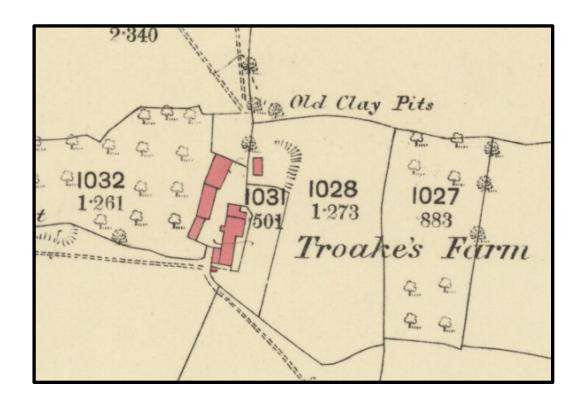


Archaeological desk-based assessment and Historic building appraisal at Troake's Farm, Clayhidon, Devon



on behalf of the client

Report No. 20-11

Project No. 1721

December 2020



Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

44 Hazel Road, Wonford, Exeter, Devon, EX2 6HN tel: 07834 591406

e-mail: info@oakfordarch.co.uk web: www.oakfordarch.co.uk

.....

AUTHOR

R.W. Parker & M.F.R. Steinmetzer

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

Lucy Browne

.....

Report No 20-11 Revision: 01

Date: December 2020

Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1 The site	1
1.2 Geological background	1
2. Aims	2
3. Methodology	2
3.1 Desk-based assessment	2
3.2 Building survey	2
3.3 Site visit	2
4. Legislation and Guidance	
4.1 Designated sites	
4.2. Ancient woodland	3
4.3 Sites, monuments and buildings with statutory designation	4
5. Historical and archaeological background	
5.1 General background	
5.2 Troake's	5
5.3 Historic Landscape Characterisation	6
6. The building survey	
6.1 Introduction	6
6.2 The main building	7
7. Discussion	
8. Conclusion	

Site archive Acknowledgements Bibliography

List of illustrations

T 1	-	c .	
Fig. 1	Location	Of SITE	
112.1	Location	OI SILC	

- Fig. 2 Detail from the 1838 Clayhidon parish tithe map.
- Fig. 3 Detail from the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet XLVII.8.
- Fig. 4 Detail from the 1905 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet XLVII.8.
- Fig. 5 Plan of the ground- and first-floor showing location of observations and suggested phases of development.

List of plates

- Plate 1 General view of former main elevation showing Ham stone chimney, position of cross-passage and position of later outshut. Looking northwest.
- Plate 2 Close-up of south end showing ground- and first floor fenestration, position of cross-passage with 17th century doorway and the 19th century outshut extension. Looking west.
- Plate 3 General view of the farmyard elevation showing the barn at the northern end of the main range. Looking southeast.
- Plate 4 General view of the farmyard elevation showing the Ham stone chimney at the southern end of the main range. Looking northeast
- Plate 5 Close-up of south end showing ground- and first-floor fenestration and position of cross-passage with 17th century doorway. Looking east.
- Plate 6 General view of north end showing ground- and first-floor fenestration and blocked doorway. Looking east.
- Plate 7 Close-up of barn at northern end of main range. Looking east.
- Plate 8 Close-up of north elevation of barn showing blocked doorway. Looking south.

- Plate 9 General view of west elevation in G02 showing 18th century doorway and window arrangement with original joists resting on top of, rather than within the replacement beam. Looking west.
- Plate 10 General view of south elevation in G02 showing arrangement of 19th century kitchen fireplace and bread-oven, staircase and corridor leading to G04. Looking south.
- Plate 11 Close-up of staircase leading to F03. Looking south.
- Plate 12 General view of east elevation in G02 showing plank door and window with leaded lights giving onto 19th century outshut extension G07. Looking east.
- Plate 13 General view of north elevation in G02 showing 19th century partition and doorway with original 17th century beam above. Looking north.
- Plate 14 General view of former corridor G03 showing blocked doorway. Looking west.
- Plate 15 General view of former corridor G03 showing position of partially blocked doorway reusing remains of former screen. Looking east.
- Plate 16 General view of north elevation in G04 showing inserted fireplace with later 19th century rebuilding and modern infilling. Looking north.
- Plate 17 General view of east elevation in G03 showing reduced wall width with the 17th century beam resting on a projecting bracket. Looking east.
- Plate 18 Close-up showing the projecting bracket supporting the 17th century beam. Looking northeast.
- Plate 19 General view of west elevation in G04 showing modern uPVC window and 17th century beam. Looking west.
- Plate 20 General view of south elevation in G04 showing 19th century doorway. The beam above the cob-and-stud partition has seemingly been removed with the ceiling joists simply resting on top of the partition. Looking south.
- Plate 21 General view of former cross-passage G05 defined by cob-and-stud partitions with 19th century doorways leading to G04 and G06 respectively. The additional width on the south side suggests the position of a former stair. Looking east
- Plate 22 General view of former cross-passage G05 defined by cob-and-stud partitions. The additional width on the south side suggests the position of a former stair. Looking west.
- Plate 23 Close-up of stair within G06 leading to F01. Looking southeast.
- Plate 24 General view of south elevation in G06 showing modern fireplace. This was formerly the kitchen and subsequently the parlour fireplace and occupied most of the gable elevation while the small cupboard to the left is the possible position of a former staircase. Looking south.
- Plate 25 Close-up showing the projecting bracket supporting the west end of the 17th century beam in G06. Looking northwest.
- Plate 26 Close-up showing the projecting bracket supporting the east end of the 17th century beam in G06. Looking east.
- Plate 27 General view of outshut showing plank doors leading to G02 and G08 respectively and vent window. Looking north.
- Plate 28 General view of east elevation of G09 showing shutters of vent window. Looking northeast.
- Plate 29 General view of south elevation in F01 showing chimney stack with the cupboard to the left with its blocked window the possible position of a former staircase. The roof over the southern end has been replaced in the 19th century. Looking south.
- Plate 30 Close-up of original early 17th century window in east elevation in F01. Looking east.
- Plate 31 General view of south elevation in F03 showing original 17th century low doorway in the centre of the cob-and-stud partition with later 19th century doorway inserted to the right. Looking south.
- Plate 32 General view of north elevation in F03 showing inserted chimney stack and stair, with corridor leading to F04 and F05. Looking north.
- Plate 33 General view of south elevation in F05 showing the cob-and-stud partition with later doorway. Looking south.
- Plate 34 Close-up showing the remains of the late medieval jointed-cruck truss re-used in the 17th century roof structure and first-floor cob-and-stud partition. Looking south.

- Plate 35 General view of roof structure showing original section above F03, F04 and F05 truncated by insertion of chimney stack. Looking north
- Plate 36 General view of lower purlin with rafters in F04. Looking east.
- Plate 37 General view of G01 showing first-floor beam with narrow chamfer. Looking east.
- Plate 38 General view of north elevation in G01 showing earlier door arrangement and narrow first-floor joists. Looking north.
- Plate 39 Close-up of first-floor structure in G01 showing feeding void. Looking north.
- Plate 40 General view of roof structure showing late 19th or early 20th century A-frame with applied collar. Looking north.
- Plate 41 General view of east elevation of former threshing barn. Looking west.
- Plate 42 General view west elevation of former threshing barn. Looking east.
- Plate 43 General view of north elevation of former threshing barn showing roof construction. Looking north.
- Plate 44 General view of south elevation of former threshing barn showing roof construction. Looking south.
- Plate 45 General view of former west doorway. Looking west.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Tamsyn Froom Architecture on behalf of the client and sets out the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and historical building appraisal carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) in October 2020 at Troake's Farm, Clayhidon, Devon (ST 1639 1215). The work was carried out as part of supporting documentation prepared for a planning application to be submitted to Mid Devon District Council (MDDC). The work, which comprises a description of the building fabric, its layout, features, dating and development, was commissioned on the advice of the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) and the MDDC Conservation Officer.

The site survey was entirely non-invasive, and it is likely that building works during future alterations to the house will uncover historic information which might refine or even alter the conclusions contained in this report. The interpretation presented in this report must therefore be regarded as provisional.

1.1 The site

The main house and barn are non-designated local heritage assets, lying on the southern edge of the of the historic parish of Clayhidon (Fig. 1) in a valley site on the north bank of the Bolham River. The site is accessed from the north by a steep driveway from Bolham Hill to the north. The farm lies at the junction of four footpaths, shown on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps of the area (Figs. 3 & 4) and lies just to the south of an area of former clay pits. Until very recently there was still no metalled road to the farm. The long, narrow farmyard is aligned from north to south, with the farmhouse on its eastern side at the south-eastern end of the yard and a row of barns and other farm buildings on the western side of the yard, immediately opposite. A two-storey stable abuts the northern gable of the house and a further historic barn lies to the north of the house.

There is evidence that the original house was built in the late medieval period; however, it was subsequently extensively rebuilt in c.1600. Both the original house and the post-medieval rebuilding were designed with a typical three room and cross-passage plan. The layout of the house was subsequently altered and a new axial stack inserted in the hall, with further extensive alterations and additions occurring in the 19th century.

The archaeological work was commissioned by the current owners of the property, Humphrey and Charlotte Taylor, in advance of the complete refurbishment of the house and outbuildings which after many years had become dilapidated and in need of a sympathetic new use.

1.2 Geological background

The site lies on a gentle south facing slope overlooking the Bolham River. The geology of the area belongs to the Mercia Mudstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock which formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period and which gives rise to deposits of Head - clay, sand and gravel deposited up to three million years ago in the Quaternary Period. ¹

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk.

2. AIMS

The aim of the assessment is to collate known historical and archaeological information (baseline information) and any newly identified material regarding the history of the site and immediate surroundings. The resulting information will be used to make an assessment of impact on the archaeological resource and the wider impact on the historic environment.

The aims of the project were to provide a description of the fabric of the building, its layout, features, dating and development prior to the development, and to disseminate the results of the investigation by appropriate reporting and deposition of the archive in a public repository, either online with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) or with the Devon Heritage Centre (DHC).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Desk-based assessment

This desk-based assessment has been carried out in accordance with advice provided by the Devon County Historic Environment Team Officer (Reed *pers. comm.*) and has included examination of cartographic, printed and documentary sources held at or by:

- The Devon Heritage Centre;
- Westcountry Studies Library, Exeter;
- Devon and Exeter Institution, Exeter;
- South West Heritage Trust, Taunton;
- The Devon Historic Environment Record (DCHET);
- The National Heritage List for England online website;
- The Heritage Gateway online website.

3.2 **Building survey**

Recording of the buildings was undertaken by a historic building specialist in accordance with specifications applicable to Level 1-3 in the English Heritage 2006 document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practices* and in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, 1996, revised 2014).

The building recording consisted of:

- A detailed written description of the buildings and more general record of the main building.
- A detailed photographic record of the buildings in colour (digital) format, and a basic record of the main building.
- A limited drawn record of the buildings, consisting of annotation of, and additions to, the architect's 'as existing' plans and elevations, to show the locations of any fixtures and fittings, building breaks, blocked openings or architectural detail.

3.3 Site visit

A site visit was undertaken on 23-10-2020. See above 1.2 for details of current land use. No surviving earthwork were visible within the site boundaries. No geotechnical or geophysical

survey information is currently available for the site and it is only possible at this stage to suggest that archaeological deposits are likely to survive across the site. See above 1.2 for details of current land use.

4. LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

This desk-based assessment (DBA) has been carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines. The CIfA defines archaeological desk-based assessment within its standards and guidance document (revised Nov. 2012) as:

....a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

It has also been carried out in line with guidance provided by the DCHET, in accordance with the policy in the Government's published National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF: 2012) and in particular paragraph 128 of Chapter 12:

In determining proposals, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

4.1 Designated sites

The application site lies within the Blackdown Hills AONB, designated in 1991, and some 2.7km east of the Southey and Gotleigh Moors SSSI. No sites of nature conservation interest (SNCI) or Local Wildlife Site (LWS) are recorded in the area.

4.2 Ancient woodland

Ancient woodland is land that has had a continuous woodland cover since at least 1600AD and may be ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW), which retains a native tree and shrub cover that has not been planted, although it may have been managed by coppicing or felling and allowed to regenerate naturally, or plantation on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) where the original tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting, often with conifers, and usually over the last century. It is not automatically the case that any ancient woodland is protected. ² No ancient or ancient replanted woodland is recorded in the area.

² http://magic.defra.gov.uk/.

4.3 Sites, monuments and buildings with statutory designation

There are no statutorily protected Scheduled Monuments (protected sites of national importance) within the proposal area. However, five Scheduled Monuments are located within 5km of the site; the Cistercian Abbey at Dunkeswell 2.71km to the southwest, the medieval castle at Hemyock c.2.87km to the northwest and World War II pillboxes, fighter pens, two air traffic control buildings and other airfield remains at the former airfield of RAF Culmhead, Trickey Warren, some 5.15km to the northeast of the site.

In addition four listed buildings are located in the immediate vicinity of the application site. Hart's (1325864), a Grade II Listed mid-17th century farmhouse, is located 640m to the east, while Batten's (1325862), a Grade II Listed late 16th or early 17th century former farmhouse, is located 530m to the northwest. A Grade II Listed barn and Linhay are also located at Batten. Due to the topography none of these designated heritage assets are visible from the site.

5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 General background

Clayhidon is a rural parish on the northwestern side of the Blackdown Hills. These contain significant concentrations of prehistoric, Roman and later medieval activity, including settlement, agricultural and funerary activity. ³ However, previous archaeological work has tended to heavily focus on the town of Hemyock and nearby villages, and no work has been undertaken in the vicinity or within the curtilage of the site.

The manor of *Hidona* was held by the Saxon thegn Godwin prior to 1066. During the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest, and the death of Harold at Hastings, the hamlet of *Hidona* and its lands were held by Odelin from Baldwin FitzGilbert, castellan of Exeter and Sheriff of Devon and the largest Norman landowner in the county. ⁴ Variously known as *Hydona*, *Hidon(e)*, *Hidone juxta Hemyok*, *Cleyhidon*, *Clehidon*, and *Hydon*, according to Gover the hamlet derives its name from the Old English *hīeg-dun* or hay-hill, while according to Polwhele the parish was also remarkable for its clay. ⁵ The farmstead grew up within a sheltered valley in the southern part of the parish, immediately adjacent to the Domesday manor of *Boleham* or Bolham Water. The manor, deriving its name from the Old English personal name *Bola-* and *tūn* meaning Bola's estate, was also held by Odelin from Baldwin FitzGilbert. ⁶

Although records within the Devon Record Office and the Somerset Archives and Local Studies Centre were examined it was impossible, under the current COVID restrictions, to investigate all the available records and it remains unclear within which of the manors and estates Troake's lay. In the limited time available no mention of Troke or Troakes was found within the Manorial Documents Register 7 which lists surviving $14^{th} - 16^{th}$ century rentals and court and accounts rolls for the manors of Bolham and Middleton.

The earliest mention of the house is found in the will of John Troke dated 1548. ⁸ No further information is available and by the 1780s the Troke family is named as tenants in the Land Tax Assessments in relation to a property named 'late Bond's' somewhere within the parish of

³ Horner 2010.

⁴ Thorn and Thorn 1985, 16,111.

⁵ Gover et al. 1932, 610.

⁶ Thorn and Thorn 1985, 16,121.

⁷ Manorial Documents Register (nationalarchives.gov.uk)

⁸ Gover et al. 1932, 611.

Clayhidon. Troake's was by this period owned and occupied by the Farrant family, an affluent local family of yeomen farmers.

5.2 Troake's Farm

Mark Farrant was baptised in 1714, the son of Robert Farrant and Margaret Quick who married on 8th May 1700 in Hemyock. Following his marriage to Joan Cridland on the 2nd May 1738 in Hemyock, Mark inherited the manor of Columb Pyne from his uncle, William Quick. ⁹ Their son William Farrant is named in conjunction with an apprentice indenture "for an estate called Troake's" in 1765 ¹⁰ and 1783. ¹¹ William is named as the owner and occupier of Troake's in the Land Tax Assessments from 1780 to 1816, ¹² although an as yet unseen document named "Farm accounts and notes of William Farrant, senior and junior of Clayhidon," ¹³ suggests that there was more than one William, so it might be that Troake's passed from father to son, or uncle to nephew. In addition to Troake's and Columb Pyne manor the Farrant's also owned the nearby manor of Middleton. ¹⁴

From 1817 ¹⁵ William Farrant shared the ownership and occupation of Troake's with the Reverend John Gale. The following year, the ownership included Francis Farrant, Williams son or grandson, with the occupation split between William and Francis. From 1819, Francis Farrant continued to share the ownership of Troake's with the Reverend John Gale, and to occupy it on his own until 1822. For the two years following the death of William Senior in 1823, aged 84,¹⁶ Troake's appears in two parts, valued separately, although both were occupied by Robert Valentine. Francis sold his surviving share to the Reverend John Gale in 1825, dying two years later at the relatively young age of 37. Troake's was occupied throughout this period by John Hartnell, a local farmer.

The tithe survey of Clayhidon parish in 1838 (Fig. 2) showed that the buildings and most of the land was now owned by the Reverend John Clarke, Gale retaining the garden, War Mead, Gatchels Mead, Croft and Eastern Close. The map clearly shows the rectangular house on the eastern side of a long farmyard. A small garden, presumably a vegetable garden is shown at the rear of the property. On the western edge of the farmyard a long rectangular range of buildings, presumably agricultural outbuildings including the current threshing barn, are shown, with three smaller buildings to the north. John Hartnell was still occupying Troake's in the 1851 census. He was described as a widower aged 71, a farmer of 41 acres with 5 agricultural labourers, and living with his son William aged 26, daughter-in-law aged 28, and grandson Henry aged 5. Also in the household were William Broomfield, John's grandson aged 13, Daniel and Ruth Manning, visitors, possibly father and daughter and two agricultural servants.

⁹ Magna Britannia by Daniel and Samuel Lysons (1822)

¹⁰ Devon Heritage Centre 1061A/PO/487

¹¹ Devon Heritage Centre 1061A/PO/546

¹² Seen on microfiche in the Devon Heritage Centre

¹³ 1061A/ZB 1 Accounts of William Farrant senior and junior of Clayhidon

¹⁴ Magna Britannia by Daniel and Samuel Lysons (1822)

¹⁵ Land Tax Assessments

¹⁶ Transcription of Parish Registers by Devon Family History Society available on Fine My Past (www.findmypast.co.uk) seen December 2020

¹⁷ HO 107/1921, Folio 267, Schedule no. 12

Troake's was not listed in the 1861 census and in 1871, John Davies was listed at Troake's, farming 45 acres with his wife Charlotte and their eight children. ¹⁸ During the 1860s, John Davies had had a couple of brushes with the law, which might have led to the family moving from their previous 80-acre farm. John was charged with removing sheep from the land of his neighbour, Robert Vincent at the Petty Sessions of January 1864 and in 1868, was bound over to keep the peace after using threatening language against Vincent. ¹⁹ In the following census Troake's was occupied by John Baddick who was listed with his wife Emma and three young children. ²⁰

The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1889, when the property was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 3). The main range is clearly shown with the extended outshut at the rear and the newly built agricultural lean-to at the southern end. To the northwest the agricultural range consists of three separate buildings, with the existing threshing barn at the northern end and two further buildings to the south. The three smaller buildings to the north have disappeared and a small rectangular building constructed to the east of the threshing barn. By 1891 Abraham Cottey occupied Troake's with his wife Lucy and one farm servant. ²¹ They were still there in 1901, with Abraham continuing to work as a farmer.

The property remained remarkably unaltered throughout the early 20th century, as is evidenced by the 1905 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4), although by 1911 ²² George, a farmer, and Margaret White were living at Troake's with George's mother, Maria, and Harry Trickey, a farm servant aged 13. The house was listed with six rooms, not counting the scullery, landing, lobby, closet or bathroom. The couple had no children and the Whites stayed at Troake's until at least 1939 when George White, farmer appears in the Kelly's Directory for Devon. By this time he would have been in his 50s and they may have stayed on until he retired.

5.3 Historic Landscape Characterisation

The Historic Landscape Characterisation programme provides a framework for broadening our understanding of the whole landscape and contributes to decisions affecting tomorrow's landscape. Relevant historic landscape characterisation information was supplied by the Devon Historic Environment Record - the landscape surrounding the site is characterised as medieval enclosures based on strip fields. This area was probably first enclosed with hedge-banks during the later middle ages. The curving form of the hedge-banks suggests that earlier it may have been farmed as open strip-fields.

6. THE BUILDING SURVEY

6.1 Introduction

Troake's was originally built as a single large farmhouse with a typical, if rather elongated, three room and-cross passage plan. What survives today is a building with a long and complex building history and it is hoped that future building work will uncover more historic information which might clarify its development in more detail.

¹⁸ RG10/2365, Folio 61, Schedule no. 16

¹⁹ Exeter & Plymouth Gazette 22nd January 1864 and Western Times 3rd January 1868.

²⁰ RG 11/2363, Folio 58, Schedule no. 9

²¹ RG12/1872, Folio 51, Schedule no. 25

²² RG 14/14202. Schedule 7

The building, with its attached stable now has an overall four-room plan with two doorways providing access to the ground floor rooms. The southern door opens into the former cross passage providing direct access from the farmyard to the gardens at the rear of the house to the east. It is probable that a staircase against the southern side of the cross passage would formerly have provided access to the first floor and the chambers at the south end of the house. The passage gives access both to the parlour to the south, with an exceptionally large fireplace in the south elevation, which may indicate that this room formerly functioned as a kitchen, and the hall to the north, at the centre of the original building. The chimney over the south gable is a magnificent structure of large, Ham-stone slabs with moulded capping, now only slightly damaged. The hall was originally a large room but was extensively altered in the 18th or early 19th century and now contains a large, inserted axial chimney with fireplaces facing both north and south This chimney seems to have been constructed at the centre of the original medieval volume of the hall, dividing it into two smaller rooms. It is of brick and probably later than the southern stack.

To the north of the inserted chimney a second external doorway provides access to the northern part of the former hall, now a kitchen. From this area a 19th century staircase rises alongside the western face of the inserted chimney to provide access to the chambers on the upper floor at the northern end of the house. A large room to the north of the hall presumably served as a parlour or inner room, separated from the hall by a screen, but at least half of this space has been annexed by the post-medieval kitchen. The resulting, rather narrow room at the north end of the house formerly provided access directly from the farmyard to the single storey outshut at the rear of the kitchen. The outshut was extended to the south in the 19th century and now covers the whole of the width of the kitchen.

The stable adjoining the north end of the house appears never to have been part of the domestic accommodation and contains a single square room on the ground floor with a loft above.

The first floor of the building essentially repeats the basic layout of the ground floor.

The original roof construction has been replaced over the southern half of the building, probably in the 19th century, at a time when the original thatch was probably replaced with slate; however, the northern parts of the house retain evidence of the medieval roof trusses, probably reused in their present positions. The roof of the loft over the stable is also a 19th century replacement.

6.2 The main building

EXTERIOR

Main facade

The house is a two-storey structure, constructed of stone rubble. The original core of the house is a large rectangular range with a stable at the northern end, aligned from north to south, parallel with the farmyard and crowned with two axial chimney stacks: one on its southern gable and one in the centre of the roof of the main house. The pitched corrugated iron roof is gabled to the north and south and runs unbroken over the house, with the roof over the stable at the northern end at a higher level.

The eastern elevation is perhaps the principal façade (Pls. 1-2), presenting a two-storey elevation to the garden under a pitched corrugated iron roof. The ground floor is entered

through a large early 17^{th} century doorway with a substantial chamfered frame at the southern end of the elevation which opens onto a wide cross passage. Light is provided by two windows on the ground- and first floors. Although the ground floor window, and many of the other windows are 20^{th} -century replacements, the window lighting the southern first-floor bedroom (F01), with its large mullions and surviving metal casement with decorated turnbuckle dates to c.1600. The northern end of the main façade is largely obscured by a single storey outshut, which appears to have developed in at least two phases in the 18^{th} and mid-late 19^{th} centuries and no windows are now visible in the elevation above the roofline of this structure.

The rear elevation

The west elevation of the main building presents a simple two-storey elevation onto the farmyard with irregular fenestration of various periods (Pls. 3-4). This has latterly provided the main entrance into the farmhouse with two doors located at either end of the elevation. The southern doorway (Pl. 5) is the original western doorway of the cross passage and features a replacement doorframe with simple moulding. The northern half of the house is entered through a later doorway (Pl. 6), probably inserted in the 18th century when this part of the house was extensively reconfigured. While the majority of the windows lighting the ground- and first floor are 20th century in date the three-light window lighting the northern bedroom (F05) would have formerly contained metal casements and is likely to date to the late 17th or early 18th century.

At the northern end of the main range is a small two-storey agricultural building, probably a stable (Pls. 7-8), which seems to have been part of the original construction of the building. The farmyard elevation consisted of a centrally placed doorway with a small roughly square pitching hole placed above and to the right of the doorway. The north gable elevation contained two windows. The large western window has been inserted into a former doorway, suggesting that the current access arrangement is later, perhaps 19th century in date. The roof is gently pitched in line with but at a slightly higher level than the roof over the main range.

INTERIOR

The ground floor (Fig. 5).

The interior of the main range has been severely altered, possibly when the position of the kitchen and parlour were switched during the 18th or early 19th-century alterations. These alterations have involved the reconfiguration of the southern and northern ends of the original house and the removal of the internal partitions defining the original rooms, confusing the historic plan of the building. Some traces of the original interior arrangement remained, however, in the form of early ceiling beams, which has allowed a suggested reconstruction of the original layout and phasing.

The northern doorway in the western elevation provides access to the present large kitchen (G02). This is lit by a single window with leaded lights in the east and two modern windows in the west elevation (Pl. 9). The kitchen is heated by a large mid-late 19th century axial fireplace and bread-oven in the south elevation with a contemporary straight stair providing access to the first-floor rooms above (Pls. 10-11). This appears to be a modification or reconstruction of an earlier fireplace. A low corridor provided access to the southern part of the former hall (G04) to the south, while a doorway in the east elevation provided access to the outshuts at the rear (Pl. 12). To the north a timber partition (Pl. 13) with a centrally placed doorway, located immediately underneath an original beam, provided access to a narrow room (G03) at the northern end of the main house. The existing kitchen seems to have been converted

from the former hall and parlour or inner chamber. The beam defining the northern partition is part of the original construction of the building with the original joists housed on mortices or housings within it, while the main beam in the kitchen is shallower and the joists therefore simply rest on the top of the beam. In addition, the original beams throughout the house have wide chamfers with elongated and stepped run-out stops while the beam in the kitchen has a narrow chamfer with plain run-out stops. Finally the joists on the south side of the beam are not aligned with those on the northern side. It is likely therefore that the beam is inserted. The beam now sustains a first-floor partition directly above it which cannot have been originally unsupported. It is thus highly probable that a substantial timber screen originally crossed the room a short distance to the north of the beam, and that the first-floor joists and the partition above this formerly jettied out over the beam, perhaps projecting into a former open hall. The removal of the screen and the insertion of the new beam to bear the ends of the joists and the partition above was perhaps contemporary with the insertion of the axial stack in the 18th century and the provision of a large kitchen and scullery at the rear.

The small room (G03) to the north of the present kitchen was thus once a much larger room ceiled with a substantial beam running from east to west and two bays of north- south joists. There is no visible evidence that the room was ever heated; however, it is likely that the room was an important one, the parlour of the medieval and post-medieval house, and there may have been a lateral chimney stack in its eastern or western walls. This was perhaps removed during the 18th century alterations when the fenestration of the building was renewed. There remains also a possibility of a chimney in the northern gable, but no evidence of this is currently visible. The room is lit by a single modern window in the west elevation (Pl. 14). This room was converted to serve as a corridor providing access to the outshuts on the eastern side of the house, probably in the 18th century when the present kitchen was created by annexing parts of the former hall and inner chamber. A second doorway was originally located in the eastern elevation although this was blocked, along with the western doorway, in the mid-late 19th century and a window was inserted in the west elevation in place of the former door. This alteration was probably made at the time of the southern extension of the outshut at the rear of the house, which could now be accessed directly from the new kitchen. After this the former corridor may simply have served as additional storage. Surviving within the blocking of the eastern doorway and re-used to form a small rectangular alcove, are the remains of a former plank-and-muntin screen (Pl. 15) consisting of a large chamfered muntin. It is possible that this fragment represents the remains of the original screen between the inner room/parlour and the original open hall.

At the southwest corner of the kitchen a small corridor led to room G04 at the centre of the house. This was a large room representing the southern part of the former hall and contained an enormous, inserted chimneystack forming its north elevation (Pl. 16). The removal of layers of paint and plaster on the south face of this stack revealed an 18th century arched brick lintel. The opening was reduced in size in the 19th century and finally blocked in the modern period when the gas fire was inserted. There was no evidence of an earlier opening and it is assumed that the axial stack is therefore of 18th-century date. The position of the room at the heart of the building and immediately adjacent to the cross-passage suggests that this room probably served as the hall of the original early post-medieval house. The presence of a small window in the east elevation (Pl. 17) however is incongruous as this is the main façade of the house. In addition, the beam in the centre of the room with its wide chamfer and stepped run-out stop was built into the west elevation, with the elongated stop ending shortly before the wall face. The eastern end, however, was supported by a large corbel or bracket (Pl. 18) with the stepped stop ending some distance from the end of the exposed beam, suggesting that the wall has been

reduced in width. The new chimney stack and the rebuilding of the east wall are thus probably contemporary. A possible context for this might be the demolition of a large lateral stack on the eastern side of the room and the construction of a new axial stack to replace it in the 18th century. This alteration would have necessitated providing new support for the end of the principal ceiling beam, which had presumably been borne in the western side of the original chimney stack, in the form of a corbel. The small window might thus originate as a light within the original chimney embrasure, perhaps lighting a chimney seat. This would explain both its small size and its position

The present ceiling thus predates the existing chimney in the north wall of the room. It is unclear whether the hall was originally open to the roof, though this seems very likely. The putative lateral chimney stack in this area may have either predated the ceiling or was possibly contemporary with it; the insertion of chimneys in Devon farmhouses can often be shown to have occurred well before the hall was floored over to create first-floor rooms, the chimney stack and its chimney breast serving as an impressive feature in what was, at that period, the principal room of the house. The present ceiling, in its original form, may have had as many as four bays defined by three substantial beams

The removal of the lateral stack may have been undertaken in the 18th century when the house was extensively remodelled by the conversion of the former lower end to a parlour and the conversion of the former inner room and part of the hall to a new and enlarged kitchen. At which time it was probably still the one of the most impressive rooms in the building and may well have served as a dining room, since it immediately adjoined the new kitchen. In addition to the small window in the east elevation the room was lit by a large window giving onto the farmyard (Pl. 19). The southern wall of the room, forming the northern cross passage wall consisted of a cob-and-stud partitions and limited investigations revealed that the original beam supporting the first floor above had been removed, the joists resting on the head of the partition (Pl. 20). It is likely that a further plank-and-muntin screen had stood in this position defining the south end of the original hall and separating it from the cross passage. A mid-late 19th-century doorway at the eastern end of the partition provided access to the passage (G05).

The southern part of the property is entered from the farmyard through a doorway which provides access to a wide cross-passage (G05) running through the building (Pls. 21-22). The passage is defined by cob-and-stud partitions running the full width of the building, with 19th-century doorways at the eastern end providing access to the former hall (G04) to the north and the existing parlour (G06) to the south. The southern partition is set-back by some distance from the doorway, suggesting that a staircase or stair ladder may formerly have risen against it, providing access to the first-floor rooms.

Immediately inside the doorway to the southern room a small lobby provided access to a 19th century straight stair leading to the first floor above (Pl. 23), and the parlour to the right. The parlour was lit by a single window in the east elevation and may originally have functioned as a service area or kitchen, since the room is dominated by a large fireplace occupying most of the south gable elevation (Pl. 24). The original timber lintel or clavel of the opening was visible from a modern cupboard to the right of the modern fireplace, while inspection of the cupboard on the eastern side of the fireplace identified a small, blocked window in the south gable elevation. This is may denote the position of a former stair providing access to the chamber above. The beam, with its wide chamfers and stepped elongated run-out stops, is original; however, the decorative chamfering ends some distance from the end of the exposed beam with both ends supported on brackets (Pls. 25-26). The awkward support arrangement and the

stopping short of the moulding suggests that both walls have been rebuilt, thereby exposing more of the original beam and necessitating the additional support of the bracket. A vertical break visible in the east wall of the house externally may betray evidence of a phased replacement of an original thick-walled cob structure with stone walling. This refacing or recasing of the house may have been part of its 18th- or 19th-century remodelling and is likely to be contemporary with the conversion of the former kitchen into a parlour and the extensive alterations taking place at the northern end of the house; however, such rebuilding might also be undertaken sporadically, over a very long period, in response to failures of parts of the original cob walling sue to subsidence or water damage.

The outshut

Beyond the doorway in the east wall of room G02 is a single storey outshut (G07 and G08/09/10), built of uncoursed local stone rubble. The northern part of this building is earlier, with thicker walls and was originally accessed from the house through corridor G03. Although the two northern windows are of 20th -century date the two vent windows with their internal shutters in the east and south elevations and the plank door with strap hinges with expanded ends are original and probably date from the 18th century (Pls. 27-28). The latter mirrors the doorway in G02 and it is possible that there was a secondary access from the kitchen. The roof structure is a simple lean-to roof with boarded ceilings.

The outshut was extended to the south in the mid-late 19th century by the addition of a new range continuous with the older outshut but with thinner walling. The room (G07) is lit by a single 20thcentury window in the east elevation and has an original doorway in the south elevation providing access to the garden to the east of the house. Near the doorway is a fine example of a traditional washing copper which may be contemporary with this part of the building. The roof structure mirrors that of over the northern outshut although the timbers are of wider scantling and a modern skylight provides additional lighting.

The first floor (Fig. 5)

The first-floor chamber (F01) over the southern part of the house is accessed from the parlour below by a straight flight of stairs. The south elevation of this room had an offset representing the contraction of the chimneystack in the southern gable (Pl. 29) and there was no evidence that the room was originally heated. To the left of the stack was a modern cupboard within which was a small, blocked window with splayed jambs mirroring the ground floor arrangement. This is likely to be the position of an early stair providing access to the first-floor room, perhaps replacing an early stair or stair ladder within the cross passage. The room was lit by a single window in the east elevation (Pl. 30). This had large, chamfered timber mullions and a central metal casement with turnbuckle dating to c.1600. It is the only original window surviving within the house. The absence of openings in the west elevation supports the view that the east elevation was the main façade, while the less prestigious farmyard elevation remained largely blind until the 18th or early 19th-century alterations reversed the aspect of the house. The northern partition defining the room consisted of cob-and-stud walling with the original low doorway surviving off centre in the elevation. This doorway had slight chamfered jambs with ogee stops at the top and bottom and was typical of the early 17th century, at which time it is likely that the upper storeys of the house and the roof were rebuilt, possibly to increase headroom in the upper rooms (see below). The opening retained a door with fine strap hinges with expanded ends.

The doorway provided access to a narrow corridor-like room (F02) extending the full width of the house and overlying the cross passage. This narrow room may have provided space for a

staircase and landing rising from the cross passage. The position of the doorway to Room F01 suggest that the putative stair or stair ladder rising from the cross passage below would either have had to have gone out of use by the time this doorway was inserted. Alternatively, it might perhaps have risen against the eastern end of the southern partition, returning onto a landing. Interestingly the room was lit from a modern window in the west elevation rather than the principal eastern façade.

Access to room F03 at the centre of the house was through a plain, probably late 19th-century doorway at the western end of the cob-and-stud partition defining the northern side of room F02. The removal of wallpaper at the centre of the partition identified the location of an earlier low doorway in the centre of the partition (Pl. 31). This doorway did not have the chamfering, stops or detail of the doorway communicating from room F01, and it must surely be a later insertion. Assuming the centre of the house to have been open (as was usual in many Devon rural houses until the mid-17th century), this doorway may have been made after the original open hall was floored over. Alternatively, all the partitions at first-floor level may have been installed at the same time as the central hall was floored over, perhaps in the context of increasing the headroom in the first-floor rooms.

The partition was constructed of vertical studs and horizontal rails forming large square panels infilled with cob supported on an armature of rod-laths; a technique known in Devon from the 15th to the 17th centuries, though rare after the mid-17th century, when cruder methods of construction became popular and it became customary to conceal timber construction behind smooth, plastered surfaces. Incorporated into this partition were the remains of a jointed cruck truss, of which the eastern principal rafter remained. This had lost its cruck post and arch braces suggesting that it had formerly been an open truss, spanning a void, prior to incorporation in the partition, or It might also have been reused from an earlier phase of roofing. The loss of the cruck posts may indicate that the earlier building is likely to have been of cob construction with wall posts embedded in the cob. The partition respects the present roofline, and the reuse of the earlier truss within it perhaps suggests that the medieval roof of the house was dismantled and rebuilt, or at least severely altered, when these partitions were installed to divide the roof space and first floor into the present rooms.

The room was lit by a small window in the east elevation and a large modern uPVC window in the west elevation. This room may originally have formed part of a very large upper chamber inserted over and spanning the full length of the hall below. It is likely to have been the principal chamber of the mid-17th-century farmhouse. The room probably assumed its current layout in the 18th century when the large axial stack was inserted within the centre of the hall (Pl. 32), and additional accommodation created by the resulting sub-division of the first-floor chamber. There was no visible evidence that either this or the adjacent room (F04) were ever heated during this period, though both may have been served by lateral stacks now removed. Access to the northern rooms was subsequently eased by the construction of the stair from the kitchen in the mid-late 19th century.

A small corridor at the head of the northern staircase led to room F04, which was also created following the insertion of the axial stack. As previously mentioned, this room was unheated. It was lit by a single small 20th century window in the west elevation. The partition to the north (Pl. 33) consisted of cob-and-stud walling of identical character with that dividing the rooms F02 and F03, and also incorporating the remains of jointed cruck trusses, formerly with arch bracing. These could be identified at both the east and west ends (Pl. 34). This is clearly an original partition and corresponds with the beam in the kitchen below, possibly indicating the

line of the former ground-floor partition defining the hall and the inner chamber. Although the north elevation was not stripped there was no indication that the room was ever heated. This room was lit by a single late 17th or early 18th century three-light window in the west wall that would formerly have contained metal casements.

The roof (Pls. 35-36)

The roof structure of the main range is visible through the partially collapsed 19th century ceiling in F03. Access to the roof area was difficult and a detailed inspection could not be made due to the dangerous condition of the ceiling and the uncertain condition of the joists, as well as the probable presence of bats. The following description is based on inspection from a position within the centre of room F03.

The main roof contains elements contemporary with the construction of the original building in the 16th century but may have been altered and reconfigured in the early 17th century. The roof was originally six bays long and consisted of side pegged jointed cruck trusses with two sets of trenched purlins and a clasped diagonal ridge. There is evidence of lower arch bracing, but it has not been possible to determine whether there were also upper arch braces. It is also unclear from the limited observations whether the trusses have collars. The presence of arch bracing possibly indicates that the trusses were originally displayed over a void area and that the infilling with studs and rails and rod-lathed panels is secondary. The trusses are missing their lower ends, including all details of their relationship with the wall tops, suggesting that they have been re-used from an earlier building phase or that the walling has been rebuilt and the original supports removed. The two original first-floor partitions extended into the apex of the roof. Inspection of the surviving plaster showed no evidence of smoke blackening, indicating that, if there was originally an open hall at the centre of the house, as seems likely, this was always served by a chimney rather than an open hearth. Alternatively, the house was always fully floored. The common rafters were probably all replaced in the 19th century, with a large number being replaced again in the 20th century.

Detailed inspection of the roof structure over F01 was not possible although preliminary impressions are that this section had been extensively rebuilt in the 19th century.

The stable (Pls. 37-40)

To the north of the main range is a small two-storey barn or stable. This is entered from the farmyard by a centrally placed three-quarter height plank door providing access to a low ground floor room (G01). Immediately to the right of the doorway is the main beam supporting the first floor above. Interestingly, for an agricultural outbuilding this has a narrow chamfer on both sides with plain run-out stops matching the detail of the kitchen ceiling beam. The ground floor is lit by two windows in the north gable elevation, the western window having been inserted through an earlier doorway. It is possible therefore that this building was only latterly converted to agricultural use although it is unclear what its earlier use or function were. There are no openings between this building and the main range to the south on the ground- and first floor and it is likely therefore that it was always separate from the main block and had its own access arrangements. These signs of status and the presence of windows (which are unusual in other animal houses) may indicate that this building served as a stable.

To the north and south of the room are the remains of two tethering posts while the eastern edge of the upper floor is interrupted to serve as a feeding void, allowing the hay to be dropped directly from the hayloft above into the now removed feeding troughs below. Access to the first floor (F06) was through an opening in the southwest corner. This consisted of a large unlit

loft with a single pitching hole in the west elevation and the feeding void along the eastern edge of the room.

The roof over the barn consists of a single A-frame with applied collar and supported on the two gable elevations. The feet of the truss at the eaves rest on top of the timber plate forming the top of the side walls. There are three sets of purlins on either side of the roof, nailed to the truss.

The threshing barn (Pls. 41-45)

A historic farm building, formerly a threshing barn, survives to the northwest of the main house. This is a relatively substantial structure measuring 14.5m long and is aligned northeast/south-west. to the character of the roof carpentry suggests that this building dates from the 18th century. The building is built of roughly-coursed stone rubble and follows the classic plan of a threshing barn with two large opposing doors centrally placed within the long elevations; a central threshing floor and opposed doorways designed to create a through draught for winnowing.

To the north of the eastern door is a first-floor doorway, suggesting that the eastern half of the barn contained a loft for storage. Processed straw was probably stored in the northern part of the barn and grain in the loft above. The large window in the south gable provided additional light and ventilation to an otherwise un-storeyed southern half.

The roof is carried by three main trusses, lapped and pegged at the apex. The bases of the principal trusses are generally boxed into the masonry with one truss at the northern end in the west elevation resting on a large, partly projecting stone. The plain collars are simply lapped onto the faces of the principals by way of nails. Each truss originally carried three sets of back purlins with the common rafters pegged onto the purlins. The cross-bracing between the main trusses is likely part of the original roof construction. Finally, additional purlins were added, and the common rafters removed in the 20th century when the covering was replaced with corrugated iron sheeting.

7. DISCUSSION

Phase I The early house 15th-or 16th century

Although the house has been extensively rebuilt it is likely that in its late-medieval form, the house had a classic three-room and cross-passage plan with thick walls of cob or stone rubble on all sides, with low screens separating the hall from the cross passage and lower room and its internal volumes open to the jointed cruck truss roof, which had elegant detailing intended for display. The consistent survival of principal rafters from jointed cruck trusses in each of the present partitions suggests that the early house occupied the same position and footprint as the surviving building and that these elements are not brought in from elsewhere. The absence of smoke blackening may suggest that the house was heated from the start by chimneys, which would be very unlikely in a rural house of the 15th century, but not unprecedented in the late 16th century, and thus it seems probable that the house was originally constructed in the mid to late 16th century.

Phase II The reconstructed building c.1600

At some time in the early 17th century the house was substantially rebuilt. The original form of the building had a simple rectangular plan with thick walls of stone rubble on all four sides and

a separate building at its northern end. Evidence of the early building survives in the line of the cross passage, dividing the building into three rooms, the arrangement of the beams and partitions on the ground- and first floor and a single surviving window. Thus the nucleus of the house appears to be of the classic three room and cross passage plan, its size clearly showing the high status of the building at this period.

The north and south ends of the building were now fully floored with inserted partitions rising up into a rebuilt roof structure, each end probably jettying out over the original plank and muntin screens which had divided the earlier building, into the open hall the new partitions are of rod and panel construction of a type usually associated with the late medieval period but also found in buildings up to the early 17th century. The chambers at the south end may have been served by a stair or stair ladder within the cross passage. The large hall was probably heated by a large lateral stack located in the east elevation. It is uncertain whether or not the first-floor chambers were heated, although given the limited evidence from the two end rooms of the house this seems unlikely. The lack of an early stair at the northern end suggests that there was an earlier staircase, perhaps integrated with the lateral stack, providing access to the chambers over the northern end of the house.

One of the most unusual features of this house was a small two storey single room plan building at the northern end of the main range. The ground- and first floor of this part of the building was unheated and had no communication with the adjacent house, suggesting that this building was independent of the house and not part of the three-room and cross-passage plan.

It is uncertain what, if any, structures lay to the west and north of the house, but the extent and the quality of the building suggest that the estate was extremely wealthy and prosperous at this period.

Phase III Flooring over the hall *c.1650*

The character of the doorways in some of the first-floor partitions suggest that these were cut thorough the partitions at some time after their construction, possibly in the mid-17th century. This probably provides a context for the flooring over of the hall and also the removal of the stair or stair ladder in the cross passage, which seems now to have been relocated to a space adjacent to the southern chimneystack. The character of the immense end stack in the southern gable of the house, with its superbly constructed chimney of Ham stone slabs also points to a mid-17th-century refurbishment of the building.

Phase IV Rebuilding 18th century

The house was extensively remodelled in the 18th century. Evidence from the ground-floor suggests that the lateral stack to the east of the hall was removed and a large axial stack, occupying most of the width of the building, inserted into the centre of the hall. The creation of a large new kitchen required the removal of the former partition separating the inner chamber from the hall. The new beam was inserted under the earlier jetty and the screen was then removed so that the earlier joists now rested on top of the new beam. The new layout involved the creation of an outshut against the east elevation. This was connected to the farmyard and the new kitchen by a new service corridor built within the northern half of the former inner chamber. A separate access to the kitchen from the farmyard was also created by the insertion of a new doorway, while the new fenestration in the west elevation reflected the changing agricultural focus of the estate.

It is likely that any earlier stair serving the rooms above the new kitchen was abandoned at this period in favour of access from the stair at the southern end of the house. Limited evidence from the western partition in F02 suggests a new doorway was inserted into the western end of the partition in place of the earlier central doorway, and it is possible that this may have served a corridor linking these rooms.

The conversion of the northern part of the house into a service end was mirrored by the conversion of the former kitchen into a new parlour. It is unclear if access to the first-floor chamber above continued to be provided by a small staircase in the south gable elevation at this time or whether this ceased to be used. The east wall in the hall and the east and west walls in the new parlour are much narrower than elsewhere on the ground floor, with the end of the beams supported on corbels or brackets. It is likely that they were reduced in width at this time to create additional space within these areas of the house or as a consequence of the replacement of earlier, cob walls with stronger stone walls.

Immediately to the north of the main range the two-storey building was refloored at this period. Nothing is known of the function of this building, although It is conjectured that this was a prestigious stable.

The large building to the northwest of the house is an 18th century threshing barn. The barn is relatively large; the production of wheat was clearly an important part of the agricultural history of the site. The buildings shown on the 19th century historic mapping to the south of the barns haven't survived and no evidence now remains of their original function.

Phase V Alterations and additions early-mid 19th century

In the early-mid 19th century the kitchen was provided with a small porch with only minor changes to the remainder of the house. However, the two-storey building immediately to the north of the main range was altered at this time. The creation of a new access in the west elevation with a pitching hole above meant that the original doorway in the north elevation was blocked and a new window with a flat stone arch inserted. It is also likely that the formerly centrally placed beam was moved at this time to allow for the insertion of the new doorway, while the plank joists also date to this period.

Phase VI Later alterations mid-late 19th century

The house was greatly altered in the mid-late 19th century. The kitchen was modernised with the insertion of a large new fireplace and bread-oven. The former corridor at the northern end was blocked at both ends and converted for additional storage, while the size of the outshut along the eastern elevation was doubled by the construction of a new range. This was accessed directly from the kitchen through a new doorway and would have provided an expanded scullery, washroom and dairy. The 18th century wide fireplace in the former hall was narrowed at this time and fitted with a cast-iron grate, while the stack was completely rebuilt in brick at this time.

The staircase in the cross passage was removed and replaced by new stairs in the kitchen and parlour. The change in the access arrangements to the first floor resulted in alterations to the layout of the doorways throughout the ground-and first-floor rooms. Earlier openings were blocked, and new doorways inserted into the partitions defining the cross passage, while on the first floor the wider earlier doors were narrowed, and others inserted into the earlier partitions defining the rooms.

At the southern end of the west elevation of the main range a simple rectangular structure with a lean-to roof was built. Although its function is not fully understood it likely served an agricultural purpose.

Phase VI Later alterations 20th century

Throughout the 20th century small changes continued to be made to the property. The northern part of the outshut was converted to a bathroom, while many of the windows throughout the ground- and first floor were replaced at this time. The fireplaces in the former hall and parlour were modernised at this period, the former having a gas fire inserted while the latter was further reduced in size and fitted with a cast-iron fire grate.

Finally the roof covering was removed and replaced with corrugated iron sheeting over the house and surviving barn.

8. CONCLUSION

Troake's is an important historic farmstead, its size reflecting a large and prosperous farming establishment in the 17th to the 19th centuries, and subsequent decline during the 20th century. Built on the site of, and incorporating parts of a late-medieval house, the reconstructed building adhered to a conventional three room and cross-passage plan. The house was probably fully storeyed from the middle of the 17th century, the size of the main range and the hall in particular attesting to the fact that it was a structure of some pretensions.

The most extensive alterations were carried out in the 18th century when the service end was moved to the northern part of the house and an outshut created at the rear of the new kitchen. This required the construction of a new axial stack and resulted in a much-reduced central hall. The former lower end was converted to a parlour, its status enhanced by the addition of a Ham stone chimney in the south gable. The large building at the eastern end of the farmyard originated in the 18th century as a threshing barn with opposed doorways, the southern half being converted to animal stabling in the 19th or 20th century. The remodelling of the service end and construction of the threshing barn suggests a change in the status of the property and a greater emphasis towards active farming by this period. These ambitious alterations and additions nonetheless indicate that the farmstead was flourishing at this period and despite many later alterations, the buildings remains substantially as they were at this time.

During the 19th century the interior of the house was altered with the removal of the original staircase and the addition of new stairs in the kitchen and parlour. This resulted in a change to the layout of the doorways on the ground- and first floor. The kitchen was provided with a modern fireplace, while the corridor to the north was converted to additional storage and the outshut extended. The house suffered a slow decline throughout the 20th century.

The house has a complex structural history; the subsequent additions have tended only to conceal the substantial interest of this house.

SITE ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1721, pending deposition with the ADS. Details of the building recording, including a pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-410923).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was commissioned by Humphrey and Charlotte Taylor and administered for the client by Will Kerry (Tamsyn Froom Architecture). It was monitored for the DCHET by Stephen Reed and the Mid Devon District Council Conservation Officer, Greg Venn. The building recording was carried out by R. W. Parker and M. Steinmetzer. The drawings for this report were prepared by M. Steinmetzer. Thanks are hereby recorded to Hannah Bates (First Ecology) and Lucy Brown who undertook the historic research and the staff of the Devon Heritage Centre and the South West Heritage Trust.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Unpublished sources

Devon Heritage Centre

Map of Clayhidon Manor DD\MER/37 Land Tax assessments Clayhidon Tithe Map & Apportionment 1838.

OS Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map sheet Devon XLVII.8, 1889 & 1905

Horner, B. 2010 The historic environment of the Blackdown Hills AONB.

Published sources

BGS (British Geological Survey), 1995, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) 1:50000 Series Solid and Drift Geology Sheet 325 (Exeter).

Donn, B. A Map of the County of Devon 1765 (1965 edition, reprinted by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and the University of Exeter).

Hoskins, W.G. 1954 'Devon', Phillmore.

Thorn, C. & Thorn, F. 1985 Domesday Book. Devon.

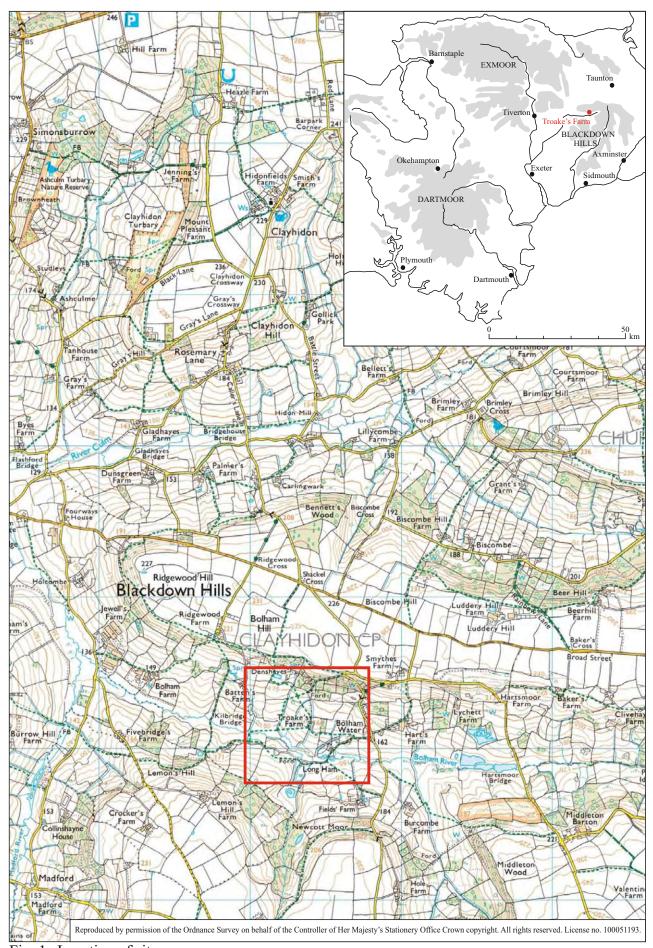


Fig. 1 Location of site.

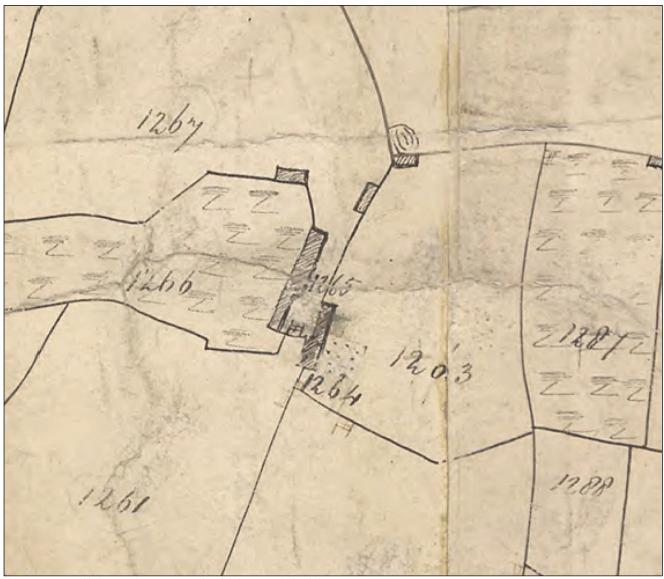


Fig. 2 Detail from the 1838 Clayhidon parish tithe map.

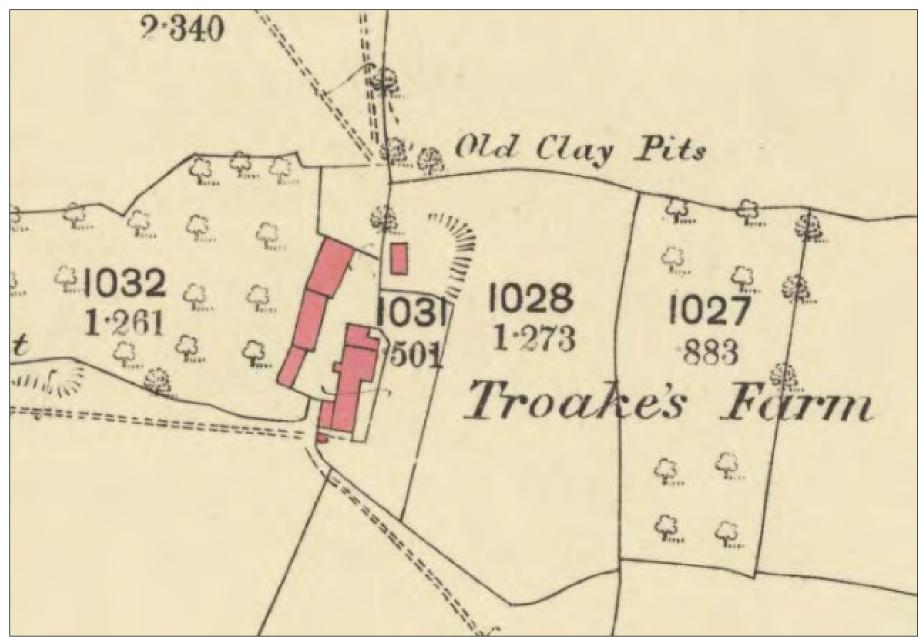


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet XLVII.8.

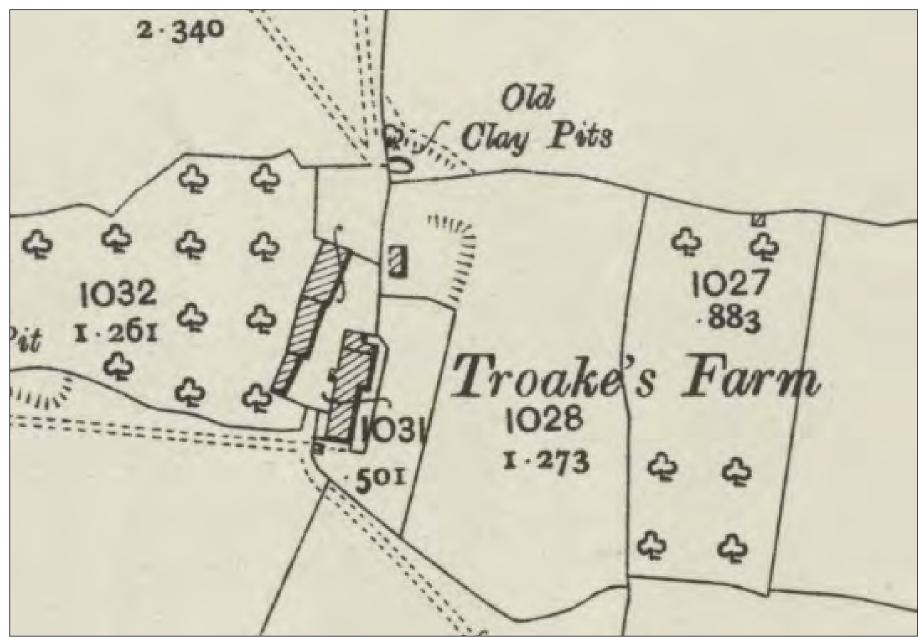


Fig. 4 Detail from the 1905 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map Devonshire Sheet XLVII.8.



Fig. 5 Plan of the ground- and first-floor showing location of observations and suggested phases of development.



Pl. 1 General view of former main elevation showing Ham stone chimney, position of cross-passage and position of later outshut. 2m scale. Looking northwest



Pl. 2 Close-up of south end showing ground- and first floor fenestration, position of cross-passage with 17th century doorway and the 19th century outshut extension. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 3 General view of the farmyard elevation showing the barn at the northern end of the main range. 2m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 4 General view of the farmyard elevation showing the Ham stone chimney at the southern end of the main range. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 5 Close-up of south end showing ground- and first-floor fenestration and position of cross-passage with 17th century doorway. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 6 General view of north end showing ground- and first-floor fenestration and blocked doorway. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 7 Close-up of barn at northern end of main range. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 8 Close-up of north elevation of barn showing blocked doorway. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 9 General view of west elevation in G02 showing 18th century doorway and window arrangement with original joists resting on top of, rather than within the replacement beam. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 10 General view of south elevation in G02 showing arrangement of 19th century kitchen fireplace and bread-oven, staircase and corridor leading to G04. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 11 Close-up of staircase leading to F03. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 12 General view of east elevation in G02 showing plank door and window with leaded lights giving onto 19th century outshut extension G07. 1m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 13 General view of north elevation in G02 showing 19th century partition and doorway with original 17th century beam above. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 14 General view of former corridor G03 showing blocked doorway. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 15 General view of former corridor G03 showing position of partially blocked doorway re-using remains of former screen. 1m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 16 General view of north elevation in G04 showing inserted fireplace with later 19th century rebuilding and modern infilling. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 17 General view of east elevation in G03 showing reduced wall width with the 17th century beam resting on a projecting bracket. 1m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 18 Close-up showing the projecting bracket supporting the 17th century beam. Looking northeast.



Pl. 19 General view of west elevation in G04 showing modern uPVC window and 17th century beam. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 20 General view of south elevation in G04 showing 19th century doorway. The beam above the cob-and-stud partition has seemingly been removed with the ceiling joists simply resting on top of the partition. Looking south.



Pl. 21 General view of former cross-passage G05 defined by cob-and-stud partitions with 19th century doorways leading to G04 and G06 respectively. The additional width on the south side suggests the position of a former stair. 1m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 22 General view of former cross-passage G05 defined by cob-and-stud partitions. The additional width on the south side suggests the position of a former stair. 1m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 23 Close-up of stair within G06 leading to F01. 1m scale. Looking southeast.



Pl. 24 General view of south elevation in G06 showing modern fireplace. This was formerly the kitchen and subsequently the parlour fireplace and occupied most of the gable elevation while the small cupboard to the left is the possible position of a former staircase. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 25 Close-up showing the projecting bracket supporting the west end of the 17th century beam in G06. Looking northwest.



Pl. 26 Close-up showing the projecting bracket supporting the east end of the 17th century beam in G06. Looking east.



Pl. 27 General view of outshut showing plank doors leading to G02 and G08 respectively and vent window. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 28 General view of east elevation of G09 showing shutters of vent window. Looking northeast.



Pl. 29 General view of south elevation in F01 showing chimney stack with the cupboard to the left with its blocked window the possible position of a former staircase. The roof over the southern end has been replaced in the 19th century. Looking south.



Pl. 30 Close-up of original early 17th century window in east elevation in F01. Looking east.



Pl. 31 General view of south elevation in F03 showing original 17th century low doorway in the centre of the cob-and-stud partition with later 19th century doorway inserted to the right. Looking south.



Pl. 32 General view of north elevation in F03 showing inserted chimney stack and stair, with corridor leading to F04 and F05. Looking north.



Pl. 33 General view of south elevation in F05 showing the cob-and-stud partition with later doorway. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 34 Close-up showing the remains of the late medieval jointed-cruck truss re-used in the 17th century roof structure and first-floor cob-and-stud partition. 1m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 35 General view of roof structure showing original section above F03, F04 and F05 truncated by insertion of chimney stack. Looking north.



Pl. 36 General view of lower purlin with rafters in F04. Looking east.



Pl. 37 General view of G01 showing first-floor beam with narrow chamfer. 1m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 38 General view of north elevation in G01 showing earlier door arrangement and narrow first-floor joists. 1m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 39 Close-up of first-floor structure in G01 showing feeding void. Looking north.



Pl. 40 General view of roof structure showing late 19th or early 20th century A-frame with applied collar. Looking north.



Pl. 41 General view of east elevation of former threshing barn. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 42 General view west elevation of former threshing barn. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 43 General view of north elevation of former threshing barn showing roof construction. Looking north.



Pl. 44 General view of south elevation of former threshing barn showing roof construction. Looking south.



Pl. 45 General view of former west doorway. 2m scale. Looking west.