

BUILD (KE)
95/12

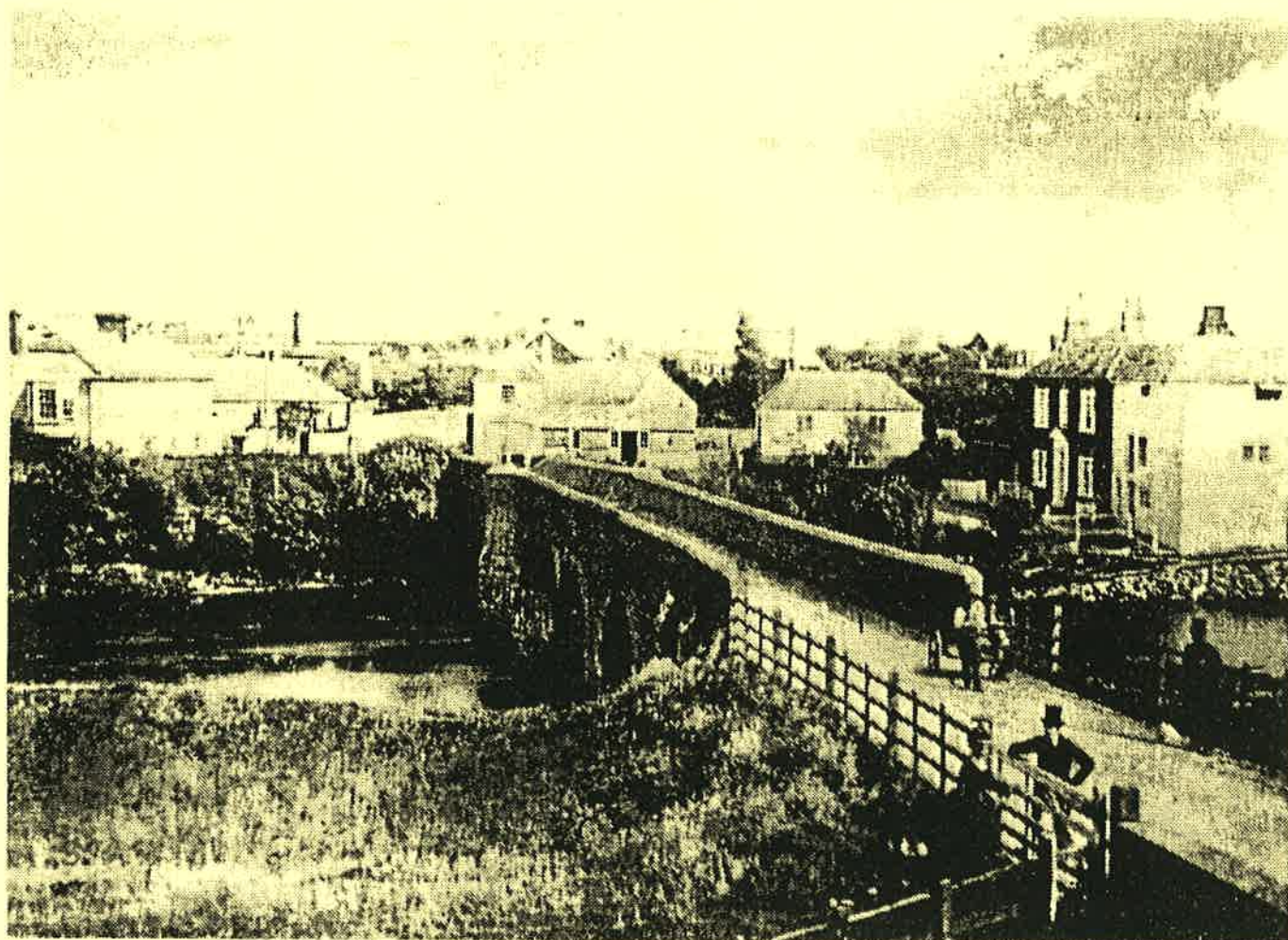
WTBS95

WYBS2.404/95

Ruddy Homes Limited

Granary, Bridge Street, Wye Ashford, Kent

Survey prior to demolition



Oxford Archaeological Unit
September 1995

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The Granary, Bridge Street Wye, Kent

Survey prior to Demolition

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Grade II listed granary at Bridge Street, Wye is to be demolished to widen the approach to the bridge. The planning consent notice dated 15 June 1995 for conversion of the granary and demolition and rebuilding of two-storey section required as a condition the recording and re-erection of the building in a manner approved by the Local Planning Authority (Ashford Borough Council). A specification produced by OAU (Appendix A) outlined the aims and objectives of the survey, in investigating and recording the building. An archaeological evaluation by OAU of the adjacent development site has been separately reported.
- 1.2 The exterior of the building has been recorded by means of rectified photography, produced as black and white photographic prints at a scale of 1:20 prepared by R.W. Austin of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. The interior of the building has been surveyed by OAU, and a series of plans, elevations and cross-sections prepared at a scale of 1:50 (Fig. 1). A number of interior photographs have also been taken.

2. Background

The building is clearly part of the historic mill which stands at the side of the River Stour, and would appear to be a granary and stable block. The mill house stands beside the river, though the machinery was removed some years ago. A subsidiary power mill of 1921 was located in line with the stable block, also removed recently. The mill is mentioned in Domesday Book and may be assumed to be of Saxon origin. The history of the mill has not been worked out in detail, but Wye has parish records of unusual quantity and quality, and from these and other sources it would be possible to discover the sequence of ownership. A detailed parish map of 1746 also shows the mill, but not necessarily the present buildings. In the present century the mill was for a long time in the possession of the Denne family. A number of photographs dating from earlier in the present century show the building much as it is today, but with a chimney on the side of the front gable.

3. Description

3.1 *General*

The building consists of two ranges, the granary alongside the road and a block at right-angles which is likely to have been a stable. The evidence in the brickwork of straight joints suggests that the granary was built first.

3.2 *The granary*

The granary next the road is a two-storey block in Flemish Bond with flared headers, dentil cornice and weatherboarded framing at the west end. On the ground floor it is open at the west end (with hanging corrugated iron doors), and has plain internal walls of whitewashed brick. Photographs taken earlier this century show an arched opening at the west end, and what appears to be a pair of hinged doors. The present floor is raised on piles of railway sleepers almost a metre above ground level. The ceiling is carried by three principal beams of elm or softwood spanning between the brick side walls, and another carries the timber-framed front wall on the first floor; the beams rest on a thin softwood plate set in the brickwork. The floor joists rest on top of the beams rather than being jointed into them and are a mixture of elm and softwood. Substantial floors of this type would be expected in a granary where a heavy loading has to be supported.

The first floor is reached by a ladder stair leaning against an open trap door. The first floor has sash windows at each end and a door in the north wall, on the outside of which are the metal fittings for a crane or hoist. Parts of the wall panels for the corn bins survive at each end, with horizontal planking against the wall, and vertical supports with slots into which other boards could be fitted to close the bins. The post in the middle of the window at the east end was probably intended to divide the bin at that end. The brick walling is for the most part plain, but there are brick piers on either side of the door. In the south wall there are similar piers in the centre and west end, and a rectangular recess in the centre of the wall which was at one time an opening through to the other side of the building.

The roof is contemporary with the building, but made with some older components. The wall-plate is of elm, some sections of which are reused, and it is braced across the corners with short diagonal ties. The plates are secured by two tiebeams, which are independent of the roof trusses. The rafters are mostly of elm, but rest on a ridge piece and with purlins clasped by collars, which are all softwood. The collars trusses (which as has been said do not coincide with the ties) have a slightly archaic joint where the collar is dovetailed and pegged to the rafter.

3.3 *The stable/store building*

The adjacent store building is a single storey brick extension with attic, added to the granary as is indicated by straight joints on each side. It is of poorer quality brickwork than the granary, with less attention paid to decorative headers. It is 'aisled' on the west side, where the roof comes down lower (this is partly taking advantage of the falling ground). The aisled area is divided by brick walls into an entrance and two side rooms, the northern of which had a fireplace or boiler in it since it formerly had a chimney stack above it; the southern room was lit by a low window in the south wall (now

blocked). The loft area was reached by a ladder in the entrance lobby, since the ceiling stops short of the aisle.

In the principal part of the building the north end is divided off by a brick wall, but the rest is an open space, with a door in the east wall and a low window in the south wall (now blocked). The ceiling is supported on two joists spanning the building with supporting posts, that on the north having mortices in the soffit marking a former partition wall (the post also has mortices for a rail). The softwood floor joists (at about a metres below the top of the walls) are more substantial in the northern section than the southern bay, though this does not seem to represent two phases of building.

The roof is similar to that of the granary, but all of softwood. There is a recess in the north wall corresponding with that noted on the first floor of the granary. Although there is no specific evidence for this being a stable, a gap in the wall for passing feed through would obviously have been useful (in which case the granary might have been used for storing oats rather than grain associated with the mill). The relatively lightweight floor of the southern part could then have been used for storing hay.

The only feature of interest in the building is a machine in the south-east corner, apparently a mechanical threshing machine, in a well constructed wooden case.

Oxford Archaeological Unit
September 1995

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Appendix A

Oxford Archaeological Unit Mill Granary, Bridge Street Wye, Kent Specification for Archaeological Record

Introduction

1.1 The requirement for the present work has been described in the Consent Notice dated 15 June 1995 for conversion of granary and demolition and rebuilding of two-storey section. Prior to the commencement of works full details are required of the method of demolition, recording and re-erection of the building has to be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority (Ashford Borough Council). This document constitutes the first part of this requirement.

2. Aims

2.1 To preserve by record the standing structure so far as is possible and to determine its original condition, the alterations to which it has been subjected, and the characteristics of any details or features which are of relevance to its history and development.

2.3 To prepare and disseminate a report and ordered archive on the investigations.

3. Objectives

3.1 To preserve by record the standing structure prior to demolition.

3.2 To analyze the walls, floors and roof to determine the date of construction and the ways in which the building has been altered.

3.3 To record relevant sources of information for the history of the building.

3.4 To produce a report on the investigation of the building, including relevant historical material.

4. Strategy

4.1 To carry out a desk-based assessment, in this case the relevant local history sources, and any other material in the SMR and NMR.

4.2 To confirm with the owner or contractors the safety arrangements for the site

and access to the building.

- 4.3 Investigate the roof of both ranges, to determine their original form and any alterations made to them, record with drawn cross-section and photography.
- 4.4 Investigate the walls of the ranges, recording in plan, elevation and photography, noting existing and former sites of doors and windows, and the character of the brickwork.
- 4.5 Investigate the flooring of the ranges, recording in plan, cross-section and photography.
- 4.11 Produce illustrated report on the investigation and background history of the building.

5. **Staffing**

- 5.1 The work would be undertaken under the supervision of J. Munby.

6. **Standards and Conditions**

- 6.1 Arrangements for monitoring, reporting, professional and safety standards, are dealt with in 'OAU Building Recording Specification: General Standards' set out below.

Oxford Archaeological Unit
July 1995

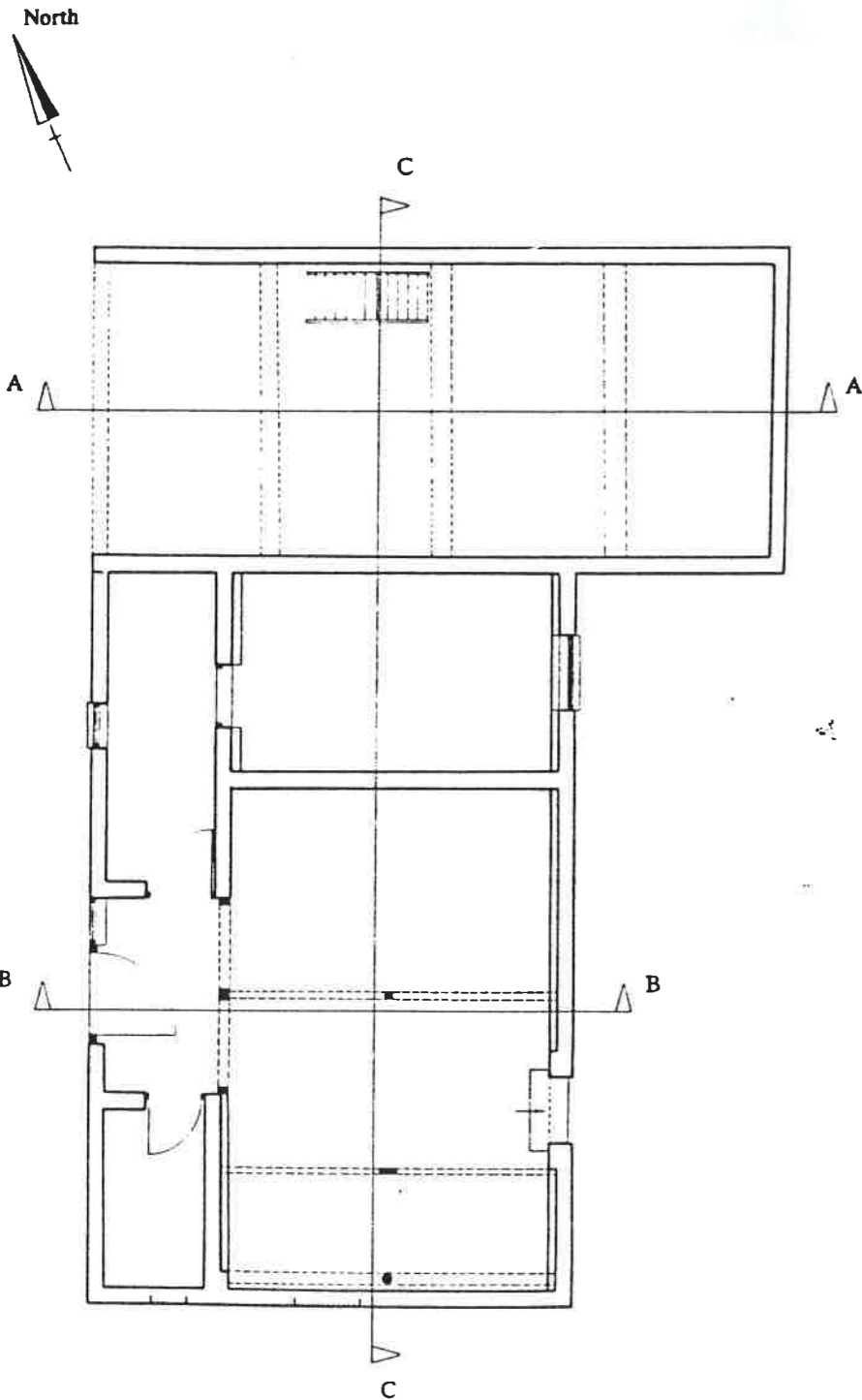
Appendix B:

CAT Rectified photographs
(including negative reference numbers)

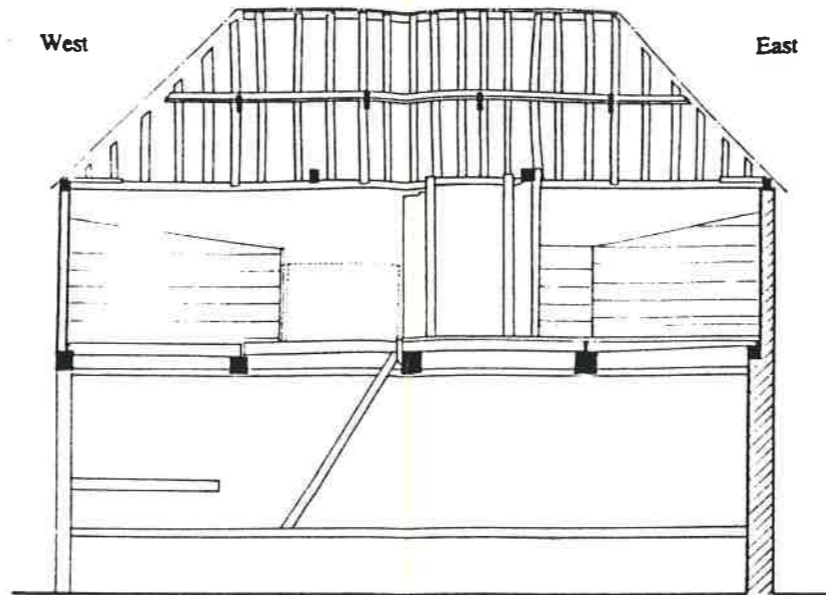
I.	North wall of Granary (west end)	F291/16 C.A.T.
II.	North wall of Granary (east end)	F291/16 C.A.T.
III.	East wall of Granary	F291/17 C.A.T
IV.	South wall of Granary (east end)	F291/18 C.A.T
V.	East wall of Stable (north end)	F291/19 C.A.T
VI.	East wall of Stable (south end)	F291/19 C.A.T
VII.	South wall of Stable	F291/20 C.A.T
VIII.	West wall of Stable (south end)	F291/21 C.A.T
IX	West wall of Stable (north end)	F291/21 C.A.T
X.	South wall of Granary (west end)	F291/23 C.A.T
XI.	West wall of Granary	F291/22 C.A.T

The Granary, Bridge Street, Wye, Kent.

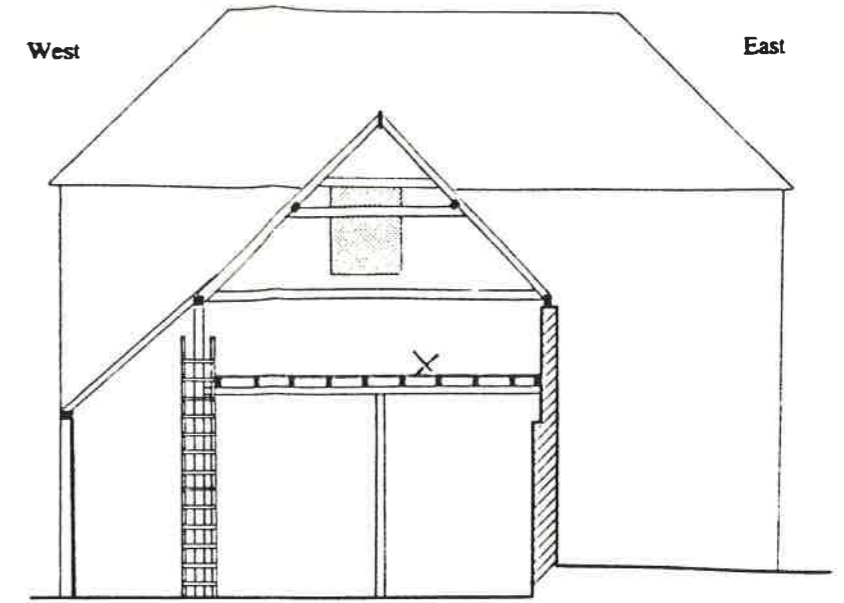
Architectural Survey



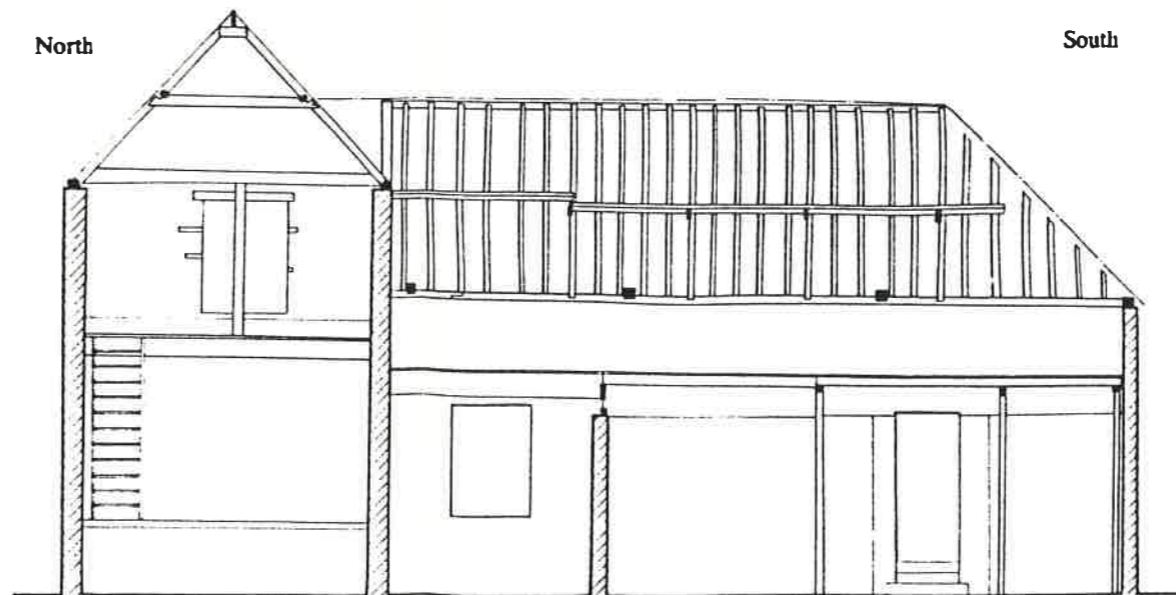
Ground Floor Plan



Section A-A



Section B-B



Section C-C



Oxford Archaeological Unit	
Architectural Survey	
Client:	Ruddy Developments Ltd.
Subject:	The Granary, Bridge Street, Wye, Kent.
Survey Date:	August 1995
Surveyed by:	JTM/RDT
Drawn by:	RDT
Scale as drawn:	1:50 (at A1)
Drawing No.:	WYBS2/01
Issue Date:	8/9/95



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