

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD FOR PRIORS CROFT, COWDEN, KENT.

Report number: ASL 132-17



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SUMMARY

This Historic Building Record has been prepared by Archaeology Services Lewes for the owners, Mr and Mrs Burrows (The Clients) who put forward a planning application for a scheme of renovations and alterations within their property known as Priors Croft, Spode Lane, Kent, TN8 7HW.

*It is clear that the building started off in **Period A** as a small, thatched, three bay agricultural barn which stored hay or straw crops at one point in time when two diagonal supporting shores were added. During **Period B** the building was adapted and divided to create two small cottages accessed by doors in the south elevation; each had one room at ground floor level with two chambers above. There was a central stairwell to the north side of the inserted stack (with bread ovens) in the middle bay which gave access to the first floor rooms. It is possible that the former single-height outshots to either side of the building were added during **Period C** but these may have been earlier but have since been removed during **Period D** when modern two-storey extensions replaced the original outshots. At the same time, the rear doorway and front entrances were blocked up and a new side entrance was created in the east side of the house. Additionally the central stairwell was removed and replaced with a bathroom and two new staircases were built at either side of the building in the new additions. New doorways were knocked through the **Period A** walls at first floor level to give access to these rooms. The thatch was removed and replaced by ceramic peg tiles.*

An Impact Assessment has been prepared as a separate document to accompany a proposed planning application and Listed Building consent for internal renovations to the building and these reports should be read in conjunction with the application documentation.

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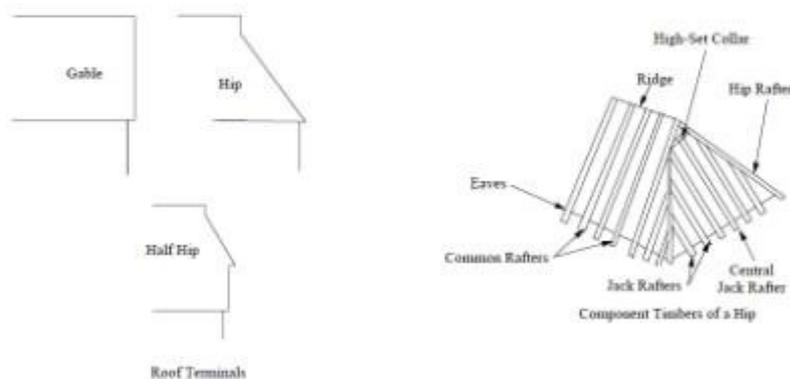
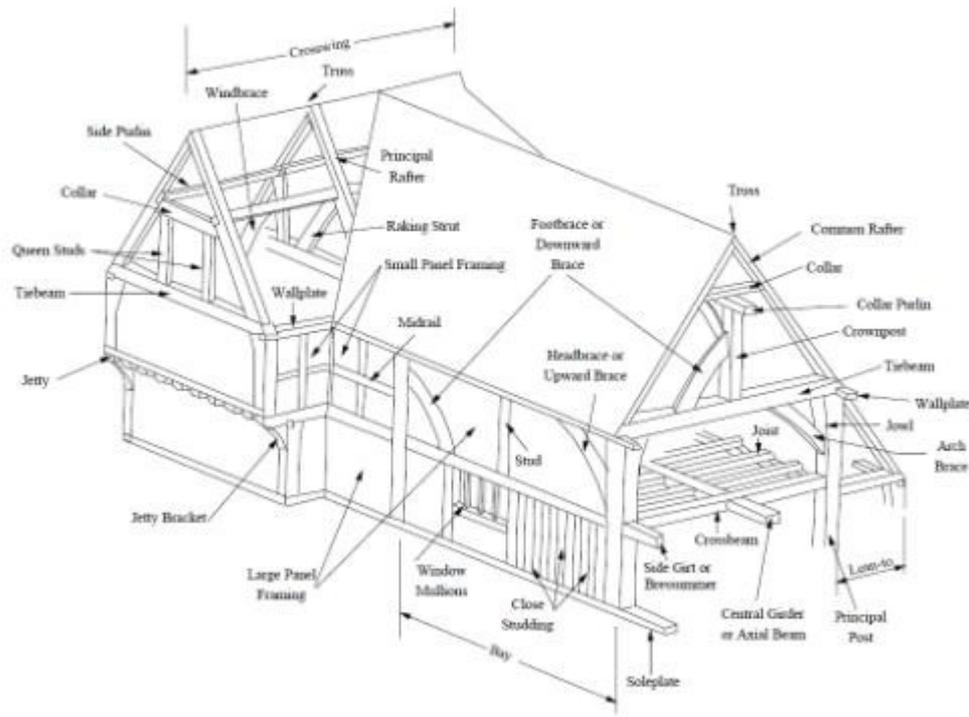
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Historic Building Record has been prepared for the owners, Mr and Mrs Burrows (The Clients) who put forward a planning application for a scheme of renovations and alterations within their property known as Priors Croft, Spode Lane, Kent, TN8 7HW (Fig. 1), centred on TQ 46430 40677.
- 1.2 A planning application for internal renovations was submitted (reference number: 17/00353/LBCALT) but has since been withdrawn.
- 1.3 Further information was requested by the Conservation Officer at Sevenoaks District Council and following on from this the agents, Madgwick and Dottridge, requested that an Historic Building Record (HBR) was to be conducted prior to a fresh application being submitted. This report is the result of the HBR and is accompanied by an Impact Assessment which is presented as a separate report.
- 1.4 In accordance with the above request, in September 2017 Archaeology Services Lewes (ASL) conducted the Historic Building Record which conforms to a Level 3 Historic England record. This has been prepared by Lisa Jayne Fisher, Principal Archaeologist at ASL and Jeremy Clarke assisted on the day.
- 1.5 The Listings information provided by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) describes the building as being: three units combined with Well Cottage, with all divisions listed under the same designation (List entry Number: 1085920). The building is Grade II listed and was listed on 16th January 1975 and is described as follows:
- 'Late C15 or early C16 very small hall house with altered front and later extensions 2 storeys, 3 windows, irregular. High pitched tiled roof with long hip at left, end cut off. Hip brought down as lean-to at right. One visible bay post. Tile hung 1st floor, brick and rubble ground floor. Coursed freestone base to projecting chimney breast with very tall compound stack above. Iron casements with leaded panes. Rear view shows exposed framing with plaster filling above, coursed and random rubble, with red brick dressings below. Inglenook and much exposed timber inside.'*
- 1.6 The aims of this Historic Building Record are to give a basic overview of the date, sequence of construction, and principal architectural features of the building. With this in mind, this should not be taken as a definitive, archaeological record. See Fig.8 for a suggested phasing of the building.
- 1.7 The specific aims of this study are; to inform the owners who may want to know more about the history of their property as well as aiding commissioned professionals, such as planners, surveyors and architects whose job it is to conserve and protect the building whilst enabling it to be carefully adapted for contemporary living. Finally this serves as a record for the future; to inform academics and to create a long-term, permanent record for posterity.

- 1.8 This assessment is my considered view based upon the survey dated 11/09/2017, contemporary notes on discussions with Jeremy Clarke and all other parties and subsequent research. It is intended to advise those involved, based on our knowledge and experience of such buildings. Conservation of historical buildings is influenced by many views, and to a certain extent subjective, particularly with regards to more recent extensions and alterations; therefore I would like to state that there is no guarantee that the opinions expressed within this document are absolute.
- 1.9 The methods employed to produce this study have been non-intrusive; based on a careful, measured and visual study of the interior, including roof voids, as well as the exterior of the building.



GLOSSARY OF PRINCIPAL TERMS

Reproduced courtesy of David and Barbara Martin

2.0 Location and historical background

- 2.1 Priors Croft faces Spode Lane on the north side of the village of Cowden at the top of North Street (Fig.1). Spode Lane lies some 10m to the south of the building although access off the lane is situated on the south east side via a small driveway. There are two ponds on the north and north east side of the building and the current boundary includes two small outbuildings. The building is surrounded by open pasture and gardens on the north, west and east sides with a residential street to the south.



Fig.1. Site location (Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior permission of the Ordnance Survey ©Crown copyright and database rights 2017).

- 2.2 The geology of the area is Wadhurst Clay formation comprising mudstone; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 134 to 139 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. The local environment was previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas².
- 2.3 The building stands in a plot at a height of approximately 87m AOD.
- 2.4 An early map of Cowden dating to 1799 (Fig.2) shows the building standing in a plot that is smaller than the existing boundary. There is no pond evident in this map. The building is drawn in red which denotes that it was occupied at this point in time, rather than used for agricultural purposes.

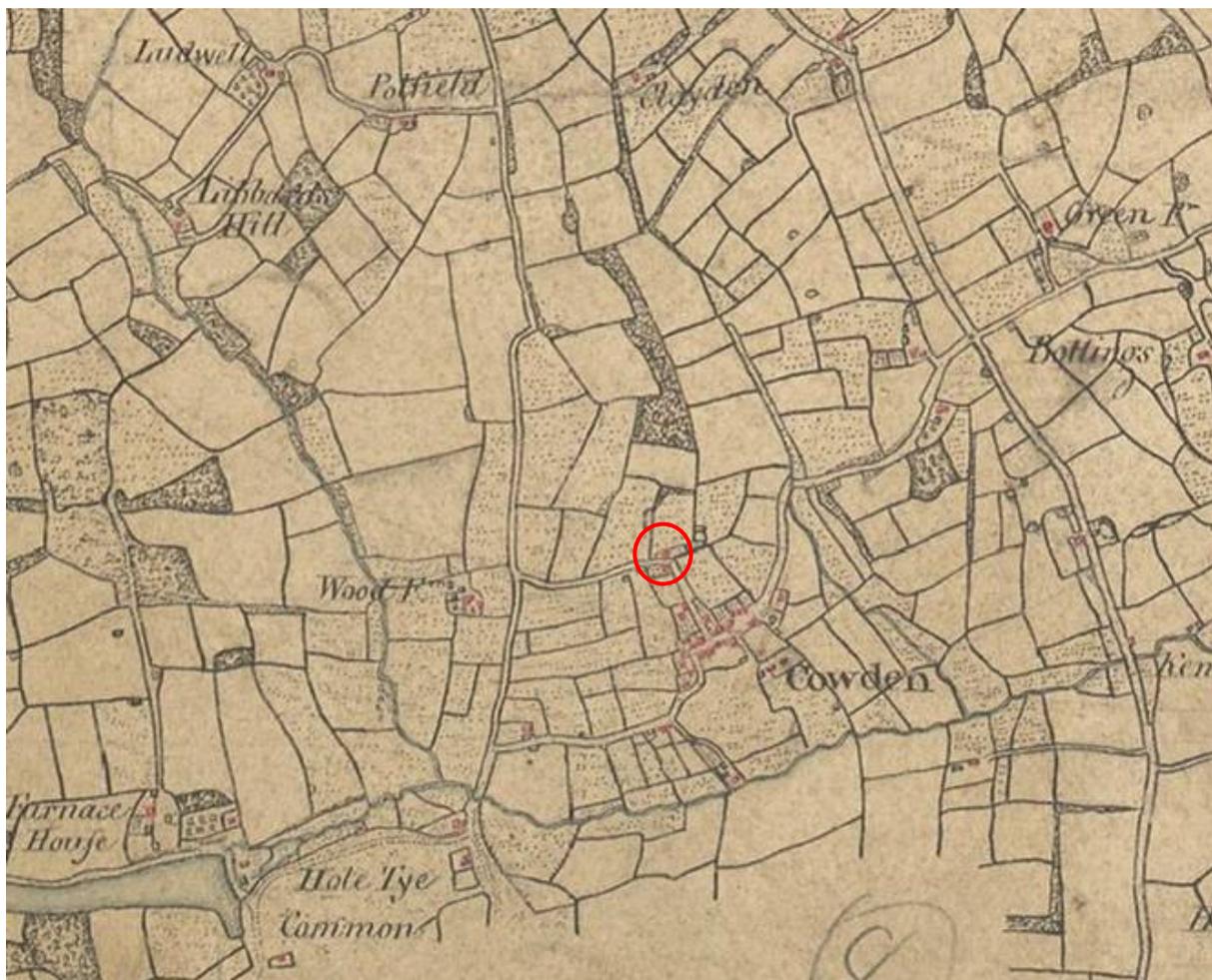


Fig.2 Early map dated to 1799 (reference; British Library, OS Draft No. 100(1))

- 2.5 The 1870 Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1870 (Fig.3) shows that the building is split into two tenancies and a small pond exists on the far western boundary which no longer exists today. There appears to be no direct vehicular access to the property, with a trackway to the south east leading to an arrangement of buildings on the north east side.

² <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

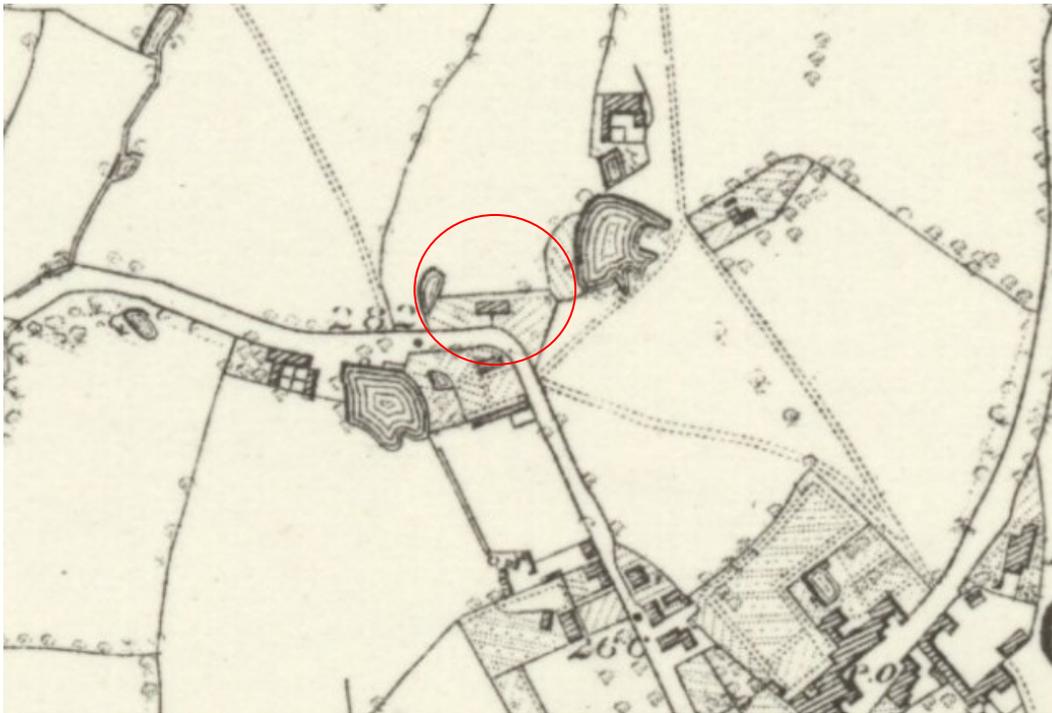


Fig.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1870 shows the building split into two tenancies OS licence No.: 100055392

- 2.6 The OS map of 1895 (Fig.4) shows a small outbuilding has been built on the far eastern boundary and a small porch has been added to the rear of the western cottage.

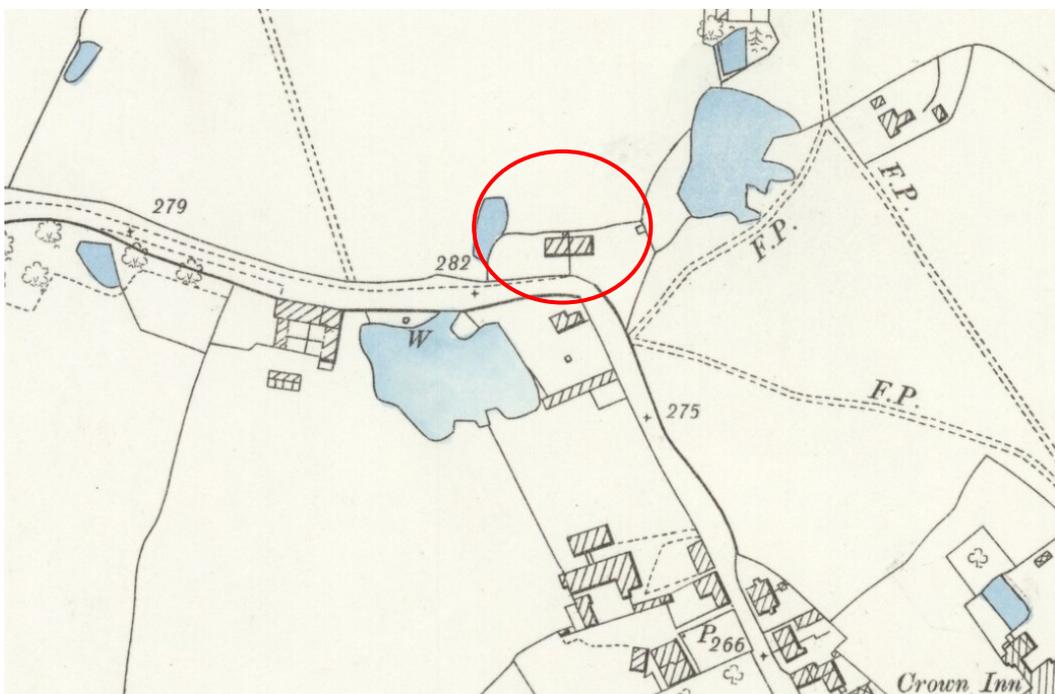
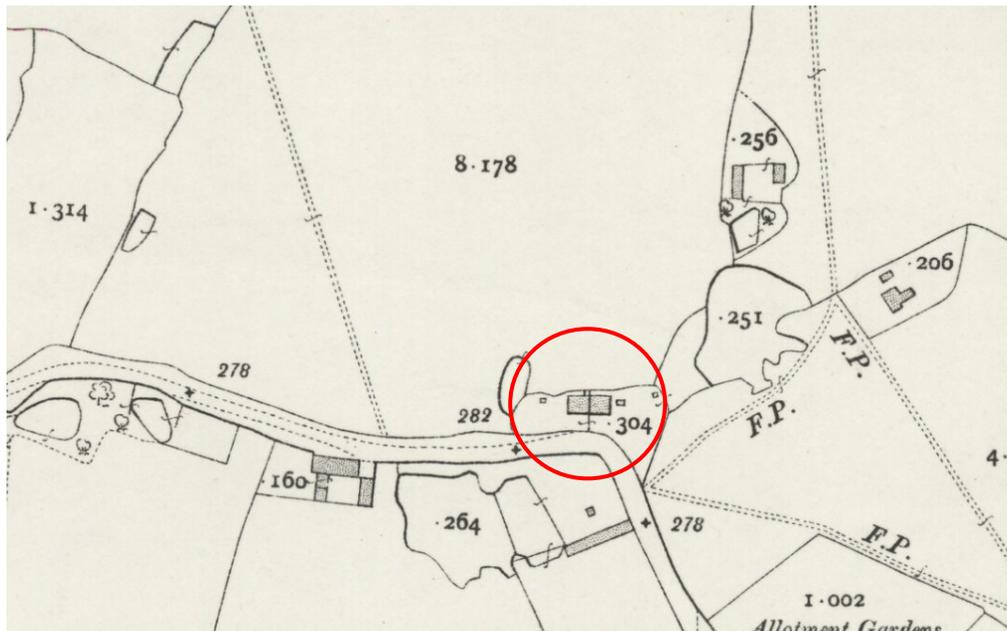


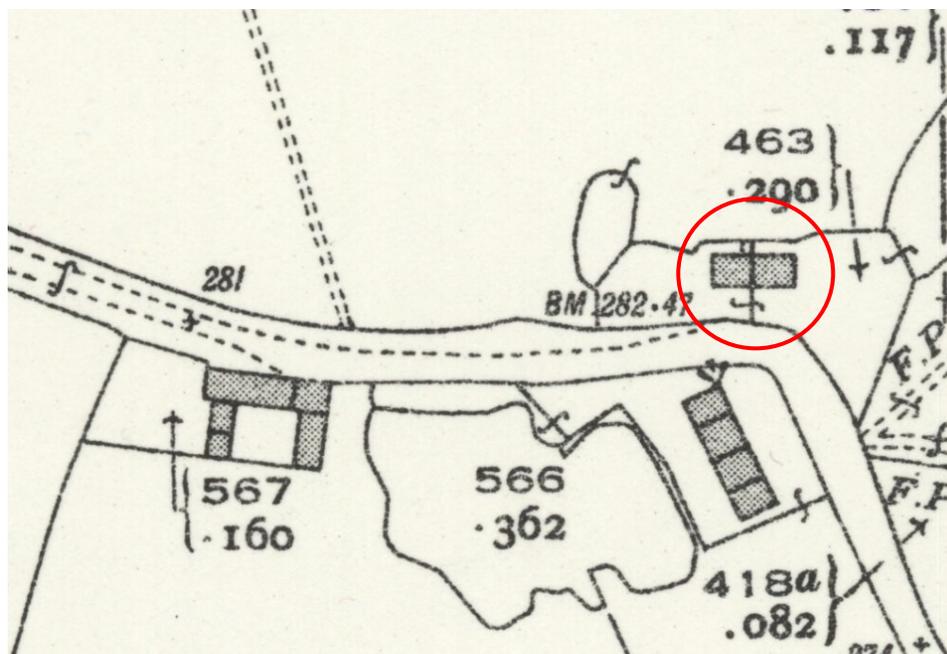
Fig.4 the Ordnance Survey map of 1895 OS licence No.: 100055392

- 2.7 By 1908 the OS map (Fig.5) shows two further outbuildings have appeared to either side of both tenancies.



**Fig.5 The OS map of 1908 two small outbuildings have appeared and a porch (?) on the left
OS licence No.: 100055392**

2.8 Finally the OS map of 1937 (Fig.6) shows no further changes except the small buildings have gone.



**Fig.6 The OS map of 1937 shows the small outbuildings have gone OS licence No.:
100055392**



Fig.7 An early photograph shows two single-storey outshots with two front entrances

- 2.9 An early but undated photograph (Fig.7) of the building⁴ taken from the south shows two front entrance doors to either side of the cottages with small porches above. Additionally, the two outshots are single-storey and the roof has the appearance of being thatched although the detail is not clear and this might be thicker ridge tiles.

⁴ Madgwick & Dottridge, 2017. DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT INCLUDING HERITAGE STATEMENT Priors Croft, Spode Lane, Cowden, TN8 7HW.

3.0 Overview of the building (Fig.8)

- 3.1 The building is rectangular shaped and faces Spode Lane. At present there are two modern 20th century extensions added on the east and west sides of the building. At its core is an early – mid 16th century **[Period A]** timber framed building originally built as a barn which was gabled on both sides with a clasped purlin and Queen strut roof. This was built on a sandstone plinth with weather-boarded walls below and daubed panels above. It is probable that the roof was thatched. This has been significantly altered over the years and would originally have housed a central wagon way (or midstrey) within the north elevation. The south elevation *may* have had a half-height entrance although internal plastered walls and later additions make interpretation of this side somewhat problematic (see Figs. 12 and 13 in the appendix).
- 3.2 At a later date, at or around the late 17th – early 18th century **[Period B]** the building was converted for use as a domestic dwelling. This was facilitated by flooring over the side bays and building a central stack in the middle bay. Two entrances were created in the front (south) elevation.
- 3.3 During the late 18th – early 19th century **[Period C]** further conversions took place, including the sub-dividing of the ground floor room in the eastern cottage, facilitated by building a dividing wall within the first bay. Two small iron ranges were inserted in the ground floor fireplaces of both cottages and a further fireplace was added at first floor level in the western cottage. Additionally, two single storey outshots are likely to have been added during this period to the west and east sides of the house with access doors opening up into the cottages. The front entrance doors had new porches built over them and a rear door was inserted in the western cottage with a porch over.
- 3.4 During the 20th century **[Period D]** further modifications took place including the demolishing and re-building of the side extensions to give two-storey accommodation, re-tiling the roof with peg tiles and the insertion of two bathrooms at first floor level. Various other partition walls have also been added.

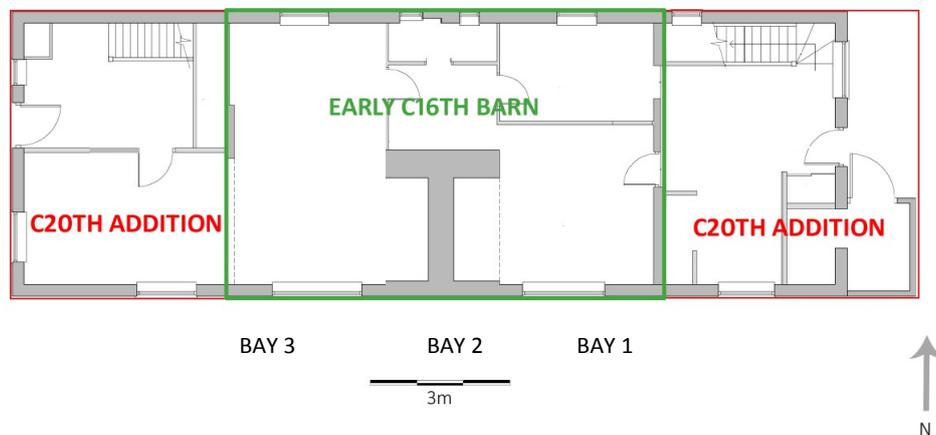


Fig.8 The current floor plan of the building showing the 16th century original core.

4.0 Architectural description – [Period A] early – mid 16th century

4.1 Layout (Fig.9)

The earliest building, as discussed above, was a timber framed, 3-bay barn which was not floored and had a full height wagon way within the middle bay. The roof was gabled at both ends (see also Fig.12 and 13 in the appendix for the cross section of Truss B and the long section).

Priors Croft, Cowden Period A floor plan

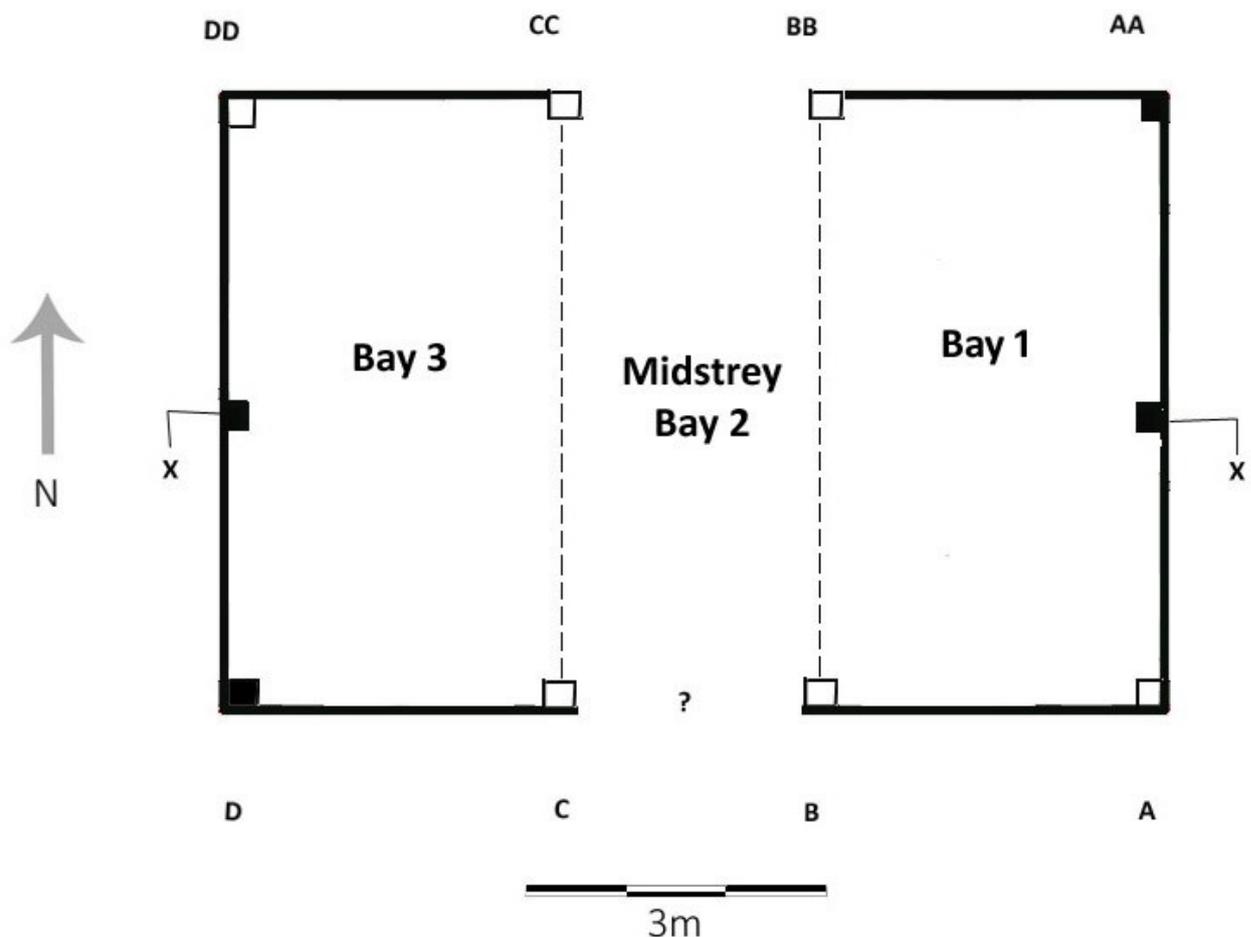


Fig.9 Ground floor plan for Period A

4.2 Wall design

The building has been partially masked by later, internal plaster-boarding and under-building of the external walls in brick and sandstone (with tile hanging on the upper level of the southern elevation). However, there is enough evidence within the north elevation to show that the walls would have originally been weather-boarded at ground floor levels and daubed on the upper levels. No braces were seen at ground floor level and only two posts survive in the north east corner of Truss A and south west corner of Truss D. Post D is rebated externally to take weatherboards but it could not be seen if Post AA has matching rebates but it is probable. Post AA has an empty mortice in the external face at side girt level which may indicate the presence

of a former lean-to. This is not certain as a matching mortice is not present on Post BB.



Plate 1: The north (rear) elevation of the building

At First Floor level all posts are 300mm thick and have slightly swelling jowls and all of the timbers from this period are of thick scantlings (dimensions). There is full down bracing (Plate 2) at the higher level to the side and facing elevations (some nearly straight) as well as to the intermediate posts on the west and east walls. The presence of central bay studs within the north elevation are a tradition which disappears in the early-mid 17th century⁵. As the barn was not floored at first floor level the barn would have been open to the roof. Within Trusses B and C there were full up braces to the tie beam on the south and north sides but these have since been removed.

There were raking shores (now removed) on the west side of Post B within the jowel at the top of the post and on the east side of Post CC (Plates 4 and 5). These are likely to be later additions attached to the face of the posts rather than morticed in, which are known to date to the early 17th century. They were used within agricultural buildings to keep high stacked crops from toppling to the side, particularly hay and straw.

⁵ Martin, B., and Martin, D., 2006. Farm buildings of the Weald 1450-1750. Oxbow, Oxford, p.61



Plate 2: Full bracing to Post A at first floor level in Bay 1



Plate 3: Full bracing to Post D at first floor level in Bay 3



Plates 4 and 5: empty mortice for a raking shore on the east face of Post C. Note also removed head brace mortice

4.3 Windows

There are no windows from this period and there would never have been windows in the original structure.

4.4 Doorways and doors

It is probable that there was a full height doorway in the midstrey (the wagon way in Bay 2) on the north side. Although there is no double wallplate (which is usually indicative of a full height door), there is no evidence of studs or bracing for wall panelling on the soffit (underside) of the wall plate and it is clear that the existing side girt has been inserted during **Period B**. It is not clear if there would have been a matching full height door or a lower level doorway in the south elevation as this has been masked from view by later under-building.

4.5 Ceilings and floors

There are no ceilings from this period and there is no evidence left of the flooring within the original structure.

4.6 Stairs

There are no stairways from this period and this would never have been present within the original structure.

4.7 Chimney stack

There would never have been a chimney present within the original structure.

4.8 Roof

The roof is of clasped purlin design with full curved windbracing and Queen struts and has a 48-50° pitch.



Plate 5: Weather-boarding on the eastern gable (Truss A) of the Period A roof

At Truss A in the east gable there are three pegged Queen struts and the gabled end has some existing (but modern) feather edged weatherboarding above and below the collar (Plate 5). These measure 170mm (deep) x 15mm (thick) and are grooved into the principal rafter and there is significant weathering on the rafters. The top of the collar is approximately 350mm deep and 90mm wide and is cambered by approximately 100mm in the middle. The collar is pegged to both sides and the purlins are trenched within. The curved windbraces measure (on average) 300mm (wide) x 30mm (deep) and are still *in-situ* apart from the north side of Bay 3. It was noted that some of the pegs projected considerably. There are five sets of common rafters to each bay which vary in size ranging between 115mm – 150mm wide and between 70-95mm deep.

Truss B is the same construction but with two pegged Queen struts (Plate 6).



Plate 6: Later nailed studs and daub in-between the Period A Queen struts on the east side of Truss B

Truss C also has two pegged Queen struts.

Truss D (Plate 7) has three pegged Queen struts (one central and with Period B nailed studs flanking this) and there is no *in-situ* weatherboarding but rebates for these are evident and the west gable has also seen some weathering.

The roof would have been thatched with some binding cord still evident hanging from the top of rafters (hemp?) and occasional tar marks seen where the tarred cord would have formerly attached the thatch to the rafters (Plate 8).



Plate 7: The east side of Truss D gable with three Period A Queen struts and later nailed studs

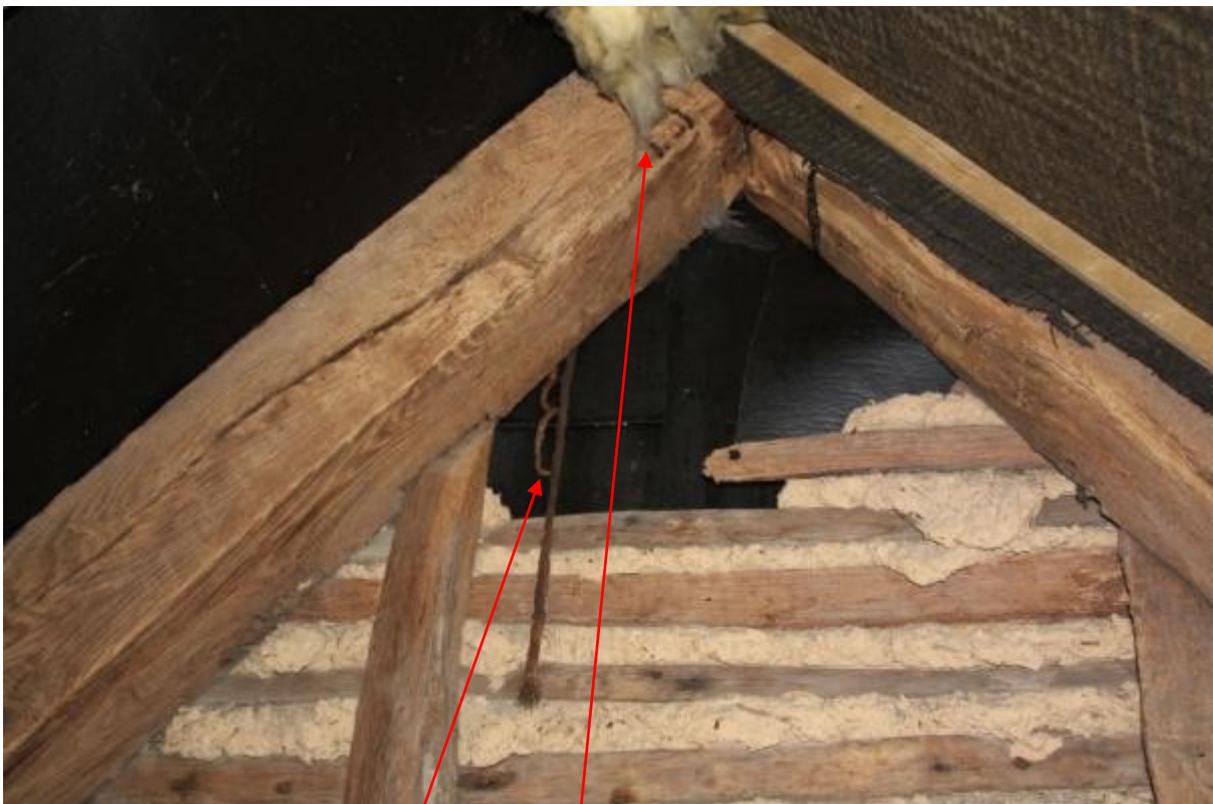


Plate 8: In-situ thatching cord with tar marks evident on principal rafter on Truss B

5.0 Architectural description – [Period B] late 17th – early 18th century

5.1 Layout (Figs.10 and 11)

During this period the building was floored over and the large central stack inserted and it is likely that it was divided during this period to provide two separate cottages (see also Fig.12 and 13 in the appendix for the Cross section of Truss B and the long section).

Priors Croft, Cowden Conjectural ground floor plan Period B

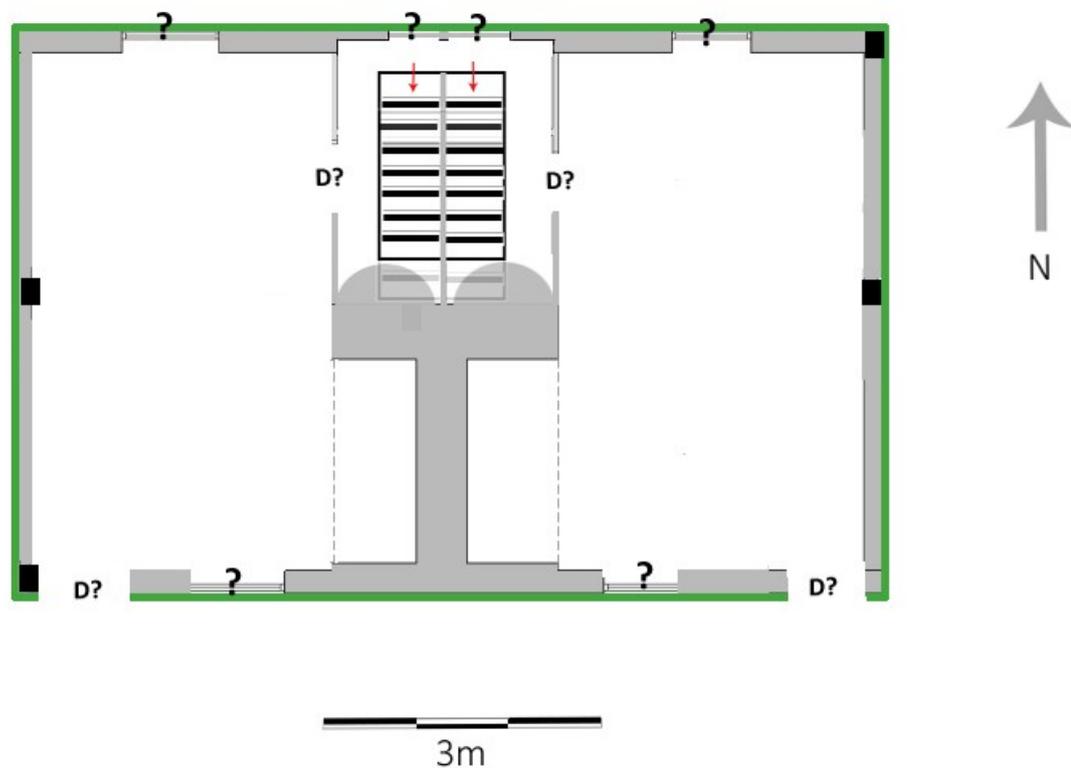


Fig.10 Postulated ground floor plan for Period B

Priors Croft, Cowden
Conjectural first floor plan
Period B

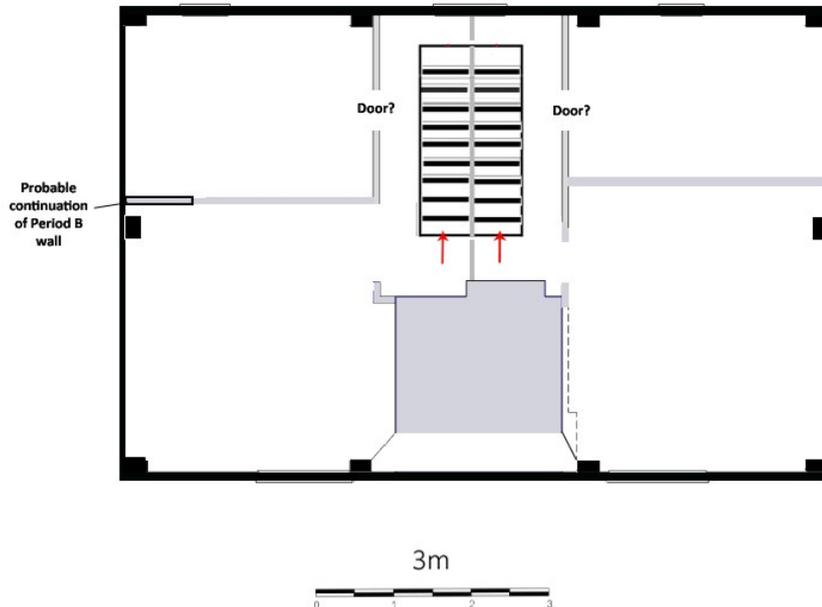


Fig.11 Postulated first floor plan for Period B

5.2 Wall design

At ground floor level the majority of the walls are modern plaster so it is not possible to identify any walls from this period here although it is probable that the walls in Truss B and C would have originally flanked the **Period B** stairwell although these have since been plastered over. Of interest is a scratched 'W' protection mark (Apotropaic mark) on the intermediate post in Truss D and there is weathering on the west side of the cross beam in Truss D.

At first floor level the majority of the walls are daubed and are likely to date from this period although an earlier Period A date cannot be ruled out for the side walls. The south wall is daubed but not Period A as the former empty mortices for staves from this period are evident. The rear north wall and a partition wall in Bay 1 is also daubed (Plate 9) but more likely to be from Period B. This partition wall runs in an east to west direction to the side of the main chamber in Bay 1 and currently has a modern doorway within. A careful study of this wall would point to no Period B doorway within (as indicated by a continuous sole plate which has since been cut through). So the entrance into this room would have been from the probable central stairwell in Bay 2 (see Fig.10 below), where a later partition wall has been added with modern cupboards now filling the space. This design would have given one larger chamber and one smaller chamber with independent access.



Plate 9: Period B daub seen in Bay 1 underneath modern plaster

5.3 Windows

There are no original **Period B** windows surviving within the building but it is highly likely that the existing modern windows within Bays 1-3 at both levels are situated within **Period B** apertures (Plates 10-11). The windows in the southern elevation at ground level would have been smaller than those that exist today, as seen in the lines of brickwork which the modern windows cut through. Two probable contemporary south facing doorways to either side of the cottages have since been blocked up in these locations (see Section 5.4). Plate 11 shows another larger window to the western cottage at ground floor level. The brick quoins show that the window would have matched the smaller one on the eastern side. Without further evidence for these, nothing further can be stated about the likely position of the **Period B** windows, especially at first floor level.



Plate 10: Modern windows in the south elevation are likely to be in Period B apertures



Plate 11: Modern windows in the north elevation are likely to be in Period B apertures

5.4 Doorways and doors

The **Period B** doorways within the ground floor are not immediately apparent but it is probable that the two cottages were accessed by means of two separate doorways on the south side at ground floor level to the east and west sides of the cottages which have since been blocked up. The position of two small windows (modern Crittall) in the rear elevation indicates the location of the earlier dividing partition between the two residencies. The straight brickwork of a former rear doorway to the western cottage can be seen centrally in Plate 11. This means there was only one rear door belonging to the western cottage but no evidence of a rear door for the eastern cottage. Without the *in-situ* door it is difficult to date this and it may be from **Period B** but could also have been added when the porch appears on this side in the 1895 map (Fig.4). This is blocked up at a later date with a window replacing the former door. The present owner has confirmed that there was a small porch over this area when they first moved into the house which has since been removed. This also shows on the OS map in Fig.4 which is clearly a late 19th century addition to an existing doorway.

Within Truss B at ground floor level there is a Ledge and brace door into a modern kitchen in Bay 1 which is potentially an *in-situ* door from **Period B** (Plate 12). An opposing doorway in Truss C has been moved slightly to the north (Plate 13). There is a second Ledge and brace door on the first floor within Truss A which is very similar to that on the ground floor but has been re-positioned (Plate 14).



Plate 12: Possible Period B ledge and brace door in Truss B at ground floor level



Plate 13: Possible Period B ledge and brace door in Truss B at first floor level



Plate 14: Doorway in Truss C moved to north slightly

5.5 Ceilings and floors

At ground floor level the Joists measure 100mm (wide) x 90mm (deep) as a minimum. These form the inserted floor which has been constructed by the addition of two cross beams within Trusses B and C, which have been morticed into the new side girts (Plate 15). These new side girts have, in

turn, been inserted into the **Period A** midstrey to the north and south elevations of the building.



Plate 15: Inserted side girt with end tenon of cross beam of new floor projecting behind Truss B

At first floor level the joists are spanned by *in situ* oak floorboards which run width wise to the central joist and measure, on average, 190-230mm wide and 20mm thick.

The flooring material on the ground floor is painted brick, where exposed and therefore is likely to be brick throughout but the floors are carpeted or laid with vinyl and only exposed in Bay 1.

5.6 Stairs

The stairs for this period are no longer *in-situ*. It is likely that the stairs were located within Bay 2, as postulated in Figs. 10 and 11 above. The exact orientation of the stairs can only be surmised based on archaeological principles of phasing. Without being certain where the **Period B** doors were it is difficult to be sure. As postulated, it would be possible to enter the stairwell on the ground floor level via side doors (if indeed they were in this location) to both cottages with the first tread being situated to the north side of the stairwell. There would have been ample space to the sides of the stairwell giving access through doorways into the first floor rooms above the ground floor doorways. This would also provide room house the bread ovens to the north side of the chimney on the ground floor below the landing area.

5.7 Chimney stack

This is located towards the south side of the house and is cruciform in shape, and probably built in two phases. The bricks in the central Stack measure 225 x 100 x 58mm and there are some vitrified patches but not glaze.

At ground floor level in Bay 1 the fireplace once housed a bread oven to the north side of the fireplace which would have occupied a large space in Bay 2 and is now removed with only the blocked up door visible inside the fireplace. There are empty peg holes for former shelf pegs in the bressumer above (which is slightly cambered) and the fireplace is currently occupied by a later brick support and flue for a former cast iron range (Plate 16). The sandstone jambs to either side have been painted and there are two protection or Apotropaic burn marks on the cross beam above with the initials 'I.B' carved into the bressumer. The cast iron fireback within is inscribed '1651 & I.T' but this is unlikely to be original to the building. There are deeply cut knife sharpening marks on both jambs.

In Bay 2 the bread oven was removed and this bay has been much altered in **Period D** but it highly likely to have given access to first floor during **Period B** as discussed above.

Bay 3 at ground floor level mirrors that in Bay 1, except the range flue is of a slightly different design and the bressumer not so cambered. There are also empty peg holes for a shelf in the bressumer and one protection or Apotropaic burn mark in the cross beam. The cast iron fireback within is inscribed "1571" and there are additional knife sharpening marks on both jambs.



Plate 16: The fireplace in Bay 1

Former
bread
oven
location



Plate 17: Fireplace in Bay 3

At the first floor level in Bay 2 is a blocked **Period B** fireplace which is set back to the west side of Truss B (Plate 18) with some boxing of space between the tie-beam and the stack. The fireplace serving Bay 3 is also set back to the east face of Truss C (Plate 19). There are two small cupboard spaces situated to the south side of the stack which may even have given access into the roof space during this period, possibly by means of ladder. The doors to these small spaces would appear to be contemporary with this period; as are the strap hinges (Plate 20) which compare favourably with ones dated to 1727 from Wight⁶.

⁶ Alcock, N., and Hall, L., 2002. Fixtures and fittings in dated houses 1567-1763. CBA Practical handbook in archaeology 11, p24.



Plate 18: Blocked fireplace in Bay 2 set back from the face of Truss B



Plate 19: Blocked fireplace in Bay 3 set back from the face of Truss C



Plate 20: Small cupboard access door besides the stack in Bay 2 at first floor

Within the roof space the bricks in the side stack measure 240 x 110 x 63mm and these can be seen abutting the main central stack within the roof space. A wooden strap is nailed over the face of the stack between common rafters No.1,3 & 5 to support cut rafter No.3 which has collapsed as the peg has rotted (which needs repairing). Rafter No.4 also needs some remedial work. Between the (west) face of Truss B and the east side of the stack is an angular daubed panel set below the purlin.

5.8 Roof

Truss B in the roof has had some additions during this period. Further studs have been nailed above and below the collar (inserted by means of a grooved mortice in the top of the collar) so that daub could be applied; one of these is possibly a re-used feeding rack. The daub is smoothed and lime-washed on the eastern face below the collar but coarsely pushed through the laths (possibly riven chestnut?) above the collar (Plate 21). On the reverse western side, all of the daub above and below the collar is smoothed but none of it is lime-washed (Plate 22).

There is no daub to the sides of the stack. The open space beside the stack on the south side (Plate 23) is large enough for access as previously discussed in section 5.7. Where this space opens up into the roof, it is not partitioned off below the collar as elsewhere below Truss B, thus ensuring access into Bay 1 only. Bay 2 and 3 would have been accessed by the opposing space on the western side of the stack as the partition wall in Truss B did not originally open into Bay 2.

There are further nailed staves (four) added above the collar in Truss C but these are not daubed and no other alterations appear to have been made within the roof during this period.



Plate 21: pushed through daub on eastern face of Truss B



Plate 22: Smoothed daub on the western face of Truss B



Plate 23: Open access area beside the stack in Truss B

6.0 Architectural description – [Period C] late 18th – early 19th century

- 6.1 During this period further conversions took place, including the sub-dividing of the ground floor room in the eastern cottage, facilitated by building a dividing wall within the first bay, presumably to create a separate utility room of some form.
- 6.2 Additionally, two single storey outshots are *likely* to have been added during this period to the west and east sides of the house with new access doors into the cottages (although they could be earlier). These opposing doors in the external walls on the east (Truss A) and west sides (Truss D; now removed) are likely to be from this period but as neither of the apertures have *in-situ* doors they cannot be absolutely dated. The one within Truss D has only one jamb remaining (utilising the intermediate post) which is to the left of centre (south) where the door pintles are still *in-situ* and there are early latch marks. There is a second doorway (now blocked) on the north side of the intermediate post but the two doors are of different phases. Dating the outshots is slightly easier given that the **Period A** building measures approximately 9m in length and that the 1895 OS map (Fig.4), gives a measurement of approximately 15m. The earlier OS surveyors map (Fig.2) shows a building plan of approximately the same dimensions which means the outshots must have been built before 1799 and would have been 3m in length on either side.
- 6.3 The front entrance doors would have had new porches built over them during this period and a rear door may have been inserted in the western cottage with an additional porch over although again, without an *in-situ* door it cannot be confidently dated.
- 6.4 Two small iron ranges were inserted in the fireplaces of both cottages at the ground floor level and a further fireplace was added at first floor level in the western cottage.
- 6.5 The ceiling height on the first floor was also raised in order to give adequate head room. This increase can clearly be seen in Plate 24 where additional partition 'fillets' have been added above the line of the tie-beam.



Plate 24: Additional 'fillets' inserted into Truss B to raise the ceiling height

7.0 Architectural description – [Period D] 20th century

- 7.1 Changes in this period include some significant impacts including the demolition of the side extensions with two storey extensions built in place. This necessitated the opening up of **Period A** walls at first floor levels to give access into the main building. Doorways were blocked and the **Period B** staircase in Bay 2 was removed with the floor boarded over and a bathroom created in the new floored space above. New staircases were built in the modern extensions; one to either side of the house and new doorways were created in the **Period B** partition walls between the rooms on the first floor level. At the same time, the rear doorway and front entrances were blocked up and a new side entrance was created in the east side of the house.
- 7.2 A new brick hearth was inserted in the Bay 3 fireplace on the ground floor and the **Period C** cast iron ranges were removed, as were the bread ovens.
- 7.3 Two new bathrooms were installed at first floor level and the small **Period B** room in Bay 1 was turned into a dressing room with new cupboards built across the partition wall which originally gave access into the stairwell although the precise location of the doorway is not presently known. Further dividing partition walls were built in Bay 3 where a corridor was formed to create a private bedroom space whilst giving new access from the modern staircase on the west side.
- 7.4 During this period it is probable that the roof was stripped of its thatch and new ceramic peg tiles (without nibs) were nailed into place with galvanised nails.

8.0 Discussion

It is clear that the building started off in **Period A** as a small, thatched, three bay agricultural barn which stored hay or straw crops at one point in time when two diagonal supporting shores were added. During **Period B** the building was adapted and divided to create two small cottages accessed by doors in the south elevation; each had one room at ground floor level with two chambers above. There was a central stairwell to the north side of the inserted stack (with bread ovens) in the middle bay which gave access to the first floor rooms. It is possible that the former single-height outshots to either side of the building were added during **Period C** but these *may* have been earlier but have since been removed during **Period D** when modern two-storey extensions replaced the original outshots. At the same time, the rear doorway and front entrances were blocked up and a new side entrance was created in the east side of the house. Additionally the central stairwell was removed and replaced with a bathroom and two new staircases were built at either side of the building in the new additions. New doorways were knocked through the **Period A** walls at first floor level to give access to these rooms. The thatch was removed and replaced by ceramic peg tiles.

9.0 Archive

- 9.1 On completion of the archaeological report ASL will arrange for the paper archive to be deposited at the Kent History and Library Centre, Maidstone, Kent.
- 9.2 Digital copies of the approved report will be provided to:
- the Owner/Developer
 - the County Archaeological Advisor
 - the project archive (see above).

10.0 Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank both Mr and Mrs Burrows for their help and guidance during the site visit. Thanks are also due to Jeremy Clarke for his help and wisdom during the survey.

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APPENDIX

	Surviving Timber-Framed Wall
	Surviving Brick or Stone Wall
	Features evidence but destroyed or masked from view
	Beam or feature immediately overhead
	Conjectural or very approximate
	Structural timber
	Details unknown or doubtful

Other conventions used include doors only shown in plan where known which explains why some rooms have no visible means of access in some plans as they are not known. Sections will show only features cut by the cutting line only, with the exception of wallplates, rafters, some chimneys and the roof line.

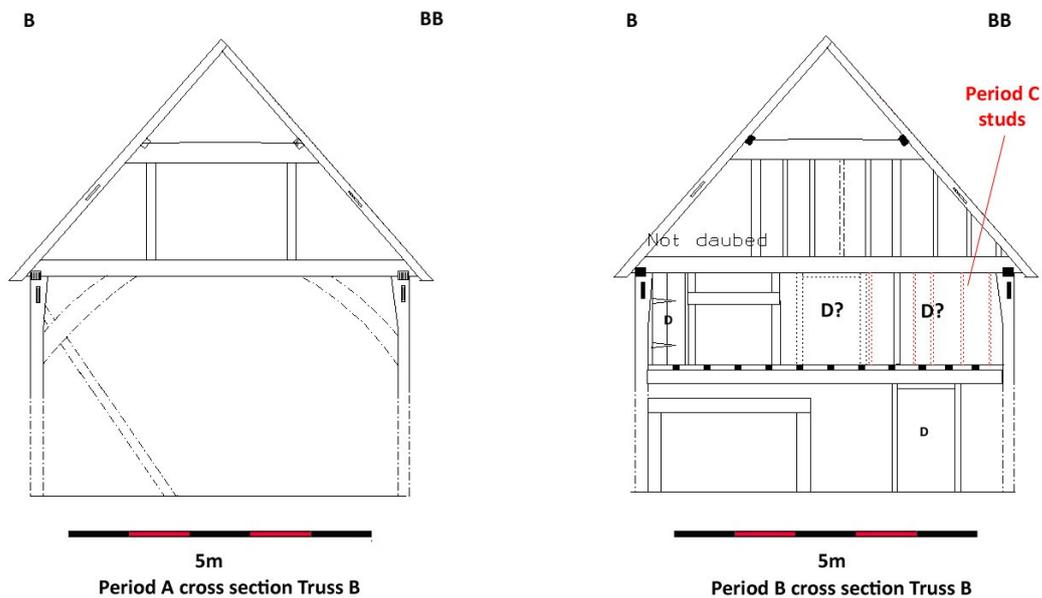


Fig.12 Cross section through Truss B, Periods A and B

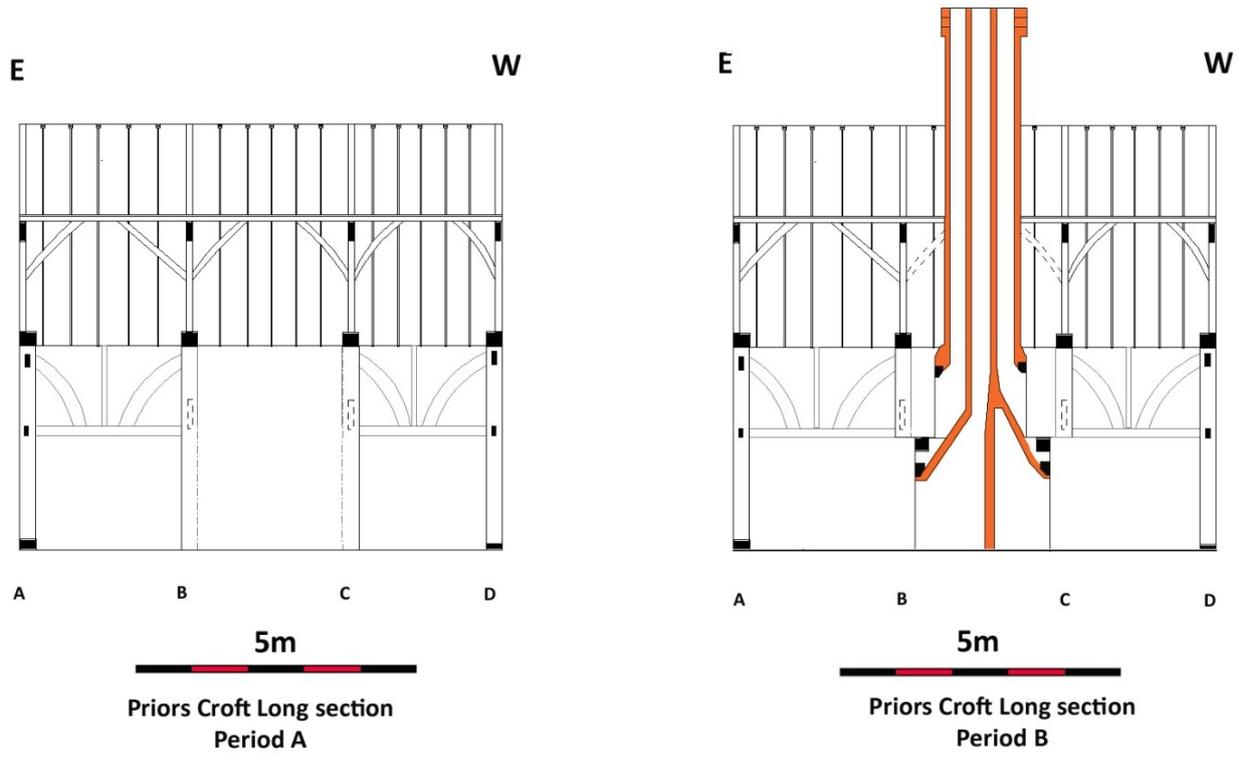


Fig.13 Long section through building