

**A Revised Archaeological Interpretative Survey of  
Stantons Farm House, East Chilington, East Sussex**

**Commissioned by Amanda Inglis**

**Project Ref. 2593**



**by  
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# STANDING BUILDINGS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIVE SURVEYS

### AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

#### ABOUT THESE SURVEYS

The intended purpose of an *Archaeological Interpretative Survey* is to give an overview of the date, sequence of construction, and principal architectural features of a building. As such, they should not be regarded as a detailed archaeological record, nor should they be taken as definitive. Further research, particularly that undertaken during building works, is likely to refine and extend the archaeological record.

These reports are aimed at three groups of user, namely those owners who wish to know more about their property, those persons (architects and planners) who are charged with the responsibility for both conserving the buildings and ensuring that they are carefully adapted to the needs of the future, and finally the academic carrying out wider historical or archaeological research,. A secure use for the future is, in our opinion, the only way of ensuring the long-term survival of any historical building.

#### INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUE

Unless noted to the contrary, the assessments involve a visual inspection of the fabric, both internally and externally, including any accessible roof voids and basement areas. Except where building works are being carried out, intrusive techniques are inappropriate. Interpretation of the fabric and fittings therefore relies principally upon inspection of the visible evidence. As part of the interpretative procedure, a measured outline survey of every property is undertaken.

#### THE WRITTEN REPORT

For ease of reference the written reports are divided into sections under a series of headings and sub-headings. The typical sequence of headings is as follows:-

- 1 Location of the building.
- 2 Sequence of development.
- 3 Detailed architectural description, arranged period-by-period.

#### THE DRAWINGS

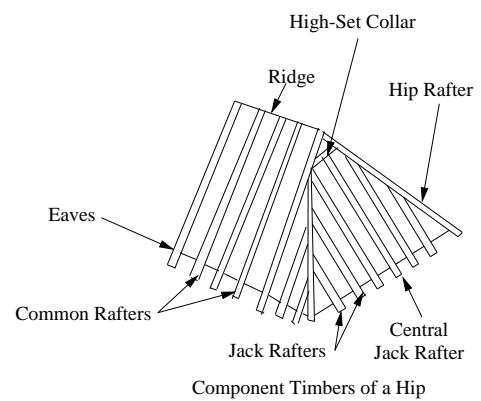
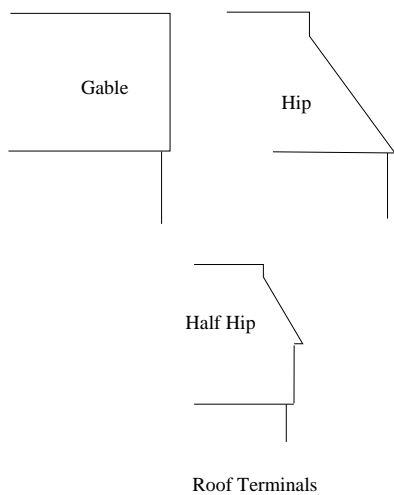
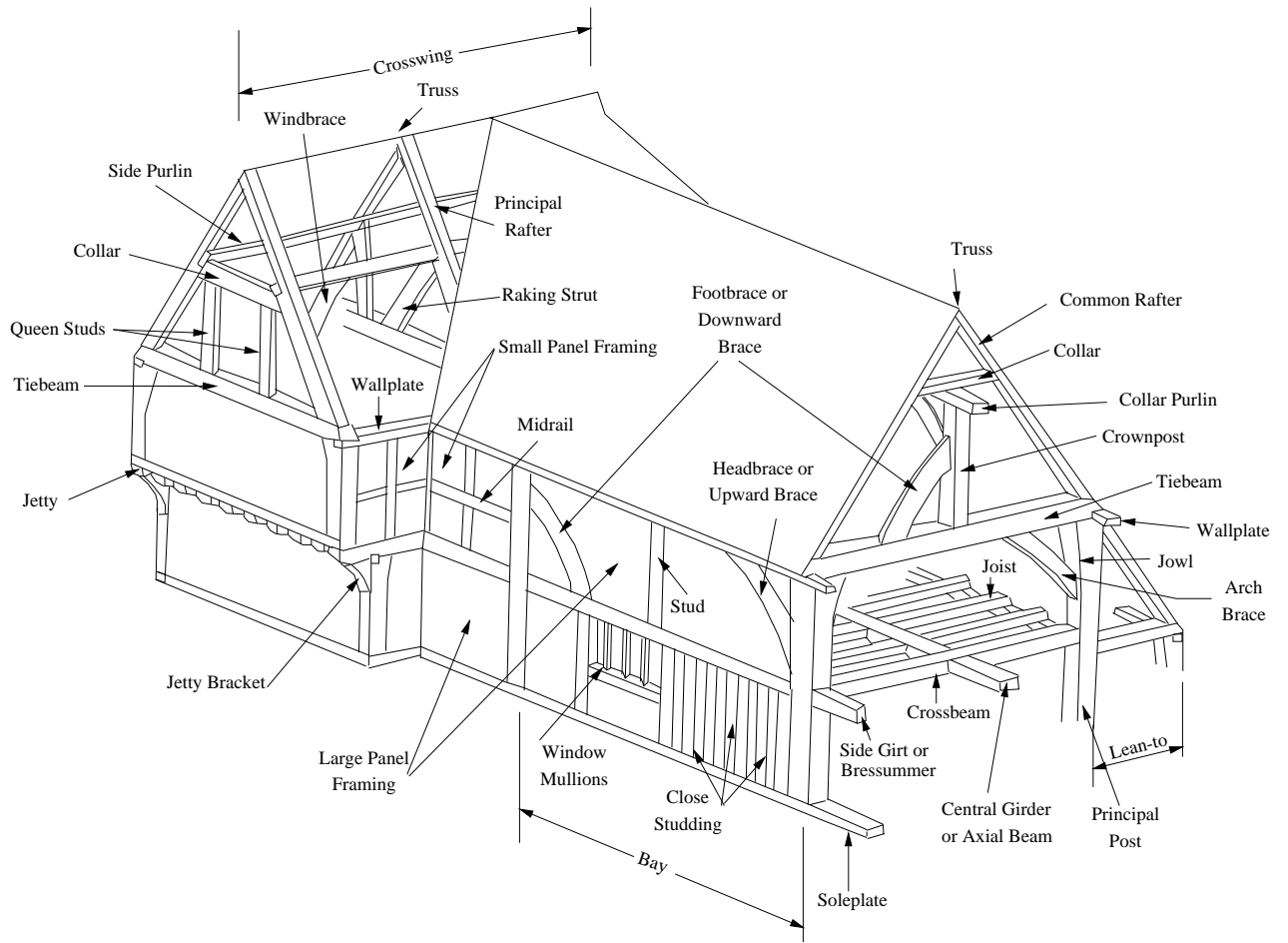
A set of drawings produced from an measured outline survey is included within the body of each report. The purpose of these drawings is to identify the features included within the written text and to illustrate, as far as is known, the form of the structure during its various stages of development. For clarity the drawings have been prepared in the form of scale 'sketches', rather than detailed archaeological record drawings. For reasons of economy, the making of detailed archaeological drawings is restricted to stripped-out or exceptionally important buildings.

The symbols as used in the drawings attached to this report are as follows:

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

#### OTHER CONVENTIONS USED -

- 1 Doors are shown in plan only where known: hence rooms may appear to have no obvious means of access.
- 2 With the exception of rafters, wallplates, and some chimneys and roof-lines, sections show features cut by or immediately adjacent to the cutting line only.



## GLOSSARY OF PRINCIPAL TERMS



**REPORT NO. 1631**  
**(Revised August 2006)**

**EAST CHILTINGTON - STANTONS FARM HOUSE**

**NGR TQ 3712 1491**

**LIMITATIONS OF THIS REVISED REPORT**

As with all interpretative surveys of this type, the purpose of this report is to give a reliable overview of the age, form and development of the building based upon the available visible information (*see* 'Archaeological Interpretative Surveys, An Introductory Note' above). The amount which can be deduced about any given building relies upon the degree of historical fabric visible and the complexity of the building's development. In the case of Stantons Farm House, when first inspected in April 2006 very little historic fabric was visible below roof level. That which was indicated that the building reuses within its initial build a substantial quantity of secondhand material from a single source. Furthermore, the available data also indicated that Stantons was not a building of standard layout. As a result, the initial report gave the age, form and subsequent development of the building as then understood and indicated areas where doubt existed. It was stressed that details contained within those parts of the historic fabric then hidden from view would almost certainly add much to the understanding of this building.

A major programme of repair and restoration followed the April 2006 visit and by early August 2006 most of the modern coverings had been stripped out, revealing considerable additional fabric. On 9th August these additional details were added to the record. The extra data has been fully taken into account in the preparation of this present revised report. It has not only greatly enhanced the original record, but has in some instances modified the initial interpretation.

The Martins wish to thank Brenda and Elphin Watkin for their assistance in undertaking the additional recording and for their much valued input into the debates regarding the building's sequence of development.

**LOCATION AND BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTE**

Stantons Farm is situated approximately 0.15 of a mile to the SSE of East Chiltington Church and stands on the eastern side of a farm track, at right angles to it. It is built upon a ENE-WSW axis (hereafter assumed E-W) with its original principal elevation facing north towards the church and principal means of approach, though the current access is



from the south, past the farm's four-bay single-aisled barn of late 16th-century date. Opposite the house, on the western side of the farm track, is a two-storeyed timber-framed building of probably early 17th-century date, recently restored.

The farm forms part of the demesne of the manor of Chiltington *alias* Stanton's, which in 1449 was owned by John Ledys [Leedes]. The manor remained with his descendants until 1548 when John and Agnes Leeds conveyed it to Nicholas Chaloner. The Chaloners owned Chapel House, next to the church, and, according to Victoria County History (quoting Horsfield's, *History of Sussex*, i, 236) a younger branch of the family lived at Stanton's. Nicholas's younger son, Nicholas (died 1612) almost certainly carried out the alterations to the house, and a drawing made by S. H. Grimm in ?1787 includes a detail of a now lost coat of arms bearing the initials 'N C' and the date 1570. With the older branch of the family living at Chapel House, Stanton's continued as the home of the younger branch, Nicholas the younger being succeeded by his son, Francis (died 1624). In 1662 two Chaloners were assessed in the hearth tax under Chiltington Parish - Ann Chaloner, widow, assessed at 8 flues, and Nicholas Chaloner, gent. assessed at 4 flues. Ann most likely lived at Chapel House, and Stanton's is most likely represented by the entry for Nicholas. Nicholas, great grandson of Francis, sold the property to Michael Marten in 1714 and it was that family who still owned it when Grimm visited. [Victoria County History of Sussex, 7 (1940), 99-100; John Farrant 'Sussex Depicted' (2001), 193; M J Burchall, 'Sussex Hearth Tax Assessments 1662, Part 1. Lewes Rape. (1980) 25]

## OVERVIEW OF THE BUILDING [Drawing No. 1631/1]

In its present form Stanton's is a long, low structure consisting of a five-bay main range which has been extended subsequently to both west and east. Located centrally within the main (north) elevation of the five-bay part is a two-storeyed porch, whilst to the rear, slightly west of centre, is a narrow but relatively long two-storeyed projecting turret, with a pair of later rear ranges to its west. These latter two ranges are of the same age as the main range's western extension and date from the second half of the 18th century. Even so, they had already been added when S. H. Grimm illustrated the house in c1787 [BL Add Mss 5672, Fol. 19 (33)].

When initially viewed in April 2006 it was considered that the [Period A] main five-bay body of the house, with its crownposts, was built late in the 15th century, though fabric exposed subsequently indicates that this date was ambitious. Instead, it dates from the middle years of the 16th century, having most likely been built during the quarter century 1550-1575. It incorporates the roof, tiebeams and arcade plates from a large, high-status, though relatively plain aisled or quasi-aisled building, probably of late 14th-century date [pre Period A]. This reuse of material does not explain the crownposts - these were only incorporated when the roof was reused. The source of the secondhand material is not



known: one obvious candidate would be a redundant building within the precincts of the nearby dissolved Cluniac Priory of Lewes, though this is only one of a number of possibilities. With the exception of one crossbeam, all material which has been viewed below the level of the roof seems to have been purpose cut for the period-A building. In width the present building is of the same span as the 'nave' of that from which the secondhand material has been derived, and consequently the rafter couples have been reused without adaptation. However, there is sufficient evidence from the reused arcade plates to indicate that the original bay divisions have not been replicated. The earlier building was of at least five-and-a-half bays long, and probably extended to at least six bays.

When the present house was constructed in the mid 16th century [**Period A**] it was fully timber framed and consisted of five bays of approximately equal length. Although the earlier roof design was retained within the building, it was nevertheless adapted to incorporate crownposts, the braces of which cannibalize the arch braces from the earlier building. It is this use of crownposts which initially suggested an earlier date for the period-A work, though, now more of the structure is visible, there is ample evidence within the design of the wall frames and first-floor joisting to prove that this date was ambitious. Why crownposts were incorporated at such a late date remains unanswered - was it because the present location represents the second time the roof has been reused, or did the carpenter consider that crownposts were appropriate when reusing an old roof of this type? Each of the five crownposts were designed to be of 'partition type' and, with the exception of one, all were infilled with partitions. The western roof bay is heavily sooted and this bay was originally partially open from ground to roof, though part was floored and another part appears to have incorporated some form of partially enclosed hearth area. Sooting within the roof of the adjacent bay is the result of the smoke having been allowed to drift in from the partly open bay, through the open roof truss. Despite this roof truss being open, there was always a partition between the two bays at first-floor level. The remainder of the roof is clean of soot. The present attic floors represent later insertions, and thus the roof was visible from the first-floor chambers below. The internal layout of period-A range is not that of a standard house. What is clear is that the present five bays represent the total length of the structure as built during period A, though a first-floor external doorway and empty mortices evidenced within the front wall suggest that it was either linked to a now totally demolished range, or perhaps a small external stair turret giving access to the accommodation within the eastern half. Indeed, as with regards both circulation and use there is a clear split between the two ends of the structure, with good quality accommodation within the eastern part (including a large - probably heated - parlour-like ground-floor room) and service areas within the western half. Thus, the building should be seen either as serving a secondary function to a now lost main house, probably set back from, but built parallel to the road, or alternatively it functioned as a stand alone lodge for occasional use. If there was a main house upon the site, what cannot be told is whether the surviving building should be regarded as a wing connected directly to the main house, or whether it was detached from it,



At an early period in the building's history [**Period B**] first-floor ceilings were inserted into all but the western bay, a roof partition was added into the crownpost truss dividing this western bay from its neighbour, an axial chimney was inserted upon the site of the earlier hearth, the western gable of the roof was adapted to hipped type, and a short end lean-to outshut was built beyond the new hip. The western bay continued to be partially open so as to house some form of hearth or apparatus incorporating a fire, and smoking chambers were incorporated into the areas adjacent to the new chimney, but from this time onwards the smoke from these was restricted to the western bay only. Indeed, the upper chamber adjacent to the western bay had been upgraded in status and was now served by its own fireplace.

The most significant alterations to the building followed on from the period-B modifications with little delay, being datable either to the late 16th century, or, perhaps, the very beginning of the 17th century [**Period C**]. A drawing of the north front, made by S. H. Grimm in *c*1787, includes a detail of a plaque (now lost) bearing the date 1570 above the Chaloner arms, which are flanked by the initials 'N C' for Nicholas Chaloner [BL Add Mss 5672, Fol. 19 (33)]. This date fits the architectural details of the period-C alterations and perhaps commemorates the date at which they were carried out, though it should be borne in mind that the context of the plaque is unknown and it could equally well have related to the period-A or period-B works, or perhaps to another now lost building upon the site. Regardless of their date, the period-C alterations were of considerable significance, for they mark the point in time at which the present building was converted into a house. Despite the change of use, the alterations to the main structure were quite minimal, involving changes to the internal circulation pattern and to the fenestration only. These were accompanied by the addition of a central porch and a rear turret-like range, the latter housing a stair and other small rooms/chambers. Both additions incorporate West-Midlands style decorative wall framing.

During the first half of the 17th century [**Period D**] an eastern end chimney was built to replace an (assumed) rear chimney, serving the sized-down and re-vamped parlour. The residue of the parlour now formed a small un-heated inner room with a passage to the side. Beneath was intruded a cellar (since enlarged) entered via steps located beneath a new staircase located within the rear part of the enlarged entrance area. The present staircase in this area represent a modern replacement made since 1940 (*see* below).

Already by *c*1787, when Grimm made his drawing of the house, the present brick-built western extension had been added, though from the architectural details it must at that date have been very new. The addition involved the construction of a spacious end kitchen heated by an in-built inglenook located against the western wall. The kitchen extends back into a contemporary western rear wing, and this is an original feature of the addition. On the first floor the kitchen chamber extends eastwards to incorporate the western period-A bay (E-F) and behind it, within the western rear range, is a separate chamber.



The walls of the extension are of brick, built in grey-header bond in the front elevation and Flemish bond in the western end wall. Although the roof lacks a ridge board, it is of typical late construction, built off heavy wallplates laid in level assembly and having nailed-in collars to each rafter couple. A plank nailed across the collars helps prevent racking. Between the western rear range and the period-C turret is a second rear range, also of late 18th-century date, and between this and the turret was a very short section of rear lean-to. The latter is now raised to two storeys, though the line of its lean-to roof is still visible internally in the finishing of the side walls. The roof over the second of the two 18th-century rear ranges is largely constructed of reused material from the western hip and southern slope of the adjacent medieval roof.

There have been a number of 19th- and 20th-century alterations and extensions, which include a single-storeyed eastern addition (replaced 2006) an upper storey built over the short rear lean-to outshut between the turret and late 18th-century rear ranges, rebuilding a section of the south wall of the main range in brick-dressed flint, and other areas of brick underbuilding. The south wall still encapsulates a small residual section of clunch walling, which appears to represent the last vestiges of the (assumed) period-A rear chimney. Modifications to the internal layout include removal of the ground-floor partitions within the eastern two bays, replacing the 17th-century staircase with a modern version upon the same site, and removing first-floor partitions within this general staircase area. In April 2006 most internal framing was hidden from view by plaster coverings, but these were stripped out in June 2006. The house is currently undergoing an extensive programme of repair, restoration and alteration.

All work carried out since period D is excluded from the more detailed architectural description which follows.

## **LISTED STATUS OF THE BUILDING**

Stantons Farmhouse was listed grade II on 17th March 1952, its listed building reference being TQ31 SE 9/196. The description in the list entry is purely for the purpose of recognition and is normally, therefore, primarily based on external appearance: in this instance the description is augmented by details mentioned in VCH 7. The date of construction is given as 1570 (now known to be in error). [Source: English Heritage, Images of England - website]. The description must not be treated as a comprehensive schedule of those elements which are legally protected as, no matter what the grade, the legislative cover not only relates to both the interior and exterior, but also extends to any building within the curtilage which predates the 1st July 1948.



## DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

### THE SECONDHAND MATERIAL WITHIN THE PERIOD-A BUILDING [Drawing Nos. 1631/2A and 2B]

As noted within the overview, the roof of the present building has been reused from an earlier structure and, despite having been adapted to incorporate crownposts supporting a collar purlin, this earlier roof retains its original span and most of its original integrity. Indeed, so little alteration was made to it when reused, it was initially difficult to ascertain whether the building had been heavily altered, but remained *in situ*, or whether the material had indeed been reused from a demolished structure. What is very obvious is that none of the principal posts originated from the original building - they have mortices for footbraces and midrails, not for headbraces as indicated by the reused tiebeams and plates. Additionally, they are of a lesser quality. Despite most of the fabric having been exposed to view when inspected in August 2006, apart from the crossbeam to truss D-D, no reused material has been noted below tiebeam/wallplate level.

Proof that the material has been reused from a demolished building is to be found in the details of the wallplates - particularly the northern wallplate. Both contain two phases of mortices for former timber-framing beneath. Of course, these two phases of mortices need not indicate secondhand material - it could indicate a redesign of the wall framing whilst retaining the roof *in situ*. That this is not the case is indicated by a number of features. Within bay C-D (against the period-C porch chamber) the soffit of the wallplate is fully visible, and here one mortice for the mullion of an unglazed window has been purpose cut in modified form in order to avoid an adjacent existing (but redundant) brace mortice. This indicates that the window is later in date than the brace mortice, but pre-dates the addition of the porch during period C. In itself, this does not prove whether the material is reused from a demolished building. What does prove this point is the fact that the wallplate incorporates a number of large redundant pegged mortice for former main structural timbers with, above each, a blocked dovetail for a former tiebeam - one of these is over the unglazed window. This interpretation of the evidence as former truss positions is confirmed by the fact that the chamfered lower leading edge of the plate was formerly stopped on either side of the mortices, and was only continued through when the plate was reused in its present location. The same features are recognizable in the southern plate, but here the visible details are far more fragmentary. These facts are important: it not only confirms that the present wallplates are reused (and therefore the building has been demolished) but also indicate that when re-erected the original bay rhythm was not reused, but the bay lengths were instead altered to suit the requirements of the new building. When viewed in April 2006 the two visible sections of northern wallplate were short and were isolated from one another, making it impossible to ascertain the bay lengths of the



original building. With the northern wallplate fully exposed throughout its length in August 2006 it was possible to demonstrate that the plate originates either from a building of five or more near-equal length bays with a cantilevered tiebeam at one end or - more likely - from a building of six or more near-equal length bays. Based upon the 5½ or more bay scenario the original building can be shown to have been at least 20.00 metres (65'7") long: using the six or more bay scenario it was at least 22.25 metres (73'0") long. Given the dimensions of the original building, the bay lengths were surprisingly short, averaging 3.70 metres (12' 2") measured centre to centre (*see* Drawing No. 1631/2B).

Bearing in mind that the bay lengths of the original structure can now be ascertained, what else can be told regarding the form of the demolished building? From the location of the mortices in the soffit of the western tiebeam (F-F) and from its inferior finish it would appear that this tiebeam originated from a different building of greater width, whilst the other five tiebeams are from the same structure as the reused roof. Of these, the eastern (A-A) originates from an end wall or partition, with mouldings on one face only. The remaining four (B-B, C-C, D-D and E-E) are from open trusses. They are cambered, moulded, and have inset mortices for former cornice beams. In each case the side mouldings return at the cornice mortices, indicating that the cornices were likewise moulded. As with the present building, the span was 5.50 metres (18'1") overall the plates. Ignoring tiebeam F-F, all of the tiebeams (including that from the end wall or partition) have chamfered nibs which terminate at mortices for former arch braces, and in all cases the nib is interrupted at mid span by a pegged mortice for former pendant posts, no doubt each decorated at its base with an emblem.

The above data is wholly consistent with the details recoverable from the five surviving roof trusses (A-A, B-B, C-C, D-D and E-E). Any similar truss at F-F was destroyed when this end of the roof was rebuilt as a hip during period B. These roof trusses are detailed in Drawing No. 1631/2A: they are from a high quality paired-rafter-and-collar roof with soulaces linking between the rafters and collars. All timbers are of good quality and are neatly finished. The principal rafters measure 160 mm x 150 mm, and the collars and soulaces 160 mm x 120 mm. Neat hollow chamfers with an associated neat 25 mm wide groove for a former 'barrel vaulted' ceiling extend up the side faces of the principal rafters from tiebeam level as far as the soulaces, then turning up the soulaces and across the collars, returning down the soulaces and principal rafters on the other side of the roof so as to follow the contour of the roof timbers. The ceiling thus hid the common rafters, common soulaces and common collars from view. That this ceiling was formed using boards rather than lath and plaster is indicated by the relative dearth of fixing nails in the soffits of the common roof timbers - laths would have resulted in a regular, close-spaced pattern of fixing holes. Roof trusses B-B to E-E are fitted with these hollow chamfers and boarding grooves on both faces, whereas only the currently internal face of truss A-A is thus treated, the opposite face being plain and weathered. Therefore, this truss, like the tiebeam upon which it sits, was sited at the end of the early building's principal room, and possible at the end of the building itself.



In addition to the main roof trusses, the common-rafter couples from the early roof have also been reused. Because the western gable of the period-A house was converted into a hip during period B, the reused common rafter couples at this end of the building have been disrupted, though mortices for collars and soulaces cut into the period-B jack rafters (both those still *in situ* and those reused within the 18th-century roof of the rear range) indicate that these timbers too originated from standard common rafter couples which were fitted with collars and soulaces. One common rafter couple within this bay survives intact against the western face of truss E-E. Over the remainder of the building, within bays A-B, B-C, C-D and D-E, a further 23 common rafter couples survive. Despite having been intended to be masked from view by ceilings, the timbers are of the same high quality as those used within the trusses, though the depth of the rafters is reduced from 150 mm to 115 mm, and those of the collars and soulaces from 120 mm to 80 mm in order to be covered by the ceilings. Wherever visible, the redundant birdsmouth housings in the wallplate have been reused when the roof was re-erected.

As already noted, the evidence from the reused plates, tiebeams and roof trusses indicate a substantial building of at least five-and-a-half or six bays long, incorporating a principal room of at least five bays, crossed by at least four open trusses. This suggests that the roof was sited over a substantial open hall - though it should be stressed that there are no indications of pre-period-A sooting. Within such a large principal room a roof span of 5.50 metres (18'1") is exceptionally modest. However, it can be shown that this was not the total span of the building - merely the span of the central part, for the width of the hall was increased either by the existence of aisles or quasi-aisles. The evidence for this is to be seen in the reused plates which, at 220 mm x 190-200 mm in cross section, are much more substantial than an average plate intended to have a wall beneath it. This is not surprising: in their original use they were arcade plates. Peg holes and long mortices indicate that arch braces rose to the plates from each of the trusses (*see* Drawing No. 1631/2B): all stave holes in the visible sections of plate can be shown to relate to the timber's period-A reused.

The internal width of the 'hall' within the original aisled building would have been increased from the present 5.50 metres (18'1") to at least 8.00 metres (26'3") and perhaps to as much as 10.00 metres (32'10") or more measured internally. The arcade illustrated in Drawing No. 1631/2B could either have incorporated aisle posts or, alternatively, the arcade posts may have been restricted to the upper part of the hall only, having been supported at eaves level of the aisles by a hammer beam arrangement. In this respect it may be significant that none of the principal posts within the period-A house are reused from the earlier building, perhaps suggesting that the earlier posts were not suitable for reused within the new structure. In addition, it has already been noted that the original bays were quite short - with so many arcade posts this would have given the hall a very cluttered feel, though if these did not extend down to ground, but were instead supported off the aisle walls by hammer beams, no such cluttered effect would have resulted.



One further observation can be made concerning the building from which the timbers were reused. The arch braces from the former open trusses were not refixed when the timbers were reused: instead, in their new locations all the trusses were closed by partitions (*see* Period-A below). Rather than waste the braces, they were reused as concave footbraces descending from the new period-A crownposts. All were originally chamfered along their lower leading edges in order to match the chamfered nibs on the tiebeams, and they are strongly curved within their lengths. On average, the braces are of 90 mm x 210-310 mm section, proportions which favours a late 14th-century, rather than an earlier date. The headbraces rising from the period-A crownposts to the collar purlin are likewise reused from the earlier building, but these are moulded with shallow quarter rolls. Originally these were 140 mm wide, but, when reused, they were cut lengthwise in order to give two braces of thinner, more up-to-date proportions. It is probable that these braces originate from the arcades.

## **THE PERIOD-A STRUCTURE (Mid 16th C; probably 1550-1575) [Drawing Nos. 1631/3A and 3B]**

### **LAYOUT**

A mixture of reused and purpose-cut material was utilized in the construction of the present period-A building, which was of five approximately equal-length timber-framed bays and measured 20.15 metres (66'1") x 5.50 metres (18'1") overall. On the ground floor were three inter-linked spaces: a central room of one bay with a large two-bay parlour-like room (probably heated by a rear fireplace) to the east and a two-bay work room to the west. At one time the central bay had a partition dividing off a passage along its northern side, linking between the eastern and western rooms, but from the details of the notches in the joists this appears to have represented a later insertion - or, at least it was not planned for when the floor was being fabricated. The line of this doubtful partition is shown in thin chain-dotted outline in Drawing No. 1631/3A, where it is marked with a query. The present front door leads into this central bay, but this can be shown to represent a period-C insertion: it is not known where the period-A ground-floor external doorway(s) were located. The eastern two-bay room was evidently of some status, for it was lit by a large central window within the end wall and was most likely heated by a since removed rear chimney (evidenced by a residual fragment of Clunch walling adjacent to truss B-B). In contrast, the two-bay western room fulfilled a utilitarian function, though the precise arrangement of this area is today difficult to interpret. The eastern of its bays was fully floored, whilst the western (end) bay only had a partial floor, with the remainder left open to the roof. A canted doorway against the rear principal post of truss E-E (doorway evidenced by a neat pegged mortice for a dropped head and closing rebate, all apparently of period-A date) suggests that the floored part of this bay was divided off from the



remainder of the room. It is also possible that the hearth area was likewise partially enclosed by partitions. What is clear from the extensive sooting within the roof of the westernmost bay is that the hearth(s) within this western bay was/were not initially located within a chimney - a fact confirmed by features at first-floor level (*see* below).

On the first-floor each bay was partitioned from its neighbour, giving four chambers in addition to a small loft area within the partially floored fifth (westernmost) bay. All five spaces were open to the roof despite walls which measure c2.00 metres (6'6") from first floor to top of wallplate. At this period the partitions within trusses B-B, C-C and D-D extended to the apex of the roof, but the partition within truss E-E extended up to tiebeam level only, with the roof section open between the chamber in bay D-E and the partially floored westernmost bay (E-F). There is heavy sooting within the westernmost bay and also some sooting within the roof of bay D-E (over the kitchen chamber), though this is most extensive at the western end and results from smoke having drifted in from the adjacent bay through the open roof truss. It is probably significant that no original doorway can be identified within truss D-D, at the western end of the kitchen chamber, suggesting that there was no inter-communication between it and the other chambers to the east. If this were the case, access to this chamber was from the partially floored westernmost bay of the kitchen only, via a first-floor doorway in truss E-E. The area immediately beyond the doorway was not floored, so most likely it was accessible direct from the kitchen by means of some form of stair or ladder. Given the lack of a roof partition, suggesting a low-status use for the kitchen chamber (perhaps as a store), such a means of access seems perfectly acceptable - a similar arrangement existed within the kitchen at Chateaubriand in Burwash High Street (*see* ESRO HBR 1/881).

The other three first-floor chambers within the range were inter-connected by wide doorways located within trusses B-B and C-C, against the rear (southern) wall. The lack of an opening through the first floor for a period-A staircase is not a problem, for there is mortice evidence for a first-floor doorway through the easternmost end of the front (northern) wall. A mortice for a midrail extending out from the front post of truss A-A indicates that a contemporary structure projected out from this end of the building's front wall, but whether this structure was a minor stair outshut or an adjoining range of some size is now impossible to tell - most of the front wall at this point has been rebuilt, and what survives is now very rotten and decayed. The easternmost of the three first-floor chambers was evidently a room of some status, for, like that on the ground floor, it was served from the outset by a large transomed window located centrally within the end wall. How the adjacent chamber was lit is not known, but the chamber between it and the kitchen chamber was served by a relatively small unglazed window in the north wall, and perhaps by another in the south wall.

In summary, the western end of the range appears to have been dedicated to use as a kitchen and service area, whilst the eastern end incorporated accommodation of some note. All three areas on the ground floor were linked by doorways, whereas the first floor



appears to have been divided into two separately accessed parts, with the western two bays continuing the service theme found on the floor below, whilst the other three chambers were accommodation, either reached by an enclosed external stair or from an attached range (demolished during period C). If the former, the range could either represent a detached block subsidiary to a main house elsewhere on the site, or alternatively it could have served as a completely self contained lodge intended for occasional use only.

## WALL DESIGN, DOORWAYS AND WINDOWS

Sufficient of the external wall framing either survives or is evidenced by mortices to indicate that the infill framing of all four walls was of small-panel design with continuous midrails on both storeys. The panels beneath the midrails at first-floor level incorporated externally exposed footbracing to the principal posts - two of these and a further fragment survive *in situ*: the remainder are evidenced by mortices. Although found much earlier in the extreme west of Sussex and in Hampshire, current knowledge suggests that this form of wall design was only introduced locally during the first half of the 16th century and only became common later in the century. Except where occasionally used late in the 15th century in association with close studding, no local examples of midrails are known which predate the early 16th century. Only within bays D-E and E-F could any details of the rear (southern) wall be recovered: although not illustrated, the design within these two bays was identical to that within the front wall of the same bays.

Within the eastern end wall at first-floor level the midrails were interrupted by heavy studs which doubled as the jambs of a large central window, and a similar timber exists on the ground floor indicating an identical window at this level too. The first-floor window had a deep cill, a transom, and a separate head rebated into the soffit of the tiebeam. No other details of the window can be recovered, but (given the presence of a transom) almost certainly it was intended to be glazed from the outset. The only other visible period-A window is within the north wall of bay C-D. As already noted, three of the mortices in this section of the plate relate to the timber's former use and were cut to accommodate a 'principal post' and its two attendant headbraces/arch braces. However, the wallplate also contains period-A mortices for a centrally-placed four-light unglazed window which had heavy diamond-section mullions. One of the mullions is of modified triangular section in order to avoid cutting into a redundant mortice, but otherwise the mortices are of standard diamond type. There are no indications of former sliding shutters.

As is often the case at this date, despite the use of midrails within the external walls, all internal partitions were of large-panel design, and here the first-floor footbraces are much longer than those within the external walls. The trusses were stripped when viewed in August 2006, allowing good details to be recovered. They show mortices of period-A and subsequent dates, but the period-A mortices could easily be identified - having been cut into green oak at the fabrication stage, they were executed much more neatly than those



cut into the *in situ* timbers at a subsequent date. As with the external walls, the recoverable details are illustrated in Drawing Nos. 1631/3A and 3B.

All period-A fixings for the staves which supported the daub infill within both the external walls and internal partitions take the form of shallow chiselled-out nicks cut after erection of the frame. This fixing method is found in a number of buildings around Lewes, as well as in the Horsham area, but is otherwise uncommon locally, except when found in relation to alterations.

It should be noted that the tiebeam within truss F-F has been reused from a building which was different than that used for the other trusses - the off-centred location of the mortices for headbraces indicate that this beam has been reused from a building which measured c6.25 metres (c20'6") wide, some 750 mm wider than the present structure. The headbrace mortices cut into the soffit of this beam do not relate to the tiebeam's present use and should, therefore, be ignored. Whereas the brace mortices are essentially redundant in relation to the present building, there is a central mortice for a heavy stud/intermediate post, and this does relate to the present building, as too do the continuous run of stave fixings. Mortices in the internal face of the northern principal post to this truss show that this wall too was fitted with a midrail and had footbracing beneath.

The only identifiable reused timber below wallplate/tiebeam level within the period-A structure is the crossbeam to truss D-D. Not only does this have a redundant set of mortices and stave notches in its soffit, but there are also a series of small (70 mm long) mortices cut into its western face at 260 mm centres. These do not relate to the timber's present use. Furthermore, despite the beam's present location in the centre of the building, the eastern face is weathered and was once external.

## FLOORS, CEILINGS AND STAIRS

At the time of original survey it was unclear which (if any) of the first-floor joisting related to period A. The details of these floors were fully exposed in August 2006 and proved to be pivotal in understanding and dating the building. In fact, all sections of the first floor can be proven to be original to the period-A build: the design of the haunched mortice-and-tenon joints indicate that the girders could not have been inserted without dismantling the frame.

The design within bays A-B and B-C is identical to one another, with stop-chamfered girders supporting stop-chamfered joists of (average) 95 mm x 135 mm cross section, set at wide centres. At the external walls the joist ends are housed into the side girts. The floor within the central bay (C-D) has been altered and the girder removed, but its northern joists have been reused, rotated through 180 degrees. These too are of similar cross section to those within the eastern bays: they were set at similar centres and are likewise



stop chamfered.

Within kitchen bay D-E the girder and joists are similarly stop chamfered, but here the joists are of heavier section, measuring 130 mm x 120 mm, and this is also the case with the area of joisting within the westernmost bay. Against the south wall within this western bay are three stop-chamfered joists which span lengthways from the crossbeam of truss E-E to a heavier-section trimmer half way along the bay. This trimmer in turn extends halfway across the building, where it is supported by a part-length unchamfered girder of 140 mm x 170 mm section. Mortices in the soffit indicate that this girder had at least one post, and perhaps two beneath it. Jointed into both it and the side girt of the southern wall are two further stop-chamfered joists, spanning across the building. Thus the timbers form a section of floor L-shaped in plan, with the remainder of the bay left open. All the timbers are morticed-and-tenoned to the main frame and are pegged - they are an original feature.

The variation in joist scantlings between the three eastern bays and the western bays does not indicate a difference in date - it reflects either a difference in status between the two groups of rooms, or a difference in the loadings the two sections of floor were intended to take - or perhaps both. Like the design of the wall framing, the joist sizes are not consistent with a 15th-century date - nor indeed an early 16th-century date. The preferred date for joists of the type present within the three eastern bays would be late 16th century - a date in the third quarter of the century would be considered to be at the early end of the likely date range.

## CHIMNEYS

When first inspected in April 2006 it was thought that there were no chimneys within the building during period A, though an isolated area of Clunch wall found *in situ* against the western face of truss B-B's southern principal post during the building works now makes it likely that the eastern two-bay parlour-like ground-floor room was served by a stack built against the rear wall. This would have been made redundant by the alterations undertaken during period C, but (assuming it existed) appears to have been retained until the south wall was rebuilt in the 19th century. Indeed, the removal of this (assumed) chimney is likely to have been the reason why this section of wall was rebuilt in flint and brick at that date.

The arrangement of the hearth area in the open part of the kitchen is uncertain, though (given the canted doorway at the southern end of truss E-E) the hearth itself was presumably located immediately to the west of truss E-E (on the site of the period-B fireplace). It is assumed that it was partially enclosed - otherwise the doorway to the south of it would have been unnecessary!



## ROOF

A major economy in the construction of the period-A structure was the reuse not only of the tiebeams and arcade plates of an earlier building, but also the rafter couples from that same building, retaining the original assemblage of each couple, complete with collars and soulaces. In similar fashion, the principal rafters and their associated principal collars and principal soulaces were reused above the tiebeams, thereby retaining much of the roof's earlier appearance, albeit the bay lengths were modified to suit the new design. The earlier roof was also modified in one other important respect - crownposts and a collar purlin were now incorporated. Because the reused collars at the trusses were deeper than the common collars, these had to be notched to accommodate the new collar purlin, but otherwise the inclusion of the crownposts required no modification to the earlier roof design. At least one crownpost (that to truss B-B) is framed using a reused timber, and all the braces associated with the posts are likewise reused arch braces from the earlier building. There is some purpose-cut material (*eg.* the collar purlin and some of the crownposts) but this material is of noticeably inferior quality to the material reused from the earlier building. The fact that the collar purlin and all of its mortices are cut to suit the present bay lengths proves that the insertion of the crownposts relates to the reuse of the roof over the present building: they had not been added into the roof prior to its dismantling and reuse. All crownposts are footbraced to the tiebeam and, atypically, these have a concave (rather than convex) curve. All are reused sections of earlier arch braces and on some the shoulders of the earlier tenons can be clearly seen. The upper leading edges are chamfered from their previous use, but these chamfers would have been hidden by the daub of the since removed partitions (former existence evidenced by stave notches and nail holes). Crownpost E-E was never headbraced to the collar purlin, and only post C-C was fully braced, the other posts being braced to the collar purlin on one side only.

At this period both the eastern and western terminals were gabled. Although modified during period C, the eastern gable survives and is heavily weathered on the exterior. However, during period B the western gable was replaced by a hip, the gable's former existence being evidenced today by mortices in the upper face of tiebeam F-F for the crownpost and its footbracing. Although this tiebeam is reused, it will be remembered that it came from a wider building and was cut down at one end to suit its present use. As the crownpost mortice and its brace mortices are symmetrical to the beam's present span, the mortices must relate to the beam's period-A use rather than its previous use.



## **PERIOD B (Mid/Late 16th C) [Drawing No. 1631/4]**

The recognizable alterations of this period appear to have been carried out soon after the erection of the frame and represent relatively minor upgrades in order to improve on the comfort and efficiency of the building. The period-B work is now recognized as being more extensive than was first thought: some of the alterations originally attributed to period C can now be shown to have been made during this intermediate phase of upgrading.

### **LAYOUT**

Little alteration was made to the layout: they were concentrated at the kitchen end where the former open heath area was replaced by a two-flue chimney set back slightly from truss E-E. This had two effects upon the plan: it divided the space into two distinct rooms and made the western of these so inconvenient that a small lean-to end extension was added in order to compensate for the lost space. Despite the new chimney, the western space continued to be partially open to the roof, indicating that this service area continued to house some form of apparatus incorporating a hearth - hence the extent of the sooting in this part of the roof.

Apart from the insertion of ceilings into all but the westernmost bay, the principal alteration on the first floor was the upgrading of the kitchen chamber by inserting a first-floor fireplace and modifying the means of access: it was now reached from the other chambers to the east, rather than through the kitchen via a ladder. The old door from the kitchen ladder now gave access to a smoking chamber beside the chimney, and another small smoking chamber was incorporated on the opposite side of the chimney. A second door was inserted into this partition, giving access to the floored part of the westernmost bay.

### **WALL DESIGN, WINDOWS AND DOORWAYS**

Although it can be proven that a narrow outshut was added onto the western end of the building at this period, it was replaced in the 18th century when this end of the house was further extended - even so, its footprint remains fossilized in the design of the building. The level of the western eaves is indicated by a mortice in the western face of the northern principal post of truss F-F which accommodated the tiebeam of the addition.

Apart from the new outshut, which entailed the removal of the infill framing to the old western end wall, the only proven alterations to the period-A walls at this date were the intrusion of two new first-floor doorways, one through truss D-D, the other through truss E-E. Both required the removal of footbraces triangulating the rear principal posts.



The doorway in truss D-D was positioned hard against the principal post, into which the head of the doorway was jointed. That in truss E-E was sited a little distance away from the post. In this instance one of the jambs survives *in situ* and the other, although removed (probably during period C) has been reused as part of the partition to the modified smoking chamber. Both jambs are chamfered, and this chamfer returned across a head located a little below tiebeam level. The chamfer faced towards the kitchen chamber.

## FLOORS AND CEILINGS

Despite the intrusion of a new axial chimney, no alterations were made to the joists supporting the period-A first floor - it would seem that the chimney was inserted into the space which previously served the period-A hearth. However, the new western end outshut was floored, as indicated by haunched mortices in the western face of the crossbeam to truss F-F. This crossbeam replaces the original period-A end crossbeam and is chamfered along both lower leading edges.

Except within the western chamber (which remained open to the roof at this period) all the attic floors belong to period B and are of central-girder construction. The joists are now masked from view from beneath by plastered ceilings, whilst they still support most of the original floor boarding within the attic. Where the details can be seen, in each case one end of each girder is housed into the top of the tiebeam, whilst the other end is jointed in. All this proves is that the ceiling was inserted after the frame had been erected: the girders could have been added as part of the fitting-out phase of the period-A work. That this was not the case is indicated by conclusive evidence that roof trusses B-B, C-C and D-D were at one time infilled using daub panels, as indicated by nail holes and notches for staves (all three trusses) and by the abrupt termination of the soot staining at truss D-D. These partitions would not have been fitted if the ceiling represented part of the period-A work. Sooting on the ceiling joists in the north-western corner of the kitchen chamber is explained by leakage through the first-floor door at the northern end of truss E-E, leading to the smoking chamber - the sooting is confined to the area above this doorway.

The girders are rebated along their leading edges so as to accommodate the floor boards. Even so, at this date the attic space was unlit, so the boards may have been intended more as ceiling boards than for use as a floor, though the attic could have been used for storage. All girders are chamfered and have stepped-and-hollowed stops. Sufficient floor boards are loose/damaged to show that the joists within all bays are neatly stop chamfered and were thus originally exposed to view from beneath. They are neat and of 100 mm x 110 mm scantling. [It was the size of these joists which, in April 2006, suggested a period-C date for this ceiling. At that time the period-A and period-B work was thought to be much earlier].



## CHIMNEYS

A new two-flue chimney was now inserted in order to replace the hearth which had served the kitchen, with the second fireplace heating the kitchen chamber. The wide fireplace serving the kitchen is set back slightly from truss E-E in order to leave sufficient space within this sized-down room. It has neat 'Caenstone' jambs with chamfers and vase stops (mutilated) and the chamfer is continued across the well-proportioned but plain timber lintel, which contains the marks of a spit mechanism. Within the northern jamb is a spice cupboard. On the first floor is a smaller, but similar fireplace with projects forward of that on the ground floor. It too has 'Caenstone' jambs, and Caenstone is also used to form the quoins at the rear of the chimney: otherwise the chimney is of brick. [A third (now blocked) fireplace within the chimney represents a late intrusion]. The cap is of standard rebated type.

Heavy sooting on the external northern face of the chimney at first-floor level indicates that smoke was allowed to penetrate this area in order to form a smoking area accessed via the original doorway in the north-western corner of the kitchen chamber. A vertical stain in the intensity of the sooting shows that this chamber was partially divided from the remainder of the bay to the west by a partition (which probably rose to eaves level only), but the western face of the chimney also shows sooting, as too does the entire roof. It should be remembered that part of this western bay remained open even after the chimney was inserted, so presumably part of this bay was fitted with some form of apparatus (such as brewing vat or oven) incorporating a hearth absent of flue.

The smoking chamber to the north of the chimney was not the only smoking area associated with the new stack - there was a second smoking cavity partitioned off by daub and stud partitions against the southern face of the stack. The details of this smoking area are quite good. Its size is indicated by the line of the partitions, whilst the blocked twin-opening through the stack's brick tumbling (allowing smoke to enter the enclosure) is clearly visible (Plate 1). Furthermore, the heavily sooted opening in the enclosure's ceiling still exists and retains metal hooks all around the edge from which the items to be smoked were hung (Plate 2). The smoke then exited into the roof void, as also must that from the smoking chamber to the north. This southern smoking area was enlarged eastwards during period C to abut against truss E-E, and it was this extension which required the doorway in that truss to be moved southwards, to abut the principal post.

## ROOF

As part of the period-B alterations the western gable was removed and replaced by a hip, complete with central jack rafter jointed into the trimmed-off end of the collar purlin. Apparently, the reason for this modification was to link the main roof in with that over the new outshut at this end of the building. The surviving jack rafters of the hip are reused



common rafters from the original gabled end. That this alteration was made when the bay was still partially open, with a hearth and smoking chambers within it, is indicated by the fact that the new joint between collar purlin and central jack rafter is heavily sooted, as too are the redundant mortices for the former gable crownpost and its braces.

The second alteration at roof level involved the daub infilling within the roof trusses. With the insertion of the attic floors all infill within roof trusses B-B, C-C and D-D was removed, whereas roof truss E-E, which had been left open until this date, was now infilled. As already noted, both bays D-E and E-F have sooting in their roof, but that within bay E-F is much thicker than within D-E. Furthermore, the new partition between the two bays is thickly encrusted on its western face, but only stained on the east.

## **PERIOD C (Late 16th or very early 17th C)** **[Drawing Nos. 1631/5-7]**

### **LAYOUT**

At this date the building becomes recognizable as a house and takes on a more conventional plan form. Whatever had abutted against the eastern end of the front wall (whether stair turret or separate range) was now demolished. At the front of the period-A range a two-storeyed porch was added, leading into the central bay, which now served as an entry with what is assumed to have been a central service room to the rear. To the east the two bays formed a large parlour heated by the (assumed) period-A rear chimney, whilst the bay to the west of the entry continued to serve as the kitchen, but also now took on the functions of a hall - as indicated by this room's improved fenestration. The dirty service area within the westernmost end of the house likewise continued to serve its earlier function. To the rear of the hall was constructed a narrow (3.15 metre (10'4")) but relatively long (4.45 metres (14'7")) two-storeyed turret-like range which not only housed a new stair (*see* Period-C 'Stairs' below) but also a small service room. Beneath the rear half of this turret-like range is a small cellar, only partially below ground. As will be evident, the alterations to the layout of the period-A/B part of the building were minimal, but the new porch and rear turret allowed the spaces to be utilized in a far more conventional way.

The layout on the first floor essentially remained unaltered, though door positions were adjusted in order to better suit the new circulation pattern, and the fenestration within both the kitchen/hall chamber and the eastern chamber was improved. Access from the new staircase within the rear turret was direct into the heated kitchen/hall chamber via an intruded doorway through the rear wall. The doorway leading westwards out of this chamber was also repositioned slightly in order to suit an enlarged smoking area but, perhaps surprisingly, the western bay continued to be partially open to the service area



below. The central chamber (or entry chamber) was either totally open to the area over the porch, or had a doorway leading into a porch chamber - it is impossible to say which. Within the eastern wall of the entry chamber a new doorway was cut through the partition further to the north, but why this was thought necessary is unclear. Probably the original doorway was blocked, but an alternative explanation may be that the original doorway was left open and a passage formed along the rear of the house, allowing independent access to the chambers. If so, the new doorway may have been intended to link the entry chamber with that over the western bay of the parlour in order to form a suite of first-floor rooms. The extent of the subsequent alterations has been such that it is now impossible to tell.

The new rear turret allowed easy access to the roof space within the eastern four bays, which were now not only lit by a new twin window added into the eastern gable, but also by a window within a new front gable (already removed by *c*1787 when S. H. Grimm drew the house) added against the main roof slope of bay D-E. It seems likely that additional light was achieved by a window in the gable of the rear 'turret'. Because of the low level of the collars and the continued retention of the soulaces, the storey height within the garret was severely restricted.

## **WALL DESIGN, WINDOWS AND DOORWAYS**

### *Alterations to the existing frame*

The necessary alterations to the existing frame were achievable with little disruption to the existing structure. At the extreme eastern end of the front wall the existing first-floor doorway was removed and replaced by a midrail matching those elsewhere within the facade - the midrail has now gone, but is evidenced by a cut-in mortice in principal post A, below that of the removed door head. Alterations were also made to the central bay of this wall in order to form the new front door (which trims the original side girt, part of which still survives *in situ*) and so as to give access to the porch's first-floor area. But the principal alterations to this facade were within bay D-E - the front wall of the kitchen and kitchen chamber. Here, all the original infill framing was removed and replaced by a large central bay window flanked by shallow clerestory windows. The panels below the clerestory windows are divided by a new tier of midrails. Some of the clerestory windows still survive - they are of two panes with each pane divided by a vertical diamond-section iron tie bar. The mullions and applied jambs and head are ovolo moulded. Of the bay window only the openings remain and there are no visible obvious mortices in the timbers to indicate how the window was fixed back to the wall of the house, though the removed cills were fitted into shouldered mortices, so they probably projected forward. In addition, it must be admitted that the side girt at this point is so rotten that any face mortices would now be undetectable. That this window was a bay, rather than flush, is proven by the details of the jambs, which are stop chamfered down both their internal and external leading edges. In addition, there is evidence at roof level for the gable which capped and



weathered the window.

Alterations were also made to the eastern end wall in order to improve the fenestration. Here good central windows already existed, but three-pane ovolo-moulded clerestory windows were now added on either side of that on the first floor, and perhaps on the ground floor too. One of the first-floor openings remains intact - of the other only the head now survives. When these clerestory windows were inserted the period-A midrails were removed, though the footbraces were retained *in situ*. As part of the period-C modifications windows were also inserted into the roof gable of this wall. This involved trimming the tops of the crownpost's footbraces, inserting a pair of studs and midrails, and adding a pair of two-pane glazed windows, one on either side of the crownpost. Both have applied chamfered surrounds and heavy chamfered mullions. Each pane has a small central diamond-section tiebar, necessary to prevent the leaded lights from buckling.

Reference has already been made to the new doorway inserted into truss C-C at first-floor level. Although now blocked, this still survives. It makes use of an existing stud for its northern jamb, to which has been applied a chamfer to the eastern face. The joint between the doorway's head and southern jamb is pegged, but the jamb itself is wedged into position within the main frame and the joint between the existing stud and the new head is un-pegged. The existing stud and main frame have matching assembly marks, whereas there are no assembly marks associated with the added jamb. As further proof that the door is added, the wattle groove for the earlier daub infill is visible in the top face of the crossbeam. It is worth noting that there are traces of a simple wall decoration on the eastern face of the doorway, and there is further decoration on a stud within the front wall of the same chamber (Plate 3). Unfortunately, this latter stud has been added in and it is unclear whether the painting relates to the stud's present location or its former position. Further traces of red decoration are visible over the window in the end wall, on the tiebeam within the eastern chamber.

The only other period-C wall framing evidenced in the old part of the building is within the rear wall of bay D-E, where the rear turret has been added. Here a new door jamb has been inserted on the first floor, trimming the original midrail, whilst on the ground floor mortices within the replacement side girt evidence a doorway leading into the rear turret, with mortices for daub-infilled panels to the west.

### ***The added rear turret and porch***

In April 2006 very little of the framing within the rear turret was visible, though that which could be seen was significant. Here, within the eastern wall could be seen a small area of West-Midlands-style wall infill with multiple straight bracing giving a chevron pattern. A few other examples of this design of framing are known in Sussex, most notably at Clayhill, Ringmer [East Sussex Record Office (ESRO) HBR 1/1113] and Winton House, Winton Street, Alfriston. Since April a great deal more fabric has been



made visible, indicating that both this wall and the western wall were infilled with chevron bracing at both ground-floor and first-floor level. That on the ground floor within the eastern wall incorporates a contemporary two-pane glazed window similar to those inserted into the existing frame of the main range (*see above*). Tragically, the rear wall of the 'turret' has been re-framed using new timber within the last few years, totally destroying (apparently without record) the evidence of the wall infill within this elevation.

Given that the front porch was added as part of the same phase of alterations as the turret, it is no surprise that this too incorporates similar decorative framing, though in this instance it is restricted to the upper floor only - the ground-floor part is of un-elaborated small-panel design. Within the turret and on the upper floor of the porch the daub is applied to laths nailed to the reverse face of the angled braces, but within the plain lower panels of the porch the daub is supported by laths interwoven around standard staves. The porch chamber was lit by a large window in the front wall - evidenced by mortices but replaced. Below, the original porch entrance survives and has bold cyma mouldings to its external face (currently visible at ceiling level only). It is likely that the opening's head survives, but this is at present masked by later boarding. The porch retains an old panelled door, now fixed within the external face. However, the front of the porch was originally devoid of a doorway (as indicated in Grimm's illustration, and confirmed by the presence of internal side benches): most likely the door has been refixed from the front entrance, which would originally have been protected by the porch.

Both additions (porch and turret) make use of level assembly (as opposed to normal assembly) at tiebeam level within their end walls, whilst mortices in the front face of the principal posts of the porch indicate that there were brackets beneath the projecting ends of the wallplate. It is likely that the turret incorporated the same feature.

## **FLOORS, CEILINGS AND STAIRS**

The first-floor joists within the new 'turret' span along the range, measure 100 mm x 100 mm, and are jointed into the crossbeams. Those within the southern bay (where it was originally suspected the stair was located) are fully intact, whilst within the northern bay there are original joists within the eastern part only, and the westernmost one of these is more closely spaced than the remainder. Jointed into it, to the west, is a pair of angled trimmers and a trimmed joist forming an out-of-square landing occupying the north-eastern corner of a stair opening (Plate 4). This landing was at the top of the original stair which, to judge by the mortice under the corner of the landing, was of newel type. A rebate in the side of the trimmer indicates that a board wall infilled the triangle between the stair and ceiling. Beneath the site of the stair descends the steps leading to the cellar under the rear bay of the turret.

The joists supporting the attic floor within the turret are partially visible from above. At



this level too the joists span along the axis of the turret, are interrupted at centre span by an intermediate tiebeam, measure 100 mm x 105 mm in scantling, and are neatly stopped chamfered. Presumably, as on the floor below, a stair within the northern bay rose to garret level.

## CHIMNEYS

No alterations were made to the existing heating system at this period.

## ROOF

Apart from a trimmed opening for a front gable (removed) within bay D-E and another giving access from the turret roof, the only period-C modification made to the original roof was the insertion of windows into the eastern gable (for which *see* 'Wall Design, Windows and Doorways' above).

Both the period-C porch and the period-C rear turret retain their roofs, though in both instances the former gabled end terminals have been re-framed as hips. That over the porch is the more interesting in that not only does it incorporate side purlins, but also a central collar purlin jointed into a crown stud set beneath a deep collar - an unusual combination. Unlike a standard crownpost roof, the common rafters are not fitted with individual collars. The plaster ceiling of the porch chamber is currently fitted at collar-purlin level, but this must relate to the date at which the present hipped terminal was added. A peg hole in the front tiebeam confirms the former presence of a crown stud within the lost gable, and no doubt this gable was elaborated with chevron bracing.

Over the rear turret is a sturdily built standard clasped-side-purlin roof with short struts at the tiebeams in order to allow pedestrian access along the roof. The original design of the gable (now converted to a hip) is unknown, but it may have incorporated its own window. The southern half of the turret roof was once fitted with plaster fixed to the soffits of the rafters, and there was a boarded wall (with door) separating the southern half of the roof from the rest.

## PERIOD D (Early/mid 17th C) [Drawing No. 1631/8]

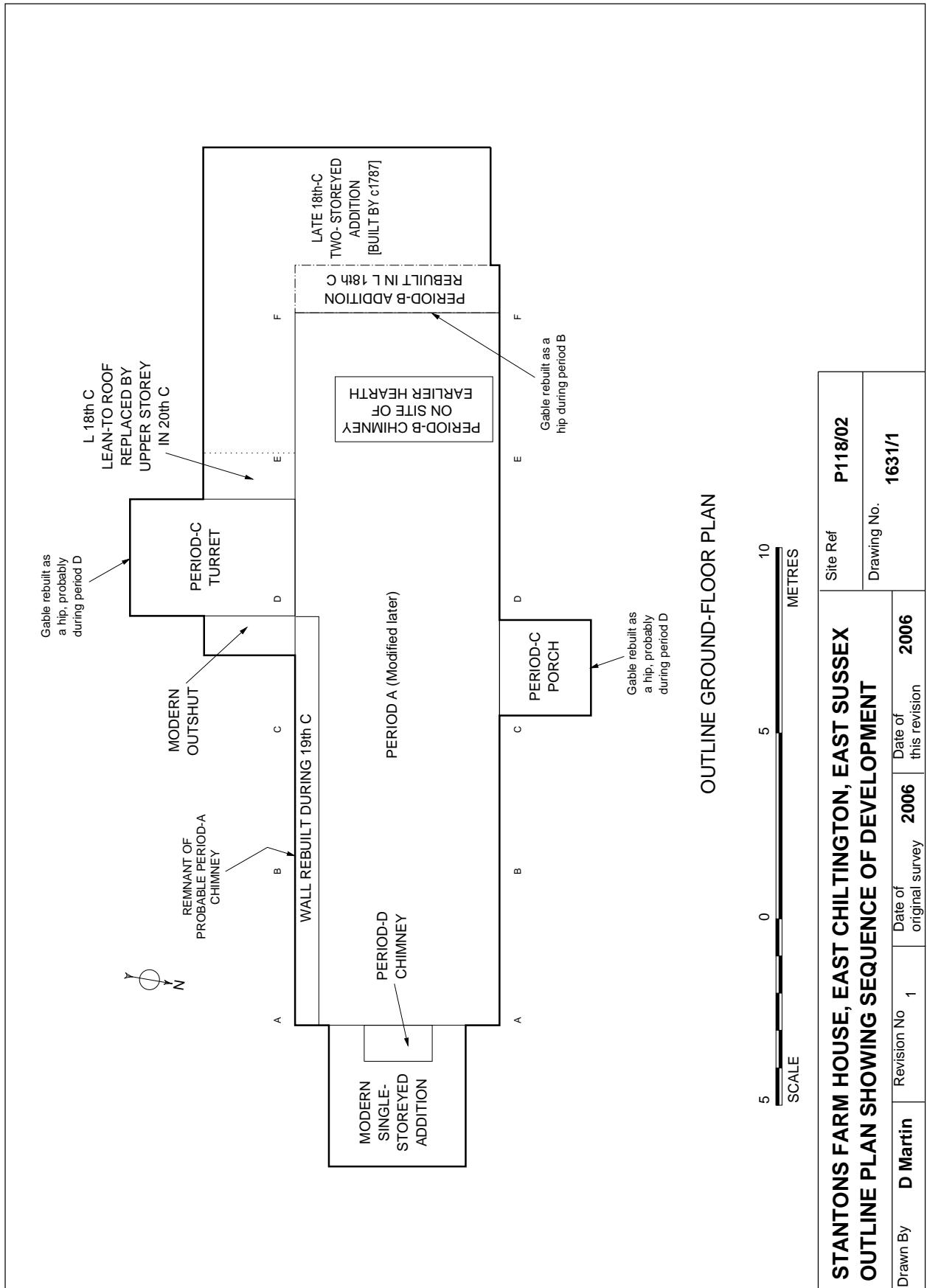
The final historical phase dates to the 17th century and involved modification to the ground-floor layout within the entrance area and parlour. The partition between the entry and the central service room was removed and a new staircase added at the rear, giving a spacious entry which incorporated a display stair. The loss of the service room was



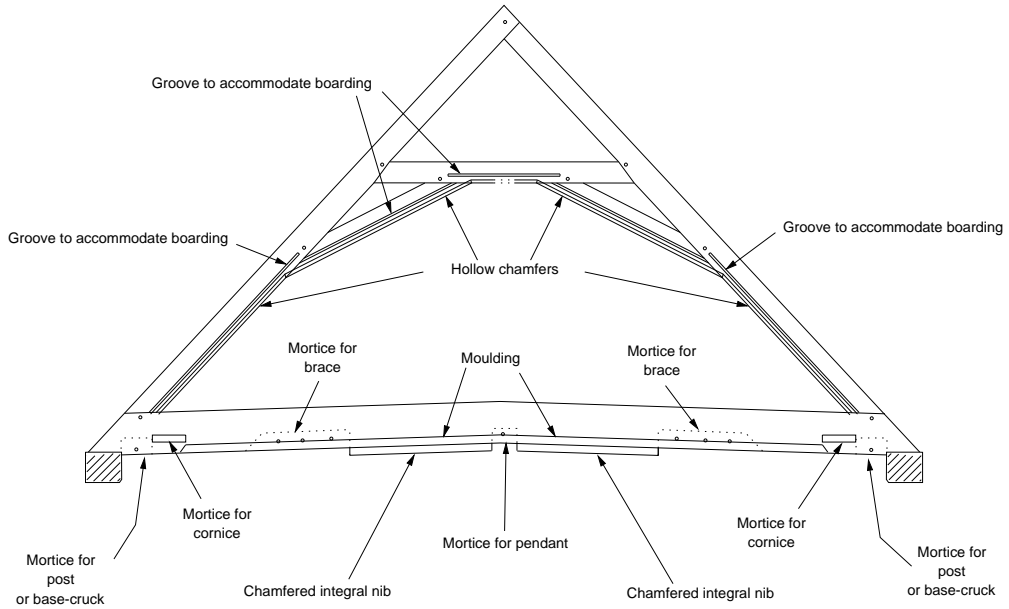
compensated for by sizing down the parlour so as to allow the formation of a replacement service room between it and the entry, with a passage divided off at the front of the service area, leading to the parlour. The passage wall has been removed, but is still evidenced by its headbeam. It was of standard design, with daub panels and a doorway at its western end. In addition to the new service area, a cellar (since extended eastwards) was intruded beneath the service room, accessed by a flight of steps leading down beneath the stairs.

A staircase still occupies the rear of the entry, but the present stair is of modern date. However, the 17th-century stair still survived in 1940 when Margaret Wood wrote her description for inclusion within the Rape of Lewes volume of the Victoria County History. She describes it as follows:- 'The staircase branches to east and west; it has square newels, turned balusters, moulded hand-rails, and in the west part a latticed dog-gate with spiked top' [VCH 7 99]. As far as is known, no pictorial record of this staircase now exists.

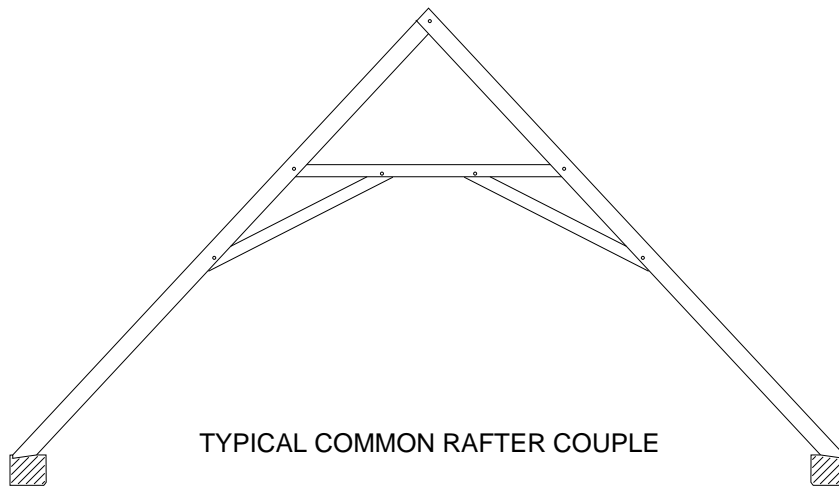
Because of the new arrangement within the parlour area the fireplace within the (assumed) period-A rear stack was made redundant by the new partition which divided this area. In order to replace it, a chimney was built against the eastern end wall, blocking the former central windows and attic windows, but leaving the clerestory openings intact. The replacement stack had the advantage of having two flues, giving a fireplace on the first floor as well as serving the ground-floor parlour. Only on the ground floor is the fireplace visible, and this only partially. It is relatively narrow and has a rounded back. The lintel has been replaced, and the front of the jambs rebuilt.



<b>STANTONS FARM HOUSE, EAST CHILTINGTON, EAST SUSSEX</b>		Site Ref	<b>P118/02</b>
<b>OUTLINE PLAN SHOWING SEQUENCE OF DEVELOPMENT</b>		Drawing No.	<b>1631/1</b>
Drawn By	<b>D Martin</b>	Date of original survey	<b>2006</b>
Revision No	<b>1</b>	Date of this revision	<b>2006</b>



TYPICAL TRUSS



TYPICAL COMMON RAFTER COUPLE



**STANTONS FARM HOUSE, EAST CHILTINGTON, EAST SUSSEX  
 DETAILS OF REUSED EARLY ROOF**

Site Ref **P118/02**

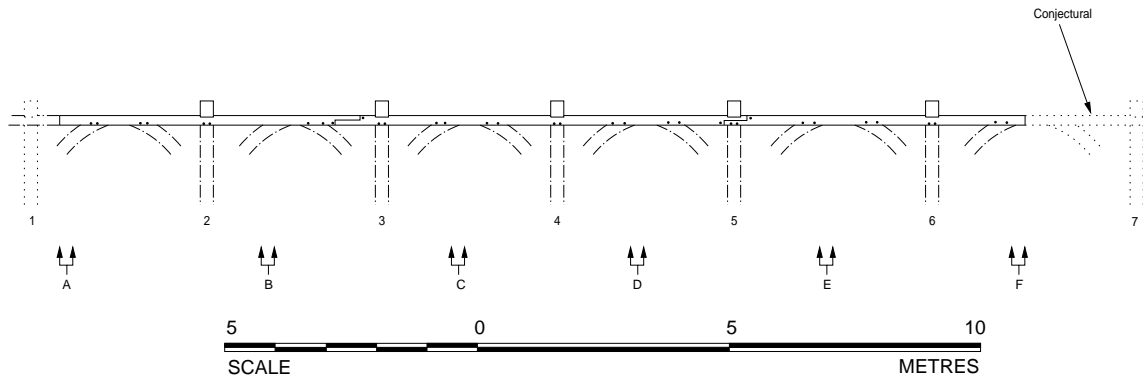
Drawing No. **1631/2A**

Drawn By **D Martin**

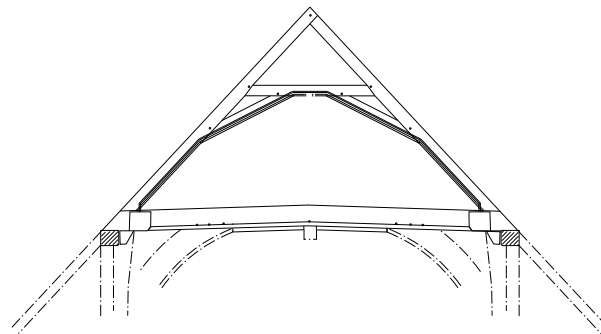
Revision No **1**

Date of original survey **2006**

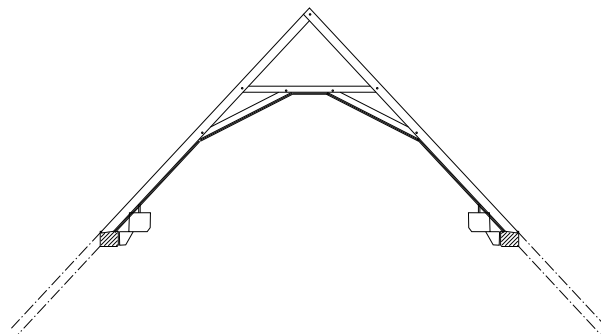
Date of this revision **2006**



ARCADE PLATE REUSED AS NORTHERN WALLPLATE OF PERIOD-A HOUSE  
 SHOWING REUSED TIEBEAMS REPLACED INTO DOVETAILED JOINTS AND  
 ARCADE POSTS + ARCADE BRACES FITTED INTO MORTICES IN ARCADE PLATE  
 [1-7 = Positions of original trusses; A-F = Positions of trusses as rebuilt during Period A]



RECONSTRUCTION OF TYPICAL TRUSS



RECONSTRUCTION AT TYPICAL COMMON RAFTER COUPLE



**STANTONS FARM HOUSE, EAST CHILTINGTON, EAST SUSSEX  
 RECONSTRUCTED DETAILS OF REUSED EARLY ROOF**

Site Ref **P118/02**

Drawing No. **1631/2B**

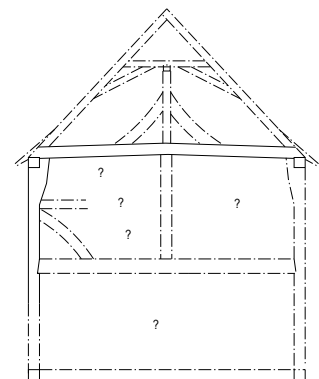
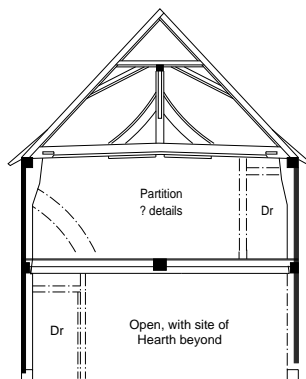
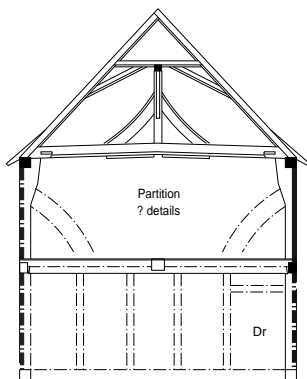
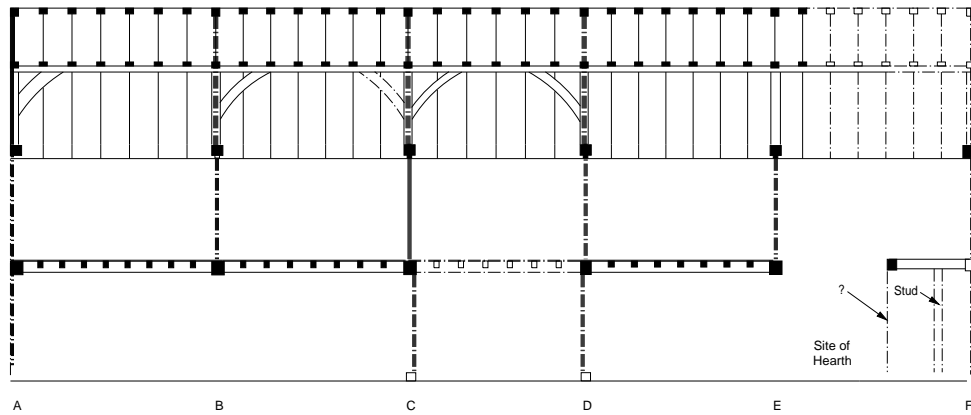
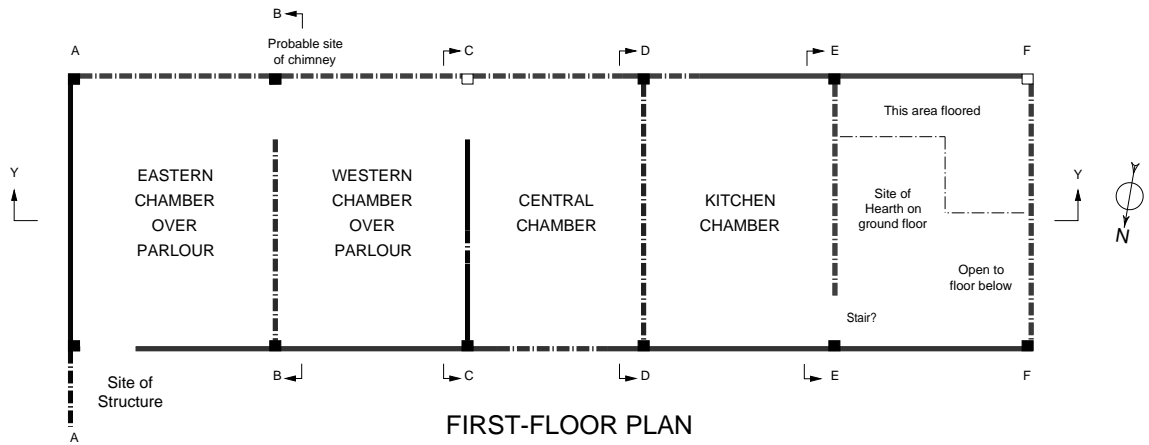
Drawn By **D Martin**

Revision No **1**

Date of original survey **2006**

Date of this revision **2006**





**STANTONS FARM HOUSE, EAST CHILTINGTON, EAST SUSSEX  
PERIOD-A RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS**

Site Ref **P118/02**

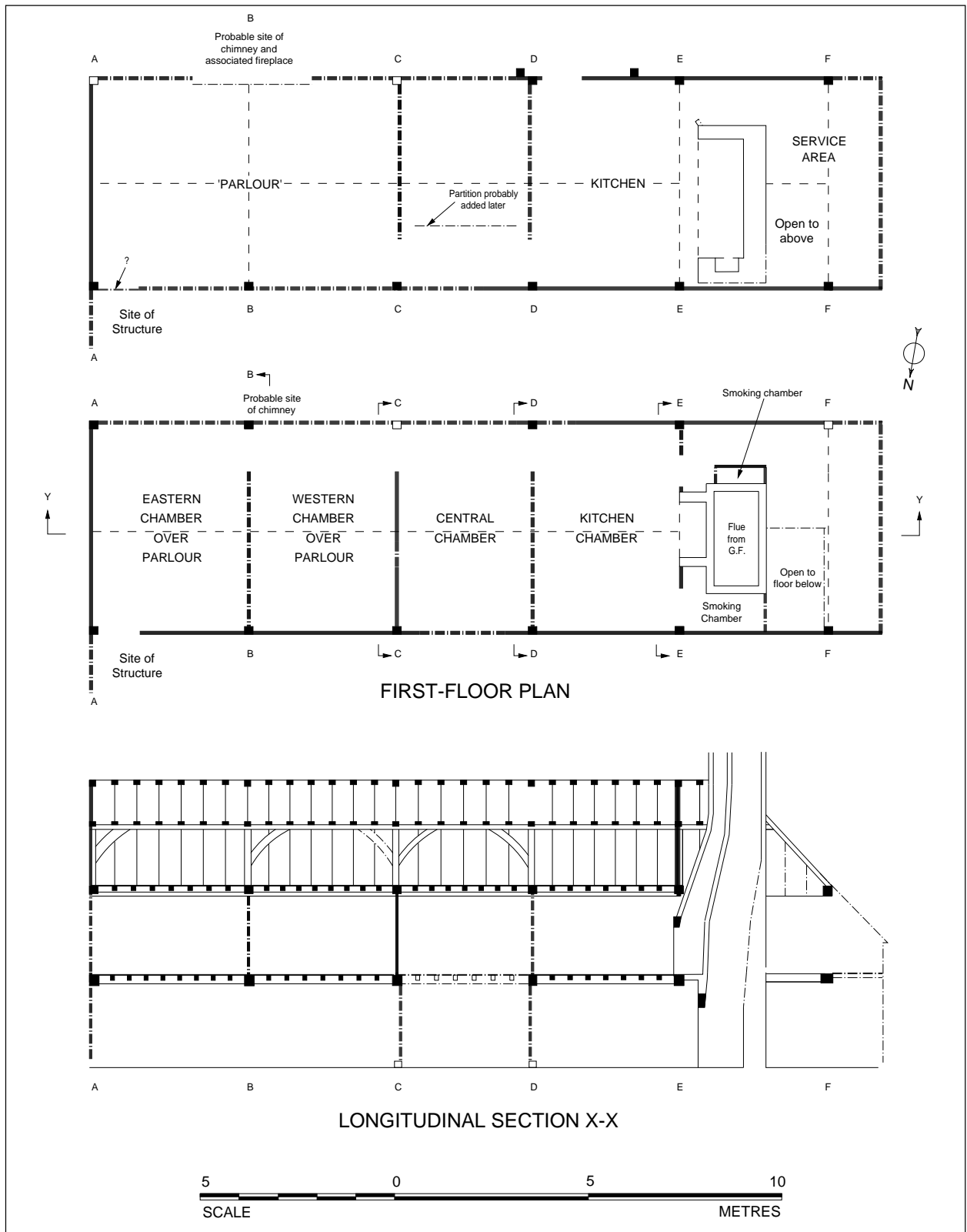
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Drawn By **D Martin**

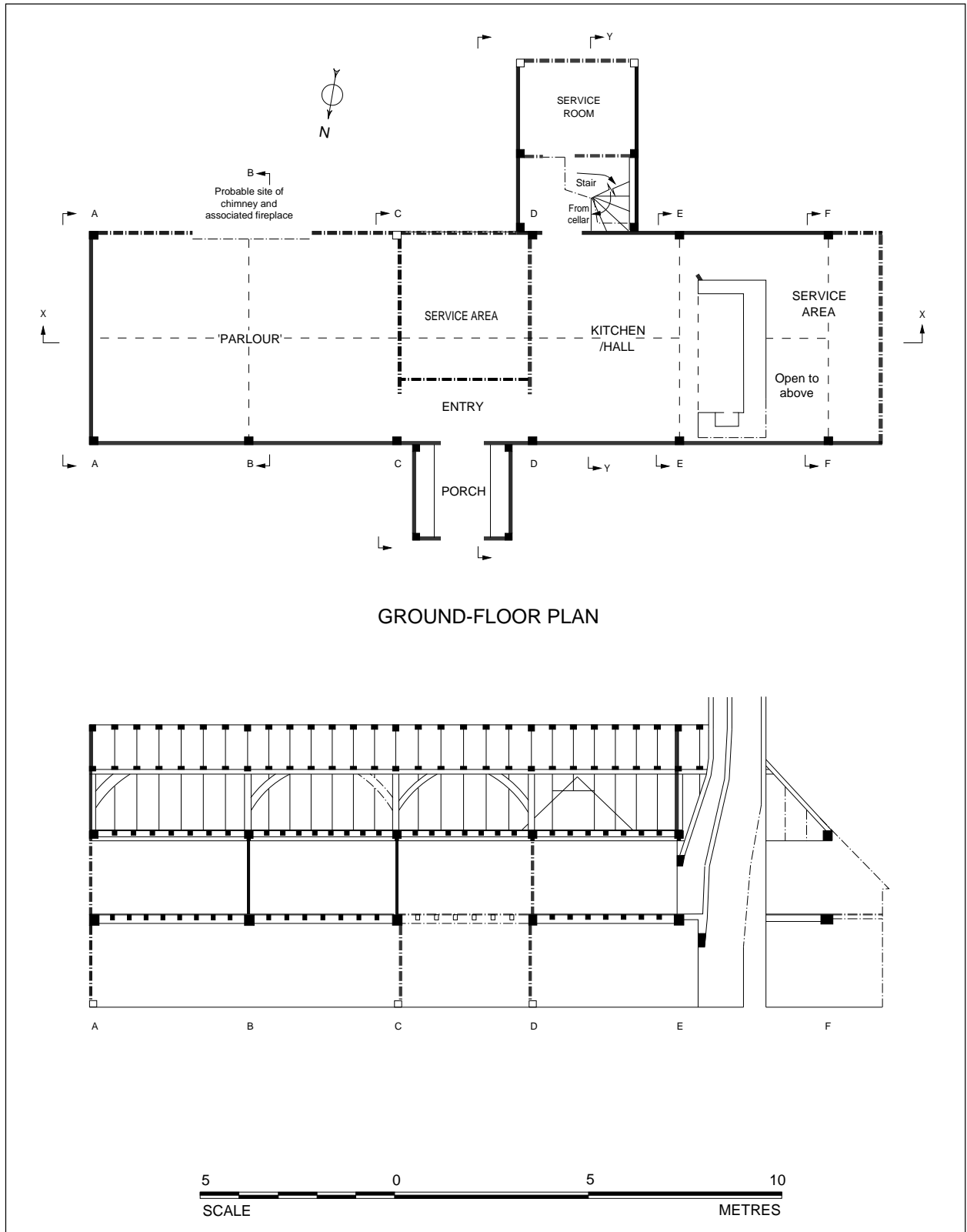
Revision No **1**

Date of original survey **2006**

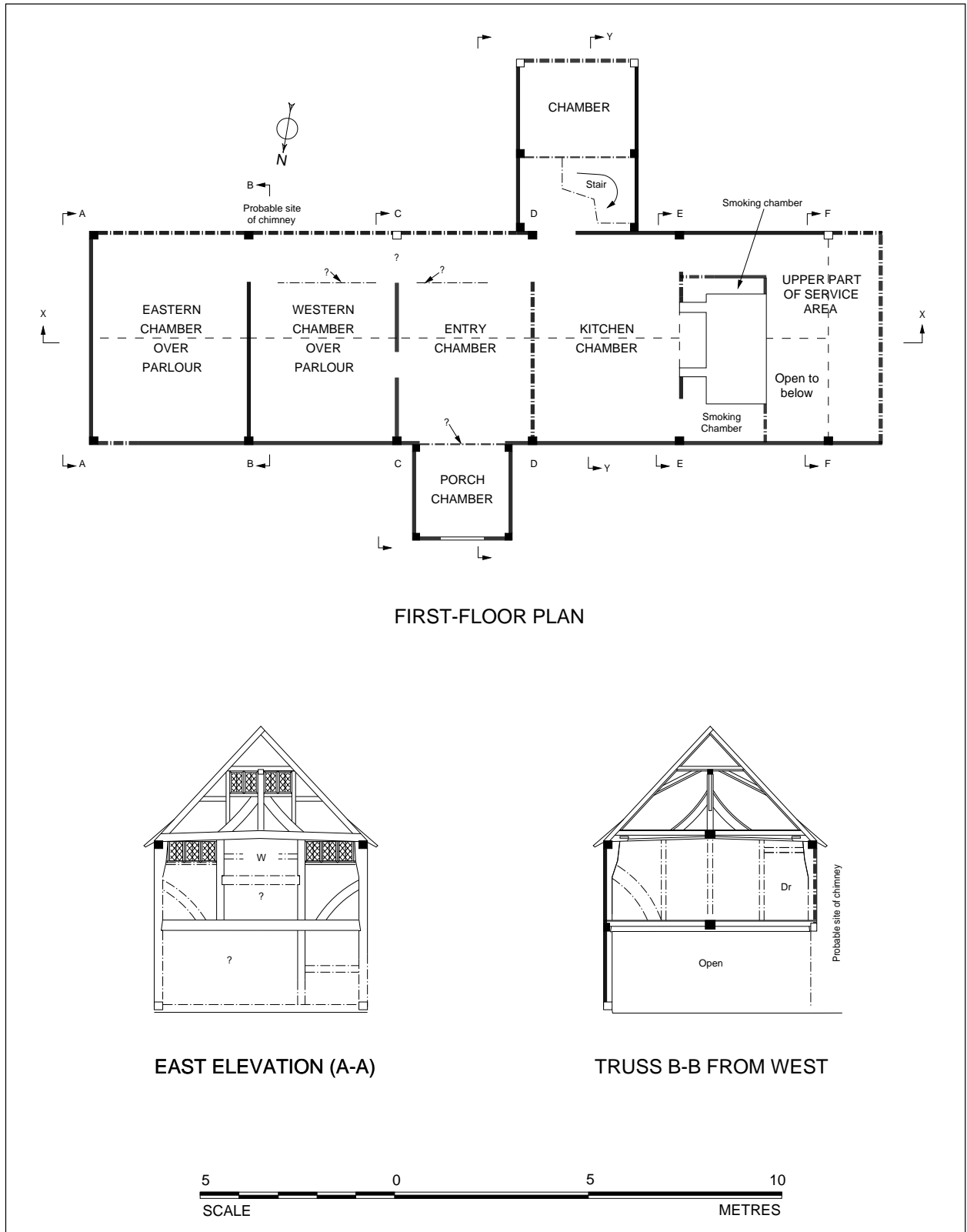
Date of this revision **2006**



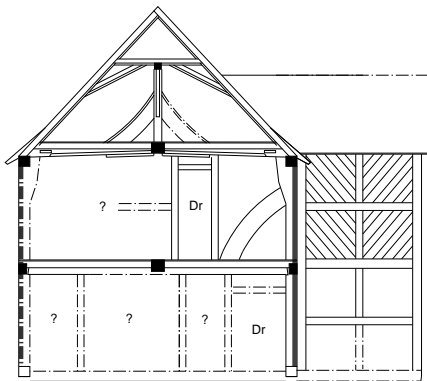
<b>STANTONS FARM HOUSE, EAST CHILTINGTON, EAST SUSSEX</b>				Site Ref	<b>P118/02</b>
<b>PERIOD-B RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Drawing No.	<b>1631/4</b>
Drawn By	<b>D Martin</b>	Revision No	1	Date of original survey	<b>2006</b>
				Date of this revision	<b>2006</b>



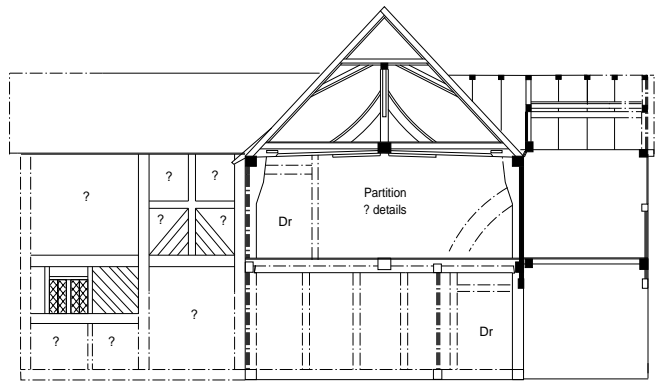
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<b>PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Drawing No.	<b>1631/5</b>
Drawn By	<b>D Martin</b>	Revision No	1	Date of original survey	<b>2006</b>
				Date of this revision	<b>2006</b>



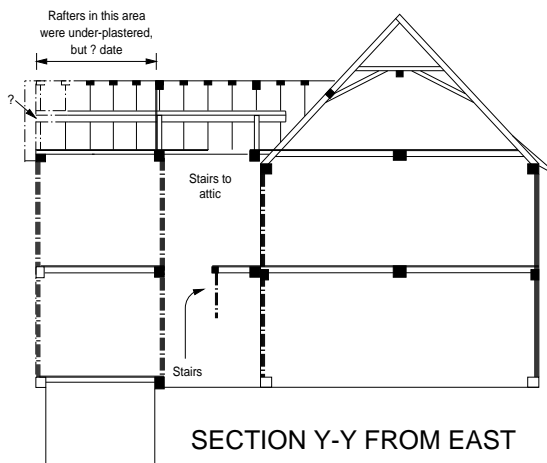
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<b>PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Drawing No.	<b>1631/6</b>
Drawn By	<b>D Martin</b>	Revision No	1	Date of original survey	<b>2006</b>
				Date of this revision	<b>2006</b>



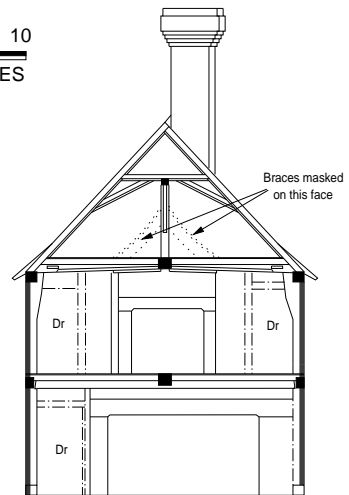
TRUSS C-C FROM EAST



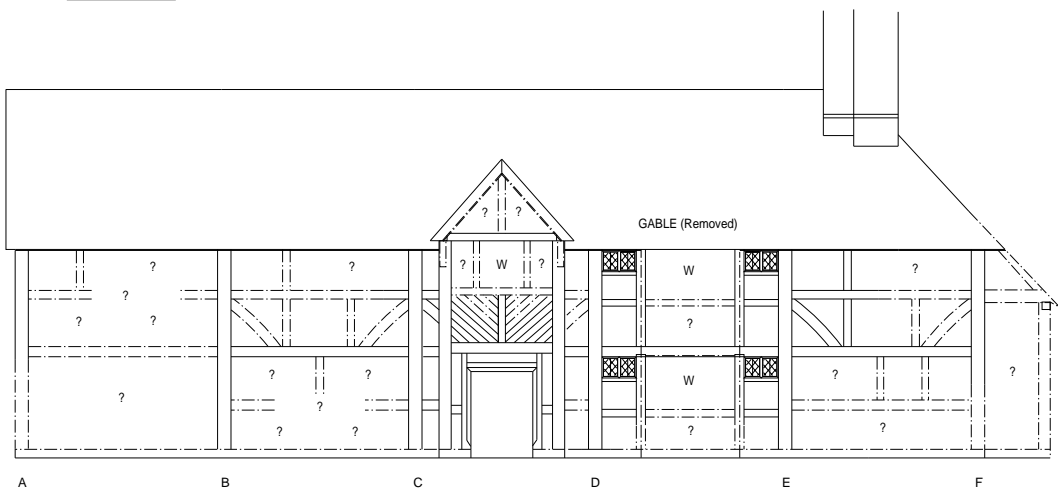
TRUSS D-D FROM EAST



SECTION Y-Y FROM EAST



TRUSS E-E FROM EAST



NORTH ELEVATION

**STANTONS FARM HOUSE, EAST CHILTINGTON, EAST SUSSEX  
PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS**

Site Ref **P118/02**

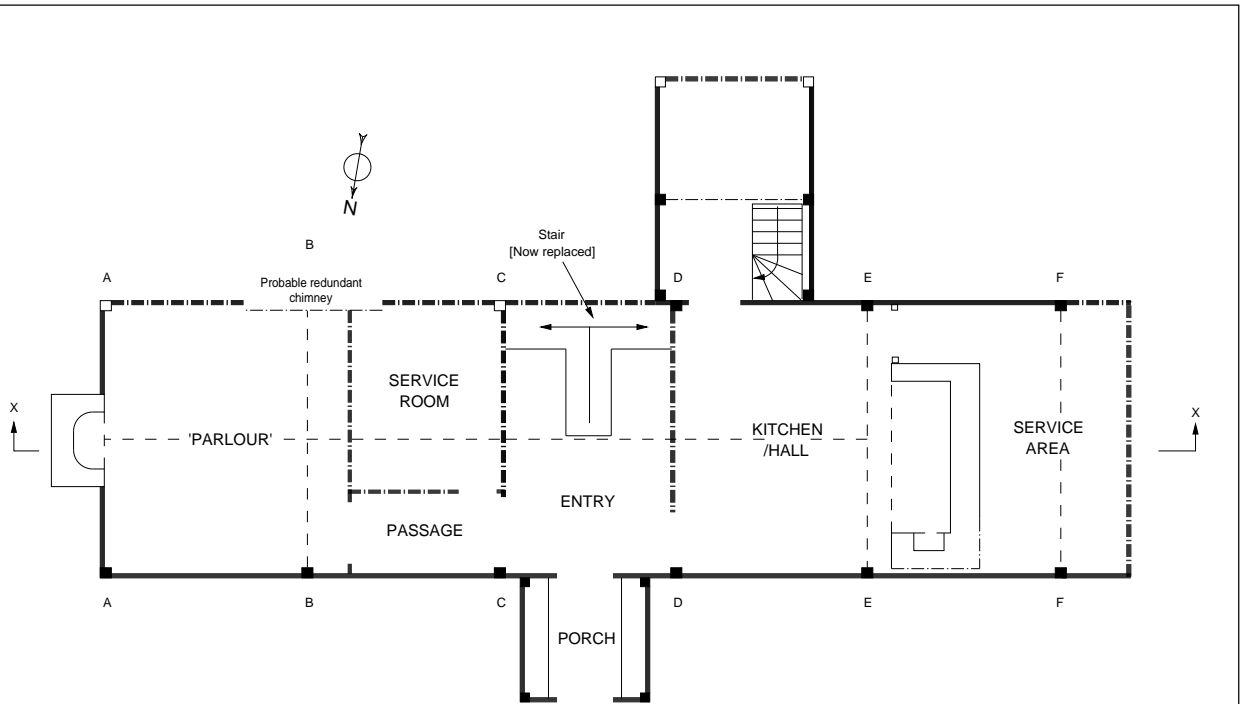
Drawing No. **1631/7**

Drawn By **D Martin**

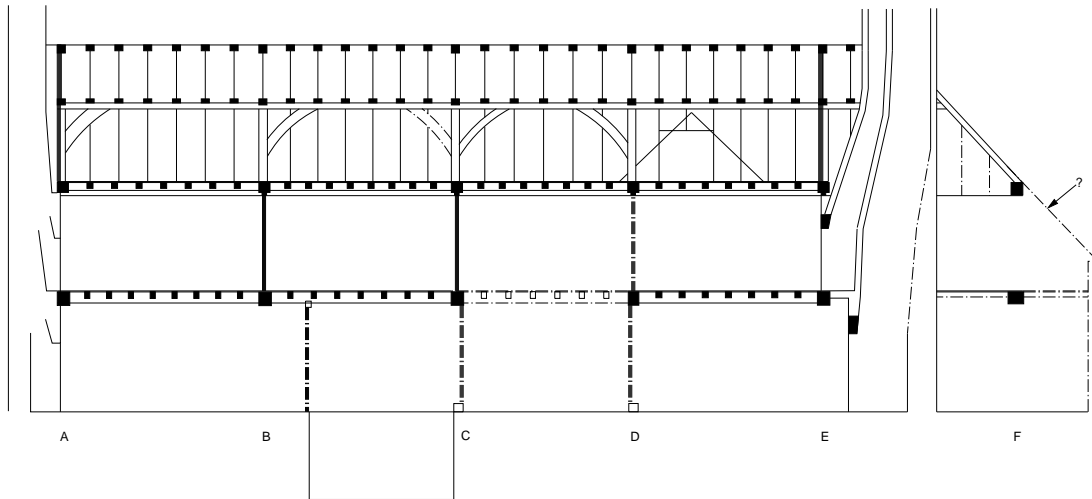
Revision No **1**

Date of original survey **2006**

Date of this revision **2006**



GROUND-FLOOR PLAN



LONGITUDINAL SECTION X-X



<b>STANTONS FARM HOUSE, EAST CHILTINGTON, EAST SUSSEX</b>				Site Ref	<b>P118/02</b>
<b>PERIOD-D RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Drawing No.	<b>1631/8</b>
Drawn By	<b>D Martin</b>	Revision No	1	Date of original survey	<b>2006</b>
				Date of this revision	<b>2006</b>

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