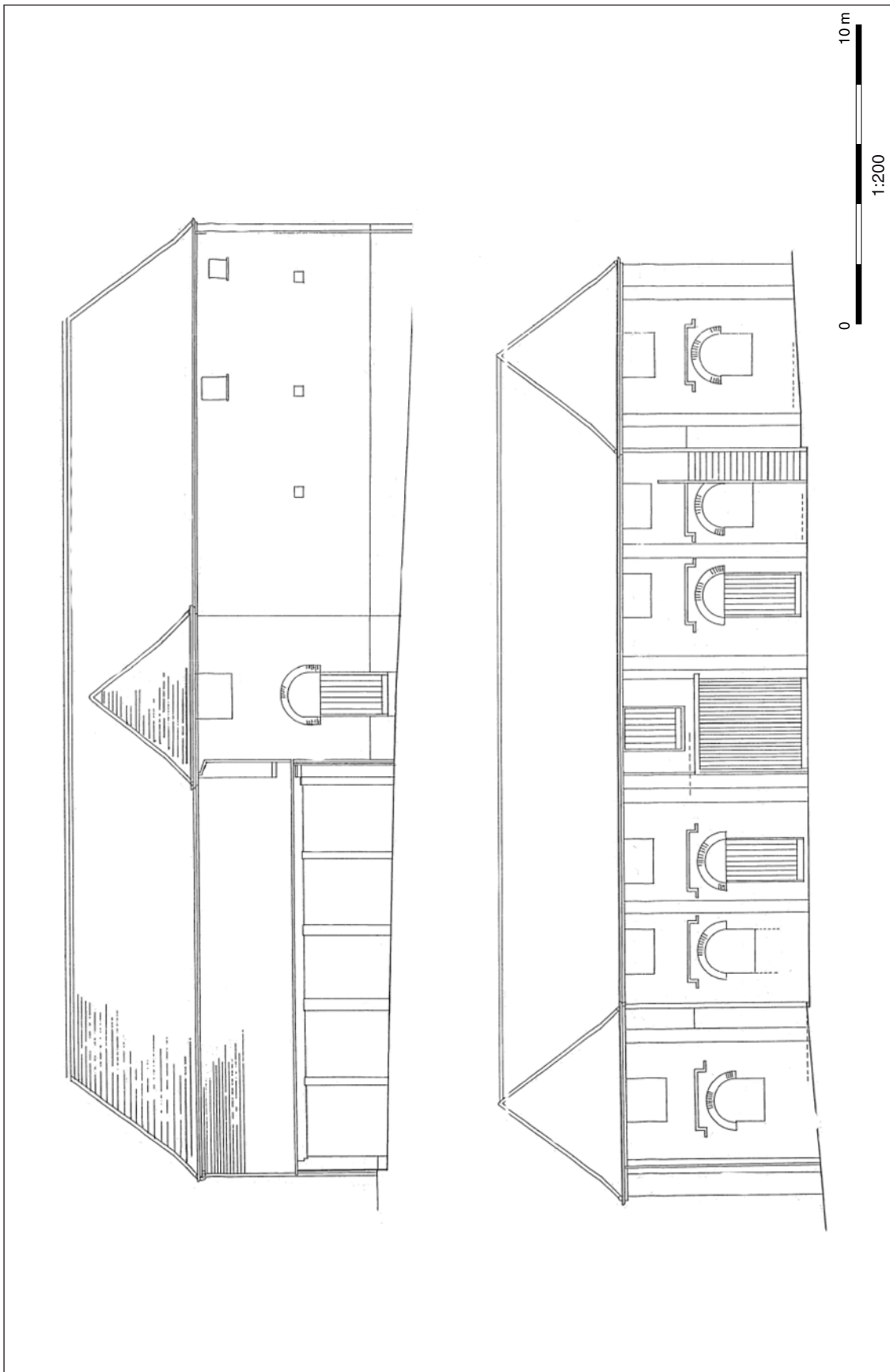


Figure 12: North-west and south-east facing elevations

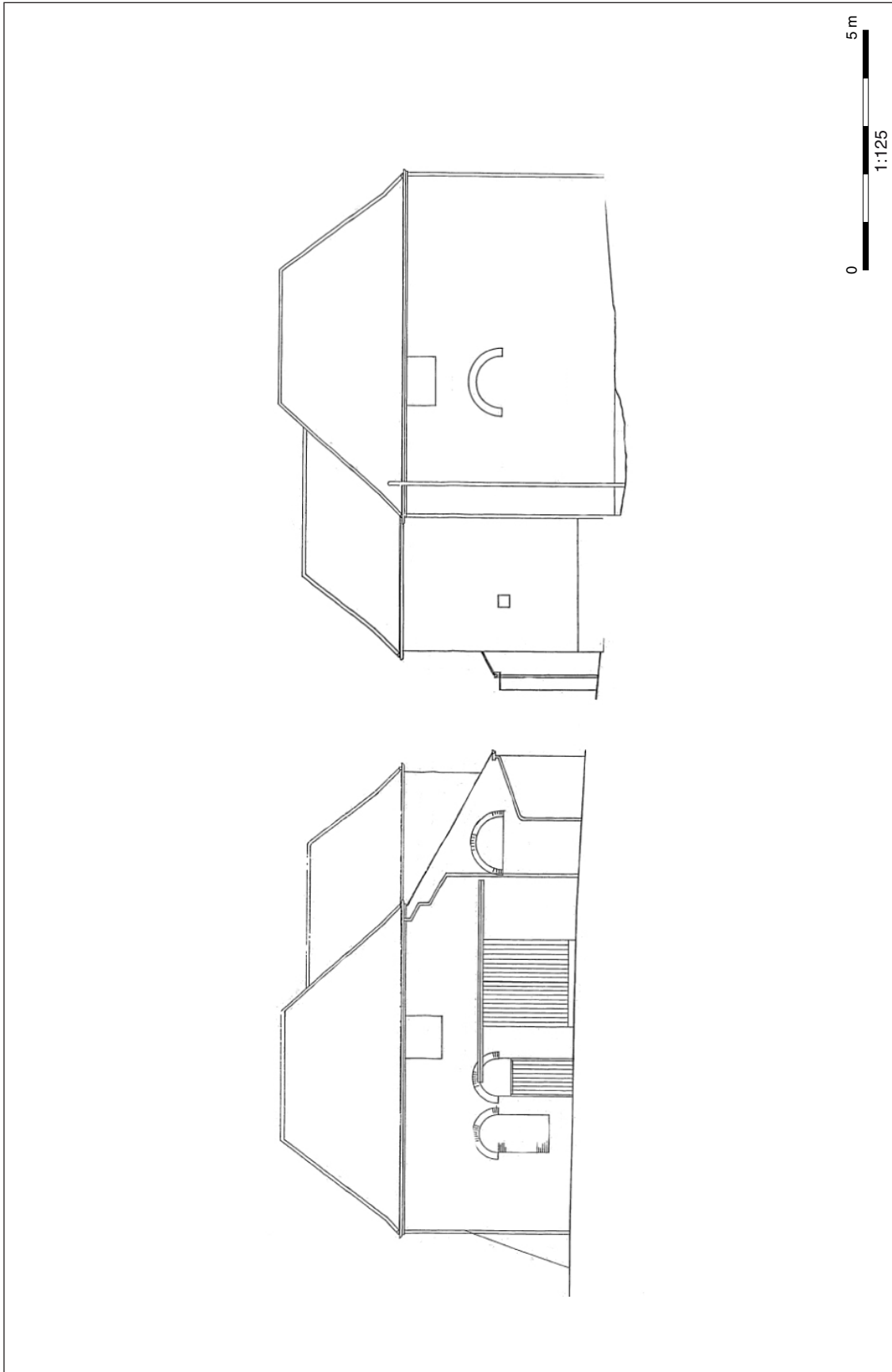


Figure 13: North-east and south-west facing elevations



Figure 14: Ground and First Floor plans, with phasing



Plate 1: North-West facing elevation



Plate 2: North-West facing elevation



Plate 3: North-West facing elevation



Plate 4: South-East facing elevation



Plate 5: South-East facing elevation



Plate 6: South-East facing elevation



Plate 8: Detail of blocked-up archway and external staircase on south-east facing elevation



Plate 7: Detail of "wing" on South-East facing elevation



Plate 10: Close-up detail of door handle

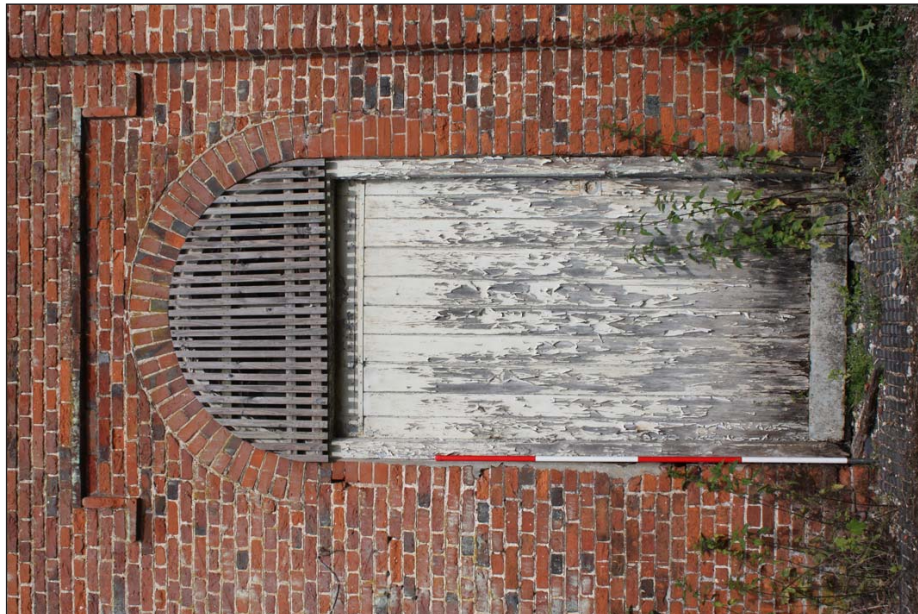


Plate 9: Detail of door on South-East facing elevation



Plate 11: North-East facing elevation



Plate 12: Detail of blocked-up doorway on North-East facing elevation



Plate 13: Corner of North-east and south-west facing elevations



Plate 14: Row of small wooden out-buildings



Plate 15: Internal view of G1



Plate 16: Detail of "hatches" in ceiling of G1



Plate 17: Wooden panelling in G1



Plate 18: Internal detail of door, G1



Plate 20: Internal detail of window, G1



Plate 19: Water Pump, G1



Plate 21: Detail of brickwork, G2, showing Cart Wheel “supports”



Plate 22: Harness/saddle hooks, G2



Plate 23: Internal view, G2



Plate 24: Detail of roof supports, G2



Plate 25: Carpenters Marks, G2



Plate 26: Internal view, G3



Plate 27: Graffiti, G2



Plate 28: Blocked Fireplace G4



Plate 29: Detail of door handle, G4



Plate 30: Fireplace, G5



Plate 31: Detail of window, G5



Plate 32: Internal view, G6



Plate 33: View of F1 showing exposed roof detail



Plate 34: View of F1 showing exposed roof detail



Plate 35: Detail of clasped purlin , F1



Plate 36: Detail of carpenters marks, F1



Plate 37: Detail of roof covering over F1 and F10



Plate 38: General view, F5



Plate 39: General View, F1



Plate 40: Internal door between F1 and F5



Plate 41: Detail of "hatch", F1



Plate 42: Area rear of F3, showing continuation of hatches



Plate 44: Fireplace, F1



Plate 43: Internal detail of "loading" door, F1



Plate 45: Internal "window", F2



Plate 46: Detail of window, F2



Plate 48: General view, F4



Plate 47: Detail of internal door, F2



Plate 50: Internal door leading from F5 to F7



Plate 49: Detail of internal "window", F4



Plate 52: General view, F7



Plate 51: General View, F6



Plate 53: Fireplace, cupboard, chair rail and skirting board, F8



Plate 54: Detail of fire surround, F8



Plate 55: Internal door connecting F8 and F9 (from F8)



Plate 56: General view, F9



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*