

**An Archaeological Interpretative Survey  
of  
1 & 2 Coppard's Bridge,  
Chailey, East Sussex**

**Commissioned by Peter & Sally Varlow**

**Project Ref. 3208**



**by David Martin Fsa IHBC MIFA & Barbara Martin AIFA**

**2008**

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**Archaeology South-East  
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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

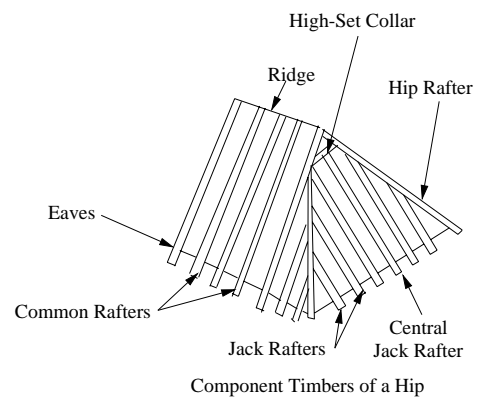
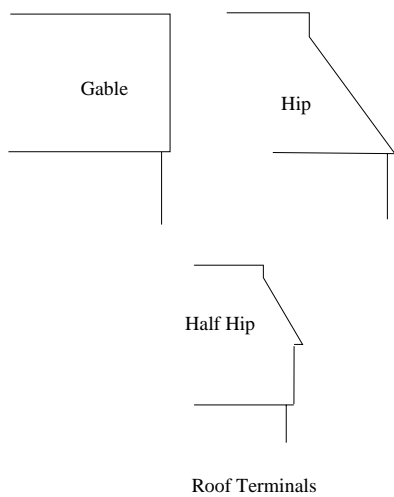
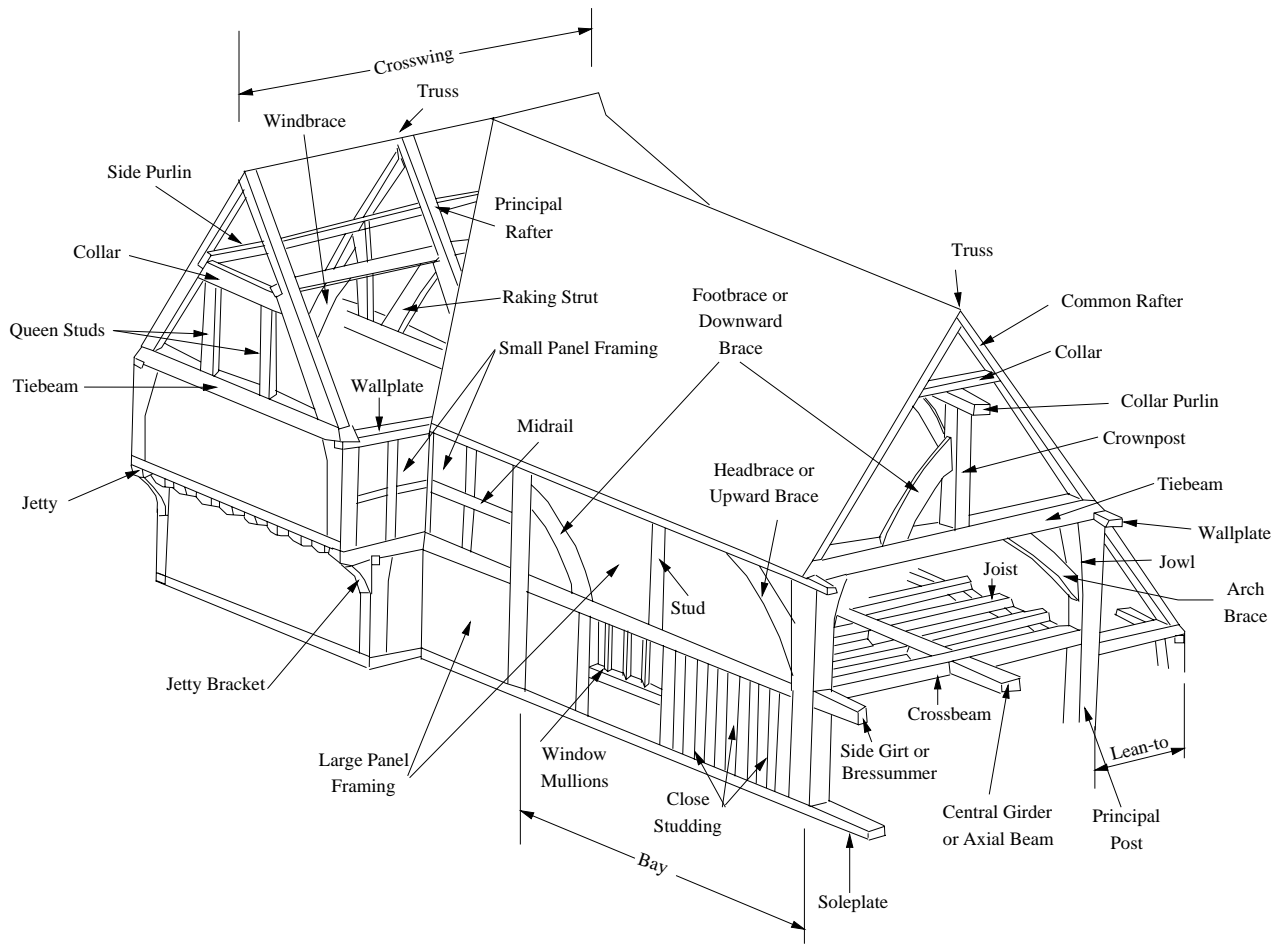
A set of drawings produced from an measured outline survey is included within the body of each report. The purpose of these drawings is to identify the features included within the written text and to illustrate, as far as is known, the form of the structure during its various stages of development. 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. 1676

### CHAILEY - 1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE

NGR TQ 4000 1955

#### LOCATION

Nos. 1-2 Coppard's Bridge stand on the eastern side of the lane (Cinder Hill) which runs between Newick and Chailey, a little to the south of Coppard's Bridge and approximately half a mile to the ENE of Chailey parish church. It is built upon a NNE-SSW axis (hereafter assumed N-S) upon ground which falls gently away to the north, at a height of approximately 20 metres above O.D. The principal elevation faces WNW (hereafter assumed west) towards the highway.

#### LISTED STATUS OF THE BUILDING

Coppard's Bridge (Nos. 1 and 2) was listed grade II on 27th September 1979, its listed building reference being TQ 41 NW 6/16. The description in the list entry is purely for the purpose of recognition and is normally, therefore, primarily based on external appearance. The date is given as C17 or earlier. [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.

#### OVERVIEW OF THE BUILDING [Drawing Nos. 1676/1-2]

Behind the building's present relatively late looking tile-hung and brick-underbuilt facade is a large four-bay timber-framed hall house of c.1475 [**Period A**]. The layout was standard — on the ground floor a two-bay open hall with a pair of service rooms to the north (with chamber above) and a parlour to the south (also with chamber above, carried on a jetty at the southern end). There were draught sperees protecting the front and rear doorways. One of the two arch braces of the hall truss remains *in situ*, as does the dais panelling beneath a moulded dais beam. The panelling shows good evidence for a fixed bench, which incorporated a bench end / draught spere. Walls generally are of footbraced large-panel design. The crownpost roof has been totally rebuilt.

The owners appear to have been slow to floor over their hall and, when they did, they undertook the procedure in two distinct phases. The first of these, carried out c.1575 [**Period B**] involved flooring over the low-end bay only, giving an extra first-floor chamber. The ground-floor of this bay seems to have served as a spacious entrance area, separated from the main body of the hall by a screen against which, no doubt, the open hearth stood.

A number of alterations were carried out c.1600 [**Period C**] of which one was the flooring over of the upper bay of the hall. Associated with this, a ceiling was inserted into the hall chamber, a two-flue chimney was thrust through the period-B floor so as to heat the hall and hall chamber, and new windows were inserted into both areas. The other alterations of this general date may have been carried out at the same time, or could have been undertaken as discrete phases of alterations. Because of the doubt, all are here classified collectively as period C. The principal of these involved adding a rear-aisled bay and end lean-to outshut onto the northern end of the period-A house and extending the new aisle southwards so as to run along the rear of the northern period-A bay. The object of these alterations was to convert the medieval services into a kitchen (heated by a new three-flue chimney within the added bay) and transfer the services into the addition. One of the new service rooms was heated by a fireplace (since removed) within the stack. Part of the rear aisle housed a new staircase. On the first floor, the old service chamber (new kitchen chamber) had a ceiling inserted, was heated by a fireplace in the new stack, and was lit by a frieze of ovolo-moulded windows inserted into the front elevation. Other alterations of about this period include the re-siting of the stairs at the parlour end, insertion of a ceiling into the parlour chamber, and re-infilling parts of the walls using small-panel framing.

Although most of the work included under the heading 'Period C' can be confidently dated to 1600 +/- 25 years, a few of the minor alterations (including some of the small-panel framing) could date from as late as c.1650. However, the next identifiable phase of alteration is early/mid 18th century (probably c.1740) [**Period D**]. At this date, although an oven was added against the eastern jamb of the hall fireplace, little or no alteration was made to the internal layout. The principal modification involved the total reconstruction of the roof to a less steep pitch. The quantity of charred reused material incorporated (including both medieval and 'transitional' rafters) could indicate that the earlier roof was damaged by a thatch fire, though, if so, the thatch must have been removed very swiftly for there is no charring on the attic floor boards. Indeed, only two very discrete areas of possible charring were noted on the main frame of the house.

When the period-D alterations were undertaken the house was still in single occupancy. From the available evidence it would seem that the building was not divided into two cottages until the first half of the 19th century, at which date a number of modifications were made (Drawing No. 1676/1). That which transformed the external appearance of the house most was the underbuilding of the frame in brick (carried out in at least two phases) and tile hanging the principal elevations at the upper level. The front doors serving the two cottages are set side-by-side, within the lower bay of the hall. Internally, every effort seems to have been made to form two cottages of handed, but otherwise

similar plan, though obviously concessions were necessary in order to take into account the un-symmetrical nature of the existing features. The internal alterations associated with the cottage phase were not necessarily undertaken at one date. Within the southern cottage (No. 1) the parlour was sized down, this part of the southern jetty was underbuilt to include a chimney, and a new doorway was formed through the dais partition, allowing direct access from hall to parlour. The hall too was sized down by dividing off a room to the rear, and this same modification was repeated on the first floor. The hall's inglenook fireplace was in-built and, in order to increase usable space, the period-D oven was removed and a new oven added, projecting from the rear wall, blocking the cross passage. Beside the new oven, to the east, was installed a wash/brew 'copper'. The principal alterations within the northern cottage (No. 2) likewise involved the formation of rooms within the rear part of the main range, together with a parlour within the front part of the northern extension, the northern lean-to element of which seems to have been totally rebuilt at this date. These works also involved replacing the north-facing fireplace by one of much smaller size — the snapped-off tumbling of the earlier fireplace's flue is still visible within the roof.

Both cottages have been upgraded during the 20th century. Those alterations made to No. 2 have mostly been cosmetic, but have included the partial/complete reconstruction of some of the partitions inserted during the cottage-phase, and the construction of modern internal brick features. The solid ground floors in this area have been replaced by modern suspended floors. The southern cottage (No. 1) was sympathetically restored late in the 20th century, carefully repairing some of the damaged medieval features. It was at this date that a few of the period-B joists were removed from the eastern part of the hall's low-end bay in order to allow the creation of a new staircase. A small modern rear lean-to outshut was replaced by a single-storeyed extension as part of this work

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

## **DETAILED ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

### **PERIOD A (c.1475 +/- 35 years) [Drawing Nos. 1676/3-5]**

#### **LAYOUT**

Even in its un-extended period-A form the house was of above average size. It measured 14.65 metres x 6.55 metres (48'1" x 21'6") and comprised four bays in length.

As illustrated by Drawing No. 1676/3, on the ground floor within the northern bay were a pair of service rooms, whilst at the southern end was a relatively large parlour with a

jetty. Occupying the space between these was the hall, which was of two unequal-length bays and was open from the ground to the roof. The front and rear entrance doorways were sited hard against the service partition — both doorways incorporated short draught speres (now removed) which projected into the hall beneath a headplate jointed into the side girts. At the opposite end of the hall survives a moulded dais beam with intact dais panelling beneath, complete with marks left by a fixed bench incorporating a bench end / draught spere against the parlour doorway. An arch-braced truss crossed the hall.

On the first floor, over the service rooms and parlour, were first-floor chambers — one beyond each end of the hall — both originally open to the roof. These chambers were accessed by their own stairs, that leading to the service chamber being accessed direct from the hall via a doorway set against the rear wall, whilst that leading to the parlour chamber was sited within the parlour, rising against the southern face of the dais partition. Thus, both the parlour and parlour chamber served as a private suite of rooms which could be isolated from the remainder of the house by the doorway at the eastern end of the dais partition. The chambers at both ends of the house were of generous proportions, incorporating walls which measured 1.90 metres (6'3") from first floor to top of wallplate.

## **WALL DESIGN**

Although by no means the most highly decorated of medieval houses — indeed the level of decor is quite basic — this is, nonetheless, an exceptionally well built structure which makes use of timbers of above average scantling for the period and area. It uses standard timber-framed techniques throughout, with stopped chamfering to the leading edges of the principal timbers. There was originally a first-floor jetty (still partially intact) running across the southern end wall.

Reconstructions of the wall design are shown in Drawing Nos. 1676/4-5. The walls are framed using large panels of daub, separated one from the other by studs and triangulated to the principal posts at first-floor level using curved footbraces. At least within the rear wall, northern wall, and the two internal trusses, the braces are/were positioned so as to be exposed within the external/primary face. It should be noted that not all the joints which secure the period-A braces and studs to the frame are pegged, and thus in some places the presence of setting-out lines have had to be utilized to identify the locations of hidden/removed timbers. The period-A daub infill was supported by traditional staves fitted at their heads into typical small round-ended mortices or 'stave holes'.

Internally the partition which divides the service bay from the hall (Truss B-B) incorporated three doorways on the ground floor. The pair of openings which gave access into the two service rooms were flanked by large daub-infilled panels and are fitted with shaped heads. The third opening — a plain, square-headed doorway at the eastern end of the partition — led to the stairs giving access to the service chamber.

The substantial crossbeam which extends across the building immediately above the doorways, incorporates a wide, un-stopped chamfer to its lower leading edge on the hall face. Above this level were a pair of footbraces descending from the principal posts to the crossbeam. In the partition's period-A form three studs divided this upper level into large daub panels.



*Plate 1*

*Dais partition showing head of parlour doorway, moulded dais beam and panelling*

At the opposite (dais) end of the hall is truss D-D. At its lower level this partition is infilled by a vertical-plank screen set into a purpose-cut groove in the soffit of the dais beam. Commonly, panelling of this type was strengthened on the reverse side at mid height by a horizontal rail, but there is no evidence for such a rail in this instance. Positioned centrally along the length of the panelling is a wide stud, the front face of which is bevelled, giving the timber a triangular profile in section. Beyond the eastern end of the panelling is a wide, arched-headed doorway leading into the parlour. Mortices cut into the hall face of the door jamb indicate the position of a draught spere, which would have doubled as a bench end. The former fixed dais bench is evidenced by mortices in the jamb and central stud and by additional mortices in some of the planks. To judge from their level, these seem to have been intruded subsequently to suit a slightly higher bench. The bench itself is further evidenced by a distinct horizontal line on the hall face of the planks — this scar indicates that the seat consisted of 60 mm thick planks. The 300 mm deep dais beam which spans the building immediately above the panelling is moulded with a simple design of rolls and cavetto mouldings, capped by crenellations (Plate 1). The upper part of the partition follows the same design as within truss D-D, but with the panels more equally spaced.

## **OPEN TRUSS**

Truss C-C (Drawing No. 1676/5) crosses the open hall, preventing the wallplates from spreading, dividing the two bays of the hall, and forming an impressive architectural feature. The principal posts of the truss each incorporated an integral chamfered nib running up their inner face as far as the spring-point of the arch brace. That nib to the rear post still survives, though now largely hidden behind a door lining. From these sprang 120 mm x 420 mm chamfered curved arch braces, of which one still remains *in*

*situ* (Plate 2). At the head they were morticed and tenoned into the underside of the tiebeam, abutting against an integral, chamfered nib which extends across the central part of the tiebeam's soffit, which itself is slightly cranked. The function of the nib was to carry the profile of the braces across the central part of the building, thereby giving a more impressive shape to the arch. In addition to the chamfered nibs, the leading edges of the principal posts and tiebeam are boldly chamfered with the chamfers terminated at the ends by means of stepped-and-splay-cut stops. Above the centre of the tiebeam rose a freestanding crownpost (removed).



*Plate 2*  
*Surviving eastern brace of hall truss,*  
*viewed from north.*

## **WINDOWS**

Good mortice evidence survives for several of the period-A windows. The mortices indicate that the windows were of un-glazed type with diamond-section mullions jointed into mortices of triangular cross section, with the flat base of the triangle set towards the external edge of the timber. The use of triangular-section mortices made them less likely to rot out, a feature which often occurred with the standard diamond-section type. There is currently no visible evidence for internal shutters closing the window openings.

In the rear wall of the hall's high-end bay survives good evidence (in the form of mortices) for the block of four windows — two tiers of two — which lit the open hall. The arrangement is evidenced by the mortices for the jambs, king mullion and common mullions visible in the underside of the wallplate, with further mortices visible in the underside of the side girt/transom, photographed by Mr and Mrs Varlow when the house was under restoration in 1983. At its base the window was supported by a deep continuous cill, evidenced by a double-pegged mortice visible in the southern face of the principal post of the open truss (C-C). A similar bank of four windows would have been sited within the front wall, within which wall only one peg hole (for a jamb) is now visible.

## **DOORWAYS**

Primary access into the house was via a wide doorway in the front wall, at the extreme northern end of the hall. Here, the side girt is deliberately set high in order to allow room for the doorway's arched head, of plank type, the housing for which is just visible in the soffit of the beam. The northern door jamb was set hard against the principal post of the service partition (truss B-B) whilst the location of the southern jamb is indicated by a peg hole. There was a doorway of similar size immediately opposite, in the rear wall, but here the side girt is not raised — being in a secondary elevation, this doorway did not incorporate an arched head. Above the site of the southern jamb of each of the two doorway is a substantial, neat mortice cut into the internal face of the side girt. These indicate the positions of former projecting draught speres.

As is occasionally found elsewhere, the doorways giving access into the two service rooms vary slightly in width — 740 mm for the western doorway and 680 mm for the eastern doorway. Both have arched heads of plank type. The arched head to the doorway which formerly gave access into the rear (eastern) service room is exposed to view, but has been reversed in modern times. Given that it incorporates sunk spandrels (whilst that to the parlour doorway is plain, despite being a more important opening) may indicate that the head has been imported from elsewhere. Fragments are visible of the other service doorway's arched head (doorway currently blocked), but it is impossible to tell whether this too has sunk spandrels. The doorway which formerly gave access to the stairs leading to the service chamber is square headed, and here the door would have been hinged so as to open out into the hall — this arrangement was necessitated by the location of the stair, rising immediately beyond the opening.

At the parlour end of the hall only one doorway led north, giving access to the private quarters of the house. In this way the parlour bay was able to form a private suite of two rooms — one on each floor. At a metre wide, the doorway is exceptionally generous in its size and, surprisingly, the spandrels of its four-centred arched head are entirely plain, though the leading edges are hollow chamfered. As plate 1 shows, both the head and the adjacent jamb are housed up into the base of the dais beam and interrupt the lower hollow-chamfered order of the dais moulding.

## **FLOORS AND CEILINGS**

The joists within the northern service bay run north-south along the axis of the building, are plain, and mostly measure 210 mm x c.150 mm, though one joist is wider, at 240 mm. As is usual practice, the joists are jointed into the reverse face of the crossbeam at truss B-B, but lodged over the crossbeam of the end wall (A-A). The partition which formerly divided the two service rooms is evidenced not only by the arrangement of the service doorways, but also by stave holes and pegged stud mortice visible in the soffit of the central joist.

At the southern (parlour) end the pattern of joists is repeated, but in this instance the

timbers formerly projected beyond the southern end ground-floor wall so as to support a jettied first-floor wall. Most of the jetty has been brick underbuilt, but a fragment still survives towards the eastern end. Presumably reflecting their lesser span, the joists within the parlour bay are of slightly smaller scantling, measuring 190 mm x 150 mm. They were originally plain, but, when the parlour was sized down, chamfers were added to those within the remodelled parlour area. A series of carpenter assembly marks are visible on the rear face of the crossbeam and on the joists — they take the form of Roman numerals and run consecutively (but see 'Stairs' below).

Both first-floor chambers were originally open to the roof, and thus there were no period-A first-floor ceilings.

## **STAIRS**

As has already been mentioned, access to the first-floor chamber over the services was from the hall via a doorway at the eastern end of the service partition, leading directly onto a stair rising against the rear wall. Although the stair has been removed, its site is still evidenced by a purpose formed trimmed opening (now blocked) in the floor joists.

Rather than being placed against the rear wall, the stair giving access to the parlour chamber was positioned hard against the rear face of the dais partition, rising from just within the parlour doorway. There is evidence that the stair trimming as built is not as originally planned, for there is a 'redundant' (but numbered) joist mortice at the western end of the stair trap, whilst the joist which forms the eastern edge of the trap is fitted into an un-numbered mortice. The redundant, but numbered joist is marked 'IV' (for '6'), with those to the west are numbered 'I', 'II', 'III', 'IIII' and 'V'. Beyond the un-numbered mortice, to the east, is one further joist mortice, which is numbered 'IIV' (for '7'). The numbers on the sides of the first four joists agree with those on the mortices, but the next joist (which contains the mortice for the trimmer joist) is numbered 'IV' ('6'), despite being fitted into mortice 'V'. The joists to the east of the stair trimming are likewise out of sequence. The explanation for this seems clear. The original intended location for the stairs was one joist further to the east than the arrangement as built, but it was realized that this intended location clashed with the position of the parlour doorway. Perhaps the exceptionally wide parlour doorway was originally planned to be narrower. Anyway, the location of the joists was 'adjusted' so that those forming the stair trimming were placed one joist further west than originally intended.

## **HEATING SYSTEM**

The hall would initially have been heated by a hearth set into the floor of the hall. The smoke from the fire would have drifted up into the body of the room and into the roof. Areas of sooting still remain in crevices within the lower bay of the hall, but generally the soot has been cleaned off the timbers.

## **ROOF**

The roof over the house was totally reconstructed to a less steep pitch during period D (qv). Birdsmouths in the northern and southern end tiebeams indicate that both roof terminals were of hipped type. The roof itself was — as is usual locally — of crownpost type. Located centrally within the upper face of the tiebeam of the hall truss (C-C) is a substantial pegged mortice which formerly accommodated the freestanding crownpost, whilst the tiebeam of truss B-B retains setting-out lines indicating the position of the footbraces of a partition crownpost, and a pegged mortice gives evidence for the crownpost itself. Similar evidence for a partition crownpost (this time also with pegged joints to the footbraces) survives on the tiebeam of truss D-D.

Within the period-D roof are incorporated a number of reused rafters (some charred by fire) but most of these rafters are of post-medieval or transitional scantling, despite having dovetail halvings for former collars. It is possible that these narrower rafters were reused from the northern end extension added during period C. However, a few heavy-scantling medieval rafters are reused within the southern hip, and these are likely to have originated from the period-A roof.

## **PERIOD B (c.1575 +/- 25 years) [Drawing Nos. 1676/6]**

During this period the hall was partially floored over and sized down by the construction of a first floor within the lower bay of the hall, and the insertion of a partition into the open truss. This was achieved by adding a 260 mm deep crossbeam into the hall truss, located immediately below the spring point of the arch braces, partially supported by the integral nibs running up the face of the principal posts. The new floor consisted of neatly stop-chamfered 100 mm x 140 mm joists set at close centres and aligned along the axis of the building, being jointed into the reverse face of the new crossbeam using haunched soffit tenons, and lodged over the crossbeam of truss B-B. The arrangement of the chamfers on the joists (including those against the tumbling of the period-C hall chimney) make it all but certain that originally there was no chimney passing through the floor.

Extending along the lower leading edge of the new crossbeam are a series of peg holes indicating the positions of former studs. Those at each end of the crossbeam delineate doorways, but a visible stave notch immediately to the west of the eastern doorway indicates that the panel to the west of this opening was daub infilled. This was the eastern of three panels located between the two openings, in the area where the period-C fireplace now sits. Given that this later chimney has been intruded through the inserted floor, it is assumed that the hall continued to be served by an open hearth, probably located against the hall face of the central section of the new partition. This

panel is likely to have been infilled with brick or stone in order to form a non-combustible surface. At first-floor level the hall truss was infilled with daub (supported by wide interwoven laths - see Plate 2) divided into three panels by a pair of studs fixed to the underside of the tiebeam, beneath the ends of the integral nib. At this period both arch braces were retained *in situ*, but the western brace has since been removed. The partition would have continued up into the roof space.

By constructing a partition on the line of the hall truss, the front and rear doorways leading into the house could be maintained, so too could the doorways leading into the service rooms and to the stairs giving access to the service chamber. The house therefore continued to function in its medieval form, other than the ground-floor area of the hall was divided into two parts — a large entry area and a living area — and an additional chamber (albeit poorly lit, if at all) was formed over the hall's low-end bay. This chamber was accessed via a doorway cut through truss B-B towards its eastern end, to the side of the service stairs. The new chamber presumably functioned as a low status space, perhaps intended for storage.

This form of conversion, in which the high-end bay of the hall remained open to the roof, is rare, despite the fact that, to large extent, it mimicked the layout found in hall houses built from the outset with an overshot cross passage. The difference here is that, rather than having a single large chamber extending over the services and hall's entrance area, in this arrangement there were two low-end chambers. The only other example of a conversion of this type which readily comes to mind is Parkhill, Burwash [East Sussex Record Office HBR 1/47]. The arrangement found here should not be confused with houses incorporating smoke bays — in those it was the high-end bay which was floored, and the low-end bay which was left open.

## **PERIOD C (1575-1650, mostly c.1600 +/- 25 years)** **[Drawing Nos. 1676/7-9]**

NB: As indicated under the heading 'Overview of the Building', the works allocated to 'Period C' within this report need not have been undertaken as a single building campaign, but may instead have been carried out as a series of separate and quite discrete alterations. All of these post-date the period-B alterations and most were undertaken within a relatively close time frame, though some of the small-panel framing looks a little later in style and could date to nearer 1650. Reconstruction drawings 1676/7-9 illustrate the building as it is likely to have appeared at the end of the sequence of period-C alterations.

## **LAYOUT**

Adjustments within the southern three bays of the medieval house were restricted to the following:

- re-positioning the parlour stairs in order to form a lobby at the base, thereby separating the stairs from the parlour
- inserting a first floor into the main body of the hall
- intruding a chimney through the period-B inserted floor, positioned so as to maintain a cross passage against the hall/service partition (truss B-B)
- inserting first-floor ceilings into the parlour chamber and hall chamber.

The period-B low-end hall chamber remained open to the roof, and it was from within this low-status chamber that access could be gained to the new storage areas formed in the attic. Although the above mentioned alterations had a major impact upon the comfort of the house, the structural alterations required in order to achieve the revisions were relatively minor.

The period-C alterations at the northern end of the house were more radical. They involved adding a new northern bay with an end lean-to outshut (since rebuilt) beyond, and building a narrow (1.15 metre (3'9")) aisle/outshut along the rear of the new bay and the northern medieval service bay. Thus, it was during period C that the building became its present 19.45 metres (63'9") in length. The additions at this end of the house were accompanied by a complete re-configuration of the layout in this area. The three existing ground-floor doorways within the hall/service partition were blocked and replaced by a single doorway just inside the front door. Associated with this, the partition dividing the two service rooms was removed and a wide inglenook fireplace was added into the new bay in order to serve the enlarged room, which now became a kitchen. At the rear, the medieval stairs were removed and the stair trimming was blocked, the stairs at this end of the house being transferred into the newly added rear aisle/outshut (stair since removed). In addition to the kitchen inglenook, the ground-floor part of the new chimney incorporated a second fireplace (since removed) which served a room (probably a wash-house or brewhouse) formed within the period-C end outshut, which area was left open to the lean-to roof.

The new stair leading out of the kitchen presumably incorporated winders at its head and led to a doorway (evidenced by hinge pintles) through the old rear wall of the house. This gave access to the heated kitchen chamber (old medieval service chamber) which, to judge from the ovolo-moulded windows inserted into the front wall, now became a chamber of some status. Doorways led north out of the kitchen chamber to a pair of small, un-heated service chambers — one on either side of the new chimney — whilst a period-B inserted doorway led south into the chamber over the low-status low-end bay of the hall. As already noted, this latter area lacked a first-floor ceiling and housed the staircases giving access to the attics.

## **WALL DESIGN**

The new northern extension is competently framed using average-sized timbers and wholly traditional construction techniques. The new walls are infilled with small-panel framing with the midrails extending continuously over either two or three panels. In

order to match the design of the new walls and to incorporate new windows, the infill framing within the three northern bays of the medieval part of the house were re-infilled, replacing the footbraced large-panels of daub with new-style small-panel framing. Surprisingly, the external wall infill within the southern (parlour) bay was not upgraded, and nor was the internal partition between the parlour chamber and the hall chamber, though the other internal partitions now had extra studs and midrails inserted.

## **WINDOWS**

It is assumed that all the medieval windows were upgraded to glazed type at this period, though evidence of only four of these survives. For example, the windows in both the front and rear walls of the hall chamber were replaced by new, long, glazed openings of either four or, less likely, five glazed panes. That in the rear wall was of flush type, but the details of the cill (jointed to the jambs using haunched mortice-and-tenon joints) and the stopped chamfers on the internal leading edges of the jambs indicate that the corresponding window inserted into the front elevation was of more showy projecting type. Further north, within the front wall of the hall's low-end chamber, photographs taken during the late 20th-century restorations show a further window, in this instance narrow and quite basic in form, divided by two thin diamond-section tie bars. In contrast, the new window inserted into the front wall of the kitchen chamber is of good quality, having originally been of six panes, with ovolo-moulded head, jambs and mullions. Part of the window was destroyed when the present smaller frame was inserted, but the remainder still survives, though now blocked.

The position of only one window is identifiable within the new period-C addition, this being within the rear wall of the aisle/outshut, lighting the top of the new stairs. Apart from the size of its opening, no details are known.

## **DOORWAYS**

All period-C doorways are square-headed and plain. An old plank-and-ledged door survives within the opening between the main and low-end chambers over the hall, but this has been moved to its present location from elsewhere and has been adapted to fit the opening. Nevertheless, the adaptation is of antiquity.

## **FLOORS AND CEILINGS**

The floors inserted at first-floor and attic-floor levels into the upper bay of the hall are of good quality, the joists at both levels being supported by high-status ovolo-moulded central girders — in each case the soffit is enriched with a central sunk order. The girder within the hall chamber has a single ovolo moulding to each leading edge, whereas that over the hall is double ovolo moulded. It is lodged over the dais beam at the southern end, but fitted into a housing cut into the period-B crossbeam of truss C-C

at its northern end. The joists associated with the latter, supporting the floor of the hall chamber, are 130 mm wide and have chamfers with cyma stops. In keeping with the date (probably 1580s or 1590s, but perhaps early 17th century) the joists are widely spaced. The joists supporting the attic floor over the hall chamber are less wide, averaging 95 mm, and these are un-chamfered. They are supported against the roof slope by cleats.

It was also during period C that ceilings were inserted into the parlour chamber and kitchen chamber (old service chamber). Both are of central-girder type with stopped chamfers to the girders, and in both instances the girders support 90-95 mm x 125 mm stop-chamfered joists. Presumably because of the slight camber on the tiebeam of truss B-B, the soffit of the girder in the kitchen chamber hangs down from the tiebeam in a somewhat cumbersome way — nevertheless, this configuration is original to the insertion of the ceiling, as indicated by the location of the stops on the chamfers. In all instances the stops are of cyma type, but those on the central girder within the parlour chamber are further enriched with a bar at the foot of the cyma and by a neat nick just beyond the point.

## **STAIRS**

As already mentioned, both medieval stairs were replaced at this date by new staircases in revised locations (see Drawing No.1676/7). Both stairs have been replaced since. In contrast, the staircase leading to the attic area over the hall chamber and parlour chamber still survives. Sited within the hall's low-status low-end chamber, it consists of a straight flight of triangular-section treads supported by a sloping carriage. It is tempting to suggest that the treads have been reused from one of the two removed period-A stairs. A second similar flight survives within the period-C extension beside the kitchen chimney, but this was refixed in this location at a subsequent date. Originally, this too was located within the hall's low-end chamber and gave access to the attic area over the northern end of the house. As a blocked doorway at attic level shows, the stair remained in this location during period D. To judge from three mortices in the southern face of the tiebeam of truss B-B, immediately beneath the blocked attic doorway, the stair evidently incorporated a landing arrangement at its head.

## **CHIMNEYS**

Two chimneys were constructed during this period, one of two flues added into the cross passage/entry so as to heat the hall and newly-formed hall chamber: the other of three flues was built into the new northern period-C bay in order to serve the kitchen (old services) and northern lean-to service area on the ground floor and the kitchen chamber (old service chamber) on the first floor. Differences in constructional detail suggest that the two chimneys were built during two separate building campaigns.

The stack serving the hall and hall chamber is located in the traditional position, within

the hall's low-end bay against the former open truss, leaving sufficient room to its rear for the retention of a cross passage. This chimney was intruded through the period-B inserted floor within this area, the ground-floor flue tumbling inwards exceptionally steeply so as to avoid cutting more joists than was absolutely necessary. As first built the hall fireplace had a plain but well proportioned timber lintel and incorporated recessed, built-in seats into its brick jambs. In the rear wall, adjacent to the western jamb, is a small triangular-headed recess and there may originally have been a corresponding recess adjacent to the eastern jamb. This latter area has been disturbed by the insertion of a 19th-century oven against the rear wall, which itself replaced a [now removed] oven added during period D against the eastern face of the eastern jamb, blocking the eastern recessed seat. Despite the inclusion of a kitchen served by its own fireplace, the lintel of the hall fireplace shows scars left by a former clockwork spit mechanism. The most notable feature of the first-floor fireplace is its width — it measures an exceptional 1.60 metres (5'3") between its jambs. The reason for this is easy to explain — the fireplace has been built so as to fit between the two studs added into the hall truss as part of the period-B alterations, thereby reducing the degree of modification necessary to this partition to a minimum. As with that on the ground floor, the first-floor fireplace has a plain timber lintel: it also retains its raised brick hearth contained within a timber kerb — a rare survival. The upper part of the chimney cap has been rebuilt smaller than originally, the flue to the first-floor fireplace having been demolished to below roof level. Its former proportions can be reconstructed from cut rafters within the present period-D roof.

The second chimney originally filled much of the added period-C northern bay, though the north-facing fireplace was removed in the 19th century in order to make room for a new parlour served by a small fireplace which projects only slightly from the chimney's spine wall. At least part of the fireplace's eastern jamb appears to have been retained, incorporated into the parlour's eastern wall, but the western jamb has been totally removed and thus the position of this jamb is uncertain — for this reason it is indicated in dotted outline in Drawing No. 1676/7. Despite the removal of the fireplace and the first-floor part of its flue, the upper courses of the flue's tumbling still survive and is visible within the roof area (Plate 3). Despite some minor modification, the kitchen fireplace survives, as too does that serving the kitchen chamber, though the latter is now blocked. Both have brick jambs and plain, but well proportioned timber lintels. The design of that in the kitchen chamber is unusual in that its jambs are only half-brick wide and the lintel projects forward from the jambs, being supported by projecting timber



*Plate 3*  
*Cut-back remains of tumbling to former flue serving service outshut, viewed from north.*

corbels (Plate 4). As with that serving the hall chamber, this fireplace likewise retains its brick hearth, edged with a timber kerb. Despite having been heightened, the chimney cap survives and is of rebated type with the three flues aligned across the axis of the building. That serving the kitchen occupies the eastern part of the cap, that serving the kitchen chamber the western part, whilst the narrow central flue originally served the [removed] north-facing fireplace.



*Plate 4*  
*Kitchen chamber fireplace showing lintel supported by projecting timber corbels.*

## ROOF

The roof was totally rebuilt during period D, and thus no details of its construction are recoverable.

## PERIOD D (1740 +/- 25 yrs) [Drawing No. 1676/10]

Apart from the addition of an oven [since removed] against the eastern jamb of the hall fireplace, little or no alteration was made to the internal layout at this period.

The principal modification involved the total reconstruction of the period A/C roof to a less steep pitch using in-line butt-purlin construction, framed in six bays, of which the two end bays were occupied by the hipped terminals. No butt purlins were incorporated into the side slopes of the hipped bays, but purlins were included within the end slopes, trimming the jack rafters. As is to be expected at this period, neither of the hips incorporate either a high-set collar at its apex, or a central jack rafter. Indeed, the northern hip includes a bizarre arrangement of intersecting, angled jack rafters above its purlin (Plate 5). The purlin doubles as a trimmer for the cap of

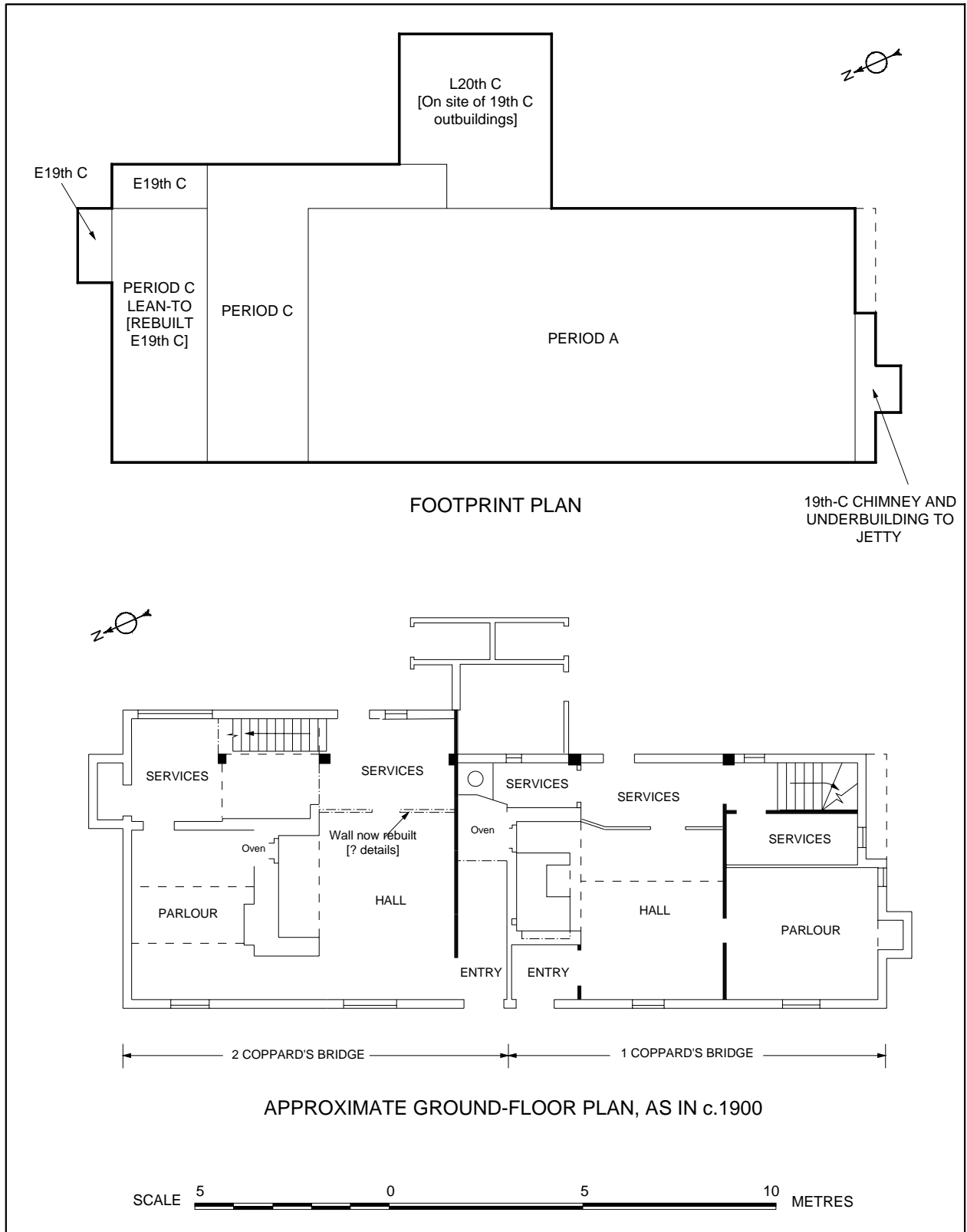


*Plate 5*  
*Arrangement of jack rafters above butt purlin within the northern period-D hip.*

the kitchen chimney. Except at truss B-B, the roof trusses do not coincide with those of the wall frame, but are instead positioned part way along the wall bays, allowing the roof to be framed in six equal-lengths. One anomaly which resulted from this is that the central truss of the new roof coincides with the alignment of the chimney, and thus at this location the principal rafters lean against the chimney and this truss lacks a collar — a potentially weak arrangement. All other roof trusses are of collar type.

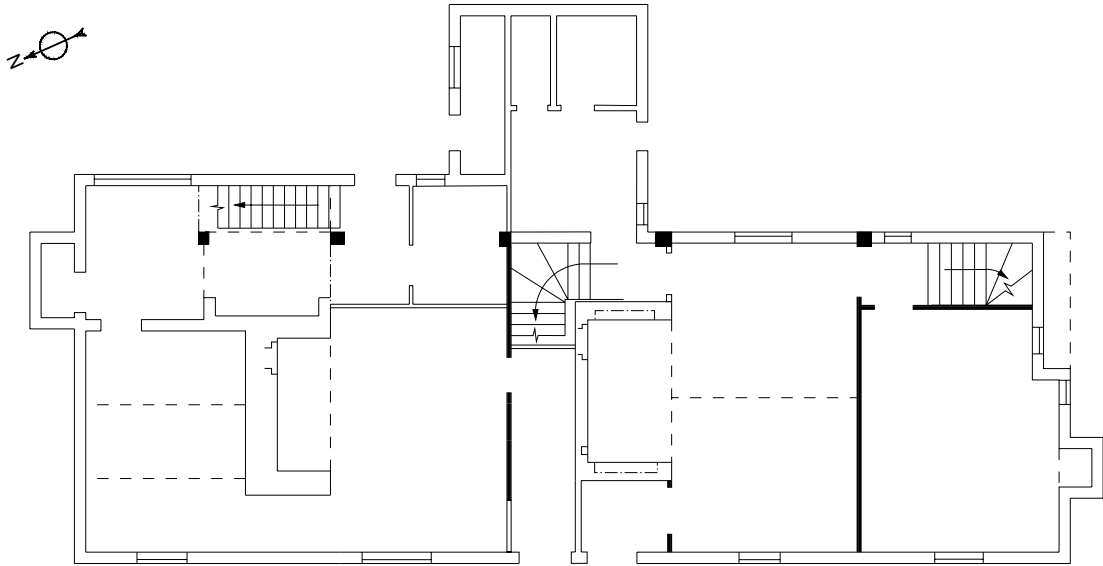
Two partitions are incorporated into the new roof — one over tiebeam B-B and the other over tiebeam C-C, dividing the northern and southern attic rooms from the chamber over the hall's low-end bay, which bay remained open to the roof at this time. Both partitions are of daub, supported by nailed-on studs with the daub masking the studs from view within the hall's low-end chamber. Both attic partitions incorporated doorways [that in B-B blocked when the house was divided into cottages], and both of these doorways were reached directly by their own period-C staircases.

The quantity of charred reused material utilized within the new roof (including both medieval and 'transitional' rafters) could indicate that the earlier roof was damaged by a thatch fire, though, if so, the thatch must have been removed very swiftly for there is no charring on the attic floor boards. Indeed, only two very discrete areas of possible charring were noted on the main frame of the house.

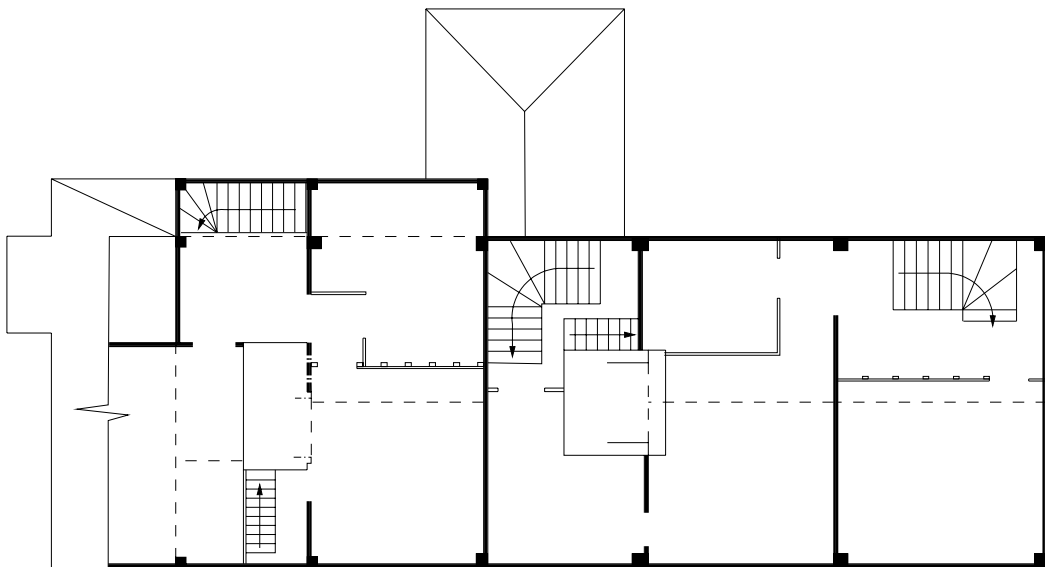


<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX OUTLINE PLAN SHOWING SEQUENCE OF DEVELOPMENT</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/1</b>
Drawn By	J Clubb	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	2008
				Date of this revision	2008

NB: SOME FEATURES SHOWN IN APPROXIMATE OUTLINE ONLY.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

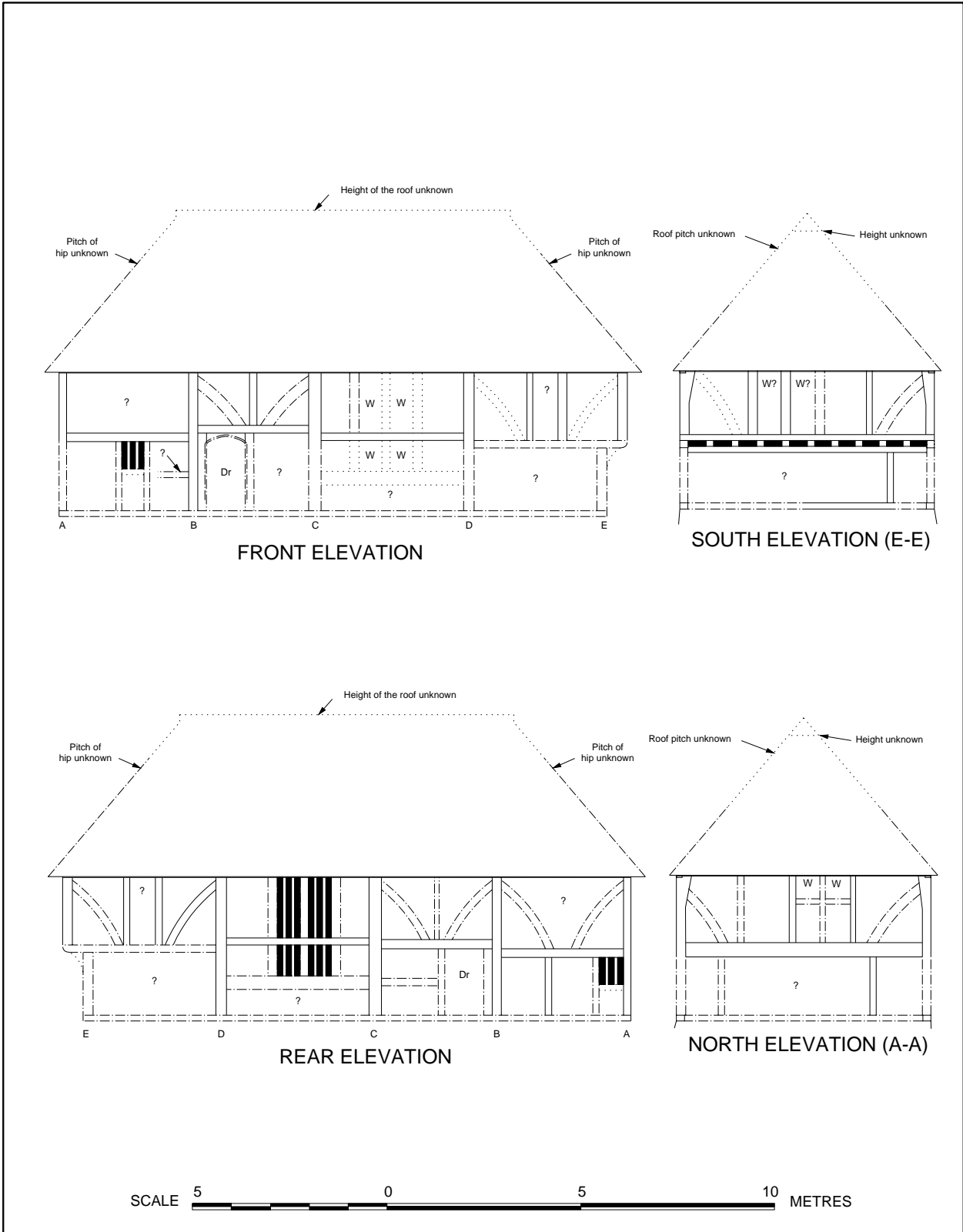


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

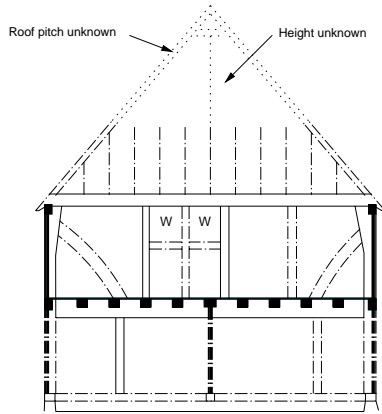
SCALE 5 0 5 10 METRES

<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX          OUTLINE SKETCH PLANS AS EXISTING PLANS, 2008</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/2</b>
Drawn By	J Clubb	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	2008
				Date of this revision	2008

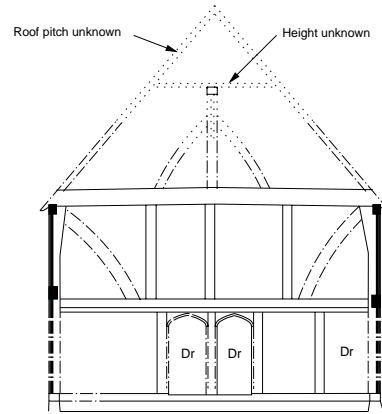




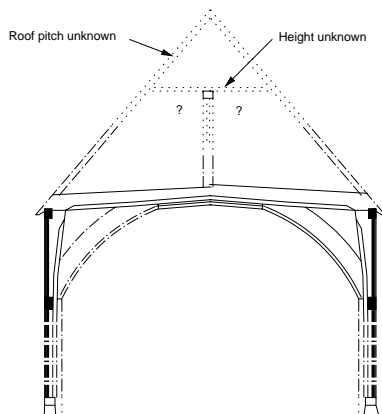
<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX PERIOD-A RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/4</b>
Drawn By	<b>J Clubb</b>	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	<b>2008</b>
				Date of this revision	<b>2008</b>



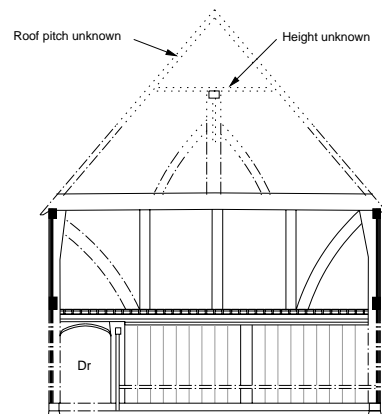
TRUSS A-A



TRUSS B-B



TRUSS C-C



TRUSS D-D



**1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX  
 PERIOD-A RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS**

Site Ref **P117/03**

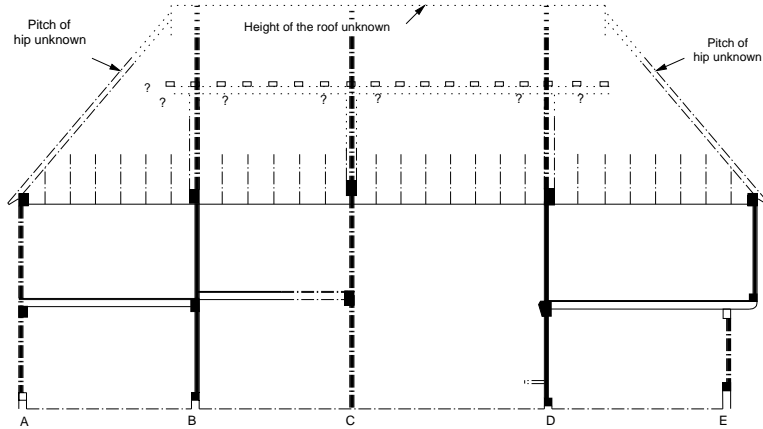
Drawing No. **1676/5**

Drawn By **J Clubb**

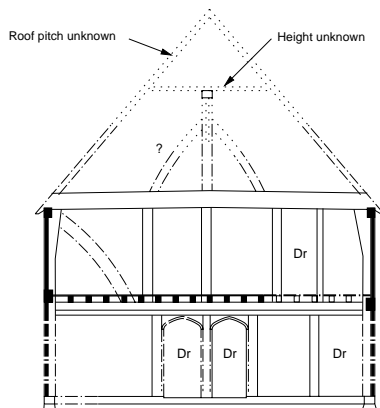
Revision No -

Date of original survey **2007**

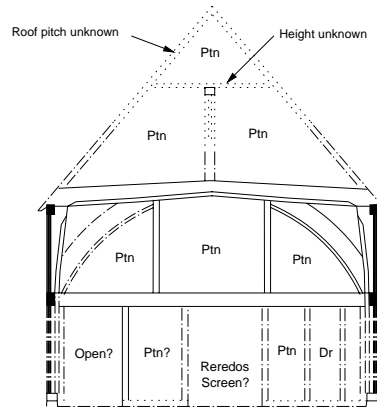
Date of this revision **2007**



LONGITUDINAL SECTION X-X



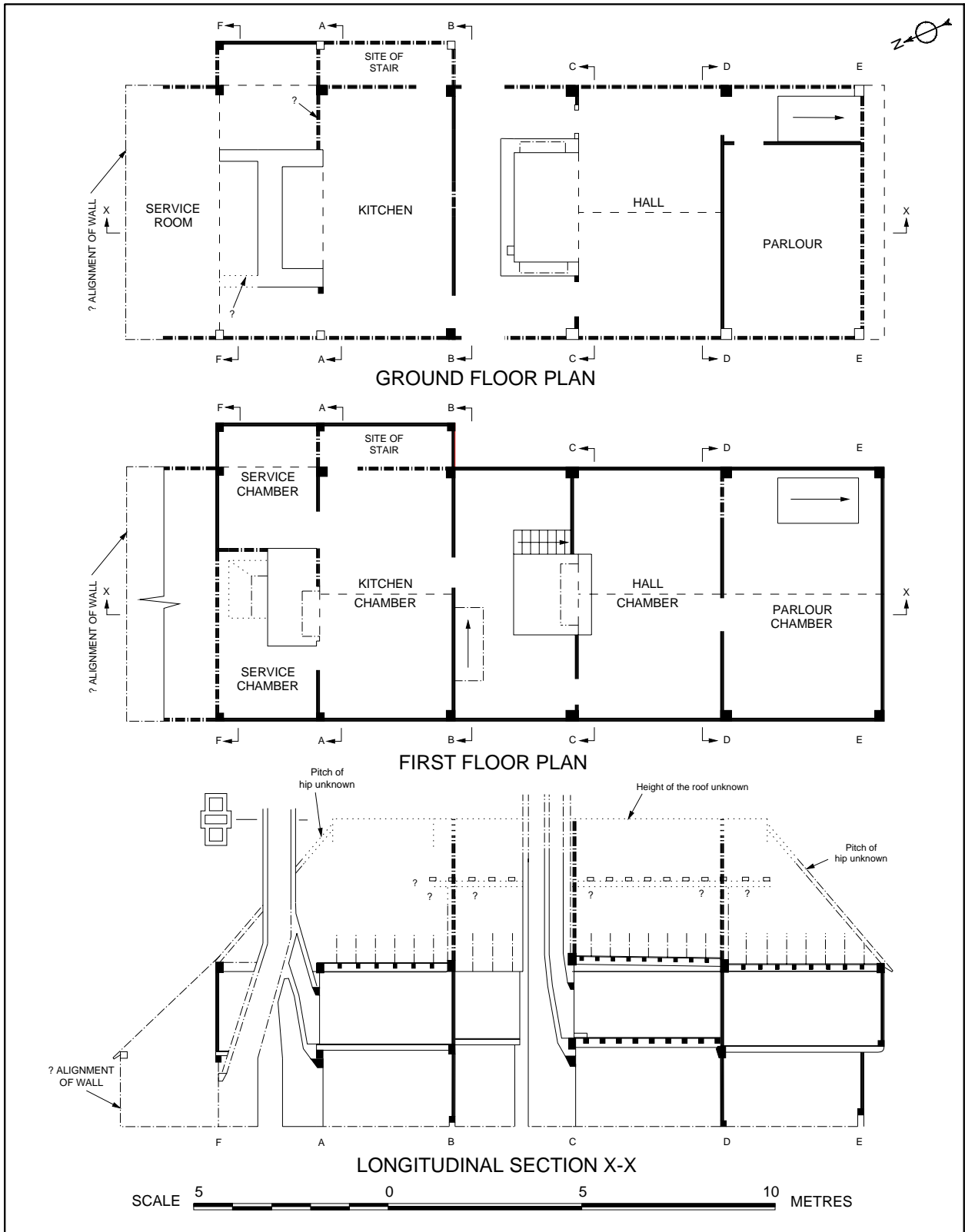
TRUSS B-B



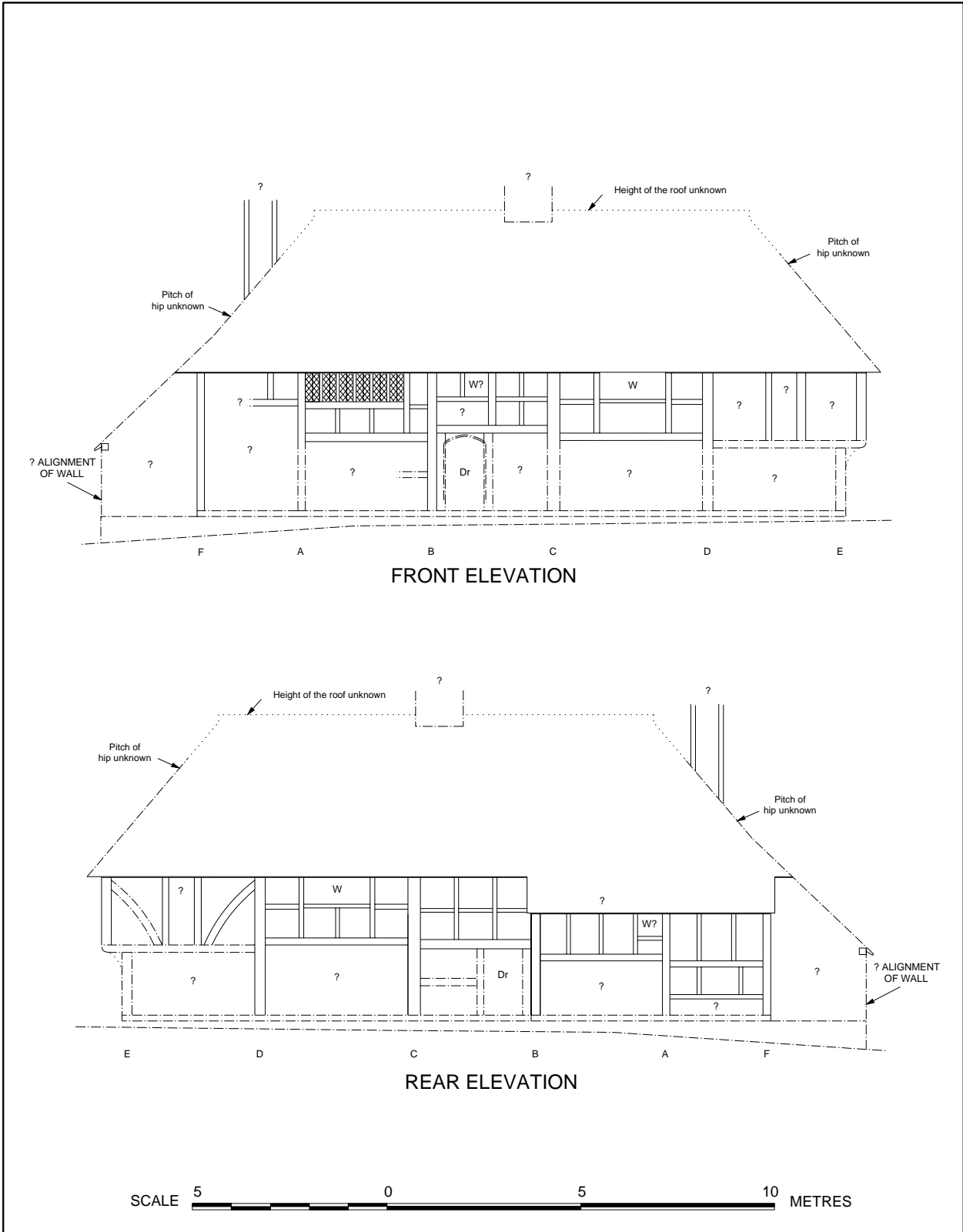
TRUSS C-C



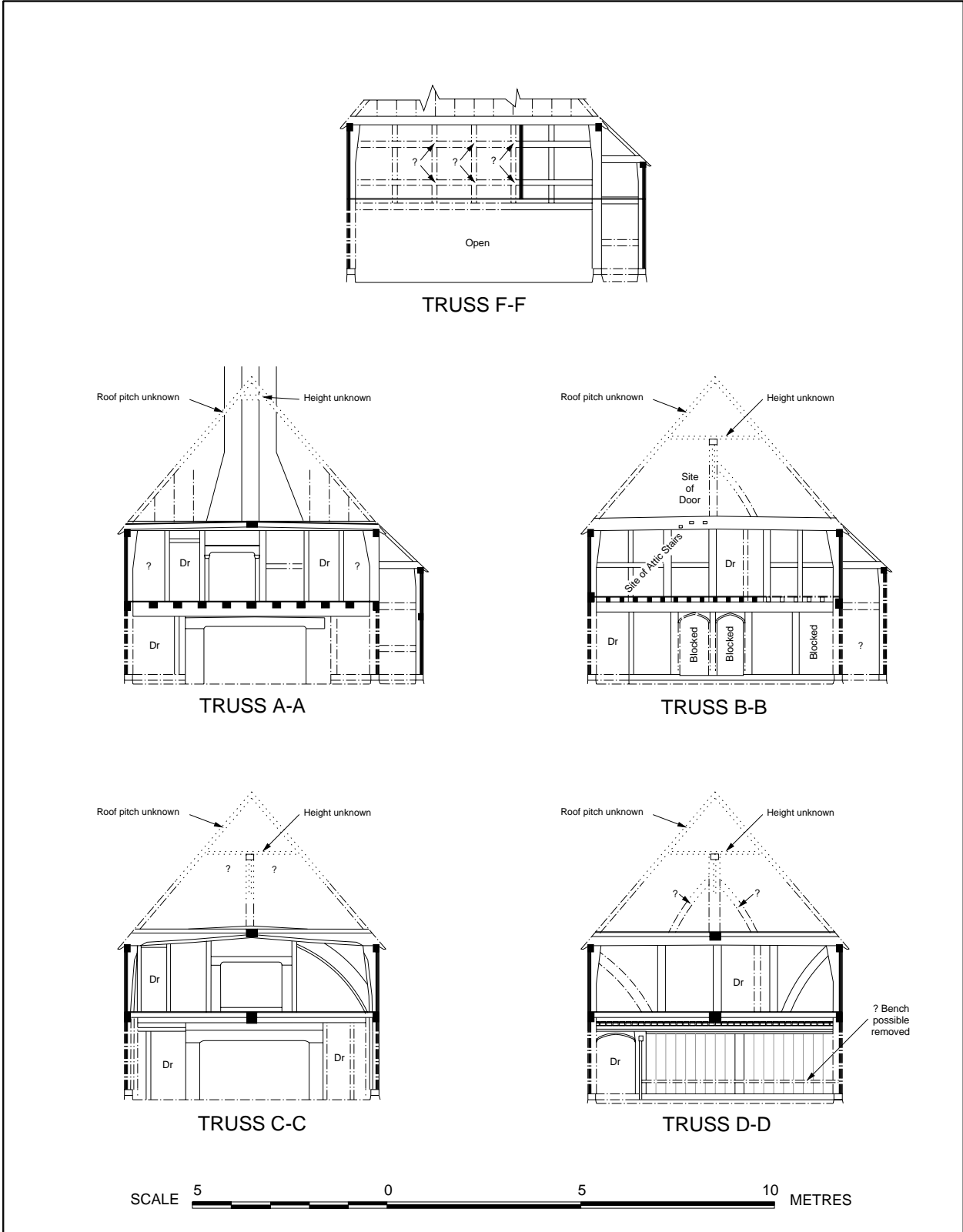
<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX PERIOD-B RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/6</b>
Drawn By	J Clubb	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	2008
				Date of this revision	2008



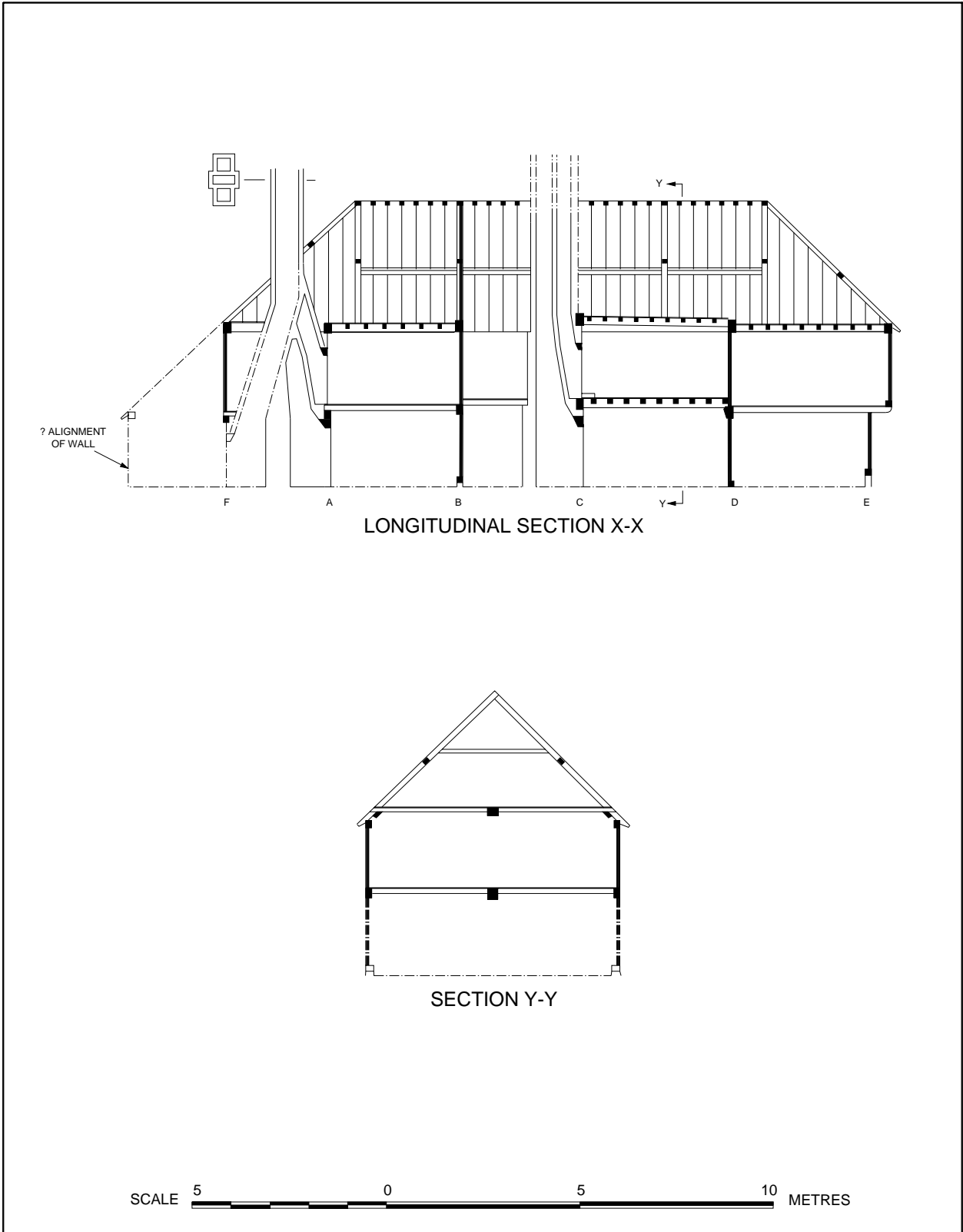
<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/7</b>
Drawn By	J Clubb	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	2008
				Date of this revision	2008



<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/8</b>
Drawn By	J Clubb	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	2008
				Date of this revision	2008



<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX PERIOD-C RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/9</b>
Drawn By	J Clubb	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	2008
				Date of this revision	2008



<b>1-2 COPPARD'S BRIDGE, CHAILEY, EAST SUSSEX PERIOD-D RECONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS</b>				Site Ref	<b>P117/03</b>
				Drawing No.	<b>1676/10</b>
Drawn By	<b>J Clubb</b>	Revision No	-	Date of original survey	<b>2008</b>
				Date of this revision	<b>2008</b>

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