



HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AT SCAMMELL LODGE, DETLING, KENT

Site code: SLD-BR-24

Date of Report: 18th March 2024

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Front cover: Building 1 photographed 1st February 2024

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2024 Dr Paul Wilkinson and Bartek Cichy of SWAT Archaeology carried out a historic building recording and photographic survey of the two buildings located at Scammell Lodge, Fringham in Kent (Figures 1, 2 & Plates (Views) 1-10). The buildings are presently derelict and dangerous to enter.

1.2 The external building recording was carried out on the 1st February 2024 in accordance with a Level 3 survey as detailed in the Historic England publication 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016). And *The Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2017) and the *KCC Historic Building Recording Requirements Part C*. Additionally survey and recording of interior and exterior of Building 2 was carried out on the 4th March 2024.

1.3 This is essentially a photographic and mapping record. Historic England specifications suggest that written information should be to identify the building's location, age, type, materials, use and when and whom compiled the report.

General photographs of the exterior as well as any specific architectural or historic features (both internal and external) should be taken.

The Historic England guidelines for a Level 3 are:

Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis. A Level 3 record may also be appropriate when the fabric of a building is under threat, but time or resources are insufficient to allow for detailed documentary research, or where the scope for such research is limited.

1.4 In summary the work consists of a descriptive report accompanied by digital photographs.

1.5 The principal elements of the survey involved the creation of a record and description of the historic fabric of the buildings together with an analysis and interpretation of the buildings origins and historic development.

1.6 A review of Historic OS mapping has been made (Map's 1-8) and the Pevsner Architectural Guide (*Kent, North & North East 2013*) was consulted as was the National Heritage Register for England.

1.7 This report consists of a descriptive report accompanied by digital photographs and annotated plans.

2.0 LOCATION

2.1 The proposed development site is situated on the south side of the major road the A249 and to the north on either side of the A249 are Shell Service stations. The PDA has access through a lane from the A249 and the grid reference NGR is 581224 158732 (Fig 1 and 2).

3.0 Site setting and geological background

3.1 The site sits at the top of Detling hill within an airfield location but now a farming landscape with a number of farm buildings in the vicinity (AP's 1-6).

3.2 The Bedrock Geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey to be Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation- Chalk. The Superficial Deposits are recorded as Clay with Flint Formation-Clay, Silt, Sand & Gravel.

4.0 Planning history

Building Consent No: 20/506149/FULL

Demolition of existing commercial buildings and erection of 3no. replacement buildings for use within Classes B2 (general industry), B8 (storage and distribution) and E(g)(ii) light industry , including ancillary parking facilities;

improvements to access road, improvement to the junction with the A249, boundary fencing and landscaping.

ADDRESS: Scammell Lodge , Friningham, Detling, ME14 3JD

A condition of archaeological works is attached to the planning permission:

12) No development shall take place until the applicant has secured and had implemented a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.

Such a scheme shall include recording the potential historic wartime interest of any buildings to be demolished.

Reason: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest.

5.0 Historic Background

5.1 A rapid map assessment of historic mapping shows that in 1939 there was only one building on the site and called the Red Lodge which fronted the A249 (G-EKJ-Z58-PJM) and the two buildings of this report are not mapped. By 1961 the Red Lodge has survived but no other building apart from the addition of a communications mast (red arrow). The 1967 map shows the Red Lodge has gone (red arrow) but no additional buildings until by 1985 the two buildings have been mapped.

5.2. However, the search of available aerial photographs show that the earliest aerial photograph dated 1940 shows three building on site (Plate 1, red arrow) as well as a number of hexagonal pill boxes.

5.3 The site is located within southern extent of the WW2 airfield (Plate 44).



Plate 1. AP dated 1940- red arrow points out building on site

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING/EXTERIOR (Plates 16-28, Figures 2-5)

6.1 The building layout (Figure 3) was square measuring 4.4m in length with small rectangular extension in the middle of southern wall measuring 1.77m by 1.3m. The building was 6.35m high. The building and extension featured two floors that were not connected. In extension part there was a toilet cubicle on each floor with doorways on the west wall. There was no passage between extension and main building.

6.2 The building was built of handmade stock brick in English Bond (Plate 39-40). The bricks had colour range from yellow to dark red. The bricks are quite porous with abundant impurities comprising small stones, chalk and coal slag. Also bricks were easily peeling off indicating low content of the clay. The brick were bonded with mid grey mineral mortar that was 10-13mm thick.

| Sampled brick dimensions (mm) | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|
| 225 | 110 | 65 |

| | | |
|-----|-----|----|
| 225 | 110 | 69 |
| 225 | 110 | 65 |
| 224 | 110 | 65 |
| 225 | 110 | 67 |

6.3 South West elevation (Figure 4, Plate 18 and 24) consist a wall built in English Bond with a doorway in the middle on both floor levels. The wall on the level of upper floor is rendered white. Just below rendered wall there are rectangular cavities that were previously accommodating flooring beams and cut beams. The top two courses and in the middle three bricks wide additional six courses are built of relatively uniform red brick indicating different phase of construction. This is visible on each elevation. Above the rendered wall there is a horizontal groove indicating position of now removed roof.

6.4 South West elevation of the extension feature rendered brick wall with doorway in the middle on the ground floor and doorway on the left side of upper floor.

6.5 North west elevation (Figure 4, Plate 20 and 25) consist partially white rendered brick wall built in English Bond. There is imprint of the stairs and gable end rafter. There were also stair rail mounted to the wall and rectangular cavities that were accommodating purlins of the removed roof. Those features are not the subject of interest. The top of the wall is gently descending to the east and top two courses and additional six in the middle feature red brick while left top corner featuring orange bricks are indicating later phase of construction. There are two small infilled rectangular openings measuring 0.35m by 0.66m. They are positioned near the middle of the wall at the level of each floor just above the floor level and are vertically aligned.

6.6 North east elevation (Figure 4, Plate 21 and 26) features brick wall built in English Bond with a window at the upper floor. The window spanned the width of the room. Above the window there is wooden wall. There are two small infilled openings in the middle of the wall, one underneath the window and other one at the ground floor level. There is infilled doorway on the ground floor level and on the left extent of the wall.

6.7 North east elevation of the extension feature brick wall with small window in the top right corner and segment of iron pipe. The ground floor part of the

wall is built in English Bond while above there is stretcher pattern indicating different part of construction. At the top eleven courses are built of red brick indicating different phase of construction.

6.8 South east elevation (Figure 4, Plate 23 and 27) consists of face of the wall of extension building located in the middle of the wall of the main building which wall is built in English Bond that is obscured by render on the left side of the extension. The top courses are built of red brick and top right corner of orange brick indicating a different phase of construction.

6.9 South east elevation of the extension wall features English Bond at the ground level that is infilled doorway and stretcher pattern brickwork above. The infilled doorway feature small two paned window.

6.10 Frame of Building 1 (Figure 5) was also recorded as its layout is matching the extent of the building visible in 1940 photograph. It seems that the steel frame of the building is the remains of the original building and walls built of concrete blocks are a later addition. Building was rectangular in plan measuring 18.35m by 14.16m and it is 4.65m high. It comprised of 5 trusses placed 4.56m apart. The frame was constructed from H profile steel beams joined together with screws. At the front northern wall it featured sliding doors consisting of wooden frame and corrugated metal sheet.

6.11 Two infilled openings in the ground located on the west side of demolished workshop were surveyed and labelled MH 1 and 2, and their location can be seen in Figure 2. The full extent of the openings wasn't exposed MH1 was 1.38m long and visible width was 0.7m. MH2 was 0.8m long and visible width was 0.42m.

7. INTERIOR (Figure 3, Plates 29-38)

7.1 Internally the upper floor of the building was not accessed for health and safety reasons but it was inspected and photographed via drone.

7.2 Ground floor layout features one room of the main building and small rectangular room of the extension. The former room was square with a concrete floor and painted white wood boarded ceiling. The walls featured brickwork in

English Bond pattern. The bricks were painted black or it is rather soot. This soot wall is also present in extension room currently blocked off from this room. Alongside west wall there are two steel columns supporting large wood beam spanning across the room. The beam is charred in the middle. On the right side of west wall there is doorway opening infilled with orange brick. In the middle of the wall at the floor level there is small infilled rectangular opening.

7.3 Upper floor room consist rendered walls and no features of interest. Extension room consist toilet cubicle that is not a part of the original structure.

8.0 DISCUSSION

8.1 The building was significantly changed from its original structure. The main changes include the top of the wall and the roof were rebuilt, infilling two doorways, removing internal stairs, ladder stairs and half floors, infilling four small openings on N and E walls.

8.2 Two steel columns placed alongside eastern wall on the ground floor were utilized to provide extra support for an unknown heavy object placed on the floor above.

8.3 The building was hidden within a small patch with trees that would block view to the east, north, and south of the structure. Also, the original building had a gable roof which can be seen in 1940 photograph (Plate 1).

8.4 The purpose of the small rectangular openings is unknown as is the function of the building.

8.5 Charred walls might indicate that it harboured engine, most likely steam engine. Charred beam located alongside north east wall indicate that the original building caught fire that was relatively quick extinguished.

9.0 PARAMETERS

9.1 The photographic survey was conducted using digital photography and as the exterior of the building was available drone coverage of the exterior of the building was undertaken- see Plates 16-23. The use of drones for capturing important buildings is now an acknowledged part of historic building recording. For drone footage of other building and archaeological sites recorded by SWAT Archaeology access here: www.swatarchaeology.co.uk and go to "Building Recording".

9.2 This work did not include any investigation of below ground archaeology. Such work is administered separately by SWAT Archaeology to a WSI prepared for the Local Planning Authority.

9.3 The site survey took place on 1st February 2024 and photographs can be seen in the following Plates 1- 15.

9.4 Survey and recording of building 2 took place on 4th March 2024 after partial demolition and was conducted by B. Cichy and D. Rayner. It comprised GPS survey of building location, hand drawn plans, section and elevation sketches, ground SLR photographs and drone video and photographs. Drawings can be seen in the following figures 2-5 and photographs in following Plates 16-43.

9.5 This draft report was compiled by Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA., FRSA., IHBC and dated 2nd February 2024. Later it was updated in March by B. Cichy.

10. References

Historic England, 2019 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*

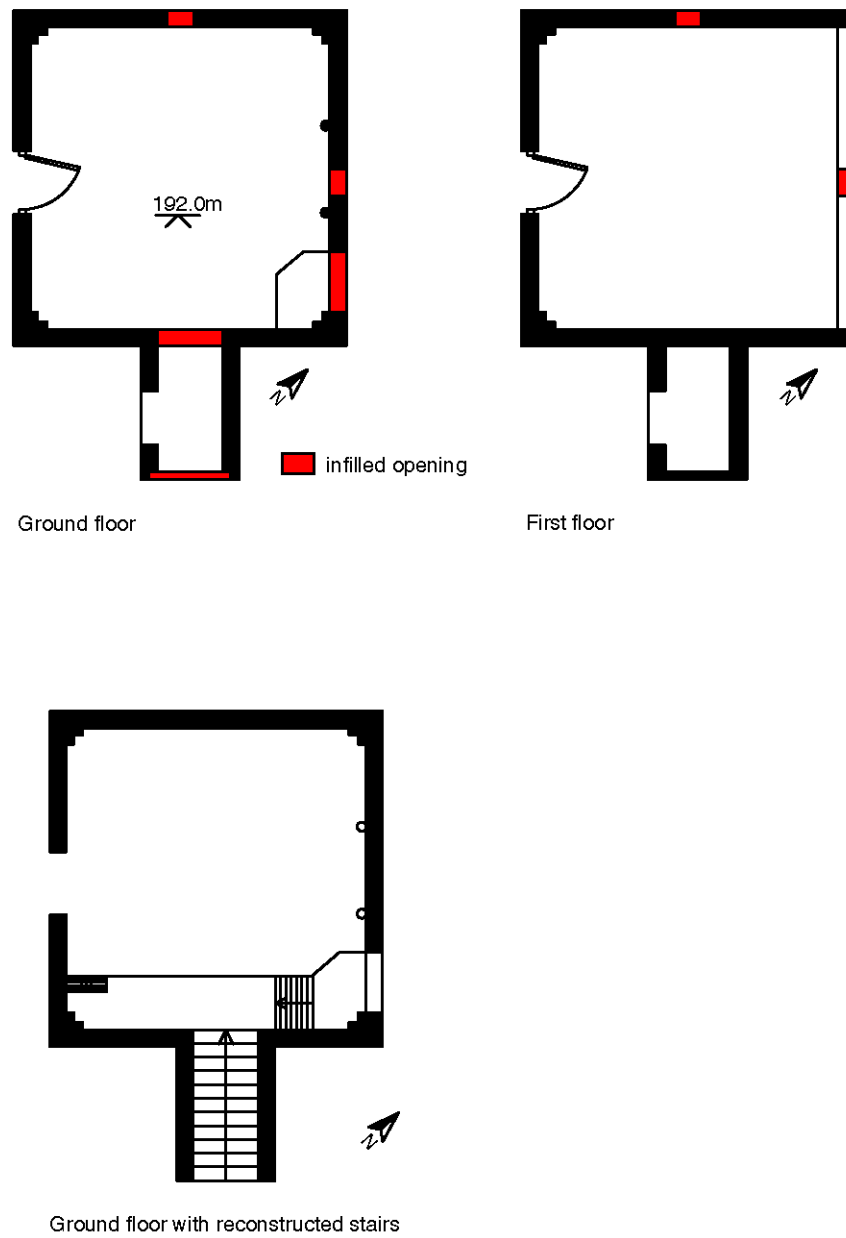
The National Heritage List for England (accessed 12th March 2020)



Figure 1: Site location

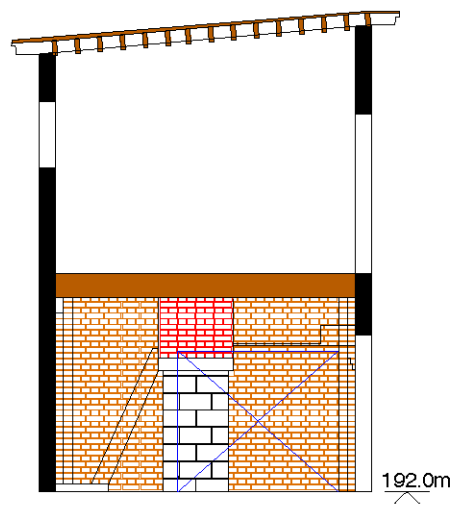


Figure 2: Aerial photograph superimposed on site plan

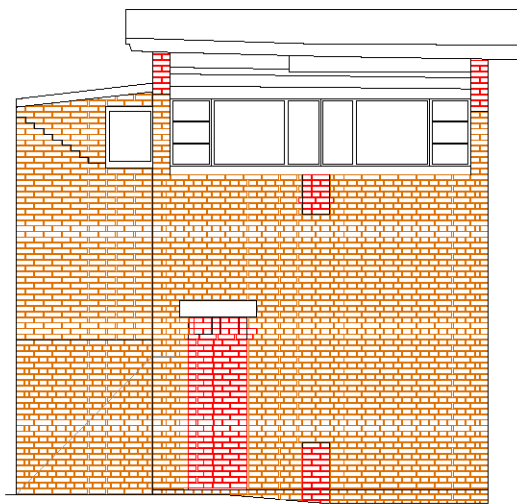
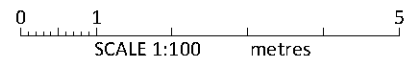


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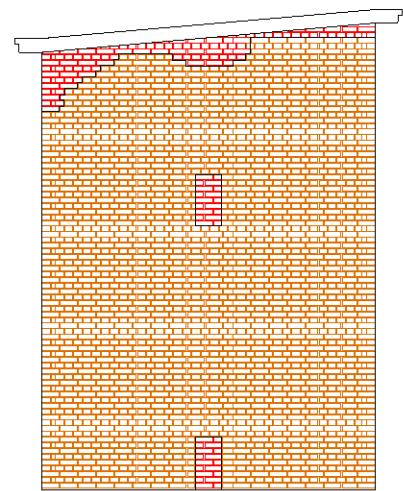
Figure 3: Floor plans of building 2



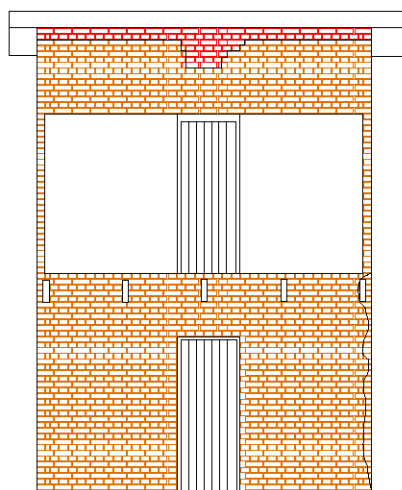
Section A-A



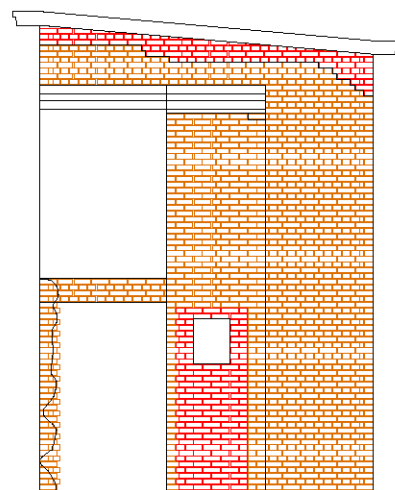
East elevation



North elevation



West elevation



South elevation

Figure 4: Building 2 cross-section and elevations

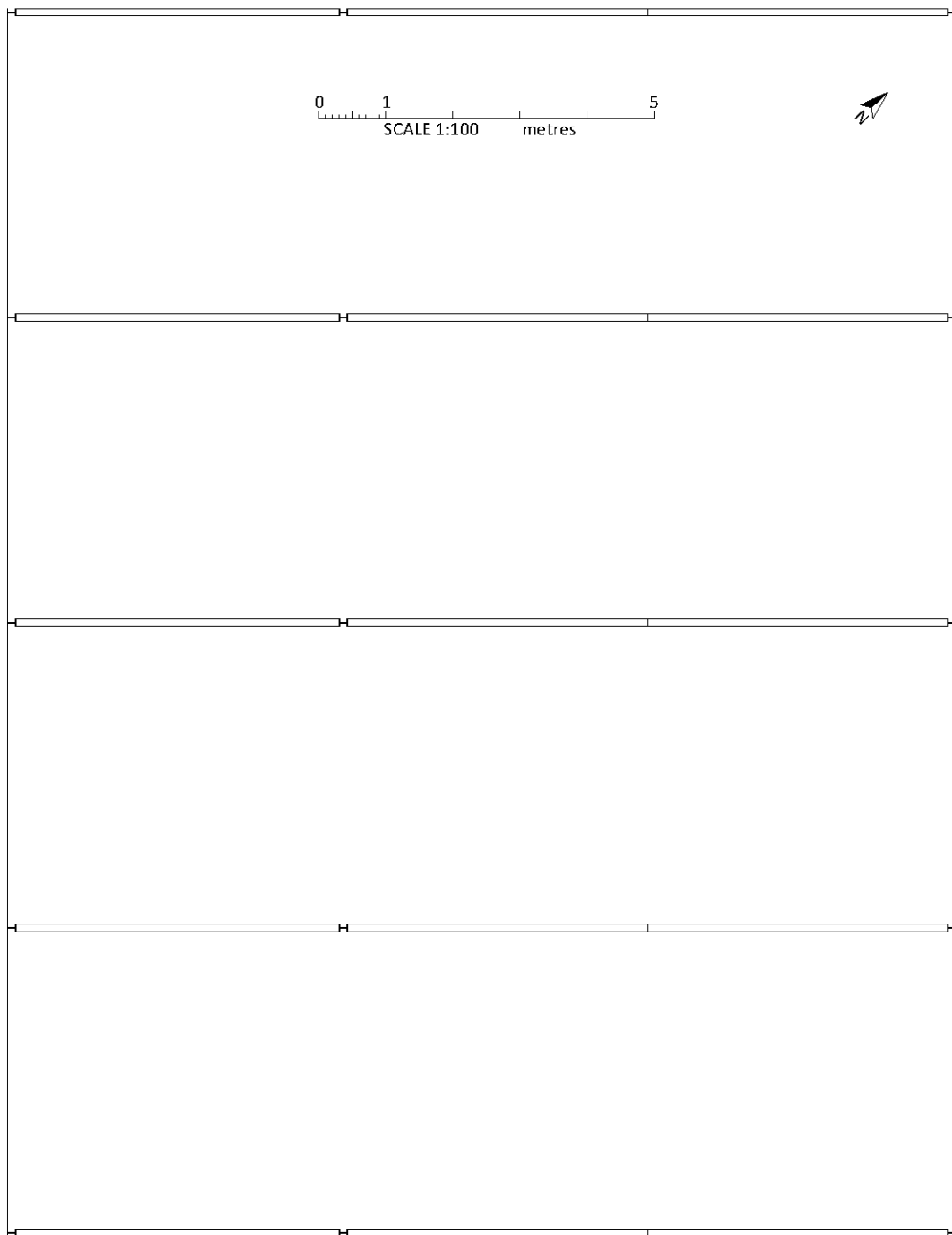
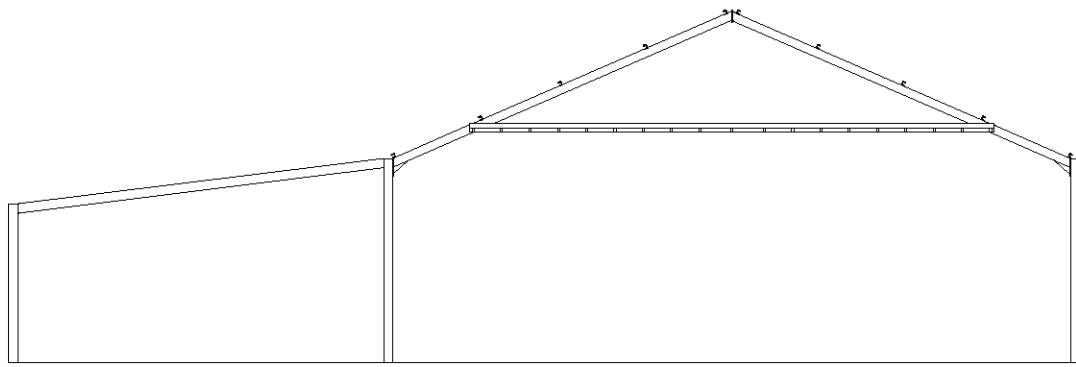
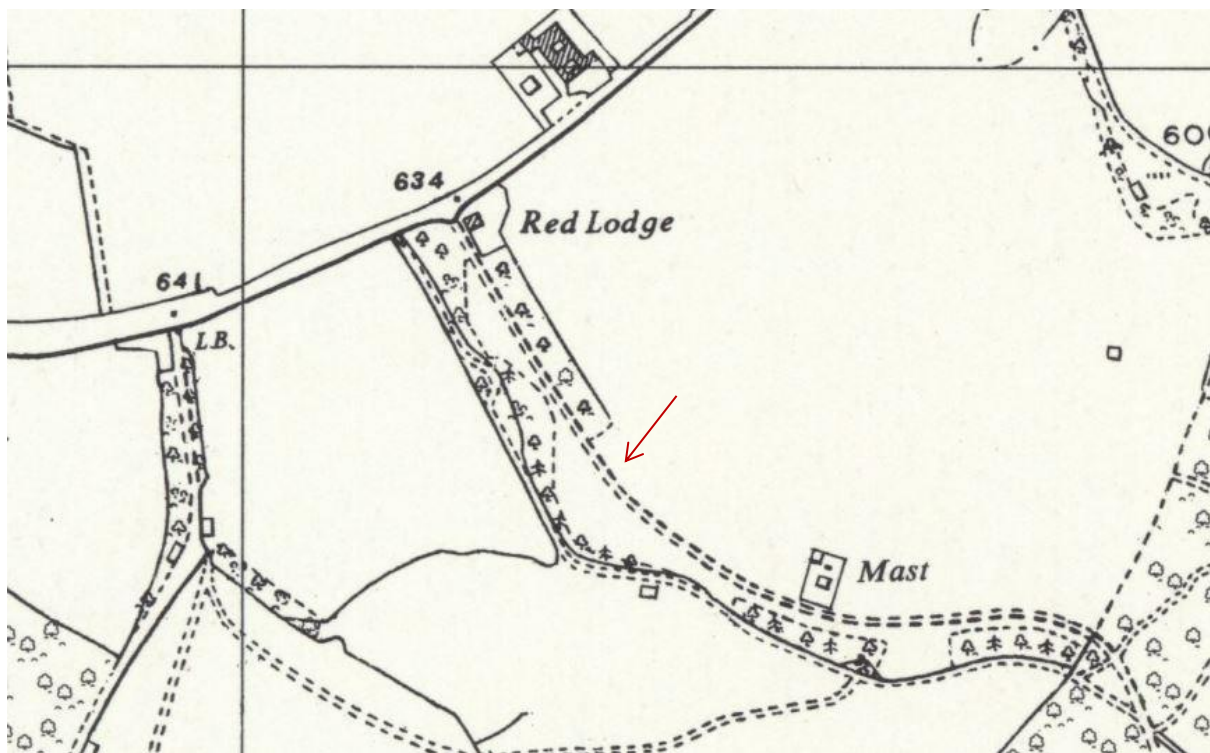
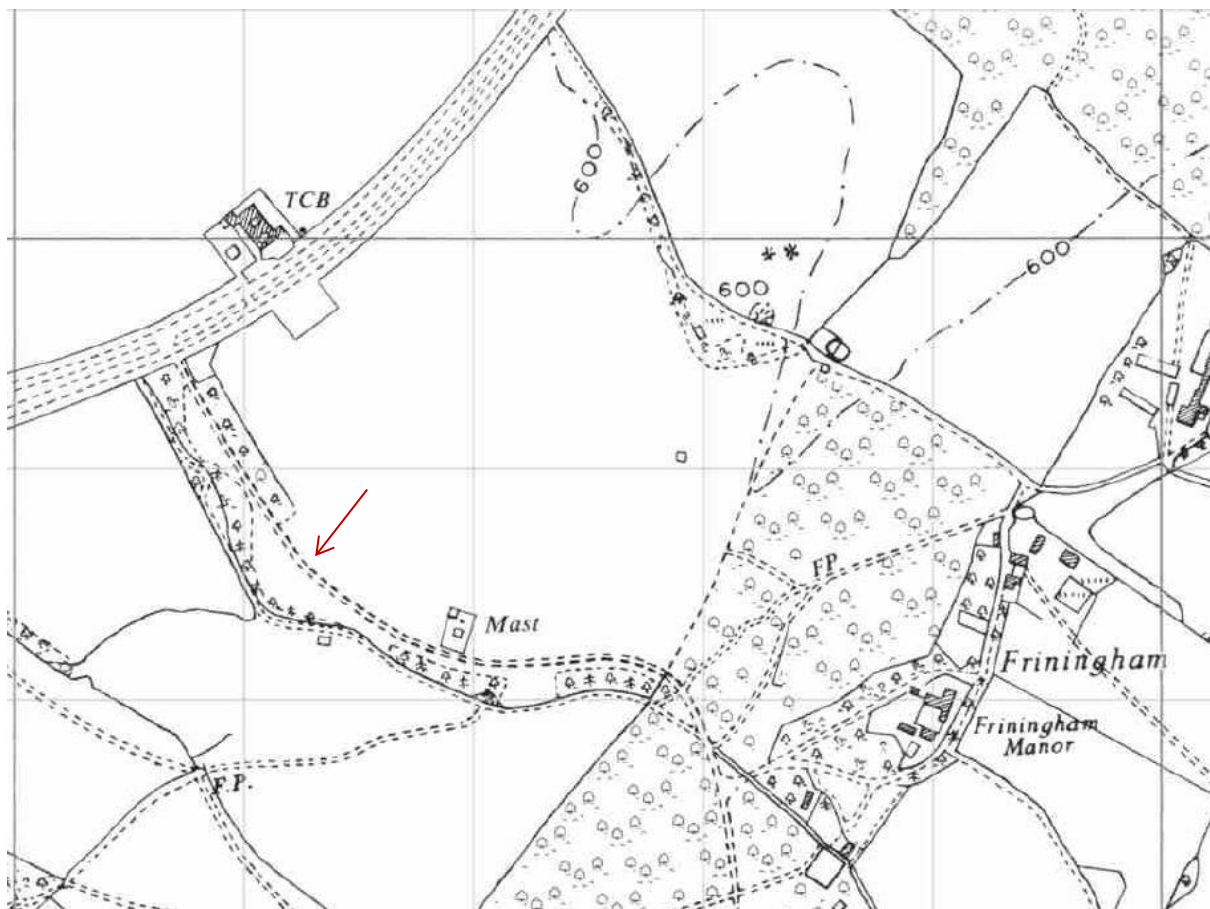


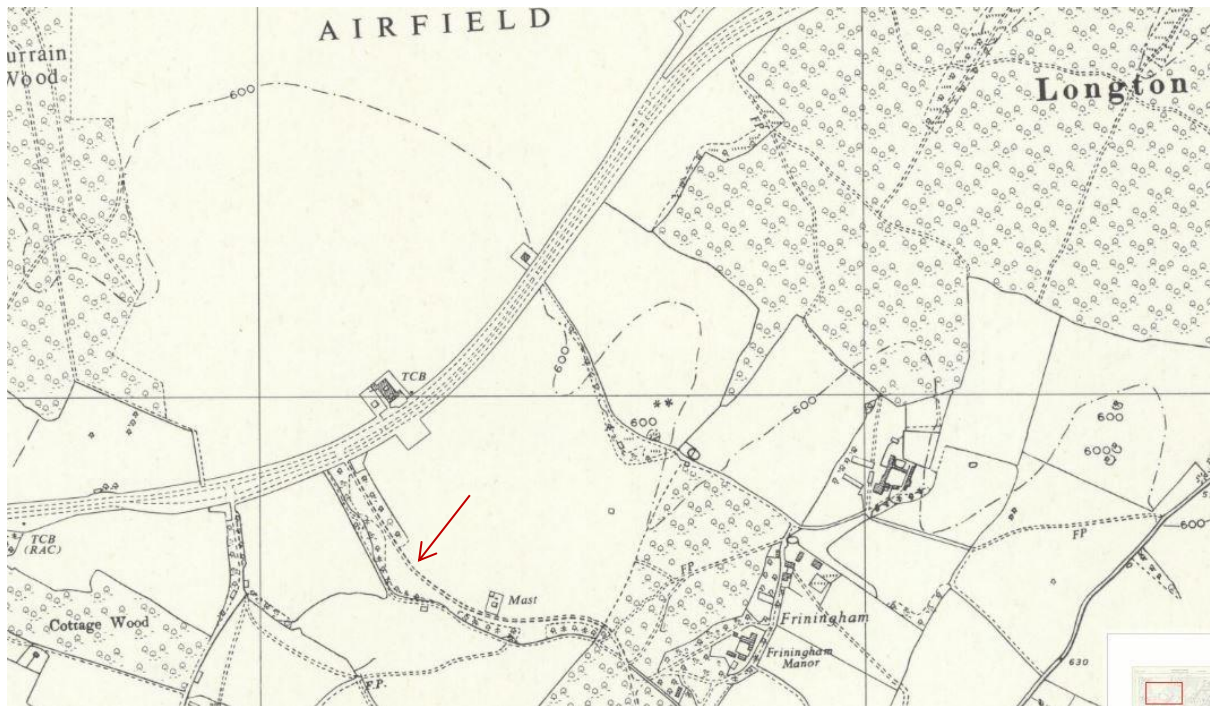
Figure 5: Building 1 plan and cross section



MAP 1. OS 1960 (area of interest red arrow)



MAP 2. OS 1961



MAP 3. OS 1967



MAP 4. OS 1985 and first map recording of buildings (red arrow)



MAP 5. KCCHER map



Plate 1. AP of 1940 showing the larger building (1) and two smaller buildings now gone (red arrows)



Plate 2. By 2006 Building (1) has been joined by a larger building (2) which may incorporate one of the smaller buildings shown on the 1940 AP (red arrow)

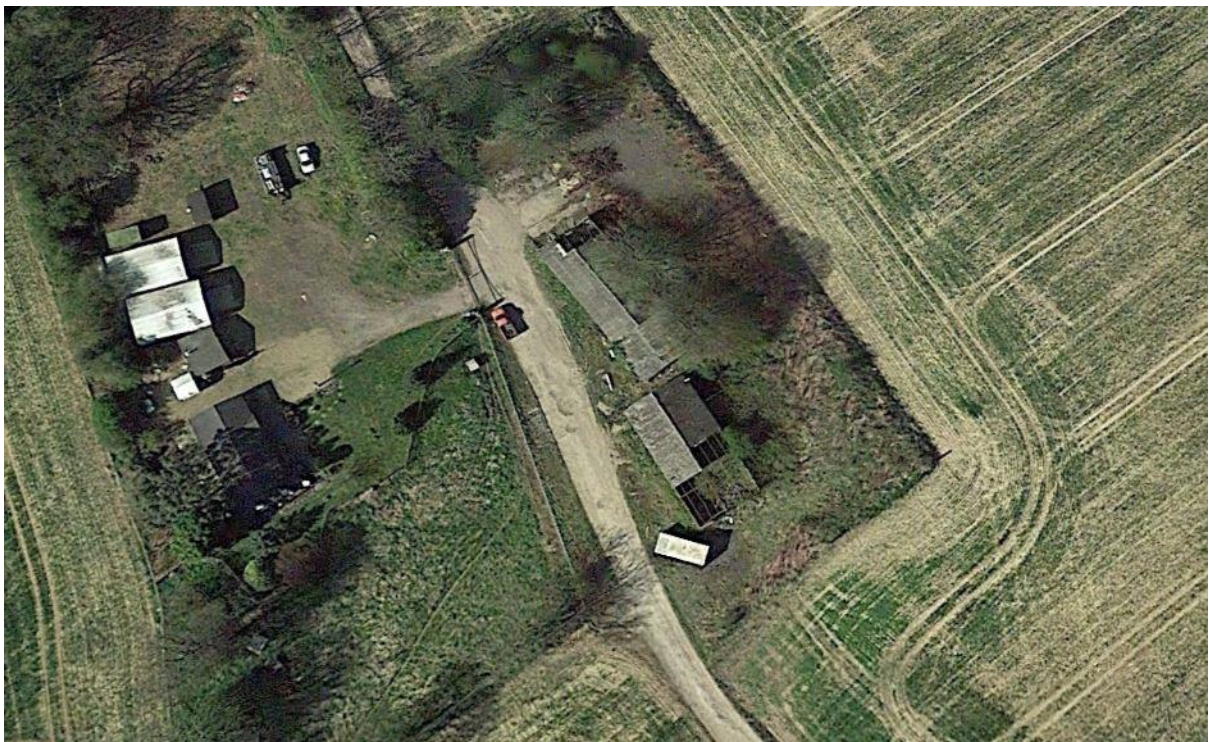


Plate 3. By 2015 the site is agricultural



Plate 4. The 2022 the site is derelict



Plate 5. Drone survey shows the now roofless buildings (looking south Building 2)



Plate 6. Building 2 (looking East)



Plate 7. Interior of Building 2 (looking SSE)



Plate 8. Interior of Building 2 (looking East)



Plate 9. Exterior of Building 2 (looking NE)



Plate 10. Exterior of Building 2 (looking West)



Plate 11. Exterior of Building 1 (looking NW)



Plate 12. Exterior of Building 1 (looking North)



Plate 13. Exterior of Building 1 (looking North)



Plate 14. Exterior of Building 1 (looking SE)



Plate 15. Front of Building 1 (looking SE)



Plate 16. Aerial view of the site



Plate 17. View of the site with A229 in the background (looking NW)



Plate 18. Exterior of Building 2 - south west elevation



Plate 19. Exterior of Building 2 (looking E)



Plate 20. Exterior of Building 2 (looking S)



Plate 21. Exterior of Building 2 – north east elevation



Plate 22. Exterior of Building 2 (looking W)



Plate 23. Exterior of Building 2 (looking N)



Plate 24. Exterior of Building 2 – south west elevation



Plate 25. Exterior of Building 2 – north west elevation



Plate 26. Exterior of Building 2 – north east elevation



Plate 27. Exterior of Building 2 – south east elevation



Plate 28. Exterior of Building 2 – south west elevation - doorway



Plate 29. Interior of Building 2 – south west wall



Plate 30. Interior of Building 2 – north west wall



Plate 31. Interior of Building 2 – north east wall

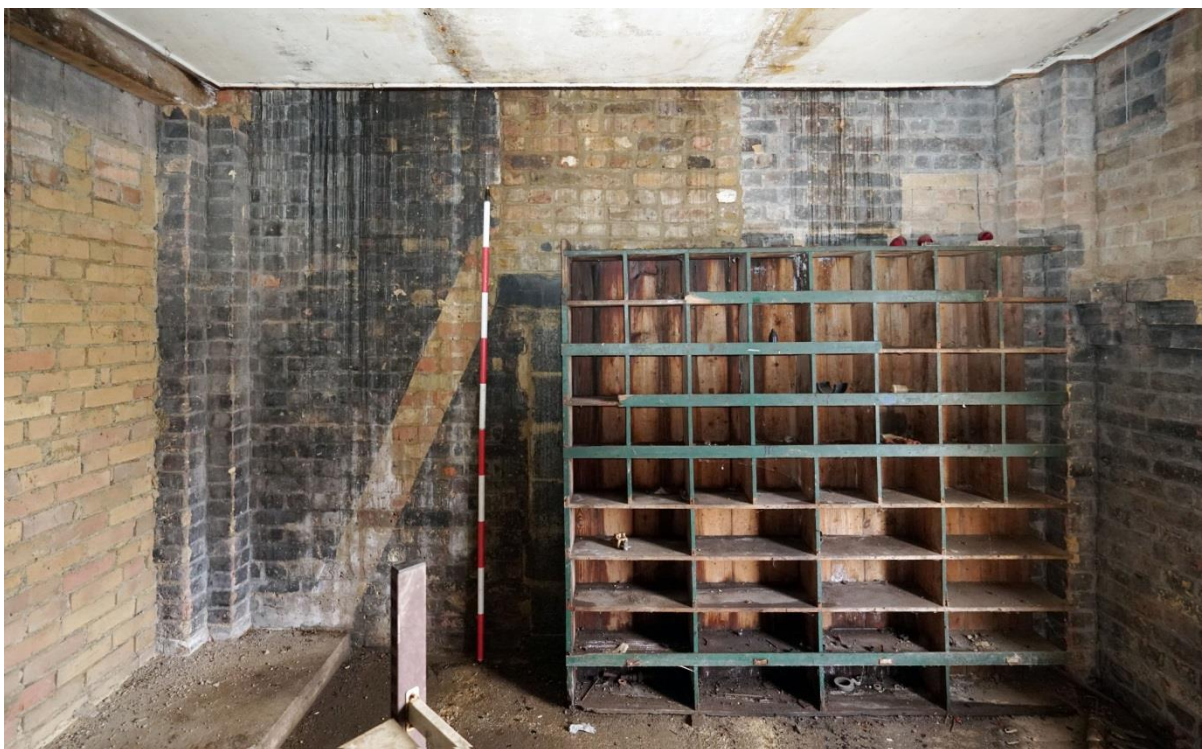


Plate 32. Interior of Building 2 – south east wall



Plate 33. Interior of Building 2 – southern corner of the room with imprints of the half floor and ladder



Plate 34. Interior of Building 2 – north east wall – Infilled opening



Plate 35. Interior of Building 2, Upper floor (looking SW)



Plate 36. Interior of Building 2, Upper floor (looking SE)



Plate 37. Interior of Building 2 - extension, toilet cubicle at ground floor (looking N)



Plate 38. Interior of extension of Building 2, soothed brick wall (looking NE)



Plate 39. Exterior of Building 2, sample of brickwork pattern at south west elevation (looking NE)



Plate 40. Exterior of Building 2, bricks at south west elevation (looking NE)



Plate 41. Man hole 1 (looking SW)



Plate 42. Man hole 2 (looking SW)



Plate 43. View of the site (looking SE)

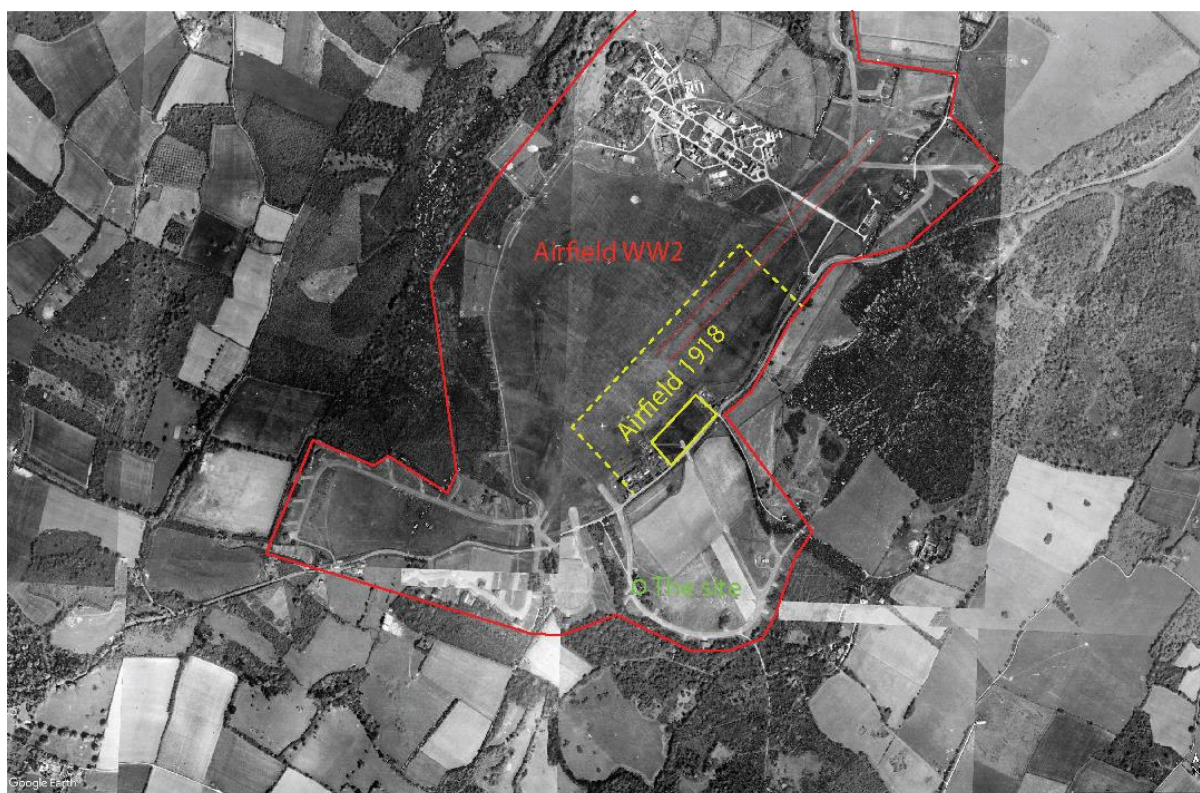


Plate 44. Aerial photograph from 1940 showing the extent of the WW2 Airfield (red), 1918 Airfield (yellow) and site location

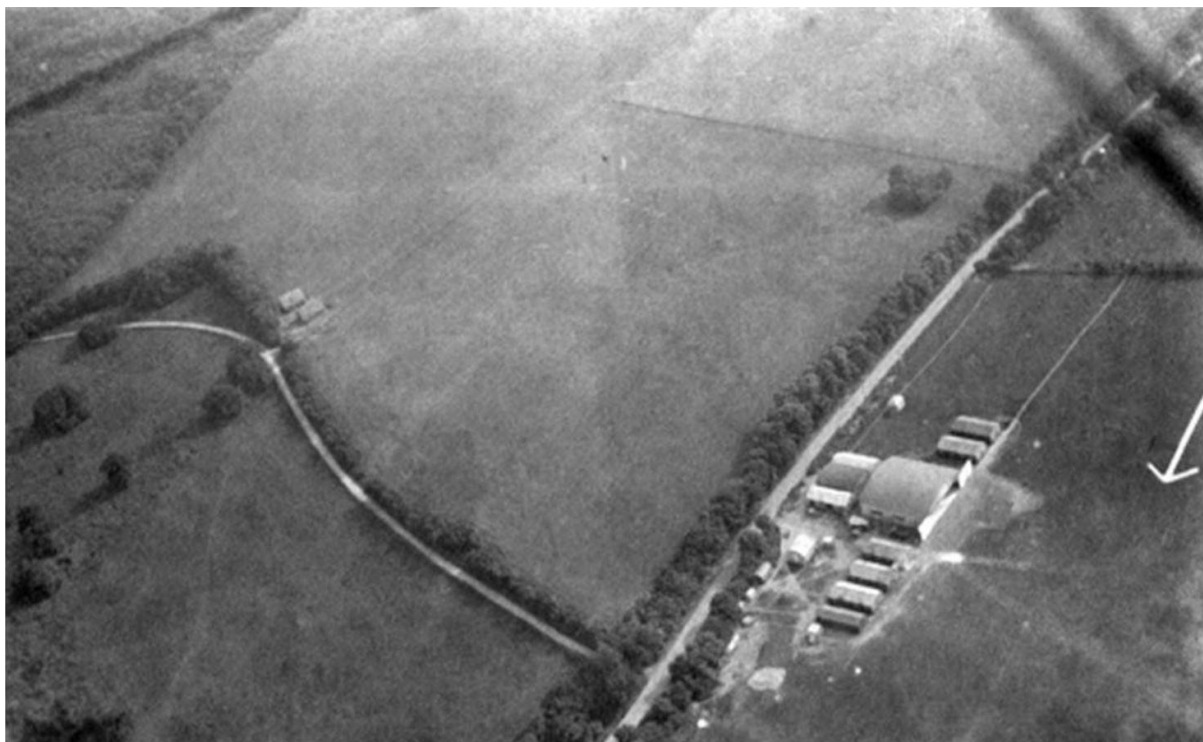


Plate 45. Aerial photograph from 1918 is showing the Airfield. The site is just out of frame in the middle of the top margin.