

**Historic building recording
at the Stag Inn, Hatfield Heath,
Essex
December 2013**



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1 Summary

A programme of building recording was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust on the Stag Inn, a brick and timber-framed structure in Hatfield Heath, Essex, in December 2013. The work was commissioned by Mascall Homes Ltd. The earliest components of the building are the remains of a timber-framed inn known as the Horseshoe, which date to at least 1723. A brick façade and side walls were constructed in or around 1769, when the inn was renamed the Bald Stag. Extensions were added in the mid 19th century, with further construction carried out in the last quarter of the 19th century providing space for additional businesses. Alterations made during the 20th century incorporated the extensions for these additional businesses into the footprint of the public house.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on the historic building recording of a brick and timber-framed structure, the Stag Inn public house, at Hatfield Heath, Essex, in response to an application for its conversion to retail use. The work was carried out on behalf of Mascall Homes Ltd by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in December 2013. The Stag Inn lies in the centre of the historic settlement of Hatfield Heath (located at NGR TL 5243 1500) and is a Grade II listed building (EHER 38108). Part of the structure dates to at least the early 18th century and there are extensions dating to the 19th and 20th centuries.

Two planning applications (UTT/13/2387/FUL and UTT/13/2390/LB) were submitted to Uttlesford District Council in August 2013. These comprised the change of use of the existing public house and the erection of one single-storey and one two-storey extensions to form three ground floor shops; the change of use of the first floor accommodation associated with the public house to two flats; the erection of four dwellings to the rear of the site.

As the site lies in the centre of the historic settlement, the area was highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits being present. In response to this a full archaeological condition was recommended. Also, due to the building being of architectural importance, it was recommended that it should be appropriately recorded prior to its change of use. Given the impact of the proposed works on the historic integrity of the building, it was recommended that an historic building record and an evaluation by trial-trenching be undertaken as a condition on the planning consent. This condition was based on the advice given in the National Planning Policy Framework.

A brief detailing the required work (archaeological trial-trenching and historic building recording) was written by the Historic Environment Adviser (Richard Havis HE 2013). All work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT in response to the HE Adviser's brief and subsequently agreed with the HE Adviser (CAT 2013).

The results of the archaeological evaluation have been reported on in a separate work (CAT Report 746). This report is concerned solely with the historic building record.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2008), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14). In addition, the guidelines contained in *English Heritage: Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice* (2006) and *RCHME: Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition* were followed.

3 Aims

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

In particular the record considered:

- Plan form of the site and its landscape setting.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure, major additions and alterations.
- Function, room status and internal spatial layout
- Fixtures and fittings, decoration, paint and plasterwork.
- Phasing of the building and function.
- The context and significance of the Inn within its immediate contemporary landscape.

4 Building recording methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A brief documentary and cartographic survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the Inn.
- A large-scale block plan of the site based on pre-existing architect's drawings. The position of each structure has been indicated noting date and function.
- Based on existing architect's drawings, current floor plans, long and transverse-sections at scale of 1:100 using the English Heritage (2006) drawing conventions. The floor plans depict positions of doors, windows, internal partitions, stairs, bay divisions/truss positions and the positions of surviving fixtures and fittings.
- A detailed description of the Inn. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction including brickwork, joinery, fenestration, spatial configuration, phasing, reused timbers, carpentry marks/graffiti and any evidence of original fixtures and fittings.
- A discussion of the history and development of the building, including its design, date, form and function and any significant modifications/reuse.
- A full photographic record, comprising digital photographs and black and white prints together with negatives, of both general shots and individual features

(external and internal). Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text (Appendix 1). The photographic record is accompanied by photographic registers detailing location and direction of shot (Appendices 2-3).

5 **Historical background** (Illustrations 1-3, Maps 1-5)

The list entry for the Grade II building suggests that the Stag Inn is a late 18th to early 19th century structure, but evidence contained in documents held at the Essex Records Office (ERO) suggest that the Stag Inn has its origins in the early 18th century and has been known by several names. Historically there were three inns recorded in Hatfield Heath: the White Horse, the Stag and the Bell (Victoria County History Vol 8). The White Horse was located on the north side of Hatfield Heath, only a few plots to the west of the Stag Inn and was still licensed in 2013. The Bell was first recorded in 1769 but appears to have disappeared by 1782. The Stag Inn was recorded in 1769 but is believed to have an earlier origin under the name of the Horseshoe.

Deeds from 1723 (ERO D/DHt T126/69) record the sale of an inn called the Horseshoe and a smith's forge at Hatfield Heath. Upon his death, the sons of one Isaac Green sold the property to a widow, Sarah Glascocke, for £35 5 shillings. The inn and the forge stayed in the Glascocke family for the next generation, passing to Robert Glascocke. Upon his death the property passed to one of his daughters, Mary, and her husband, William Wright, a blacksmith. In 1754 they leased the Horseshoe to Mary's sister, Sarah Spooner (ERO D/DHt T126/71). By 1756 the property appears to have come into the possession of Joseph Cox, a wheelwright and his wife, Sarah, possibly the same Sarah Spooner with a second husband (ERO D/DHt T126/74). The new owners leased the inn to John Barrington of Barrington Hall, a local squire, for one year but subsequently sold the inn to Stephen Wilson, another member of the local gentry. Although the frequent change of occupancy and ownership over these years suggests the inn was not profitable, John Barrington clearly thought the property was worth acquiring as he purchased the inn and the forge from the estate of Stephen Wilson in 1769, renaming the inn the Bald Stag (ERO D/DCB T20). The tithe award for 1838 shows that the property (by then called the Stag Inn) was again sold, this time to the Reverend John Connop, who rented the inn to Susannah Staines. Pigot's Directories records Susannah Staines as the publican from at least as early as 1827 and throughout the 1830s. In 1840 the widow Staines applied to the local magistrates for permission to transfer her alehouse license to John Garret of Sheering, a hamlet to the south-west (ERO D/P 4/18/72). This application was clearly successful as Garret remained the publican at least until 1851.

Census information provides a possible date for extensions carried out to the building. The 1861 census records that the publican, John Burnett, not only employed his sister-in-law as a general servant, but also had two lodgers. The 1871 census, recording William Rawlingson as licensed victualler, also notes two lodgers. It is likely that these lodgers

were housed in the first floor rooms of a brick extension immediately to the rear of the main range, possibly constructed for this purpose.

In the 19th-century the forge to the rear of the Stag Inn, although part of the property, appears to have been administered as a separate business, often leased independently of the Inn. In 1874 Aaron Hawkins (noted on the 1861 census as a blacksmith) combined the two businesses, being both publican and also an ironmonger and agricultural implement agent. The 1881 census lists Hawkins as a corn and coal merchant and a photograph from the late 19th century shows the Stag Inn with a single-storey extension to the west of the main range, with a sign identifying it as Hawkins Coal Depot (Illustration 1).



Illustration 1 The Stag Inn c 1881-1900, showing the main range and the extension to the west, used as a coal depot by Aaron Hawkins (A History of Hatfield Heath)

In addition to the extension, this photograph shows what are probably the original windows of the Georgian façade, unhorned sash windows of eight-over-eight lights, with those on the ground floor having wooden shutters. The façade has a great deal of symmetry: the outer windows of the ground floor are directly below those of the first floor, the two doorways are directly below the inner windows of the first floor and the tripartite window on the ground floor is directly below a centrally-located blind window.

When Hawkins' estate was appraised upon his death in 1891, the contents of the Inn were valued at £142 16 shillings (ERO D/F 35/2/418). The valuer's notebook describes the Inn as having a tap room and bar, parlour, kitchen, store room and cellar, and bedrooms upstairs, including a servant's room (presumably one of the lodgers' rooms). Hawkins' son, Henry, continued the varied family businesses until 1910/11.

A second photograph dated to 1911 shows some significant change to the Inn's façade (Illustration 2). A painted sign, depicting a stag, has been inserted to the blind window on

the first floor and the outer windows of the ground floor have been replaced with horned tripartite sashes of eight-over-eight lights, flanked by margins of four-over-four lights.



Illustration 2 The Stag Inn in 1911, with remodelled ground floor windows (A History of Hatfield Heath)

At the extreme left-hand side of the photograph it can be see that a window has been inserted to the front wall of the extension used as a coal depot in the 1880s. The reason for this insertion is explained by a third photograph (Illustration 3).



Illustration 3 Halls' garage converted from Aaron Hawkins' Coal Depot (A History of Hatfield Heath)

At some point prior to 1911 (possibly after 1906, when Kelly's Directory ceases to refer to Henry Hawkins as a coal merchant) the extension utilised as a coal depot was converted

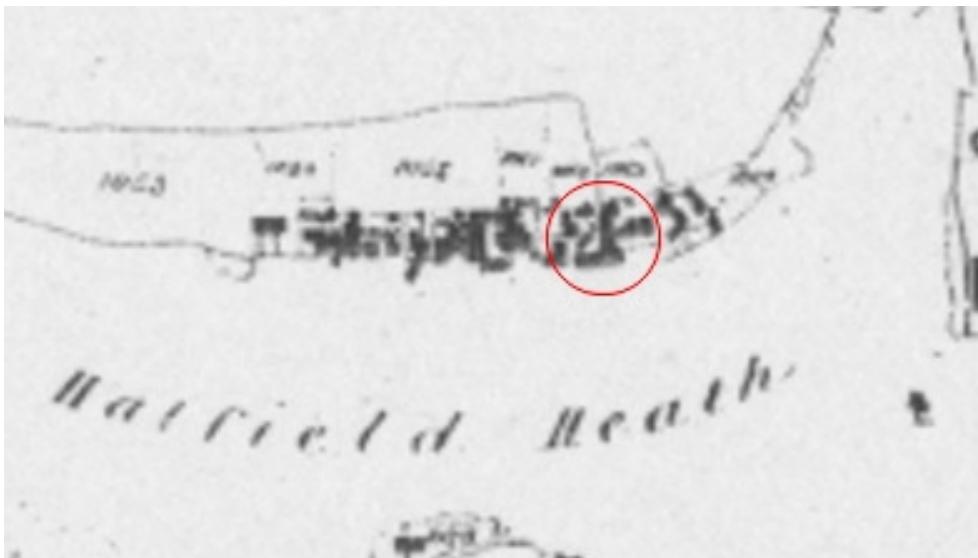
to a garage. Kelly's Directories throughout the 1920s record Charlie Halls as running a garage on the premises, whilst his wife administered the Stag Inn. The front of the extension has been extensively altered; in addition to the inserted window the doorway has been replaced by a much larger sliding door.

The earliest cartographic evidence depicting the Inn is the Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777 (Map 1). However, this is too indistinct to make out individual detail of the Inn and its outbuildings.



Map 1 Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777 (Plate XII) with the location of the Stag Inn circled

The 1838 tithe map for Hatfield Broad Oak (ERO D/CT 166) shows greater detail (Map 2). The Inn is shown as a rectangular building parallel to the street, with a perpendicular structure extending north from the east end of the main range and several smaller structures to the rear. These additional structures are probably associated with the forge, although the perpendicular structure may be stables associated with the Inn.

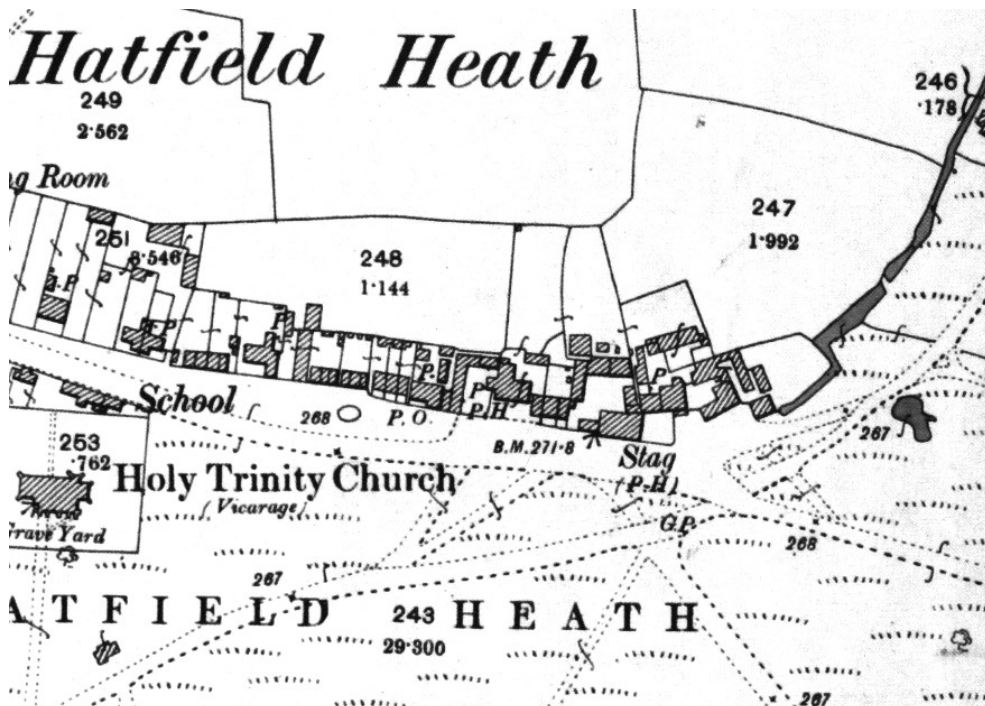


Map 2 1838 tithe map (ERO D/CT 166) showing the Stag Inn.

Unfortunately, the 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1875 (Map 3) is quite indistinct, with only vague features able to be discerned. The clearest mapping is the 2nd edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of 1897 (Map 4). This shows the Stag Inn as a rectangular structure parallel to the road, incorporating the historic range and a brick extension to the rear. There is a smaller rectangular extension to the west of the main range (the coal depot/garage) and there are linear extensions shown extending north at an angle from the main range.



Map 3 1st edition 6" OS map, 1875 (sheet XXXI).



Map 4 2nd edition 25" OS map, 1897 (sheet XXXI.16).

6 Descriptive record (Figs 1-5)

The Stag Inn is located on the north side Hatfield Heath, in the parish of Hatfield Broad Oak (Fig 1). Apart from a new estate on fields to the north and some ribbon development around the main arterial roads, the landscape around the Inn has remained relatively unchanged since the survey by Chapman and André in 1777. At the time the building record was undertaken, conversion works had already started, with features relating to the modern Inn removed. The ground floor was illuminated by artificial lighting and in utilised as a store for building materials and equipment, compromising the quality of the photographic record. However, the removal of modern partitions and fabric served to expose original features and construction techniques. The Inn has five distinct phases of construction: Phase 1 dates to pre 1723 and comprises the remains of the original timber-framed structure; Phase 2, probably dating to around 1769, comprises the brick façades of the south, west and east walls; Phase 3, dating to the mid 19th century, comprises a two-storey brick extension at the rear of the main range; Phase 4 comprises two brick extensions built on to the rear of the Phase 3 structure in the late 19th century and an extension at the west end of the main range – this has been termed Phase 4a as the extension was rebuilt in the 20th century; Phase 5 dates to the 20th century and comprises extensions and alterations throughout the building.

External description

The Stag Inn is a two-storey rectangular building with extensions to its west end and to the rear. The main range, measuring 15.1m x 4.9m wide, is aligned roughly east to west and has an outer skin constructed of brick with dimensions of 210 x 105 x 65mm, laid in English bond with a chamfered plinth, dating to Phase 2 (Plate 1). The gabled roof is clad in plain tiles and has a brick chimney stack at either end, with a third stack located off centre to the ridge line. The south elevation has a symmetrical arrangement, with a range of four windows on the first floor, two either side of a centrally-located blind window. These windows are horned box sashes of eight-over-eight lights set flush to the brickwork. The horns indicate these are replacements and not the original Georgian windows shown on the 1911 photograph (Illustration 2). A projecting string line of three brick courses divides the first floor from the ground floor. The ground floor has a centrally-located tripartite window, flanked by doorways and then an outer tripartite window at either end of the range. The central window comprises an eight-over-eight sash, flanked by two-over-two margin lights, whilst the outer windows are eight-over-eight sashes, flanked by four-over-four margin lights. Each of these windows is a 20th-century replacement. Both doorways are original to the Phase 2 brickwork, although the doors themselves are 20th-century replacements. The doorway to the east has a projecting hood held on brackets and a fluted door surround with bull's eye corner decoration, a typical Georgian design and likely an original feature of Phase 2 (Plate 2). The short elevations are of plain brick, devoid of fenestration and doorways, although the dividing string course extends around the sides.

The rear of the Inn has a two-storey, 3.2m wide extension extending the length of the main range. This has a mono-pitch slate roof and is constructed from red brick with dimensions of 226 x 110 x 70mm laid in Flemish bond and dates to Phase 3. Much of this extension is obscured by the slightly later Phase 4 additions (Plate 3). The Phase 3 extension has narrow casement windows beneath the eaves and a doorway surmounted by a shallow segmented brick arch providing access to the dining area.

The Phase 4 extensions comprise a single-storey lean-to and a single-storey gabled building, which projects at an angle from the Phase 3 extension. Both are constructed from red brick with dimensions of 226 x 105 x 65mm laid in Flemish bond. The lean-to originally had windows in the north and west elevations, but these have been bricked in.

The extension to the west of the main range was originally constructed during Phase 4, initially as a coal depot, later converted to a garage. This was completely rebuilt on the same footprint in the 20th century, when the structure became part of the Inn itself, and is interpreted as Phase 4a, a sub-phase of the overall building chronology rather than a separate phase. It has a gabled roof of plain tiles and modern sash windows in each of the elevations.

A small extension was built in the 20th century (Phase 5) against the north side of the Phase 4a extension and the west end of the Phase 3 extension. This is of brick and has a gabled roof of plain tiles and a sash window in each elevation. A weatherboarded extension projects north from the Phase 4 extension along the eastern property boundary, comprising two structures with a gabled slate roof. These structures have replaced earlier buildings depicted on the Ordnance Survey mapping.

Internal description

Ground floor (Figs 2, 4-5)

The ground floor of the Stag Inn has a predominantly open plan layout, comprising dining areas, a lounge and the bar, with separate areas providing the kitchen, a beer store and toilets (Fig 2). The main range is divided into three bays, a dining area to the west, a lounge to the east and a bar in the middle. There is a fireplace at either end of the range and a large chimney stack between the dining area and the bar.

Viewed from the outside, the Stag Inn appears to be a brick-built Georgian structure and a casual survey of the interior reinforces this perception. However, the renovations have revealed traces of an earlier hardwood timber-framed structure, hidden behind the brick façade, belonging to Phase 1. A storey post at the north-west corner of the structure is double-pegged to a girding beam at the rear of the main range (Plate 4). The corner post has dimensions of 140mm x 150mm, whilst the girding beam is 150mm high by 115mm wide. The underside of the girding beam has exposed mortices for studs which were single-pegged to the beam, with divisions of approximately 350mm (Plate 5). Mortices in the external face of the girding beam indicate there was a projecting structure to the rear of the main range, although all other trace of this has been removed (Plate 6). The White

Horse Inn, a 17th-century structure located a few plots to the west, has a two-storey cross-wing at its east end, so it is entirely possible that the Stag Inn was constructed with something similar.

On the north side of the bar and lounge the original framing of the rear wall appears to have survived relatively intact behind later wall rendering. Where the bar shelves have been removed a section of sill beam and brick plinth has been exposed (Plate 7). The frame has primary bracing with dimensions of 100mm x 120mm, with studs of 60-80mm x 100-120mm. Other surviving members of the original frame include three longitudinal bridging beams and a lateral bridging beam. The lateral bridging beam divides the bar from the lounge and is a large-section timber with tool marks (Plate 8). This beam has a face-halved scarf joint close to the front wall, probably inserted as a result of damage caused by the replacement of the front frame with brickwork during the Phase 2 alterations. The underside of this beam has exposed mortices, indicating the bar and the lounge was originally divided by a stud wall, since removed. Three re-used timbers have been inserted below this bridging beam, either to provide additional support after the removal of the original studs, or for aesthetic reasons. The three longitudinal bridging beams, which provide support for the first floor joists, are each chamfered with flat stops.

An additional surviving feature from the Phase 1 structure is the brick chimney stack between the dining area and the bar (Fig 4). Although it is square-built at the base, the stack is gently stepped towards the ceiling and is constructed from red brick with dimensions of 230 x 115 x 60mm laid in irregular bond (Plate 9). This originally had openings on both sides but the one to the west has been blocked. The original fire surround facing the bar is surmounted by a large-section, cambered timber mantel, keyed to accept a modern render. A 20th-century Art Deco fireplace has been built on the front of the stack (Plate 10).

Apart from the rear wall, the majority of the ground floor of the main range comprises the brickwork of the Phase 2 alterations. These alterations include a chimney at each end of the range. Although the chimney at the west end had been removed by the time of the survey, the one at the east end survives intact and has an Art Deco brick fire surround (Plate 11). It is likely that the fireplace at the west end also had an Art Deco fire surround. An original Phase 2 timber window lintel can be seen above the inserted 20th-century window in the dining area (Plate 12), evidence indicating that the original Georgian window was narrower than its replacement.

The Phase 3 extension extends the length of the main range and appears to have originally comprised at least two, but probably three rooms. At the west end a room to the north of the dining area was intended as additional space for the public area of the Inn, complete with its own external doorway, whilst the remainder of the extension was given over to service areas. Later alterations divided these areas, with an inserted passage way providing access to the yard behind the Inn, but the position of the staircase and an arch in the external wall denoting an original doorway (Plate 13) suggests they were originally two

separate rooms. The room to the east, converted to a kitchen in the 20th century, has a blocked chimney in the east wall and modern tiling obscuring the walls. This was possibly a dining room or a parlour but subsequent alterations have removed any distinguishing features from the room. A doorway in the north wall, providing access to the Phase 4 kitchen, may have been converted from an original window opening, although this cannot be confirmed. The central room, although converted to a beer store in the 20th century, was clearly built as a kitchen, with a wide chimney breast dominating the west wall (Plate 14). The fireplace within this has been blocked but an alcove next to it was probably used as a warming oven. An enclosed staircase on the outside of the main range provides access to the first floor.

The Phase 4 extensions appear to have been carried out in order to enlarge these service areas. The Phase 3 kitchen was doubled in size by the addition of a single-storey extension and a separate room was constructed at an angle to the eastern room of the Phase 3 extension. The original function of this room is uncertain, although a cupboard built into the rear wall suggests it may have been intended as a new kitchen or scullery. It was certainly converted to a kitchen in the 20th century and fitted with industrial catering equipment.

The extension on the west end of the main range was originally built as part of the Phase 4 construction, first as a coal depot and then converted to a garage. During the 20th century this was completely rebuilt in modern materials on the same footprint as the earlier structure, providing more space for the Inn (Phase 4a). A tripartite window was constructed in the south wall, designed to match the windows of the main range.

During the 20th century, a fifth phase of alterations was undertaken. This included the subdivision of the Phase 4a extension and the construction of a small gable roofed extension filling the space between the Phase 4a structure and the west end of the Phase 3 extension (Fig 2). The subdivision of the Phase 4a structure created an indoor toilet block, with windows inserted into the west and north wall. The doorway to the male WC was built across the tripartite window in the south wall. The small gabled structure provided additional space for the dining area. A timber structure was built to the north of the Phase 4 kitchen on the footprint of an earlier range of outbuildings. This was converted to a plant room for the kitchen, housing extractor fans for the catering equipment. The remainder of the structure was used as a garage.

First floor (Figs 3-5)

The first floor of the Inn is accessed by a staircase in the Phase 3 extension (Plate 15) which enters the original range through the rear wall (Fig 3). No trace of a staircase contemporary to the Phase 1 structure was observed and it may be that there was an external access, perhaps associated with the mortices noted in the external face of the rear girding beam. However, a significant portion of the Phase 1 structure survives on the first floor, including most of the rear wall frame and the dividing walls between the

bedrooms. These walls are covered with lath and plaster, with a later render on top (Plate 16). The internal walls divide the first floor into three rooms, with a corridor linking the outer rooms. The original chimney is hidden between the walls to bedrooms 1 and 2 (Fig 4) but later cupboards, constructed either side of the stack, have exposed the original wall framing (Plate 17).

As with the ground floor, all trace of the front and side wall framing was removed by the construction of the Phase 2 Georgian brick façade (Plate 18). Bedrooms 1 and 3 had fireplaces (since blocked) but the central bedroom was unheated.

The construction of the Phase 3 extension included three first floor rooms (Fig 3), although the slope of the roof gives these rooms an angled ceiling (Fig 5). Bedroom 4 opens directly off of bedroom 1 and was perhaps intended as a child's room or nursery (Plate 19). Due to the slope of the ceiling the windows are narrow wooden-framed casements. A second room opens directly off of bedroom 1, a narrow space divided from bedroom 4 by a lath and plaster wall. This has been interpreted as a box room or storage area. A second room (bedroom 5) is accessed via a doorway inserted through the frame of the Phase 1 structure, opening off of the corridor linking bedrooms 1 and 3. This room has the sloped ceiling characteristic of the Phase 3 extension and a wooden-framed casement window. Although the chimney for the fireplace below projects into the room there is no indication of a grate. Set into the dividing wall with bedroom 3 is a narrow window of 16 leaded lights (Plate 20). This was inserted either during the construction of the Phase 3 extension or shortly afterwards, and was intended to increase the amount of light to bedroom 5. A second light window (although of different design) is located in the corridor wall of bedroom 2, directly opposite the doorway to bedroom 5. Between bedrooms 4 and 5 there is a smaller room, opening directly off of the staircase landing. Although this room was converted to a WC and a bathroom during Phase 5, it is clear that this was originally a small bedroom. As with bedroom 5, the chimney for the fireplace below projects into the room, but again there is no indication of a grate. The wooden-framed casement windows, although sympathetically designed to mimic the originals, are replacements contemporary with the conversion.

At the head of the stairs there is a cupboard with the original plank door (Plate 21). There are similar doors to the bathroom and bedroom 3. The cramped conditions and lack of heat in the bathroom and bedroom 5 suggests these rooms may have been used by the lodgers mentioned in the 1861 and 1871 censuses, rather than by family members.

Roof (Figs 4-5)

The attic is accessed through a hatch in the ceiling outside the doorways to bedrooms 3 and 5. Although it was deemed unsafe to enter the attic, observations made from the vantage point of the hatch allowed several conclusions to be made concerning the roof design.

The majority of the common rafters are modern machine-cut timbers, carried on replacement purlins and inclined queen posts, indicating that the roof was rebuilt in the 20th century. There are, however, six original trusses dating to Phase 1 (Fig 4). These comprise a tie beam with dimensions of 200mm x 150mm and principal rafters joined by a single-pegged collar (Fig 5, Plate 22). The collars originally held clasped purlins with splayed scarf joints but nearly all of these have been replaced with machine-cut timbers. Several of the principal rafters have exposed mortices, indicating they are re-used timbers. The ends of the tie beams have chiselled carpenters' marks at the joint with the feet of the principal rafters (Plate 23).

The Phase 1 chimney stack has been rebuilt above the level of the wall plate in the same style as the Phase 2 stacks on the ends of the main range. This probably occurred during the Phase 2 construction but could possibly have happened when the roof was rebuilt in the 20th century.

7 Discussion

The structure that evolved into the Stag Inn has a varied architectural history, which is only to be expected from a building three centuries old. What is particularly interesting is the possibility that the building was intentionally constructed as an inn. This distinction is important as, prior to the early 19th century, alehouses, taverns and inns each had a specific function/clientele and were governed by strict licenses. Alehouses sold beer to predominantly lower-class labourers, often from the front room of a private house selling beer brewed on the premises by the wife, whilst the husband had another trade to supplement his income. Taverns sold wine to the better off and inns were almost exclusively frequented by the wealthier classes (Brandwood, 2004). The earliest recorded name for the inn, the Horseshoe, indicates a link with the forge at the rear of the property, perhaps suggesting it was an inn catering to travellers rather than an alehouse, although this would, admittedly, be a small inn. The connection to wealthy travellers may also be a reason why it was purchased by a member of the local gentry in 1769, John Barrington, Squire of Barrington Hall.

This association with the local squire may also be the reason behind the construction of the brick façade. The dominance of symmetry on the arrangement of the façade is typical of early 17th century grand houses, with the style filtering down to more common structures in later years. It is highly likely that a wealthy provincial owner, such as John Barrington, held a desire to have his properties imitate this style as a symbol of his status and his fashionable acumen.

The original flush box sashes are an interesting feature of the Georgian façade and have a lot to say about provincial architecture at the time. In an attempt to limit the spread of fire, the Building Act of 1709 banned box sashes that were flush with the external brickwork in favour of sashes recessed into the window opening by four inches. A further Act of 1774 decreed that all sash boxes be concealed within the fabric of the wall. The fact that the

original sashes of the Stag Inn were flush to the external brickwork is an indication that these Acts were not too scrupulously adhered to in the provinces. Whether this was an intentional flouting of the law or reflects a lower familiarity with current building techniques in the provinces is impossible to say.

The extensions built onto the rear of the main range in the mid 19th century may be indicative of the impact that the railways had on the Stag Inn. As mechanised transport became available, reducing travel time and costs, the number of travellers needing to break their road journey with a night's rest at the Stag probably declined. In particular, the introduction of the Braintree to Bishop's Stortford Railway in 1869 may have had a devastating effect on passing trade. The census entries, recording the Inn taking in lodgers, could be an example of a shift towards guaranteed income rather than reliance upon travellers. However, a more compelling argument can be made for the extensions representing a greater degree of success. The extra rooms on the ground floor probably reflect an increase in the number of patrons the Stag Inn was catering to, with the additional bedrooms on the first floor providing bonus income from lodgers. The reason for this probably lies with the activities of the Temperance Movement during the 19th century. By the early 19th century the historical distinctions between alehouses, taverns and inns had become blurred, resulting in what many saw as a nationwide plague of drink and vice. Due in part to the efforts of the Temperance Movement, licensing authorities tightened the drinking laws, often restricting the licenses of public houses deemed disreputable and prompting drinking establishments to become more respectable. Although this scenario was more frequent in urban settings, the tightening of the licensing laws may have resulted in the division of the Stag Inn's rooms to the tap room, bar, parlour, kitchen, cellar and store layout mentioned in the appraisal of Aaron Hawkins' estate in 1891. These rooms, particularly the tap room, bar and parlour, were where different types of drinking would have taken place, often with men and women segregated. By only having one bar it was hoped to deter excessive drinking and partitions or private bars for regulars only were often employed to this end. How effective these measures were is a matter of opinion, but they may well have increased the number of patrons frequenting the Inn.

The importance of the Stag Inn has already been established by its Grade II listing status. This acknowledges the significance of the building on a national level, recognising it as an asset to the historical and architectural record of England. However, the structure is not just a collection of different building materials, assembled over time and providing a visual chronology for architectural styles and fashions. The Inn has great importance to the history of the village of Hatfield Heath. The people associated with Inn are the inhabitants of the village and, by charting the history of the Inn, a greater understanding of the history of the village can be achieved. The study of a building almost always provides hitherto unknown information, sometimes confirming or repudiating local myths, but often providing an intriguing insight to the past. Close study of the Stag Inn has revealed that the building is older than previously thought and exists as a bridge between architectural styles. In a

village with over forty listed buildings, the majority of which are houses or cottages, the Stag Inn stands out as an important building that would have been at the centre of village life throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and would still have been considered important to many in the 20th century.

8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Tim Mascall of Mascall Homes Ltd for funding the building recording and for his assistance on site.

Plans are based on surveys provided by Mascall Homes Ltd.

The building recording was carried out by Chris Lister.

The project was monitored by Richard Havis on behalf of Essex County Council Place Services Historic Environment.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

Art Deco architectural form characterised by stylised geometric shapes, popular in the early 20th century

carpenters' marks	symbols scratched, incised or chiselled into timber to assist in assembly
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
chamfer	the splayed face resulting from the removal of the angle along a piece of timber or brick
chamfer stop	the detail at the end of a chamfered stretch marking the return to a square section
collar	horizontal member in a roof spanning between a pair of inclined members such as principal or common rafters
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HE	Historic Environment
girding beam	a timber beam placed horizontally in a wall frame at a level between the sill and the tie beam or wall plate.
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
post	in wall frames vertical members which rise the full height of the frame, being either main posts at the bay divisions or intermediate posts within the bay
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century
purlin	longitudinal roof timbers, intermediate between wall-plate and ridge, carried by roof trusses and giving support to rafters
queen post	one of pair of vertical members rising from a tie beam to give direct support to side purlins
segmented arch	an arch in which the underside and the upper edge of the bricks form segments struck from the same centre
sill beam	the beam at the foot of a timber-framed wall from which rise the all the studs (and usually the posts)
tie beam	beam tying together the post-heads of a timber-framed wall or the upper surfaces of a solid wall
truss	a frame consisting of several pieces of timber, jointed and triangulated in order to retain its shape under load
wall plate	a timber running horizontally along the top of a wall to receive the ends of common rafters

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum (accession code 2013.88).

12 Contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of ECC brief
- 1.2 Copy of WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 Copies of existing plans and elevations

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photographic record.
- 2.2 Digital photographic contact sheet.
- 2.3 35mm black and white photographic record
- 2.4 35mm black and white photographic contact sheet
- 2.5 One packet of 35mm black and white prints
- 2.6 Attendance register

2.7 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

3.1 Client report

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checked by: Philip Crummy

date: 27/03/14

Appendices
Appendix 1
Selected photographs



Plate 1 South elevation of the Stag Inn - view north



Plate 2 Detail of original Georgian hood and fluted door surround with bull's eye corner decoration – view north



Plate 3 North elevation of the Stag Inn, with the main range in the background and the various extensions in the foreground and to the right – view south



Plate 4 The west wall of the main range, showing the surviving timber frame of Phase 1 inside the brick skin of Phase 2 - view north



Plate 5 Girding beam at the rear of the Phase 1 structure, with exposed mortices in underside of beam and single peg holes - view west



Plate 6 Mortices in the external face of the Phase 1 girding beam, indicative of a structure that once projected from the rear of the main range - view south-east



Plate 7 Phase 1 sill beam and brick plinth exposed in rear wall of bar - view north



Plate 8 The bar viewed from the lounge, showing the large-section lateral bridging beam with re-used posts and one of the chamfered longitudinal bridging beams – view north-east



Plate 9 The original Phase 1 chimney between the dining area and the bar, with the stepped brickwork of the stack and the cambered timber mantel - view north-west.



Plate 10 Art Deco fireplace inserted to the Phase 1 chimney, with Phase 5 render and mock timber framing – view south-west



Plate 11 Art Deco fireplace on Phase 2 chimney breast at east end of the lounge – view south-east



Plate 12 Phase 2 timber window lintel above 20th-century window in dining area - view south-east



Plate 13 Phase 4 passage way leading from yard into Phase 3 extension, showing the arch for the original doorway to the extension – view south-east



Plate 14 Phase 3 kitchen, showing blocked fireplace with warming oven to the left - view west



Plate 15 Phase 3 staircase to first floor - view west



Plate 16 Bedroom 1, showing dividing wall to chimney stack, with lath and plaster over original Phase 1 timber framing - view south-east



Plate 17 Cupboard formed from the space besides the Phase 1 chimney stack, exposing the original framing – view west



Plate 18 Bedroom 1, showing the blocked fireplace in the Phase 2 brickwork – view south-west



Plate 19 Bedroom 4, possibly intended as a nursery or child's room, with sloped ceiling and narrow wooden-framed casement windows – view north



Plate 20 Leaded light window in dividing wall between bedrooms 3 and 5 – view south-west



Plate 21 Cupboard at head of Phase 3 staircase with original plank door – view west



Plate 22 Detail of the roof timbers, showing original Phase 1 principal rafter and collar and modern inclined queen post, purlin and common rafters – view south-east



Plate 23 Chiselled carpenter's mark on the end of an attic tie beam – view north-west.

Appendix 2

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

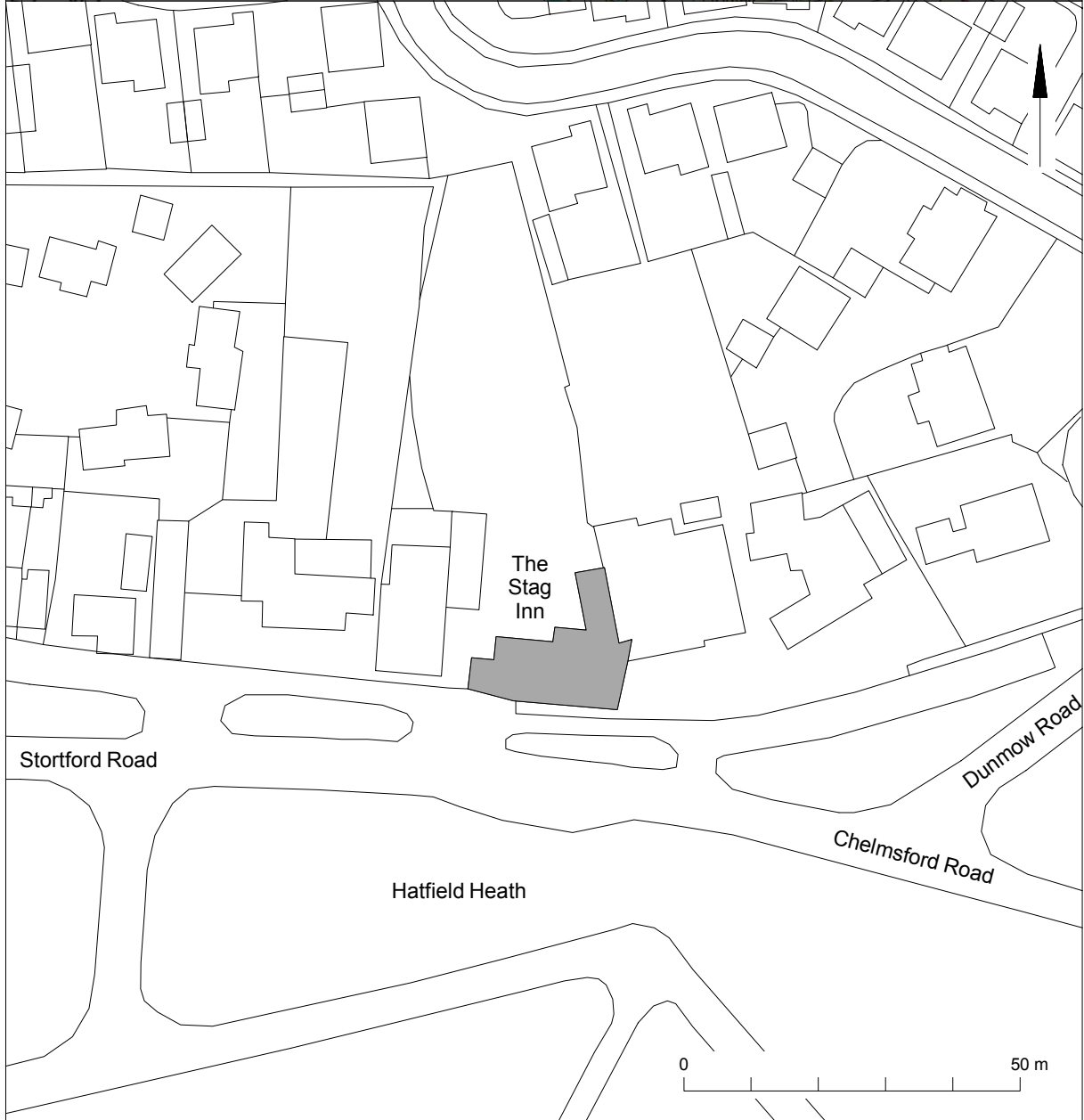
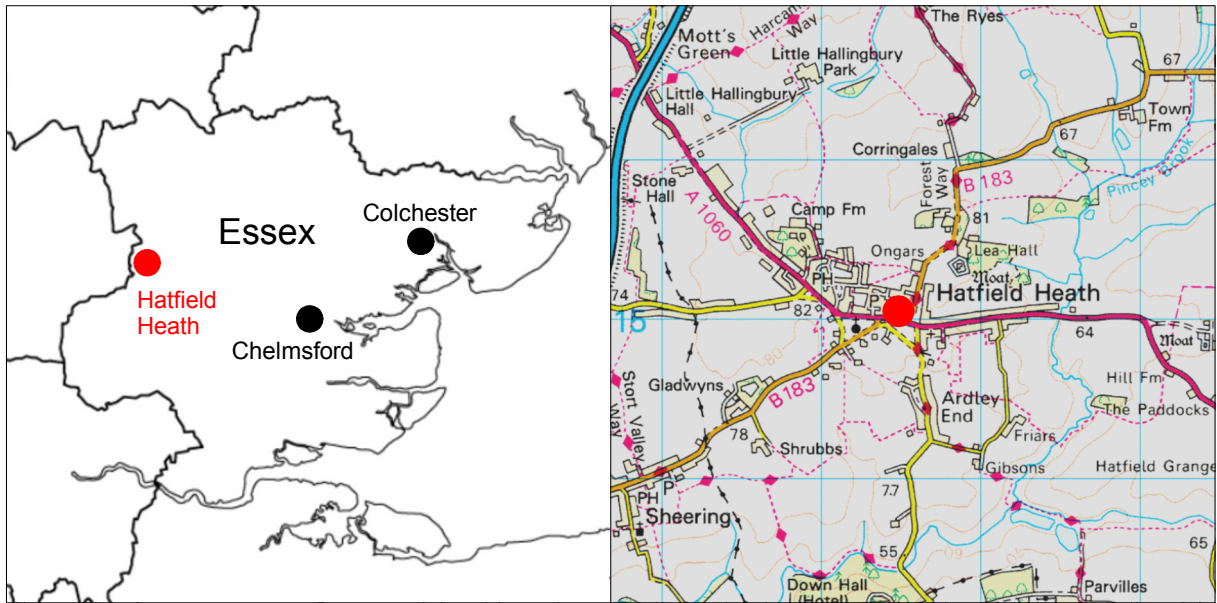
- 001.jpg The Stag Inn - view north-east.
002.jpg The Stag Inn, showing the Georgian facade - view north.
003.jpg The Stag Inn south elevation, showing the Georgian brick facade with blind window - view north.
004.jpg The east elevation of the Stag Inn - view west.
005.jpg East elevation of the Stag Inn, showing the join of the Phase 2 brickwork with the Phase 3 extension - view west.
006.jpg The Stag Inn, with the main range in the background, the Phase 4 extension to the right and the Phase 5 extension to the left - view south-east.
007.jpg The rear elevation of the Stag Inn, showing the various phases of extension to the main range - view south.
008.jpg Entrance way to the bar with flat hood and Georgian-style surround - view north.
009.jpg Detail of entrance way to the bar, with flat projecting hood supported on brackets, bull's eye corner decoration and fluting on the door surround - view north.
010.jpg Example of the first floor windows, probably a Victorian copy of a Georgian original as the sash has horns, not seen before the mid 19th century - view north.
011.jpg Opening in south elevation of main range, probably for 20th-century ventilation - view north.
012.jpg Blocked window in Phase 4 extension - view east.
013.jpg Doorway to Phase 3 extension - view south-west.
014.jpg Window to bedroom 5 of the Phase 3 extension - view south-east.
015.jpg Casement windows to bathroom and WC, early 20th-century replacements of Victorian originals - view south.
016.jpg 20th-century outbuildings, constructed on the location of earlier structures - view south-east.
017.jpg Passage leading to the kitchen and beer store, with the original doorway surviving only as the arched head - view south-east.
018.jpg Interior of the Phase 4 extension at the west end of the main range, after conversion works started, with modern sash and casement windows and a breeze block skin applied to the original brickwork - view west.
019.jpg View of the Phase 4 and 5 extensions viewed from the main range, showing the steel girder supporting the brickwork of the west elevation where the ground floor wall has been removed, and the replacement post to the original timber frame - view north-west.
020.jpg Remains of the mock timber framing on the interior walls of the Phase 3 extension - view north-east.
021.jpg The dining area of the main range, viewed from the Phase 3 extension, showing the original girding beam of the Phase 1 frame - view south-east.
022.jpg Detail of the rear girding beam of the Phase 1 structure.
023.jpg Mortices in the underside of the rear girding beam of the Phase 1 structure, with the Phase 4 and 5 extensions in the background - view west.
024.jpg The girding beam at the rear of the Phase 1 structure, with modern conversion works to the right and an original bridging beam in the background - view south.
025.jpg Detail of the Phase 1 timber-framed structure surviving inside the Phase 2 brick skin - view south.
026.jpg Underside of the rear girding beam to the Phase 1 structure, showing the empty mortices.
027.jpg The rear girding beam of the Phase 1 structure showing empty mortices for the original studding - view south-east.
028.jpg Detail of the rear girding beam to the Phase 1 structure, showing the empty mortices and peg holes. The intact frame of the first floor can be seen rising from the beam.
029.jpg Flat stop to chamfer on original bridging beam of dining area.
030.jpg Original lintel of Phase 2 window surviving above 20th-century window - view south-east.
031.jpg Rear of the Phase 1 chimney stack - view north-east.
032.jpg 1930s brick fire surround on Phase 1 chimney stack - view west.
033.jpg Stepped side to Phase 1 chimney stack - view north-west.
034.jpg 1930s brick fire surround on Phase 1 fireplace, with original wooden mantel and bridging beam to first floor - view south-west.
035.jpg 1930s embellishments to Phase 1 fireplace - view south-west.
036.jpg Brick support to bridging beam for first floor - view north.
037.jpg Interior of the bar with the lounge in the background - view north-east.
038.jpg Interior of the bar with the lounge in the background, separated by a bridging beam supported on re-used timbers - view south-east.
039.jpg 1930s brick fire surround and grate on Phase 2 fireplace - view east.
040.jpg Interior of the bar viewed from the lounge, showing the re-used timbers supporting the bridging beam - view west.
041.jpg Interior of the lounge with the bar in the background, showing the mock timber framing on the walls - view north-west.

- 042.jpg Repair to the bridging beam near to the front elevation, possibly a result of the replacement of the original frame by the Phase 2 brickwork - view west.
- 043.jpg Tool marks on the bridging beam between the bar and lounge - view south-east.
- 044.jpg Surviving section of the sill beam in the rear wall frame, located behind the bar - view north.
- 045.jpg The interior of the Phase 3 kitchen, with the blocked fireplace on the rear wall and the original frame of the Phase 1 wall (to the right) concealed by modern plasterboard - view east.
- 046.jpg Doorway joining the Phase 3 kitchen to the Phase 4 kitchen, possibly inserted through an existing window opening - view north-east.
- 047.jpg The interior of the Phase 4 kitchen with an opening for ducting leading into the plant room behind - view north-west.
- 048.jpg Skylight in Phase 4 kitchen.
- 049.jpg 20th-century dividing wall inserted to Phase 3 kitchen, with Crittall window to the right of the doorway - view north-west.
- 050.jpg Blocked fireplace and warming oven in corner of the beer store - view west.
- 051.jpg Warming oven in corner of the beer store, with Phase 3 wall partly demolished - view west.
- 052.jpg Interior of the beer store looking into the Phase 4 extension - view north.
- 053.jpg Phase 3 staircase to first floor - view west.
- 054.jpg Phase 3 staircase to ground floor - view east.
- 055.jpg Original Phase 3 cupboard at head of staircase - view west.
- 056.jpg Interior of original Phase 3 cupboard at head of staircase - view west.
- 057.jpg Bedroom 1, showing the Phase 2 brick walls replacing the original timber frame and the blocked fireplace to the chimney - view south-west.
- 058.jpg Bedroom 1, showing replacement bridging beams and floor joists - view south-west.
- 059.jpg Doorway to cupboard off bedroom 1, located on the south side of the chimney stack - view south-east.
- 060.jpg Bedroom 1, original lath and plaster stud wall obscuring chimney stack - view south-east.
- 061.jpg Bedroom 4 in the Phase 3 extension, opening directly off bedroom 1, perhaps used as a nursery or child's bedroom - view north.
- 062.jpg Bedroom 4, lath and plaster construction of dividing wall - view east.
- 063.jpg Bedroom 1, surviving Phase 1 timber frame exposed beneath lath and plaster wall covering - view east.
- 064.jpg Box room in Phase 3 extension, located between bedroom 4 and WC, opening directly off bedroom 1 - view north.
- 065.jpg Bedroom 2 - view south-east.
- 066.jpg Bedroom 2, showing light window to first floor hallway - view north-east.
- 067.jpg Cupboard formed from the space between the Phase 1 chimney stack and the wall frame of the first floor hallway - view west.
- 068.jpg Phase 1, first floor hallway - view east.
- 069.jpg Door to bedroom 3, possibly original to Phase 1 but very similar to the door of the Phase 3 cupboard at the head of the staircase - view north.
- 070.jpg Rear of the door to bedroom 3 - view west.
- 071.jpg Detail of the handle to the door of bedroom 3 - view north.
- 072.jpg Interior of bedroom 3 - view south-east.
- 073.jpg Interior of bedroom 3, showing the blocked fireplace in the chimney breast - view north-east.
- 074.jpg Narrow light window in dividing wall between bedroom 3 and bedroom 5 - view north.
- 075.jpg Interior of bedroom 5, with chimney from kitchen below projecting into the room - view east.
- 076.jpg Interior of bedroom 5 - view east.
- 077.jpg Light window in dividing wall between bedrooms 3 and 5 - view south.
- 078.jpg External brickwork of the Phase 3 extension with the original lath and plaster dividing wall to the box room and the 20th-century plumbing for the WC - view north.
- 079.jpg Replacement window in the WC of the Phase 3 extension - view north.
- 080.jpg Interior of the Phase 3 bathroom, showing the original lath and plaster dividing wall with bedroom 5 - view north-east.
- 081.jpg Replacement windows in the Phase 3 bathroom - view north-east.
- 082.jpg Detail of the handle to the Phase 3 bathroom door.
- 083.jpg Exposed frame of the Phase 3 bathroom dividing wall with the staircase - view south-east.
- 084.jpg Light window between bedroom 2 and the first floor hallway, with the attic access directly above - view south.
- 085.jpg Modern purlin and inclined queen strut providing support to the rafters - view east.
- 086.jpg Roof timbers, with modern rafters, purlins and inclined queen struts but also original clasped collars and principal rafters - view south-west.
- 087.jpg Roof timbers, showing a truss, with original members comprising tie beam, principal rafters and a single-pegged collar. The clasped purlin, inclined queen strut and common rafters are modern replacements - view south-east.
- 088.jpg Chiselled carpenter's mark (IIIX) on end of tie beam - view north-west.
- 089.jpg Chiselled carpenter's mark (IIIX) on end of tie beam - view north-west.

Appendix 3

Full list of 35mm black and white photographic record (images on accompanying CD, negatives and prints with archive folder)

- B&W 35mm001.jpg The Stag Inn south elevation, showing the Georgian brick facade with blind window - view north.
- B&W 35mm002.jpg The Stag Inn, showing the Georgian facade - view north.
- B&W 35mm003.jpg The Stag Inn - view north-east.
- B&W 35mm004.jpg The east elevation of the Stag Inn - view west.
- B&W 35mm005.jpg Entrance way to the bar with flat hood and Georgian-style surround - view north.
- B&W 35mm006.jpg Opening in the south elevation, probably for modern ventilation - view north.
- B&W 35mm007.jpg Example of the first floor windows, probably a Victorian copy of a Georgian original as the sash has horns, not seen before the mid 19th century - view north.
- B&W 35mm008.jpg The Stag Inn, with the main range in the background, the Phase 4 extension to the right and the Phase 5 extension to the left - view south-east.
- B&W 35mm009.jpg Casement windows to bedroom 4, early 20th-century replacements of Victorian originals - view south.
- B&W 35mm010.jpg The rear elevation of the Stag Inn, showing the Phase 3 and 4 extensions to the main range - view south.
- B&W 35mm011.jpg The rear elevation of the Stag Inn, showing the Phase 3 and 4 extensions to the main range - view south.
- B&W 35mm012.jpg The dining area of the main range, viewed from the Phase 3 extension, showing the original girding beam of the Phase 1 frame - view south-east.
- B&W 35mm013.jpg Detail of the Phase 1 timber-framed structure surviving inside the Phase 2 brick skin - view south.
- B&W 35mm014.jpg Underside of the rear girding beam to the Phase 1 structure, showing the empty mortices.
- B&W 35mm015.jpg Interior of the bar with the lounge in the background - view north-east.
- B&W 35mm016.jpg Interior of the bar with the lounge in the background, separated by a bridging beam supported on re-used timbers - view south-east.
- B&W 35mm017.jpg Interior of the bar viewed from the lounge, showing the re-used timbers supporting the bridging beam - view west.
- B&W 35mm018.jpg Repair to the bridging beam near to the front elevation, possibly a result of the replacement of the original frame by the Phase 2 brickwork - view west.
- B&W 35mm019.jpg Phase 3 staircase to first floor - view west.
- B&W 35mm020.jpg Bedroom 1, showing the Phase 2 brick walls replacing the original timber frame and the blocked fireplace to the chimney - view south-west.
- B&W 35mm021.jpg Doorway to cupboard off bedroom 1, located on the south side of the chimney stack - view south-east.
- B&W 35mm022.jpg Bedroom 4 in the Phase 3 extension, opening directly off bedroom 1, perhaps used as a nursery or child's bedroom - view north.
- B&W 35mm023.jpg Cupboard formed from the space between the Phase 1 chimney stack and the wall frame of the first floor hallway - view west.
- B&W 35mm024.jpg Cupboard formed from the space between the Phase 1 chimney stack and the wall frame of the first floor hallway - view west.
- B&W 35mm025.jpg Cupboard in bedroom 2, showing the timbers of the hallway wall frame - view west.
- B&W 35mm026.jpg Bedroom 2, showing light window to first floor hallway - view north-east.
- B&W 35mm027.jpg Rear of the door to bedroom 3 - view west.
- B&W 35mm028.jpg Narrow light window in dividing wall between bedroom 3 and bedroom 5 - view north.
- B&W 35mm029.jpg Detail of the handle to the door of bedroom 3 - view north.
- B&W 35mm030.jpg Interior of bedroom 5, with chimney from kitchen below projecting into the room - view east.
- B&W 35mm031.jpg Light window in dividing wall between bedrooms 3 and 5 - view south.
- B&W 35mm032.jpg Phase 3 staircase to ground floor - view east.
- B&W 35mm033.jpg The rear elevation of the Stag Inn, showing the various phases of extension to the main range - view south.
- B&W 35mm034.jpg Roof timbers, with modern rafters, purlins and inclined queen struts but also original clasped collars and principal rafters - view south-west.
- B&W 35mm035.jpg Chiselled carpenter's mark (IIIX) on end of tie beam - view north-west.
- B&W 35mm036.jpg Roof timbers, showing a truss, with original members comprising tie beam, principal rafters and a single-pegged collar. The clasped purlin, inclined queen strut and common rafters are modern replacements - view south-east.
- B&W 35mm037.jpg Detail of original splayed purlin clasped between collar and principal rafter.



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Fig 1 Site location

- Phase 1 pre 1723
- Phase 2 ?1769
- Phase 3 mid 19th century
- Phase 4 late 19th century
- Phase 4a rebuilt in 20th century
- Phase 5 20th century

- a = blocked fireplace
- b = warming oven
- c = Crittall window
- d = exposed mortices
- e = mock timber framing
- f = original doorway
- g = window converted from doorway
- h = blocked window
- i = ?door converted from window
- j = original Georgian timber window lintel

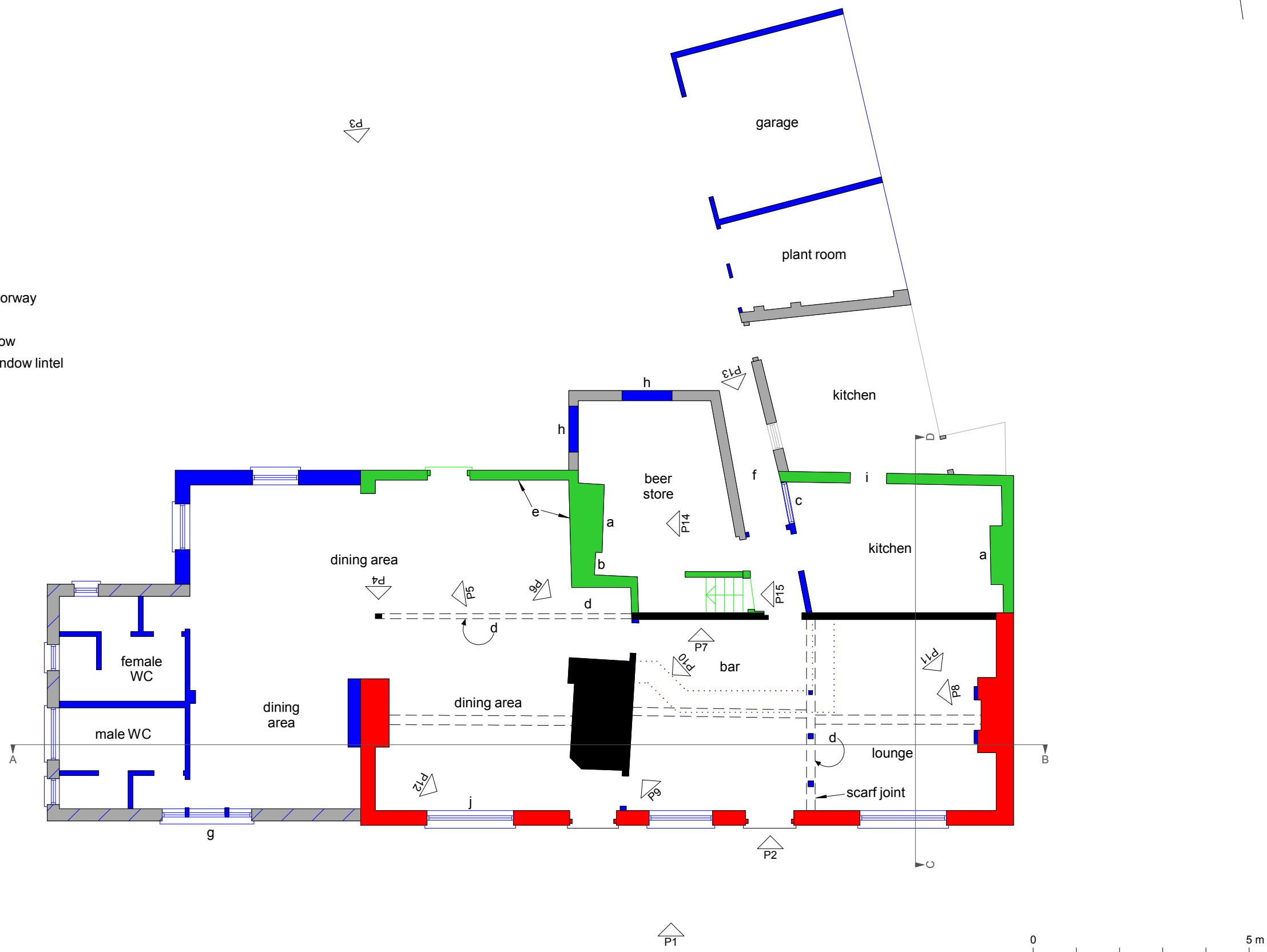
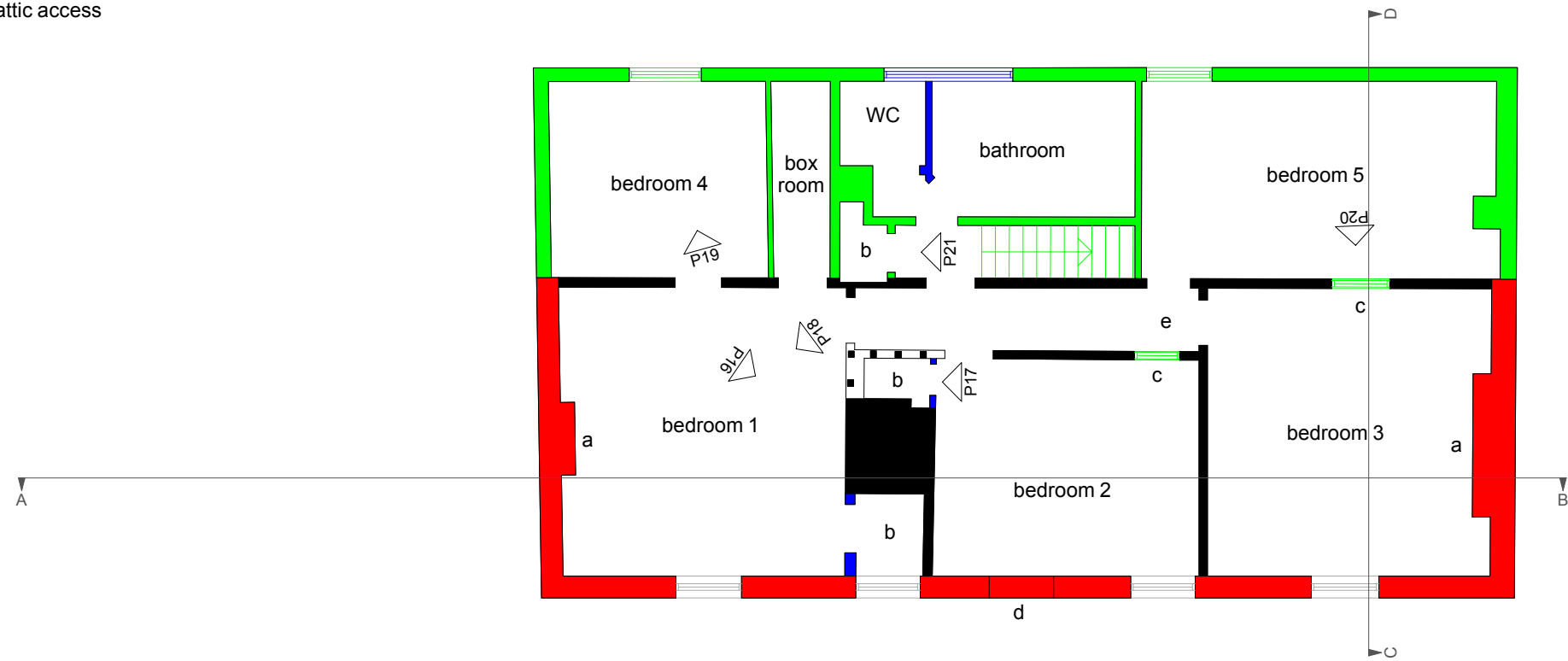


Fig 2 Ground floor plan of the Stag Inn, showing phases and alterations. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.

- Phase 1 pre 1723
- Phase 2 ?1769
- Phase 3 mid 19th century
- Phase 4 late 19th century
- Phase 5 20th century

- a = blocked fireplace
- b = cupboard
- c = light window
- d = blind window
- e = attic access



P1



Fig 3 First floor plan of the Stag Inn, showing phases and alterations. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.

- Phase 1 pre 1723
- Phase 2 ?1769
- Phase 4 late 19th century
- Phase 4a rebuilt in 20th century
- Phase 5 20th century

a = blocked fireplace
 b = 1930s fire surround
 c = original truss
 d = original studs removed

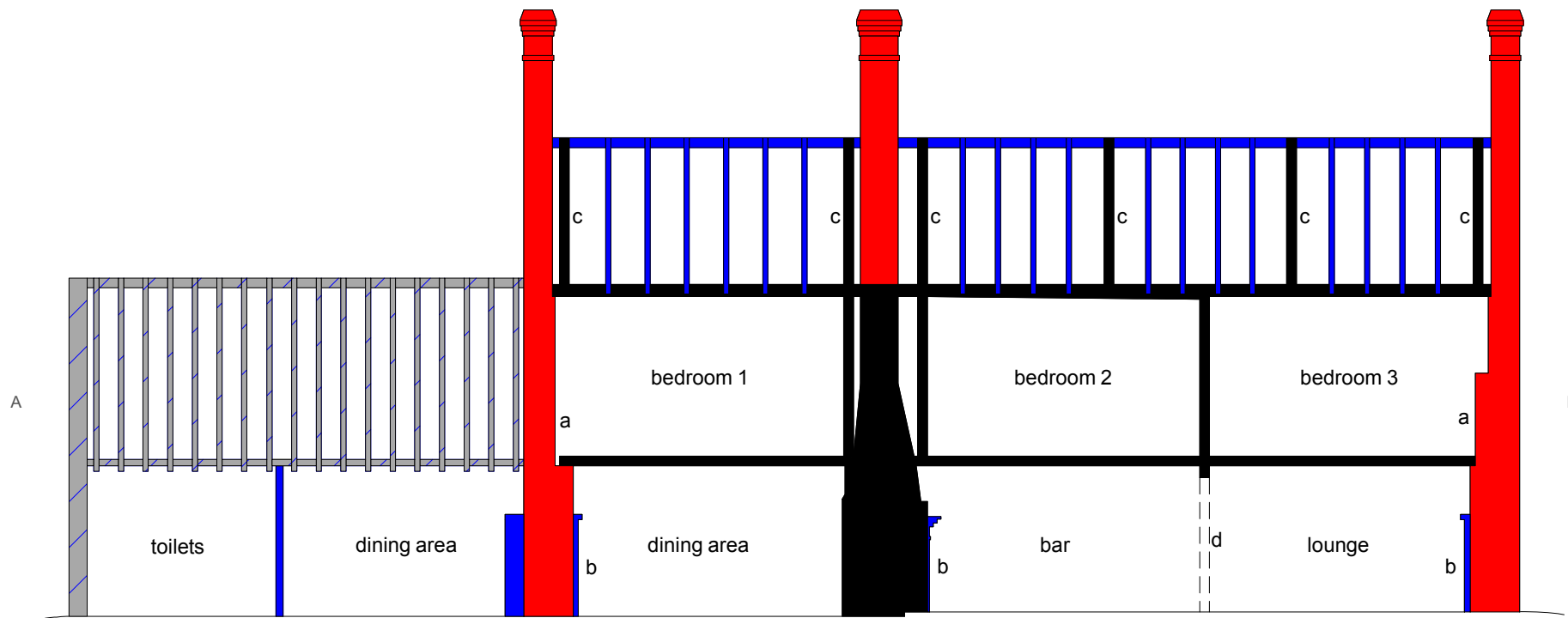


Fig 4 Longitudinal section of the Stag Inn, showing phases and alterations.

- Phase 1 pre 1723
- Phase 2 ?1769
- Phase 3 mid 19th century
- Phase 5 20th century

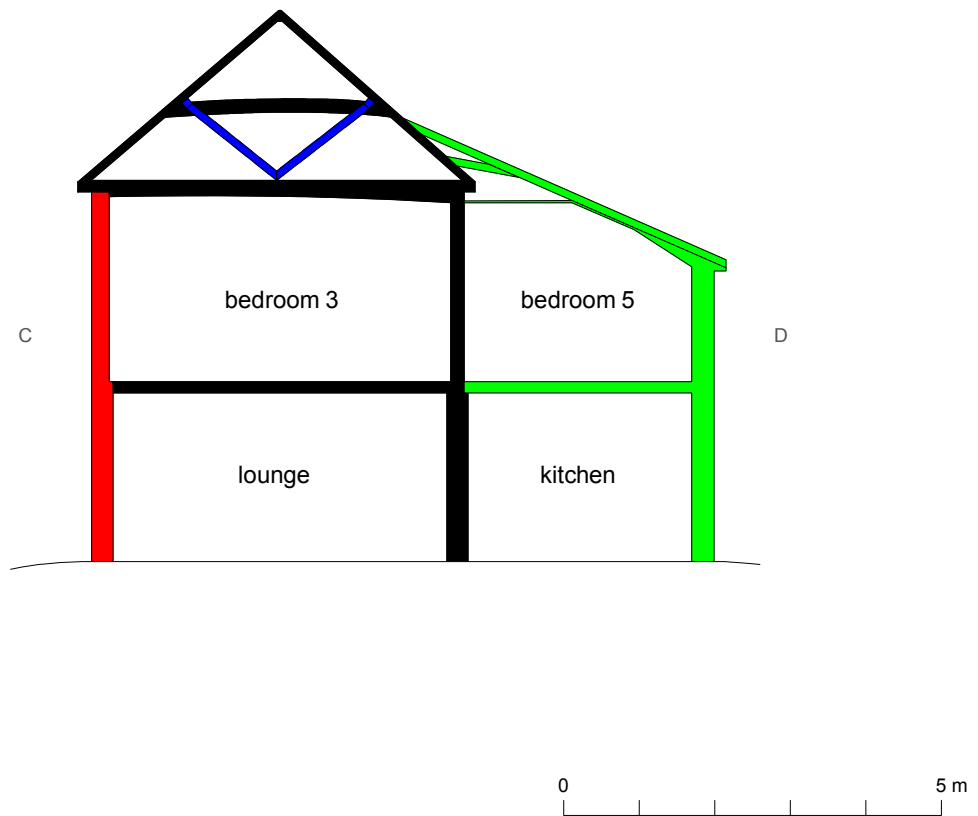


Fig 5 Cross-section of the Stag Inn, showing phases and alterations.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: The Stag Inn, Hatfield Heath, Essex	
Parish: Hatfield Heath	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 5243 1500 (c)	Site codes: CAT project – 13/12a ECC HEM code – HFSI13 Museum accession code – 2013.88
Type of work: Building recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: December 2013	Size of area investigated: n/a
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Client
Monitored by: Richard Havis, Historic Environment Adviser, Place Services, Essex County Council	
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 38108
Final report:	CAT Report 761
Periods represented:	18th-20th century
Summary: A programme of building recording was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust on the Stag Inn, a brick and timber-framed structure in Hatfield Heath, Essex, in December 2013. The work was commissioned by Mascall Homes Ltd. The earliest components of the building are the remains of a timber-framed inn known as the Horseshoe, which date to at least 1723. A brick façade and side walls were constructed in or around 1769, when the inn was renamed the Bald Stag. Extensions were added in the mid 19th century, with further construction carried out in the last quarter of the 19th century providing space for additional businesses. Alterations made during the 20th century incorporated the extensions for these additional businesses into the footprint of the public house.	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 746	
Keywords: inn, public house, timber-framed	Significance: *
Author of summary: Chris Lister	Date of summary: March 2014