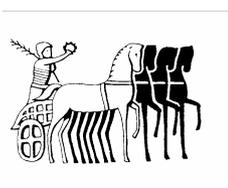


**Historic building recording  
at the Flagstaff complex  
of Colchester Garrison  
November 2014**



**report prepared by  
Chris Lister  
on behalf of  
Taylor Wimpey**

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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 01206 501785  
*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

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## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Aims	2
4	Building recording methodology	2
5	Historical background	3
6	Descriptive record	9
7	Discussion	16
8	Acknowledgements	17
9	References	17
10	Abbreviations and glossary	17
11	Archive deposition	18
12	Contents of archive	18

## Appendices

Appendix 1: selected photographs.	20
Appendix 2: full list of digital photographic record (images on accompanying CD)	35

Figures after p 37

EHER summary sheet

## List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location and block plan with surveyed buildings shaded grey.
- Fig 2 Ground floor plan of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.
- Fig 3 First floor plan of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.
- Fig 4 North elevation of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.
- Fig 5 South elevation of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.
- Fig 6 East elevation of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.
- Fig 7 Ground floor plan of FLG 2, with the original fabric shown black. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.
- Fig 8 First floor plan of FLG 2, with the original fabric shown black.
- Fig 9 North elevation of FLG 2.
- Fig 10 South elevation of FLG 2.
- Fig 11 West elevation of FLG 2.
- Fig 12 Plan of buildings 3 and 3a, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.
- Fig 13 North elevation of building 3.
- Fig 14 East elevation of building 3 and 3a.
- Fig 15 West elevation of building 3 and 3a.
- Fig 16 Plan of FLG 10 and 11, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.
- Fig 17 East elevation of FLG 10 and 11.
- Fig 18 West elevation of FLG 10 and 11.
- Fig 19 South elevation of FLG 11.

- Fig 20 Plan of FLG 12 and 13, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.
- Fig 21 West elevation of FLG 12 and 13.
- Fig 22 South elevation of FLG 13.
- Fig 23 North elevation of FLG 12.

## 1 Summary

*A programme of historic building recording was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust on eight buildings at the Flagstaff complex, part of the decommissioned holdings of Colchester Garrison in November 2014. Construction started on the Flagstaff complex in 1868 and the complex originally served as the headquarters offices and stores for the garrison. The structures included in the historic building record comprise the 'Annexe', a late 19th-century building used as offices; FLG 2, an office block dating to 1938; FLG 10, 11, 12 and 13, wagon sheds dating to c1900; and a pair of brick sheds, designated buildings 3 and 3a for the purposes of this report, which also date to c1900. The work was commissioned by Martyn Lewis on behalf of Taylor Wimpey.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on the historic building recording of eight structures at the Flagstaff complex, part of the decommissioned holdings of Colchester Garrison, in response to an application for their demolition as part of the redevelopment of the garrison. The work was carried out on behalf of the developer, Taylor Wimpey, by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in November 2014. The Flagstaff complex is located to the north-east of the former Artillery Barracks and is bordered by Mersea Road to the east, Napier Road to the south and Flagstaff Road to the west. To the north are the tennis courts and sports centre of the Garrison Officers Club, located on the remains of the medieval St John's Abbey. The site is centred at NGR TL 9976 2458.

The eight structures included in the building record comprise the 'Annexe', a late 19th-century building used as offices attached to the earlier District Offices and Royal Engineers Offices; FLG 2, an office block dating to 1938; FLG 10, 11, 12 and 13, wagon sheds dating to c1900; and a pair of brick sheds designated buildings 3 and 3a for the purposes of this report, which date to c1900 (Ingrams, 2000). None are designated as listed buildings although FLG 10, 11, 12 and 13 are locally listed.

A planning application (131935) was submitted to Colchester Borough Council in October 2013 for the demolition of some existing buildings, the refurbishment of existing buildings and the erection of 137 residential units. Given the potential impact of the proposed works on the historic integrity of the former barracks, it was recommended that a historic building record be undertaken as a condition on the planning consent. This condition was based on the advice given in the National Planning Policy Framework. Although no brief detailing the required work (historic building recording) was issued, a request was made by Alistair Day (Colchester Borough Council Principal Planning Officer) for an English Heritage Level 3 building survey to be carried out.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (ClfA, 2008), *Management of research*

*projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14). In addition, the guidelines contained in *English Heritage: Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice* (2006) and *RCHME: Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition* were followed.

### **3 Aims**

The aim of the historic building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the buildings prior to their demolition. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (English Heritage, 2006).

In particular the record considered:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials, method of construction, dimensions and architectural treatments.
- Date(s) of the structures.
- Function and internal layout of each component.
- Fixtures and fittings (contemporary and later additions/adaptations).
- Phasing.
- The context of the structures within their immediate contemporary landscape and their importance on a national and regional level.

### **4 Building recording methodology**

The following are included in this report:

- A brief documentary and cartographic survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the barracks.
- A large-scale block plan of the site based on Ordnance Survey mapping. The position of each structure has been indicated and has been given a number noting date and function.
- Fully phased floor plans using the English Heritage (2006) Level 3 conventions at scale 1:200 of the building scheduled for conversion/demolition. Doors, windows, partitions and any surviving fixtures/fittings are shown, together with evidence of phasing. The plans show all major structural additions to the building and any internal divisions, particularly where the alterations are associated with a change of function.
- Detailed descriptions of the structures. These descriptions address features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction including brickwork, joinery, fenestration, spatial configuration, phasing, graffiti and any evidence of original fixtures and fittings.
- A discussion of the history and development of the buildings, including their design, date, form and function and any significant modifications/reuse.

- A brief overview of Colchester Garrison and how changes during the 19th and 20th century influenced the plan form.
- A full photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features (external and internal). Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text (Appendix 1). The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 2).

## 5 Historical background (Maps 1-5, Illustrations 1-2)

A documentary and cartographic search was undertaken to assess the evidence pertaining to the history and the evolution of the structures included within the scope of the historic building record. In the following report the structures have been identified by their 20th-century designations, which correspond to the block plan, accompanying figures and photographic entries.

The British Army has a long association with Colchester, the town currently being home to the 16th Air Assault Brigade. However, prior to the Crimean War (1853-6), this association was always temporary, with soldiers billeted locally or housed in tents, particularly on Lexden Heath. During the Napoleonic Wars a temporary hutted camp was erected on Barrack Field, but this was disposed of after the Battle of Waterloo (1815). In 1855-6 a hutted encampment was built on Ordnance Field, between Military and Mersea Roads, intended as a temporary infantry barracks for 5000 men, known as Colchester Camp. At the end of the Crimean war it was decided to put the barracks at Colchester on a permanent footing. According to the 1863 edition of *White's History, Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Essex*, Abbey Farm was purchased by the government in about 1858 for the purpose of constructing the brick-built Cavalry Barracks (1862-4) (Cockerill and Woodward 1978, 25). This area is shown as open fields on Monson's 1848 map of Colchester, whilst the land that would eventually become the Flagstaff complex is shown as part of the 'Pinnacle Garden' (Map 1).

In 1866, Colchester became the headquarters of the Army's newly-formed Eastern District, one of the Army's four 'great camps' (the others being Aldershot, Shornecliffe, and the Curragh near Dublin). The Royal Artillery Barracks were constructed to the north-east of Cavalry Barracks in 1874-5, with Sobraon Barracks following in 1900 and Goojerat Barracks in 1902. In the years between 1896 and 1904 the temporary wooden huts of Colchester Camp on Ordnance Field were replaced by the brick buildings of Hyderabad and Meeanee Barracks. The building programme at Colchester Garrison in the late 1890s and early 1900s was funded by the Military Loans System, established in 1890 by the Barracks Act and which raised £4.1 million, half of which was spent on the 'great camps'

(Douet 1998, 177). Much of this work was made necessary by the increase in the size of the Army during the years 1897-1900.

With the expansion of the garrison at Colchester and particularly after the town was designated as the headquarters of the Eastern District, there was clearly a need for an administrative and supply centre to oversee the garrison. The buildings of the Flagstaff complex were constructed to fulfil this role as well as to house the officers of the various departments that were located there. The 1876 edition of the Ordnance Survey (Map 2) shows only three large buildings on the complex: FLG 1 on the western side and FLG 5/6 and FLG 7/8 located along its south edge. FLG 1 was built as offices, whilst FLG 5/6 and 7/8 were constructed as residences for senior officers. The 1876 Ordnance Survey map also denotes a 'Flagstaff' located at the south-west corner of the complex, which Bernard Polley suggests was the origin of the complex's name (Polley, 2009). This is a plausible theory, especially as it has proven difficult to say for certain when the complex was first known by the name.

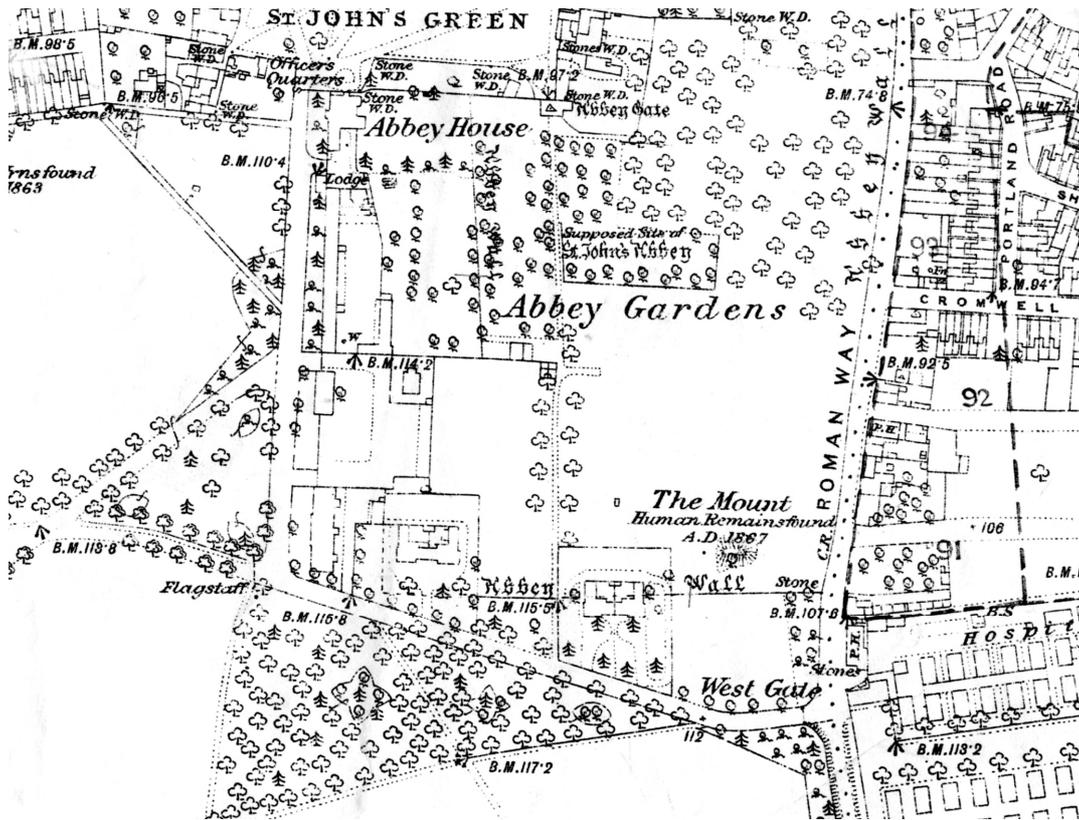
By 1897, when the second edition Ordnance Survey (Map 3) was published, the number of buildings in the Flagstaff complex had more than trebled, probably as a result of the funds raised by the Military Loans System. The Annex is shown for the first time, although without any of the extensions to its rear, but none of the other structures that form the scope of the building record have yet been built. However, the complex was clearly well-known for its role as recorded in Wright's 1899 *Guide to Colchester*,

'The entrance to Abbey Fields is marked by the headquarters offices and stores, the latter containing sufficient material from a tent bag to an ambulance wagon to fit out the whole of the troops in the Eastern District for immediate action.' (Cockerill and Woodward 1978, 25)

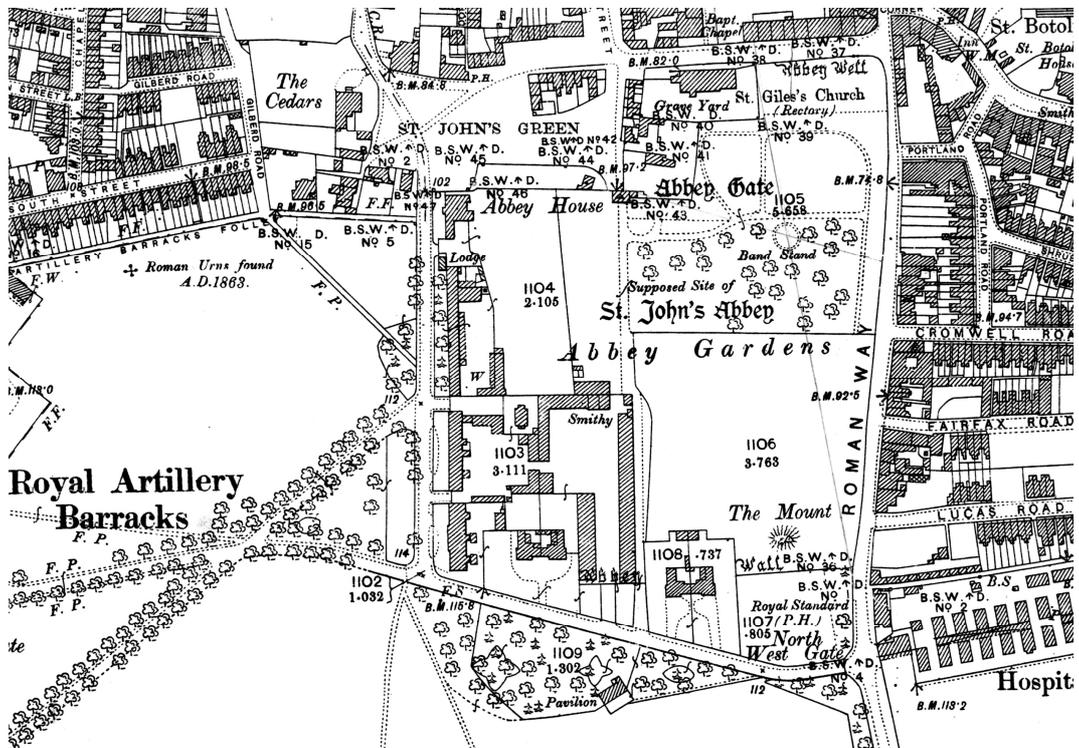
The headquarters units stationed in Colchester in 1908 when Flagstaff was well established included, amongst others, the General Officer in Command of the Eastern District (including command of the 11th Infantry Brigade) who was quartered in Abbey House, the Commandant of the Army Service Corps, the Chief Ordnance Officer, the Commanding Officer of the 9th Company of the Royal Engineers, two officers in command of the 10th Company of the Army Service Corps and one officer in command of the 10th Company of the Army Ordnance Corps. These Headquarters units all provided support to the four battalions that comprised the 11th Infantry Brigade, the 4th Cavalry Brigade and the three batteries of the 20th Brigade Royal Field Artillery who were stationed at Colchester Garrison in 1908 (Ford, 107-8).

The 1921 edition Ordnance Survey (Map 4) shows all of the structures within the scope of the building record with the exception of FLG 2 which replaced a structure on the same location in 1938. It is thought that the additional structures were built c1900. Better detail is shown on the 1923 edition of the Ordnance Survey (Map 5) which depicts the Flagstaff

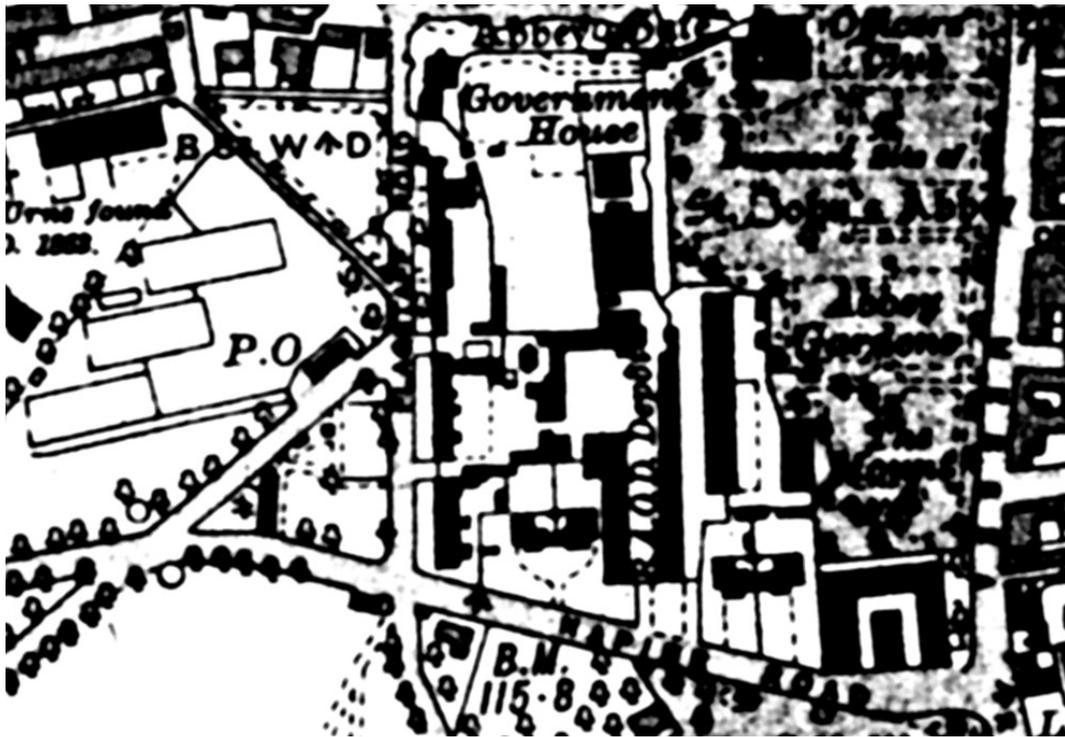




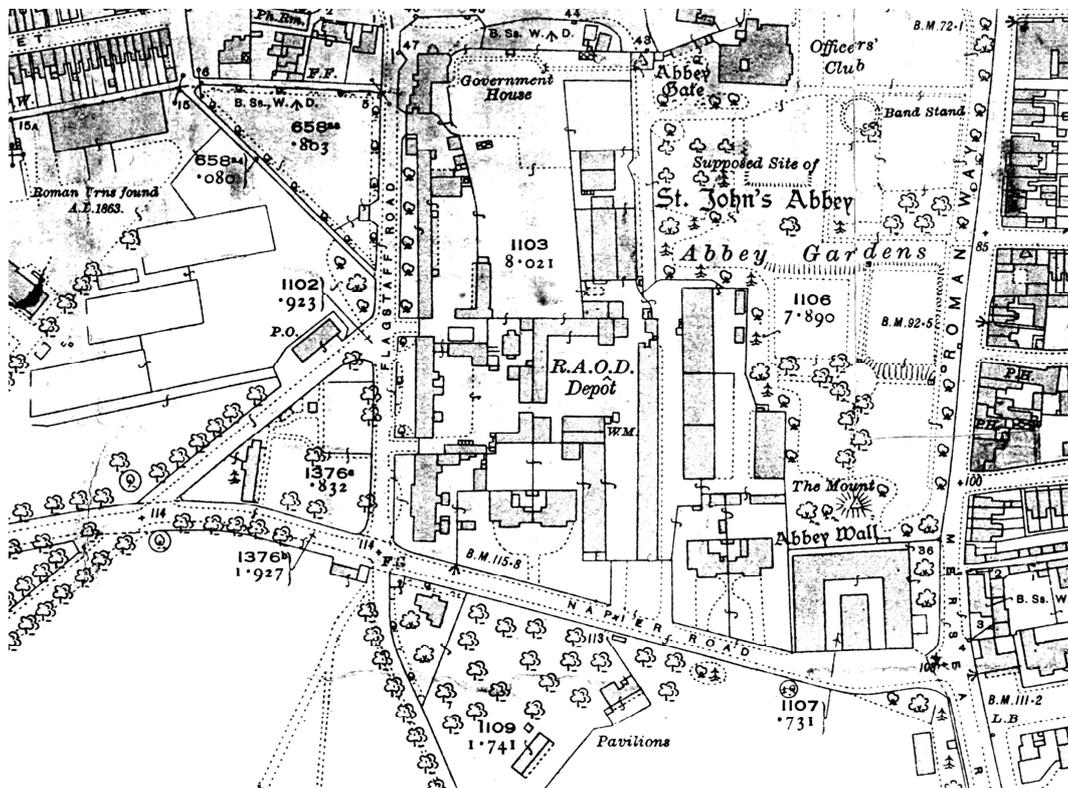
Map 2 1876 edition Ordnance Survey.



Map 3 Second edition Ordnance Survey 1897.



Map 4 1921 edition Ordnance Survey.



Map 3 1922-3 edition Ordnance Survey.



**Illustration 1** Aerial photograph of Flagstaff from 1927 (copyright Historic England).



**Illustration 2** 21st-century satellite imagery showing the modern Flagstaff layout with the survey buildings highlighted (copyright Google).

## 6 Descriptive record (Figs 2-23)

The buildings of the Flagstaff complex are located to the east of the Artillery Barracks within their own walled and gated compound, originally separated from the Artillery Barracks by a flat open field, now the site of the Defence Support Group (Fig 1).

### The Annexe (Figs 2-6)

#### External description

The Annexe is a two-storey building constructed from yellow stock bricks with dimensions of 230 x 114 x 65mm laid in Flemish bond (Fig 2, Plate 1). It is aligned east to west and has evolved to become an extension to FLG1 although, originally, it was a free-standing structure as indicated on the 1897 second edition Ordnance Survey (Map 3). The map evidence suggests a construction date for the first phase of the building of 1876-97. The roof is gabled with a slate covering and the main façade faces north onto an open square, latterly used as a car park but originally a parade ground. The building was constructed as offices for the Garrison Headquarters company.

The north elevation originally comprised six sash windows of six-over-six lights to both floors, two to the west of a projecting entrance and four to the east (Fig 4). The entrance was originally a single-storey structure but has since been built up to the full height of the façade. A two-storey extension has been constructed at the east end of the range partly on top of what appears to be an earlier wall (Figs 5 and 6, Plate 2). Apart from the colour difference of the brickwork these additions have been executed in identical style to the original building and appear to have been the last major alterations made to the building (Phase 4). The east elevation is plain brickwork apart from where a doorway has been inserted to the ground floor, providing a covered walkway to FLG 1. There is a painted sign on the brickwork indicating that the C.O.O<sup>S.S</sup> office is downstairs and the Ordnance office is upstairs (Plate 3).

The south elevation has been much altered with the original façade virtually obscured by later extensions (Fig 5, Plate 4). A single window has been inserted to the first floor at the west end of the range but apart from this the rear elevation appears to have been unadorned brickwork. The oldest of the extensions is a single-storey structure at the west end (labelled Phase 2 on Fig 2) and is indicated on the 1921 edition of the Ordnance Survey. This second phase of building has a gabled slate roof and is constructed from yellow stock bricks with dimensions of 230 x 113 x 67mm laid in Flemish bond. Its south elevation has a doorway at the east corner and two six-over-six sash windows. Part of the south elevation is obscured by a later timber-constructed covered walkway to FLG 4. This covers a doorway that may be original but appears to have been inserted. There is a narrow sash window of two-over-two lights in the west elevation (Fig 6). To the east of the Phase 2 extension there is a small single-storey brick-built structure with a flat roof that has subsequently been built on creating a second storey, also with a flat roof. This third phase of building has a single six-over-six sash window in its south elevation and is constructed

from yellow stock bricks with dimensions of 230 x 113 x 67mm laid in Flemish bond. The similarities of the window heads and the brickwork suggests that although this structure is later than the phase 2 extension it is not significantly later, a fact borne out by its inclusion on the 1922-3 edition of the Ordnance Survey. The first floor extension above it is constructed from the same pale yellow brick as the extension at the east end of the range and the upper portion of the main entrance and is believed to date to the same period. To the east of the Phase 3 extension there is a timber external staircase leading from the ground floor to the first floor. This is supported on a small brick-built structure at one end (Fig 5). This external staircase appears on the 1922-3 edition of the Ordnance Survey and is part of the fourth phase of alterations to the Annexe.

### **Internal description**

The ground floor interior of the Annexe is divided into four unequally-sized rooms (labelled 1-4 on Fig 2) accessed from a small lobby behind the main entrance. The lobby has a doorway in its west wall granting access to Room 1 at the west end of the range. Room 1 originally had a large fireplace in the south wall, which has subsequently been blocked, and doorways inserted through the west and south walls. A second doorway in the dividing wall, which has either been inserted or widened, opens onto Room 2. The area directly behind the lobby appears to have been where the original staircase was located; this has subsequently been removed, as has the east wall of the stairwell. It is unclear if there was a connecting passage beneath the stairs between Rooms 1 and 2. The east wall of the lobby has a blocked doorway in the surviving section of the dividing wall, which would have been the original entrance to Room 2.

As with Room 1, Room 2 originally had a large fireplace in the south wall, which has subsequently been blocked, and has three doorways which have been inserted into its south wall, granting access to Rooms 7, 8 and 9. None of these doorways appear to have been inserted through window openings. At the east end of Room 2 an original doorway granting access to Room 3 has been widened. The door jamb on the north side of this has chamfered brickwork (Plate 5).

Room 3 is the smallest of the original three rooms on the ground floor but has several features that mark it different from the other rooms. The sash window is 30cm wider than the others and there is a much narrower chimney breast on the east wall. This may have been reduced in width when doorways for the extension were inserted into the former external wall but it is more likely that this chimney held a flue for a stove and did not have a fireplace. A doorway has been inserted in the south wall granting access to the external staircase which leads to the first floor.

Room 4 was built as an extension to the original range and has a wide doorway in the north wall and a sash window in the east wall. The north-east corner of the room has a narrow chimney breast, similar to that in Room 3, again presumably for a stove rather than a fireplace.

The Phase 2 extension has three rooms (labelled 5, 6 and 7 on Fig 2). Room 5 at the west end of the structure is built up against FLG 1 and has a doorway in the south-west corner that may have been inserted to provide access to FLG 1. The dividing wall has a doorway granting access to Room 6 which has entrances to Room 7 to the east and to the main range to the north. Rooms 6 and 7 are built around a back-to-back chimney stack: in Room 6 the hearth has survived although there is a later brick surround; in Room 7 the fireplace has been converted to hold a double safe (Plate 6). In the east wall of Room 7 a doorway has been inserted, probably through an original window opening to provide access to the Room 8 (Phase 3). This doorway was subsequently blocked by the load-bearing wall that was required to support the later second storey (part of Phase 4). This necessitated cutting a new doorway through the rear of the main range. Room 9 is a small room accessed via an inserted doorway in the rear wall of Room 2. It serves no real purpose other than to support the upper landing of the external staircase 10. Room 9 and staircase 10 are part of the final phase of alterations carried out on the Annexe.

The first floor is accessed via the external staircase at the rear of the building, although originally the staircase appears to have been in line with the entrance way. The removal of that staircase has resulted in the original first floor becoming one long space, with a smaller room to the east formed by the Phase 4 extension (labelled 11 and 12 on Fig 3, Plate 7). Scars on the floorboards in Room 11 indicate where walls have been removed suggesting there were originally three rooms on the first floor, one to the west of the staircase, two to the east. This theory is supported by the presence of three blocked chimney breasts, one for each original room.

Three rooms constructed during the fourth phase of alterations open off Room 11. Room 12 at the east end is the largest and is accessed through a doorway inserted through the wall on the south side of the chimney. On the north side of the chimney a hatch has been cut through the wall. Room 12 has a built-in safe in one corner and a chimney for a stove in the opposite corner. Room 13 opens off the centre of Room 11, on the south side, and has been converted to a bathroom, although it is doubtful if this was the original intended purpose. Room 14 is really nothing more than an alcove formed when the entrance was doubled in height.

## **FLG 2** (Figs 1, 7-11)

### **External description**

FLG 2 is located to the east of and just to the north of the Annexe, aligned east to west Fig 1) and was built to provide additional office space. It is a two-storey building of yellow stock brick with dimensions of 230 x 115 x 65mm laid in stretcher bond with a hipped slate roof. The north elevation (Fig 9, Plate 8) has closely spaced metal-framed windows to both floors and a centrally located projecting section with a stepped door surround. There is a

low parapet at roof level with a stepped centre, below which is a date stone marked 1938 (Plate 9).

The east elevation is obscured by a single-storey brick warehouse/workshop and the west elevation is partially obscured by a single-storey brick outbuilding (Fig 11). The visible part of the west elevation has two of the metal-framed windows on the first floor and one on the ground floor. It is feasible that there is a second window on the ground floor hidden by the outbuilding but no trace of this was found during the internal survey.

The south elevation is almost identical to the north, lacking only some of the more ornate embellishments, namely the parapet and the stepped and projecting centre section (Fig 10).

### **Internal description**

The ground floor of FLG 2 is divided into four rooms (labelled 1-4 on Fig 7) two either side of an off-centre corridor and staircase, with Rooms 1 and 3 on the west side slightly larger than Rooms 2 and 4 on the east side. Room 1 has a connecting doorway with Room 3 which has a doorway onto the corridor and also an external doorway in the south wall. Room 2 can only be accessed from the lobby and originally Room 4 could only be accessed by a doorway at the end of the corridor although a doorway has subsequently been inserted to the east wall. At the end of the corridor Room 5 comprises a toilet and a wash basin, which appear original to the building. An under stairs cupboard (labelled 6 on Fig 7) was probably used for storage.

The staircase is straight to the first floor where the landing then returns parallel to the front of the building (Plate 10). The layout of the first floor is virtually identical to that of the ground floor with only minor differences in the locations of the internal doorways (Fig 8). A small room at the north end of the landing has been sub-divided to create an additional toilet and washroom, but as the partition wall has been placed against the window glass this is clearly a later alteration. This room was probably a cloakroom or small-scale kitchen for use by the office staff.

## **Building 3** (Figs 1, 12-15)

### **External description**

Building 3 is located due east of FLG 2 and slightly to the north, aligned east to west (Fig 1). It appears to be some sort of large wagon store or repair facility and is a tall single-storey structure with a flat roof, constructed from yellow stock brick with dimensions of 230x 110 x 65mm laid in Flemish bond (Plate 11). It first appears on the 1921 edition Ordnance Survey but is thought to date to c1900.

The north and south elevations have brick buttresses surmounted by wide granite pads which support the I-beams that carry the flat roof, although the south elevation is partly hidden beneath the roof of Building 3a (Fig 13, Plate 12). In between the buttresses of the

north elevation (with the exception of the second bay to the west which contains a doorway) are large metal-framed windows with centrally-pivoted hopper openings. The south elevation originally contained two doorways but these were later converted to windows, probably when Building 3a was constructed (Fig 12).

The short elevations to the east and west each have a large pair of timber sliding doors, the openings for which have jambs constructed from blue brick with rounded edges (Figs 14 and 15, Plate 13). This is the sort of architectural detail observed elsewhere on the buildings of Colchester Garrison usually employed where horses were using the openings. The west elevation has a small brick-built extension next to the sliding doors, visible on the 1922 edition Ordnance Survey (Fig 14).

### **Internal description**

The interior of Building 3 is one large open space with a concrete floor and a high ceiling (Fig 12, Plate 14). A drainage gully extends the length of the building terminating at a large sump in the north-east corner. The wagon doors at either end are held on sliding rails. The I-beams that carry the flat roof are exposed and the whole room has the feel of a workshop, which may explain the size of the windows in the north wall.

## **Building 3a** (Figs 1, 12, 14 and 15)

### **External description**

Building 3a has been created by roofing over the space between the south wall of Building 3 and a boundary wall and FLG 17 to the south (Fig 12, Plate 11). The building is shown on the 1921 Ordnance Survey, so it must have been constructed only a short time after Building 3 was completed, probably for use as a store room. Gabled walls of pale yellow brick with dimensions of 230 x 110 x 67mm laid in Flemish bond have been inserted at the west and east ends and it has a roof of corrugated metal sheeting, although this is likely a modern replacement for slate. The east elevation has a centrally-positioned double doorway flanked by two metal-framed windows (Fig 14), whilst the west elevation has a single doorway flanked by two metal-framed windows (Fig 15).

### **Internal description**

The interior of building 3a is one long open space (Fig 12, Plate 15). Contained within it is a small brick outbuilding built against the boundary wall which appears to pre-date the structure. The roof is carried on machine-cut timber trusses, reinforced by iron king bolts, with the feet of the trusses bedded onto the tops of the brick buttresses of the south wall to Building 3 and into the boundary wall and rear wall of FLG 17 on the south side. A gap between the boundary wall and FLG 17 has been bricked in and a window in the rear of FLG 17 has been partially blocked (Plate 16). One curious feature is that the building has a

wooden parquet floor (Plate 17). The reason for this is unclear but must be related to what was being stored in the building.

### **FLG 10 and 11** (Figs 1, 16-19)

FLG 10 and 11 are designated as separated buildings in the Colchester Garrison numbering system but were originally one structure – consequently they are discussed here as one building.

#### **External description**

FLG 10/11 is located to the east side of the complex (Fig 1) and is one of three long buildings which formerly served as wagon sheds. The building first appears on the 1921 edition Ordnance Survey but is believed to date to c1900. It is aligned north to south and is constructed from yellow stock bricks with dimensions of 230 x 110 x 65mm laid in English bond with a gabled slate roof (Fig 16, Plate 18). The building has been substantially altered with the walls and roof raised in second phase of building dating to the mid 20th century, probably to accommodate military lorries.

The west elevation clearly shows the new brickwork where the height of the building has been increased (Fig 18, Plate 19). At the same time as the building's height was increased large windows were inserted along the length of the building. These are metal-framed and identical to those found in Building 3, suggesting they were re-used from another building on the complex. One of these windows has subsequently been reduced in height. On either side of the windows there are York stone pads which carry the roof trusses. These have been raised from their original positions. The south elevation clearly shows the increase in the gable height (Fig 19, Plate 20) and also has York stone blocks at the south-east corner that originally held the timber doors of the wagon shed. A window has been inserted into the south elevation near to the south-west corner.

The east elevation has been completely rebuilt and bears no resemblance to its original appearance (Fig 17, Plate 18). Where once there would have been pairs of timber doors extending along the entire length of the façade there is now pale yellow brick infill with dimensions of 220 x 110 x 67mm laid in English bond. All that remains of the original façade are the York stone dressings at each corner and a granite-lined drainage gully extending the length of the building (Plate 21). Within the infill are two large openings containing steel-framed sliding doors. These are flanked by metal-framed windows of the same design as those that have been inserted to the west elevation. A third phase of building has inserted a small window to the brickwork of FLG 10 and seen a small outbuilding constructed next to the north set of sliding doors.

FLG 10/11 is built against the south end of a two-storey structure on the same alignment. A large window in the south elevation of this building was blocked when the roof

of FLG 10/11 was raised. The aerial photograph from 1927 (Illustration 2) clearly shows this window as above the ridge line of the wagon shed.

### **Internal description**

Internally the structure is divided into two equal-sized buildings by a cross wall (Fig 16) with FLG to the north and FLG 11 to the south. This originally had two doorways in it but both have been blocked. Both FLG 10 and FLG 11 are open spaces although FLG 10 has a storage area to the north formed from timber and wire panels (Plate 22) and FLG 11 has a badminton court painted onto the concrete floor.

Although the building has been raised in height the original steel roof trusses have been re-used as have the diagonal sarking boards they support (Plate 23). Another original feature that has survived the alterations is a doorway in the dividing wall between FLG 10 and the two-storey building to the north (Plate 24). This doorway is approximately 2m off the ground and must have originally had a staircase leading down to the floor of FLG 10.

### **FLG 12 and 13** (Figs 1, 20-23)

As with FLG 10 and 11, FLG 12 and 13 are designated as separated buildings in the Colchester Garrison numbering system but were originally one structure – consequently they are discussed here as one building.

### **External description**

FLG 12/13 is located on the far eastern side of the complex (Fig 1) and is the second of three long buildings which formerly served as wagon sheds. The building first appears on the 1921 edition Ordnance Survey but is believed to date to c1900. It is aligned north to south and is constructed from yellow stock bricks with dimensions of 230 x 115 x 65mm laid in English bond with a gabled slate roof (Fig 20, Plates 25). Although FLG 12 to the north was converted to a cinema at some point after 2000, the southern part of the building (FLG 13) has survived virtually intact with many of the original features.

The west elevation originally comprised twelve pairs of timber doors with large strap hinges held on steel posts supporting I-beams that extended the length of the building (Fig 21, Plate 26) with the hinges held on York stone pads at the corners of the elevation. Six pairs of these doors have survived, with the alternate pairs being half-glazed. The door posts are mounted on iron-bound concrete kerbs that protected the posts from the wagons' wheels (Plate 27). In front of these kerbs is a granite-lined drainage gully extending the length of the building. The remainder of the elevation has had the doorways removed, the two bays at the north end prior to 2000, the remaining four after 2000. The two bays to the north have a UPVC-framed door and windows surrounded by brick infill of the same type that was used in the east elevation of FLG 10/11. The third bay has been maintained as a double doorway but has modern doors. The remaining three bays have infill walls of

yellow brick with dimensions of 213 x 100 x 65mm laid in stretcher bond with a triple light UPVC window in each.

The west, north and south elevations are unadorned brickwork although two outbuildings were constructed against the north elevation, one flat-roofed, the other mono-pitched (Figs 22 and 23). This latter one has been partially demolished.

### **Internal description**

As with FLG 10/11 the interior of FLG 12/13 has been divided in two by a brick wall (Fig 20). FLG 13 to the south is open plan apart from a small block work room inserted into the south-east corner to house modern electrical switch gear. Apart from this the space is unaltered from its original layout (Plate 28). The kerbs protecting the door posts can be seen to project into the building and the roof is formed from steel trusses carrying diagonal sarking boards, identical to the roof of FLG 10/11.

FLG 12 to the north has been substantially altered. An inserted wall has divided the original open space into two unequally-sized chambers (labelled 1 and 2 on Fig 20). Room 1 was gutted by fire in an arson attack after the complex was formally closed and the resulting damage has made it difficult to interpret what this room was used for (Plate 29). It was probably used as a foyer for the room next door. Room 2 is clad in sound proofing material (both walls and ceiling) and was used for a short time as a cinema (Plate 30).

## **7 Discussion**

The buildings included in the scope of this historic building record vary in architectural merit. Most were constructed to be purely functional, either as offices (the Annexe and FLG 2) or as warehouses/workshops (Buildings 3 and 3a, and FLG 10-13). Nearly all were built either in the last quarter of the 19th century or in the first years of the 20th, part of an expanding programme of military construction in Colchester necessitated by need and often restricted by financial constraints. Because they were constructed for mundane purposes they are less elaborate structures than many of the Officers' residences that were built throughout the Garrison and less architecturally meritorious than even many of the earlier Victorian buildings but they are no less important. The importance of these buildings is in what they can inform us about the day-to-day workings of the army at this time. The majority of the buildings on Colchester Garrison from this time are concerned with housing troops/horses or training them. The buildings at Flagstaff are concerned with storing equipment for these troops use and in dispersing it to them, all the while whilst maintain strict records.

Of particular interest is how these buildings were altered to meet the changing needs of the Army within a relatively short time from construction. The warehouses were built at a time when the horse was the primary motive power for men and equipment, but that was to change to the internal combustion engine by the end of the First World War. As the 20th

century progressed the role of these buildings changed and they were put to new uses, constantly being altered to suit the Army's needs. As primary sources for British military history they are scarce examples of their type and deserve their place in the heritage record of this nation.

## 8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Mr Martyn Lewis of Taylor Wimpey for commissioning and funding the building recording.

The building recording was carried out by Chris Lister.

Plans and elevations are based on surveys carried out by the author.

The project was monitored by Alistair Day on behalf of Colchester Borough Council Planning Department.

## 9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at

<http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

ClfA	2008	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures</i>
Cockerill, C & Woodward, D	1978	<i>Colchester as a Military Centre</i>
DoE	2010	<i>Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment</i>
Douet, J	1998	<i>British Barracks 1600-1914</i>
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Polley, B	2009	<i>Colchester Garrison</i>
Stone, J	1986	<i>Colchester in Garrison: Ten British Military Towns</i> , ed by P Dietz

Websites consulted include:

<http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk>

<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/image/epw018554>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
chamfer	the splayed face resulting from the removal of the angle along a piece of timber or brick
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by ECC
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'

HE	Historic Environment
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
post	in wall frames vertical members which rise the full height of the frame, being either main posts at the bay divisions or intermediate posts within the bay
truss	a frame consisting of several pieces of timber, jointed and triangulated in order to retain its shape under load

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (accession code 2014.110).

## 12 Contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

### 1 Introduction

1.1 Risk assessment

### 2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photographic record.
- 2.2 Digital photographic contact sheet.
- 2.3 Attendance register
- 2.4 Site photographic record on CD

### 3 Research archive

3.1 Client report

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### Distribution list

Martyn Lewis, Taylor Wimpey  
Alistair Day, Colchester Borough Council Principal Planning Officer  
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Colchester Museum



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 07436 273304

*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

checked by: Philip Crummy  
date: 15/05/15

**Appendix 1**  
**Selected photographs**



**Plate 1** North elevation of the Annexe - view south



**Plate 2** East elevation of the Annexe showing the Phase 4 extension constructed on top of an earlier wall – view west



**Plate 3** Painted sign on the east elevation of the Annexe



**Plate 4** South elevation of the Annexe showing the extensions to the rear of the range - view north



**Plate 5** Chamfered brick door jamb in dividing wall of the ground floor to the Annexe - view north-west



**Plate 6** The interior of Room 7 of the Annexe showing the fireplace converted to a double safe – view south-west



**Plate 7** First floor of the Annexe with the Phase 4 extension to the rear - view east



**Plate 8** North elevation of FLG 2 showing the metal-framed windows, stepped door surround and pediment – view south-east



**Plate 9** North elevation of FLG 2 showing the date stone marked 1938 below the stepped section of the parapet - view south



**Plate 10** FLG 2 stairs to the first floor – view south



**Plate 11** Building 3, flat-roofed brick shed with building 3a to the right – view south-east



**Plate 12** North elevation of Building 3 showing one of the granite pads above a brick buttress which carry the I-beams of the flat roof – view south



**Plate 13** East elevation of Building 3 showing the wagon doors with jambs constructed from blue bricks with rounded edges - view west



**Plate 14** Interior of Building 3 showing the sliding wagon doors, the metal-framed windows, the I-beams carrying the flat roof and the drainage gully in the floor – view north-west



**Plate 15** Interior of Building 3a showing the timber roof trusses supported on the south wall of Building 3 and the boundary wall to the right – view north-east



**Plate 16** Interior of Building 3a showing the timber roof trusses and the blocked window to FLG 17 on the left – view south-west



**Plate 17** Detail of wooden parquet floor to Building 3a



**Plate 18** East elevation of FLG 10/11 showing the infilled front and raised roofline - view north-west



**Plate 19** West elevation of FLG 10/11 showing the increased height of the brickwork and the windows which were inserted to the elevation at the same time - view south-east



**Plate 20** South elevation of FLG 10/11 showing the increased height of the brickwork and a later inserted window - view north-east



**Plate 21** Original granite-lined drainage gully extending the full length of FLG 10/11 - view south



**Plate 22** The interior of FLG 10 showing the later caged area to the north and the sliding doors of the modified east elevation. The steel roof trusses supporting the diagonal sarking boards are part of the original building and have been raised to the modified height - view north



**Plate 23** The interior of FLG 11 showing the original steel roof trusses supporting the diagonal sarking boards of the roof and the badminton court painted on the floor - view north-east



**Plate 24** Doorway in the dividing wall between FLG 10 and the building to the north - view north



**Plate 25** West elevation of FLG 12/13 showing the alterations to the wagon doors - view north-east



**Plate 26** West elevation of FLG 12/13 photographed in 2000 showing the original wagon doors extending along the length of the façade - view north-east (copyright Ingrams, 2000)



**Plate 27** West elevation of FLG 12/13 showing the original granite-lined drainage gully in front of the wagon doors - view north-east



**Plate 28** Interior of FLG 13 showing original wagon doors, steel roof trusses and diagonal sarking boards - view south-west



**Plate 29** Interior of FLG 12 Room 1, possibly used as a foyer for the cinema next door - view east



**Plate 30** Interior of FLG 12 Room 2, fitted out with sound-proofing for use as a cinema - view south-east

## Appendix 2

### Full list of digital photographic record (images on accompanying CD)

- 001.jpeg The Annexe, north elevation - view south-west.
- 002.jpeg The Annexe, north elevation - view south.
- 003.jpeg The Annexe, south elevation - view north.
- 004.jpeg The Annexe, north elevation - view north-west.
- 005.jpeg The Annexe, west elevation partially obscured by covered walkway to FLG 1- view south-east.
- 006.jpeg The Annexe, east elevation - view west.
- 007.jpeg Entrance to the Annexe - view south-east.
- 008.jpeg Detail of window in Annexe north elevation - view south.
- 009.jpeg Detail of painted sign on west elevation of the Annexe.
- 010.jpeg Interior of room 7 in the Annexe with the fireplace converted to a safe on the left - view north-west.
- 011.jpeg East wall of the Annexe, room 7 with the doorway to room 8 - view north-east.
- 012.jpeg Interior of room 7 in the Annexe showing an original six-over-six sash window and the fireplace converted to a safe - view south-west.
- 013.jpeg Interior of room 6 in the Annexe showing the later brick fire surround on the original chimney breast - view north-east.
- 014.jpeg Interior of room 5 in the Annexe with an original six-over-six sash window and a modern computer server in the foreground - view north.
- 015.jpeg Interior of room 1 in the Annexe showing one of the blocked fireplaces and the inserted doorway to room 6 - view south-east.
- 016.jpeg Interior of room 1 in the Annexe showing the original six-over-six sash windows - view north-east.
- 017.jpeg View into the entrance hall of the Annexe with the front door to the rear - view north.
- 018.jpeg Interior of room 2 of the Annexe showing the original six-over-six sash windows - view north-east.
- 019.jpeg Altered doorway between rooms 2 and 3 of the Annexe - view east.
- 020.jpeg Detail of chamfered brick jamb to original doorway between rooms 2 and 3 of the Annexe.
- 021.jpeg Blocked chimney in room 3 of the Annexe, either reduced in width when the doorways to each side were inserted or intended to house the flue for a stove rather than a fire place - view north-east.
- 022.jpeg Interior of room 3 in the Annexe showing the altered doorway to room 2 - view south-west.
- 023.jpeg Interior of room 4 of the Annexe showing the inserted doorways to room 3 - view north-west.
- 024.jpeg Interior of room 11 in the Annexe - view west.
- 025.jpeg Interior of room 11 in the Annexe - view east.
- 026.jpeg One of the blocked fireplaces in room 11 of the Annexe - view south.
- 027.jpeg Remains of former dividing walls in room 11 of the Annexe.
- 028.jpeg Interior of room 12 of the Annexe with the built-in safe in the corner of the room - view south-east.
- 029.jpeg North elevation of FLG 2 - view south.
- 030.jpeg North elevation of FLG 2 - view south-east.
- 031.jpeg South elevation of FLG 2 with later building to the right - view north-west.
- 032.jpeg South elevation of FLG 2 - view north-west.
- 033.jpeg Main entrance to FLG 2 with stepped surround - view south.
- 034.jpeg Construction date of 1938 recorded in apex of pediment to north elevation of FLG 2 - view south.
- 035.jpeg Interior of room 3 of FLG 2 showing the original metal-framed casement windows - view north-west.
- 036.jpeg Interior of room 5 of FLG 2 showing one of the metal-framed casement windows of the south elevation and the passage way leading to toilet block 6 and under-stairs cupboard 7 - view south-west.
- 037.jpeg Interior of room 3 of FLG 2 showing the metal-framed windows and back door of the south elevation - view south.
- 038.jpeg Iron grill in front of back door in room 3 of FLG 2, possibly intended for access to the heating system.
- 039.jpeg Stairs to first floor of FLG 2 - view south.
- 040.jpeg Detail of original handle to metal-framed window in FLG 2.
- 041.jpeg Building adjoining FLG 2 - view south-east.
- 042.jpeg Building adjoining FLG 2 - view south-west.
- 043.jpeg Interior of building adjoining FLG 2 showing doorway inserted through east wall of FLG 2 providing access to room 5 - view south-west.
- 044.jpeg North and west elevations of building 3 with the west elevation of building 3a to the right - view south-east.

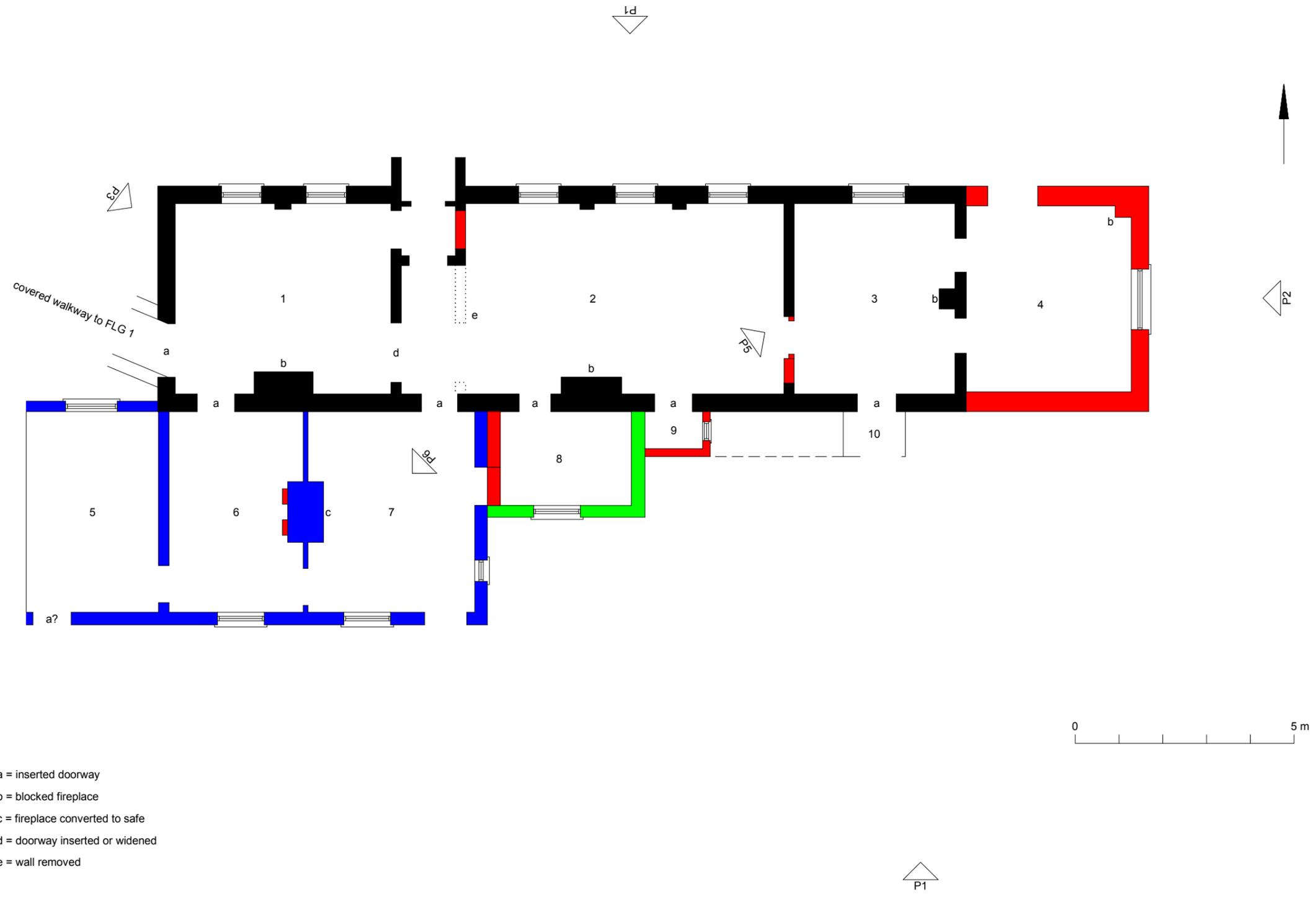
- 045.jpeg North and east elevations of building 3 with the east elevation of building 3a to the left - view south-west.
- 046.jpeg Wagon entrance in west elevation of building 3 with jambs constructed from blue brick with rounded edges - view east.
- 047.jpeg Wagon entrance in east elevation of building 3 with jambs constructed from blue brick with rounded edges (later outbuilding to the right) - view west.
- 048.jpeg Detail of granite lintel above brick buttress in north elevation of building 3.
- 049.jpeg Interior of building 3 showing the flat girder-supported roof - view east.
- 050.jpeg Interior of building 3 - view north-east.
- 051.jpeg Interior of building 3 showing the metal-framed windows, the sliding doors to the wagon entrance and the drainage gully running down the centre of the floor - view north-west.
- 052.jpeg Interior of building 3 showing the doorways in the south wall blocked and converted to windows - view south-west.
- 053.jpeg Detail of metal-framed window in building 3.
- 054.jpeg Interior of building 3a showing the timber roof trusses sitting on the south wall of building 3a to the left and the boundary wall to the right - view north-east.
- 055.jpeg Interior of building 3a showing the timber roof trusses sitting on the south wall of building 3a to the left and the boundary wall and north wall of FLG 17 to the right - view east.
- 056.jpeg Interior of building 3a showing the timber roof trusses sitting on the south wall of building 3a to the right - view north-west.
- 057.jpeg Interior of building 3a showing the timber roof trusses sitting on the south wall of building 3a to the right and the north wall of FLG 17 to the left - view west.
- 058.jpeg Metal-framed window in west wall of building 3a - view west.
- 059.jpeg Window in north wall of FLG 17, partially obscured by the construction of building 3a - view south.
- 060.jpeg Blocked doorway in south wall of building 3 as seen from building 3a - view north.
- 061.jpeg Detail of parquet flooring in building 3a.
- 062.jpeg West elevation of FLG 10 and 11 and south elevation of FLG 10 - view north-east.
- 063.jpeg West elevation of FLG 10 and 11 showing the windows inserted to the wall when the height of the building was increased - view south-east.
- 064.jpeg South elevation of the building adjoining FLG 10 showing a window blocked when FLG 10 was raised in height - view north-east.
- 065.jpeg East elevation of FLG 11 and 10 showing the completely rebuilt east wall with sliding doors and metal-framed windows - view north-west.
- 066.jpeg Window inserted into west elevation of FLG 10 when the height of the building was increased, subsequently partially blocked - view east.
- 067.jpeg Original granite-lined drainage gully extending the length of the east elevation to FLG 10 and 11 with the scars of removed iron-bound concrete kerbs visible to its right - view south.
- 068.jpeg Interior of FLG 11 showing the geometric-pattern steel roof trusses supporting the diagonal sarking boards and the badminton court painted on the floor - view north-west.
- 069.jpeg Interior of FLG 11 showing the blocked doorways to FLG 10 and the sliding doors of the rebuilt east wall - view north-east.
- 070.jpeg Interior of FLG 11 - view south-east.
- 071.jpeg Interior of FLG 11 - view south-west.
- 072.jpeg Detail of one of the metal-framed windows inserted to FLG 10 and 11.
- 073.jpeg Framework for the sliding doors in FLG 11 - view east.
- 074.jpeg Interior of FLG 10 - view south-west.
- 075.jpeg Interior of FLG 10 showing the blocked doorways to FLG 11 - view south-east.
- 076.jpeg Interior of FLG 10 showing the caged storage area at the north end of the building - view north-east.
- 077.jpeg Interior of FLG 10 showing the caged storage area at the north end of the building - view north-west.
- 078.jpeg Detail of the diagonal sarking boards under the slates of the roof of FLG 10.
- 079.jpeg Framework for the sliding doors in FLG 10 - view east.
- 080.jpeg Doorway in north wall of FLG 10 connecting FLG 10 to adjoining building - view north.
- 081.jpeg West elevation of FLG 12 and 13 - view north-east.
- 082.jpeg North and west elevations of FLG 12 and 13 - view south-east.
- 083.jpeg North elevation of FLG 12 showing the demolished outbuilding - view south-east.
- 083.jpeg North elevation of FLG 12 showing the demolished outbuilding - view south-east.
- 084.jpeg Original wagon doors to FLG 13 - view east.
- 085.jpeg Granite-lined drainage gully with iron-bound concrete kerbs in front of the wagon doors to FLG 13 - view north-east.
- 086.jpeg Interior of room 1 of FLG 12 (post arson attack) - view east.
- 087.jpeg Interior of room 2 of FLG 12 with sound absorbing panels fitted to the walls and ceiling - view south-east.

- 088.jpeg Interior of room 2 of FLG 12 with sound absorbing panels fitted to the walls and ceiling - view south-west.
- 089.jpeg Interior of FLG 13 - view south-east.
- 090.jpeg Interior of FLG 13 showing the geometric-pattern steel roof trusses supporting diagonal sarking boards - view north.
- 091.jpeg Geometric-pattern steel roof trusses supporting diagonal sarking boards in FLG 13, identical to the roof arrangement in FLG 10 and 11 - view south-west.
- 092.jpeg Interior of the wagon doors in FLG 13 showing alternate pairs of doors to be half-glazed - view south-west.
- 093.jpeg Detail of iron-bound concrete fender on the interior of FLG 13.
- 094.jpeg Internal face of original wagon doors in FLG 13 - view west.
- 095.jpeg Internal face of original half-glazed wagon doors in FLG 13 - view west.



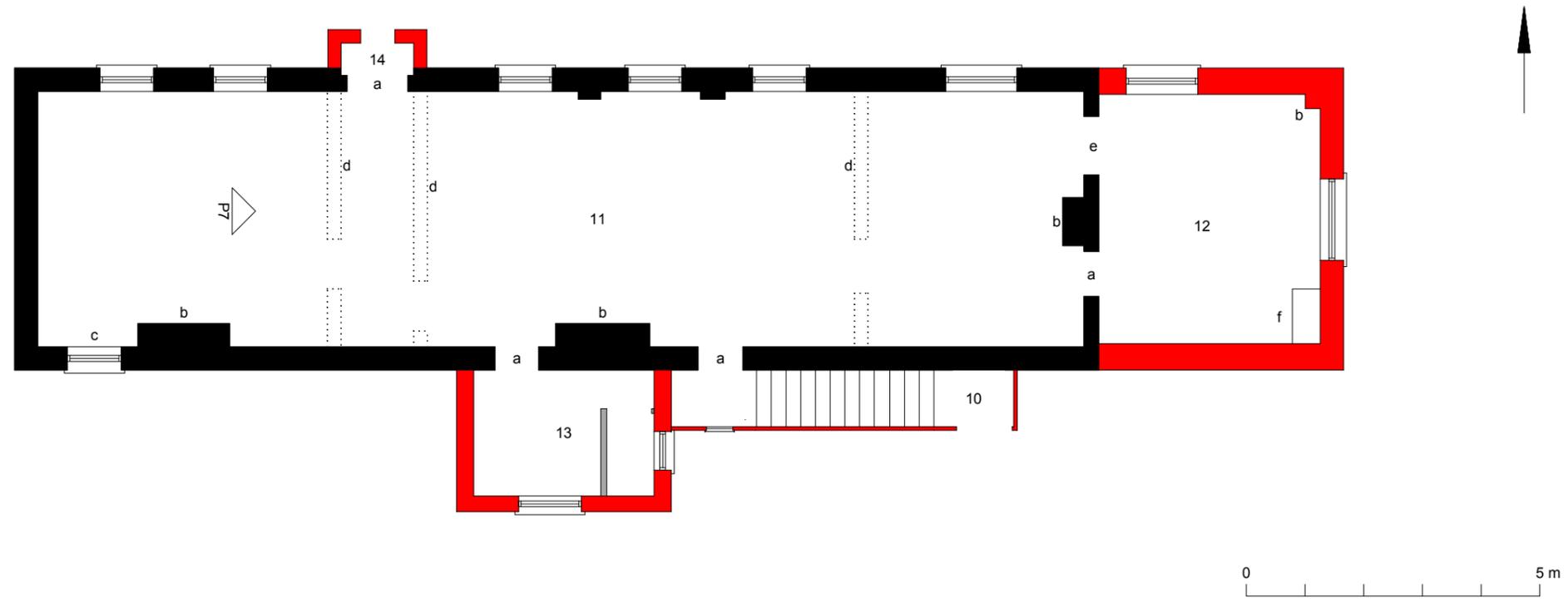
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Fig 1 Site location and block plan with surveyed buildings shaded grey.



- Phase 1
  - Phase 2
  - Phase 3
  - Phase 4
- a = inserted doorway
  - b = blocked fireplace
  - c = fireplace converted to safe
  - d = doorway inserted or widened
  - e = wall removed

Fig 2 Ground floor plan of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.



- |           |                       |                          |
|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| ■ Phase 1 | a = inserted doorway  | d = former dividing wall |
| ■ Phase 4 | b = blocked fireplace | e = inserted hatch       |
|           | c = inserted window   | f = safe                 |

Fig 3 First floor plan of the Annex, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.

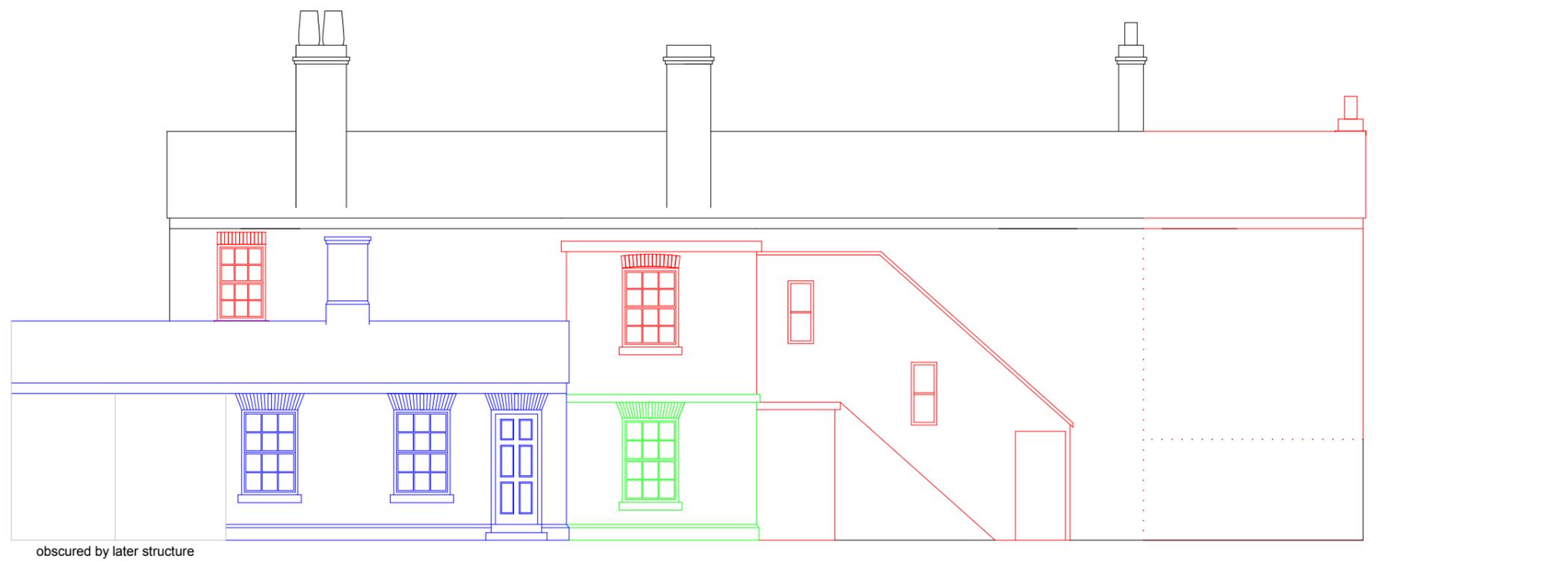


obscured by  
later structure

0 5 m

- Phase 1
- Phase 3

Fig 4 North elevation of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.



- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4

Fig 5 South elevation of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.



- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4

Fig 6 East elevation of the Annexe, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.

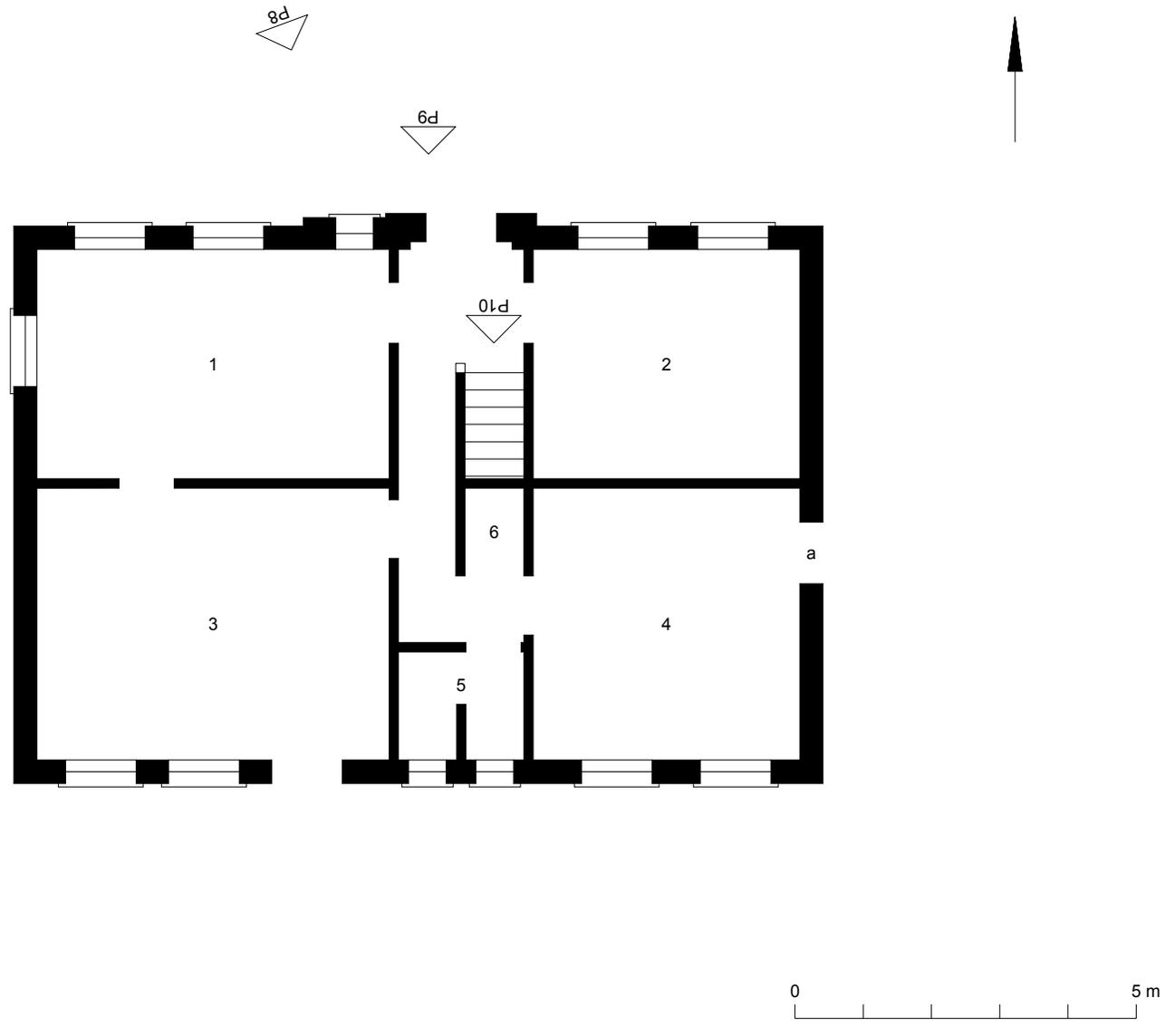
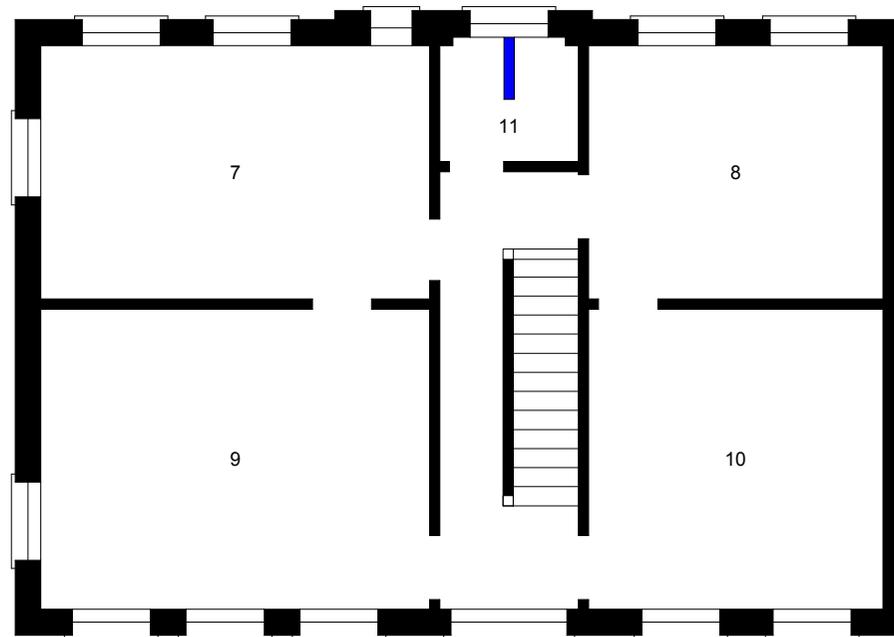


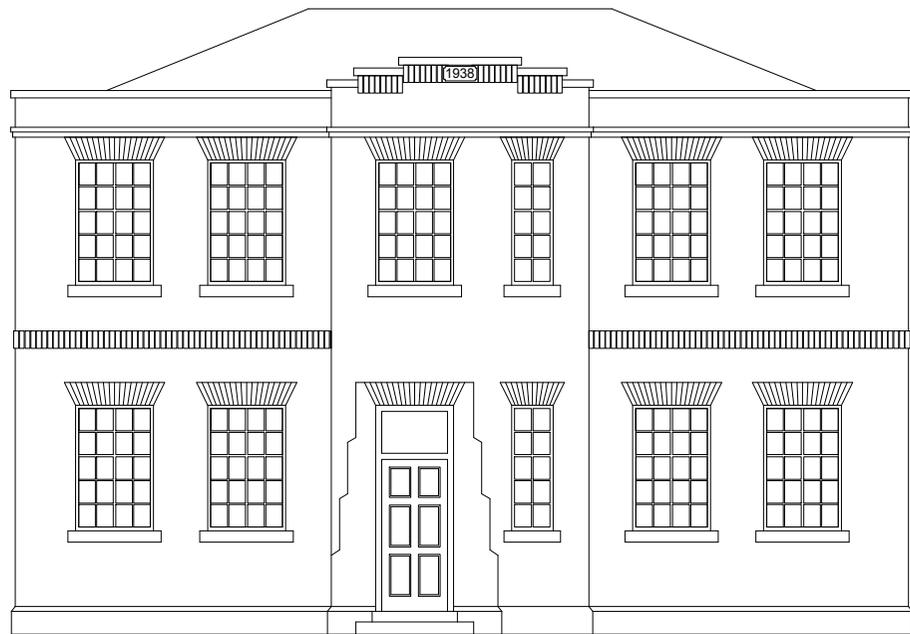
Fig 7 Ground floor plan of FLG 2, with the original fabric shown black.  
 The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.



- Phase 1
- Phase 2

0 5 m

Fig 8 First floor plan of FLG 2, with the original fabric shown black.



0 5 m

Fig 9 North elevation of FLG 2.



Fig 10 South elevation of FLG 2.



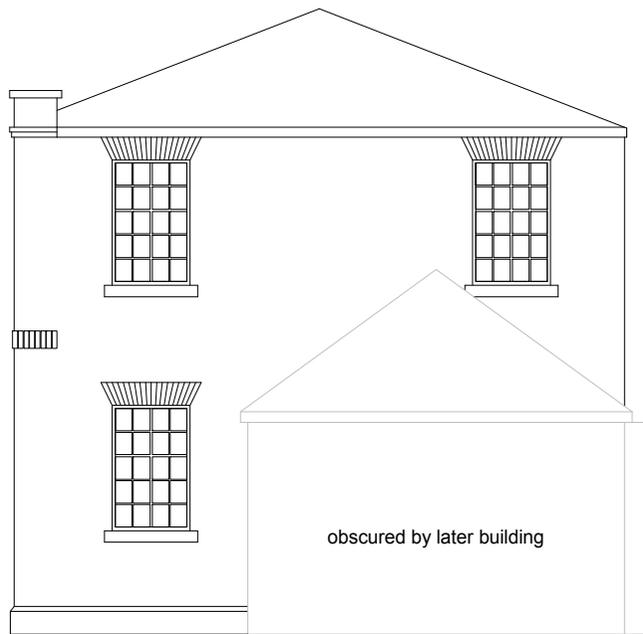


Fig 11 West elevation of FLG 2.

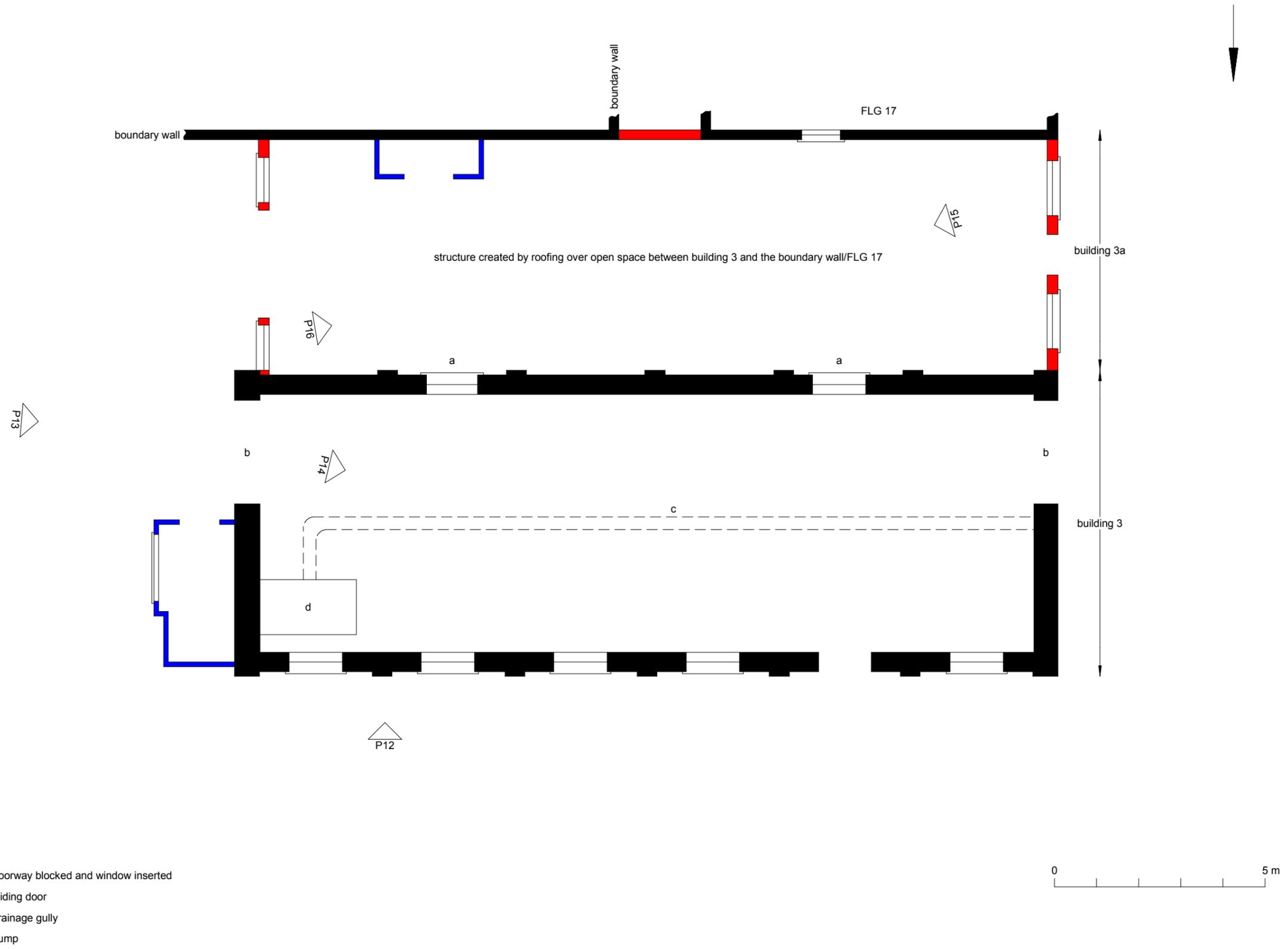
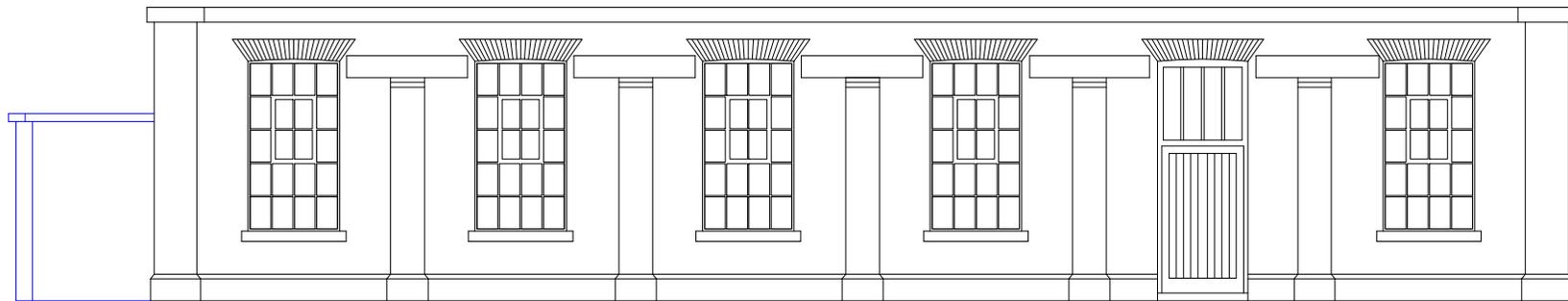


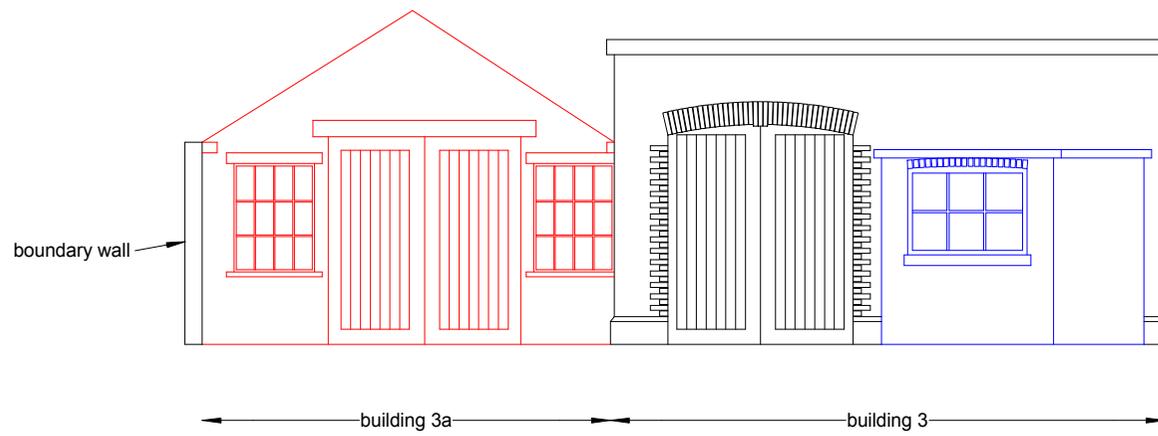
Fig 12 Plan of buildings 3 and 3a, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.  
The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.



- Phase 1
- Phase 2



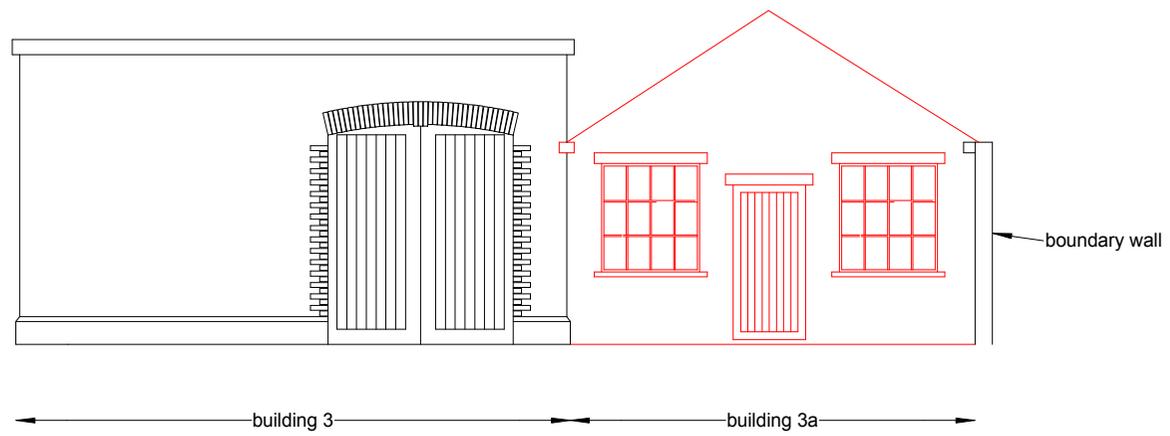
Fig 13 North elevation of building 3.



- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3



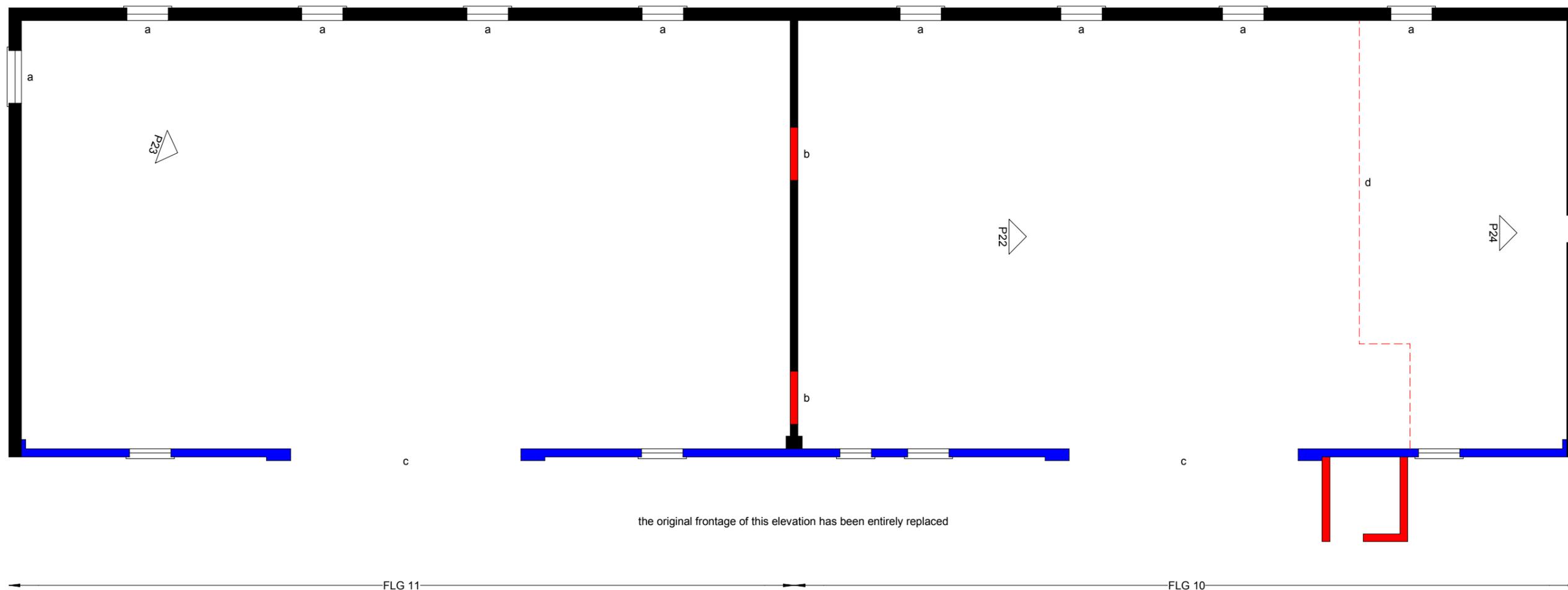
Fig 14 East elevation of building 3 and 3a.



- Phase 1
- Phase 3



Fig 15 West elevation of building 3 and 3a.



the original frontage of this elevation has been entirely replaced

FLG 11

FLG 10



- Phase 1
  - Phase 2
  - Phase 3
- a = inserted window
  - b = blocked doorway
  - c = sliding doors
  - d = timber and wire cage
  - e = doorway from adjoining building

0 5 m

Fig 16 Plan of FLG 10 and 11, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.  
The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.

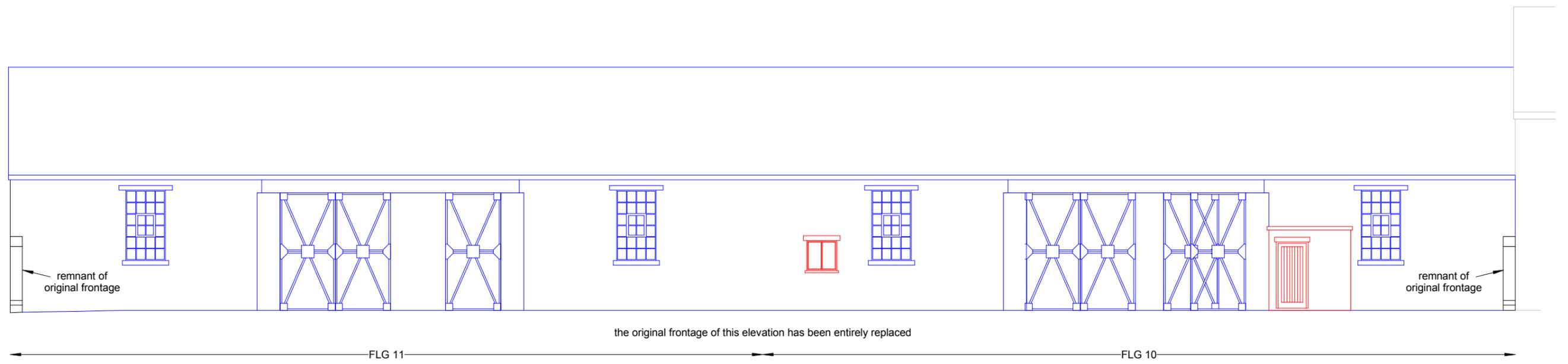
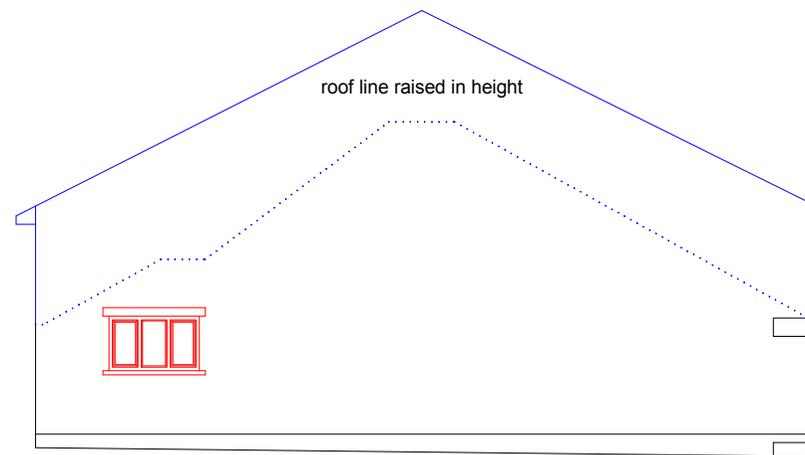


Fig 17 East elevation of FLG 10 and 11.





- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3



Fig 19 South elevation of FLG 11.



- Phase 1
  - Phase 2
  - Phase 3
- a = iron-bound concrete fender
  - b = original wagon doors
  - c = original wagon door openings replaced by brick infill

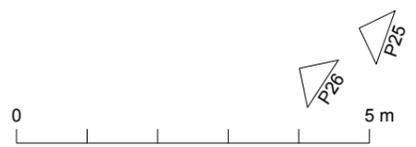
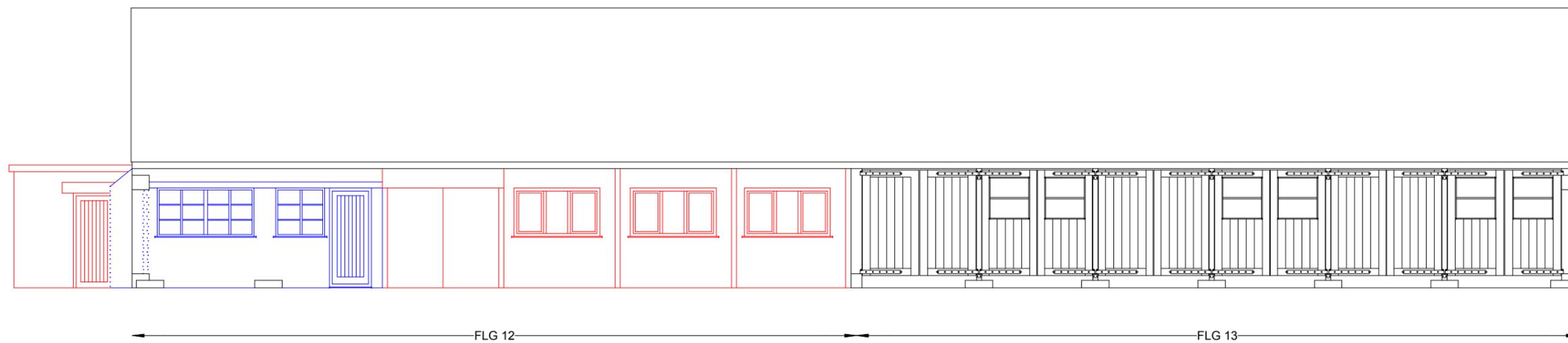


Fig 20 Plan of FLG 12 and 13, with the original fabric shown black and subsequent phases coloured.  
 The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.



- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3

0 5 m

Fig 21 West elevation of FLG 12 and 13.

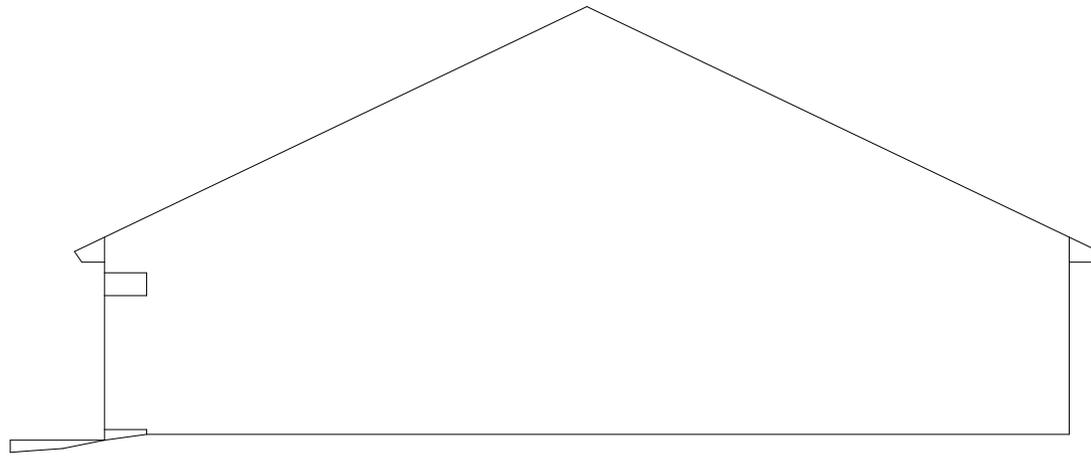
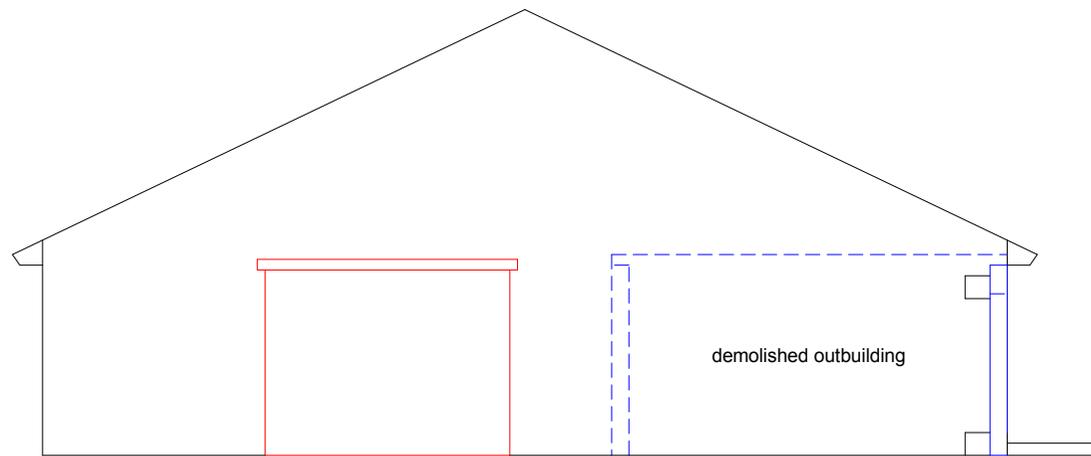


Fig 22 South elevation of FLG 13.



- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3



Fig 23 North elevation of FLG 12.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Flagstaff complex, Flagstaff Road, Colchester Garrison, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9976 2458 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project – 14/10g Museum accession – 2014.110
<b>Type of work:</b> Building recording	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> November 2014	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> n/a
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Monitored by:</b> Alistair Day of Colchester Borough Council	
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b>	CAT Report 819
<b>Periods represented:</b>	19th-20th century
<b>Summary:</b>  <i>A programme of historic building recording was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust on eight buildings at the Flagstaff complex, part of the decommissioned holdings of Colchester Garrison in November 2014. Construction started on the Flagstaff complex in 1868 and the complex originally served as the headquarters offices and stores for the garrison. The structures included in the historic building record comprise the 'Annexe', a late 19th-century building used as offices; FLG 2, an office block dating to 1938; FLG 10, 11, 12 and 13, wagon sheds dating to c1900; and a pair of brick sheds, designated buildings 3 and 3a for the purposes of this report, which also date to c1900. The work was commissioned by Martyn Lewis on behalf of Taylor Wimpey.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>Keywords:</b> ordnance depot	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Chris Lister	<b>Date of summary:</b> May 2015