

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2257
Issued March 2026**

**Historic building recording of
The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston,
Hertfordshire, SG8 5AB**

January 2026



CAT project ref.: 2025/12g

**Historic building recording of
The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston,
Hertfordshire, SG8 5AB**

January 2026

NGR: TL 35566 40823 (centre)

**Planning district: North Hertfordshire
Planning ref.: pre-planning**

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**Commissioned by
Sibyl Thomas (Kay Pilsbury Architects)
On behalf of the Homeowner**

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1 Summary

A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire in January 2025 in support of a proposed planning application and listed building consent for an extension to the rear of the building.

The Old Palace, a Grade I listed structure, is all that remains of the 'Kings Lodgings' section of King James I's hunting lodge. It has origins in the late 16th/early 17th century with later 18th and 20th century additions. The building has been divided into four ranges (see Fig 1, pg 11) for ease of description.

As it stands, the Old Palace is a brick structure, with a symmetrical Georgian elevation to the rear and an unassuming brick street-facing façade. Range 1 represents the remains of the Kings Lodgings, with the brickwork of the original palace structure surviving in the north-western and south-eastern elevations. Original brickwork can also be seen in a prominent chimney breast on the south-western elevation, one of two that projects into Kneesworth Street. The turnpike Trust partially demolished the building during the early 18th century, prompting the rebuilding of the Kneesworth street façade and the other prominent chimney breast. It was also at this time that range 2 was likely added to the Old Palace. The rear elevation was also rebuilt during the 18th century, but probably at a later date.

Whilst the interior of the building largely comprises a combination of 18th century and modern features, some original pieces are nestled amongst the later fixtures and fittings. Two probable 17th century plank and batten doors, with wrought iron hinges, are present on first floor and a number of chamfered beams are exposed in the ground floor ceilings. Of the Georgian features in the house, the drawing room is an excellent example of 18th century interior design, with panelled walls and an in-built round-head display cupboard.

Ranges 3 and 4 were completed between 1901 and 1922, extending the main house into an L-shaped footprint and adding a motor house, courtyard and shed to the rear.

2 Introduction

This is the archive report of an historic building recording carried out at The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire. The work was commissioned by Sibyl Thomas (Kay Pilsbury Architects) on behalf of the homeowner and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 23rd January 2026. The site is located at NGR TL 35566 40823 (Fig 6).

As the building proposed for development is Grade I listed, an archaeological historic building recording was sought by the client in support of their forthcoming planning application. The work follows guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2025).

All fieldwork and reporting were undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-c, 2025),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016)
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2025)

3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment to support the planning application. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

“Level 3 is an analytical record and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building’s appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.

The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion the building’s broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group.”

In particular, the record considered:

- Plan and form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structures.
- Original function and internal layout.
- Fixtures and fittings.
- Original and later phasing, additions and their effect on the internal/ external fabric and the level of survival of original fabric.
- An account of the past and present uses of the buildings.

4 Methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the site.
- A large-scale block plan of the site.
- Annotated and phased floorplan of the buildings at a scale of 1:100.
- A description of the buildings. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.
- A photographic record comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).

5 Historical background

The following background includes extracts from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER, accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>) and *Royston Court House and its Appurtenances* by J Bedlam (1866).

The building detailed in this report is known as the Old Palace, located at 23 Kneesworth Street in the centre of Royston, Hertfordshire. The structure is Grade I listed (NHLE No. 1295658), the Historic England listing reads:

1. 5255 KNEESWORTH STREET (East Side) No 23 (formerly listed as The Old Palace) TL 3540 1/3 14.6.64. 1 2. Remodelling circa 1700 of earlier house. Red brick, gabled old tiled roof. 2 storeys and attics. Garden front has moulded brick cornice, 5 sash windows in flush architrave frames under flat arches; central 2 fold, 6 fielded panelled central door in surround of narrow fluted Doric pilasters under running fret frieze, dentil and modillioned cornice and pediment. Street front has 2 projecting chimney breasts, modern doorway with shell hood on consoles and fluted Doric pilasters. Modern "Queen Anne" fenestration and north wing. Interior: ground floor early C18 ovolo panelled room with semi-circular shell headed niche, original marble chimneypiece; staircase with central newel; some chamfered ceiling beams. Part of the Royal Palace inhabited by James I and Charles I.

After the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, the English crown was passed to King James VI of Scotland, now King James I of England, as her nearest royal relative. Stopping in Royston enroute to his coronation in London, the King was entertained by the owner of Priory House, Robert Chester. Having become so enamoured with hunting in the area, the King announced a 14 mile wide hunting ban around the town and resided in Priory House while superintending the building and preparation of a royal residence.

In 1604, King James purchased The Cock Inn and The Greyhound Inn and combined and converted them into a private residence, then in 1607 added the western wing to Priory House to create the Kings Lodgings. By 1610, the site of the palace had grown significantly in size, now occupying a considerable number of buildings in the town, and continued to be enlarged and improved throughout the king's reign. Bedlam records that the palace stretched from Armynge Steet (now Kneesworth Street) in the west to a lane (now known as Dog Kennel Lane) in the east, and from Chapel Fields in the north to Ickneld Street (now Melbourn Street) to the south. It covered approximately three acres and one rood (0.25 acres).

Following James' death in 1625, King Charles I inherited the palace. Much preferring Newmarket as a bolthole, Charles visited Royston with much less frequency than his father. For a time during The English Civil War, the palace at Royston was used as a strategic base by the Royalists. Charles

stayed at the palace during preparations for the war, while negotiating Parliament's militia requests. In 1647, Charles returned to Royston for the final time as prisoner of war, during which time Parliamentary forces set up camp around Royston.

Following the end of the English Civil War and the execution of Charles I, Parliament seized all the Crown's possessions, including the palace at Royston. It was found that all the buildings, except for the Kings Lodgings, were in a state of disrepair. After repair works, most of the buildings were sold as private housing, except the Kings Lodgings which was claimed by Lord Pembroke. They were then leased to Lewis Audley in 1653, a Parliamentary officer who was owed £517 and 10 shillings in arrears, probably in payment for his military service.

The Old Palace is all that remains of the King's Lodgings, with the King's Privy Garden behind. Bedlam provides details of the King's Lodgings:

The entire residence was double built and of brick. It was two stories high, with gables, lofty tiled roofs and garrets. The chimneys were all carried up in the middle, and the neatness of the workmanship leads to the supposition that it was construction under the superintendence of Inigo Jones, the Court Architect. The entire residence contained six principal apartments below with offices, and six principal apartments above. Those above are stated to have been the Presences Chamber, the Bed Chamber, the Privy Chamber, the Stole Room, the Withdrawing room, and another chamber of service. The Pembroke front or portion of the building looked into a small garden called the King's Privy Garden, which was surrounded by a high wooden paling. The western portion of the house having been long since taken down, we can only form an imperfect idea of its appearance. But from scattered memoranda in the Exchequers Rolls, and from other sources, we gather that the Presence Chamber was in this part of the house, and probably faced the north; and the principal window of this apartment, with two smaller windows, were built of stone, the large one being surmounted with the royal crest or arms. We further find that the roof was painted, and that it was drained by nine leaden spouts reaching from the gutters almost to the ground; that gutters were sheeted with lead; that there as a lanthorne tower or clock case, and a dial on top of the house, having a pyramid with six cantered cornices to hang a bell for the clock; and that the interior was wainscoted, with shutters to the windows.

The west wing was demolished, leaving the central chimneys exposed, by the Turnpike Trust in the early 18th century to allow the widening of the road.

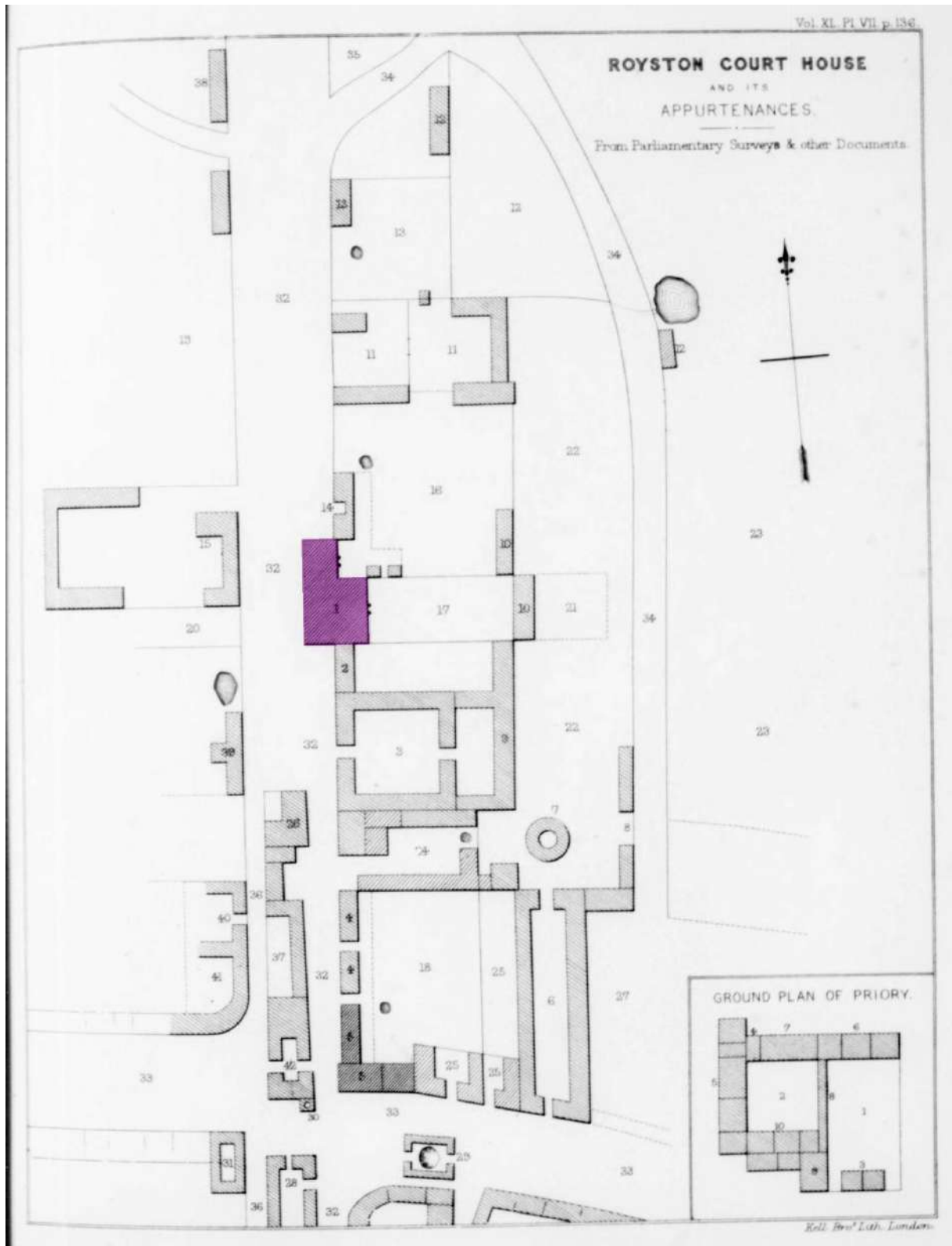
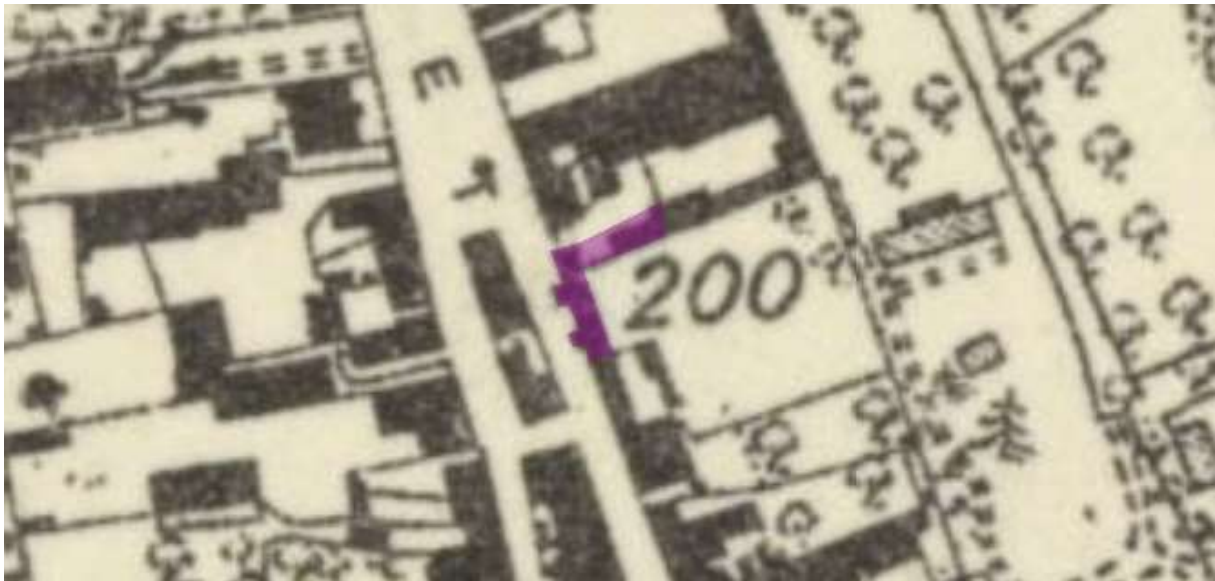


Plate 1 The layout of Royston Palace, reproduced from Bedlam (1866). The Kings Lodgings highlighted in purple.

The earliest mapping that shows the area in any detail is the first edition OS map from 1877 (Map 1). It depicts the Old Palace as a long rectangular structure (range 1) with two projections to the south-west, presumably representing the chimney breasts on the street-frontage. Range 2 is also present at this

time. There is a rectangular structure to the north-east of the main house, which is no longer extant. The layout remains largely unchanged on the 1896 (Map 2) and 1901 (Map 3) 25-inch OS maps, bar the addition of a small, no longer extant, extension on the north-eastern elevation.



Map 1 Extract of the 1877 6-inch OS map. The Old Palace highlighted in purple.



Map 2 Extract of the 1896 25-inch OS map. The Old Palace highlighted in purple.

In the twenty year period between the publication of Map 3 and the 1922 25-inch OS map (Map 4), ranges 3 and 4 have been added to the main house and the outbuildings to the north-east replaced with the studio and storage shed. The layout of the Old Palace remains in this configuration on subsequent mapping, reflecting the modern-day layout.



Map 3 Extract of the 1901 25-inch OS map. The Old Palace highlighted in purple.



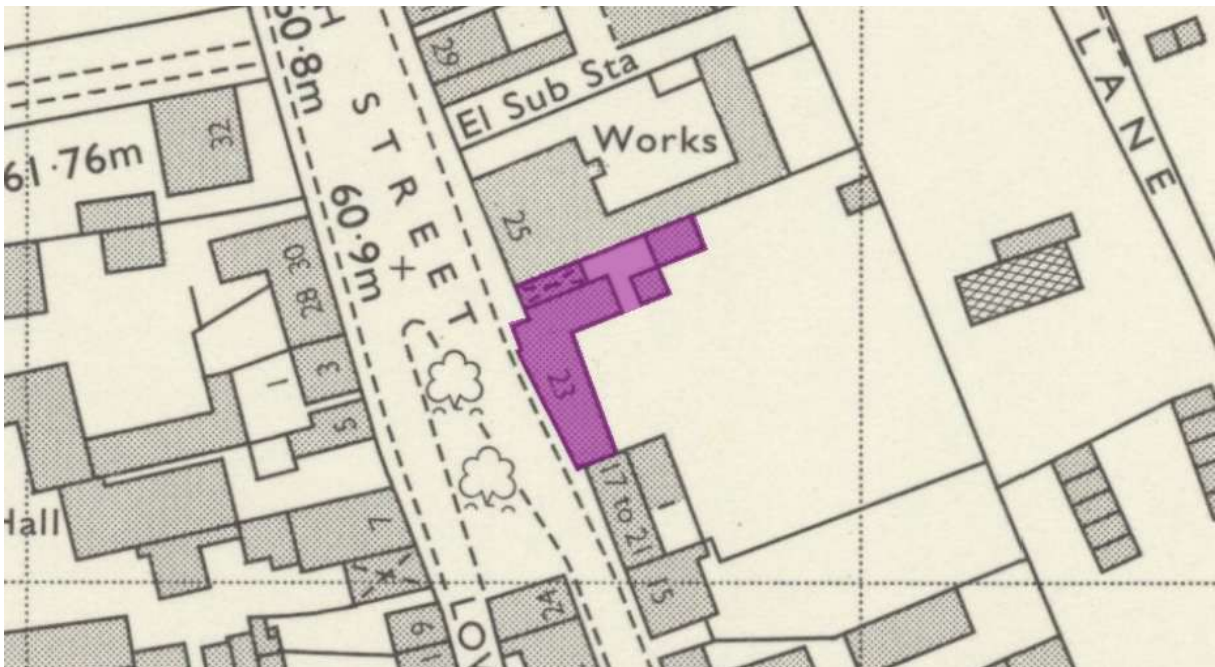
Map 4 Extract of the 1922 25-inch OS map. The Old Palace highlighted in purple.



Map 5 Extract of the 1937 25-inch OS map. The Old Palace highlighted in purple.



Map 6 Extract of the 1946 60inch OS map. The Old Palace highlighted in purple.



Map 7 Extract of the 1970 OS map. The Old Palace highlighted in purple.

6 Building recording descriptive record (Fig 1-8)

23 Kneesworth Street, known as the Old Palace, is a two-storey structure with a small basement and attic rooms. To the rear are a studio, storage shed, a storage garage and a carport. The ground floor footprint of the main building is L-shaped and covers an area of approximately 150m².

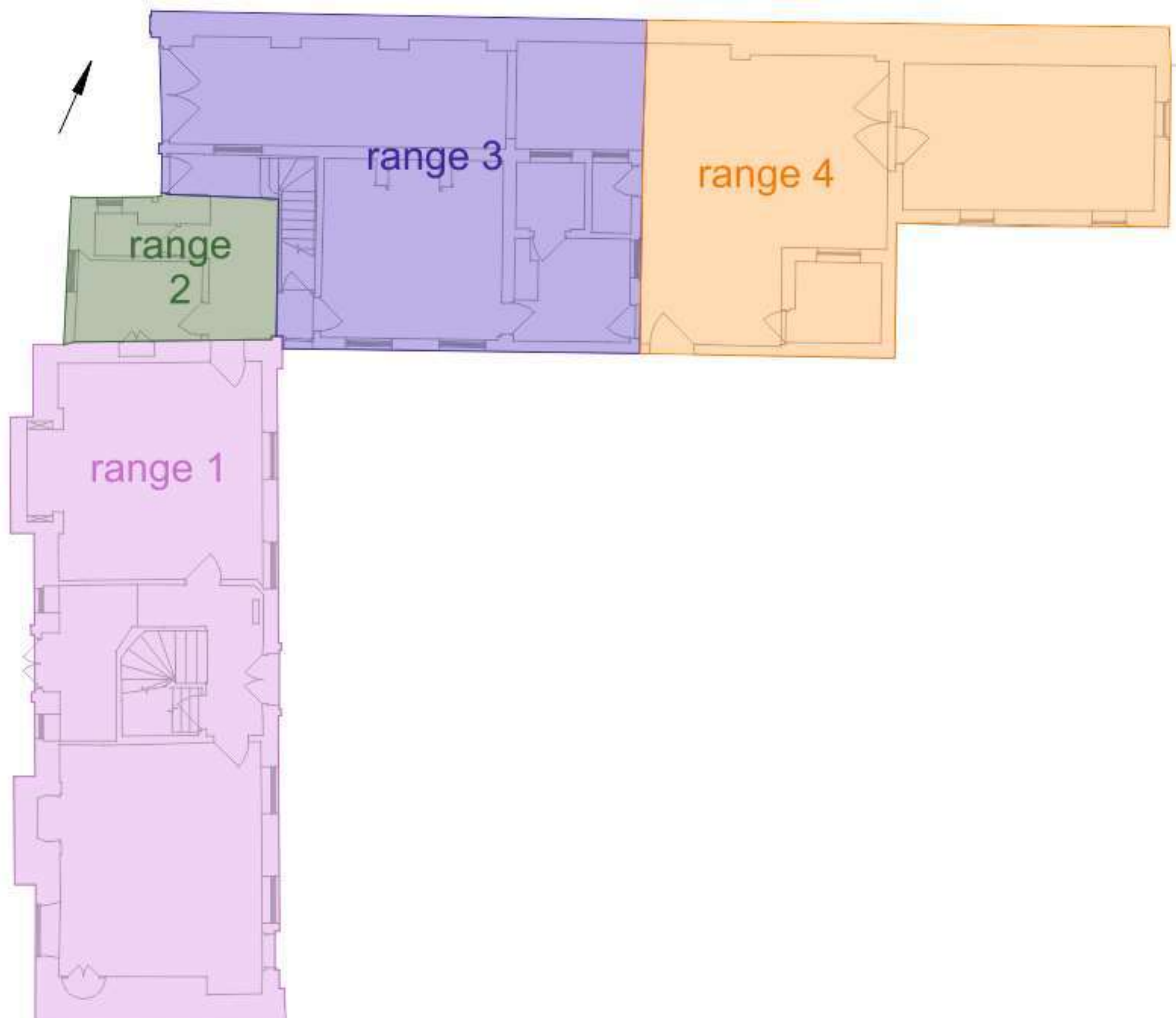


Fig 1 Range plan.

The Main House (ranges 1, 2 and 3)

Exterior

All windows described below are replacements and comprise flush sash windows with flat-arch brick lintels and stone sills, unless otherwise stated.

Range 1 of the Old Palace has a gabled roof, covered with peg-tiles, with a short gable parapet at either end. At the north-western end, a red brick chimney stack is incorporated into the parapet. A short rectangular parapet is present along the north-eastern elevation, with three gabled dormer windows projecting from the roof pitch behind. A second gabled roof covers range 2, while range 3 has a flat roof with a rectangular parapet on the street-facing elevation.



Photograph 1 North-eastern elevation of range 1. Photograph taken facing west south-west.



Photograph 2 Detail of windows in north-eastern elevation, first floor. Blue arrows highlight the queen closers and pink arrows highlighting the decorative brickwork. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The north-eastern elevation of range 1 comprises red brick (brick dimensions: 220 x 100 x 60mm) laid in Flemish bond (Photograph 1). It has symmetrical fenestration, comprising nine twelve-light sash windows, each of which is flanked by queen closer bricks (Photograph 2), indicating that all the openings are original to the brickwork. In the centre of the elevation is a modern door, with a decorative surround comprising fluted Doric pilasters, a running-fret frieze and moulded cornicing topped with triangular pediment. The lack of obvious queen closers suggests that this doorway is either inserted or, more plausibly, has been expanded to accommodate a larger door. A second, smaller door is present at the south-eastern end of the elevation. Decorative moulded brickwork is present at the top of elevation as well as between the ground and first floors (Photograph 2). The decorative brickwork continues along the north-eastern elevation of range 3 (Photograph 3).

Range 3 also comprises red brick (brick dimensions: 225 x 110 x 65mm) laid in Flemish bond. There are two doors in this elevation of range 3, both of which have flat-arch brick lintels and stone steps, along with three sash windows, all of which are surrounded by queen closers. The arched opening of the passageway has a substantial arched brick lintel with a central brick keystone.



Photograph 3 North-eastern elevation of range 3. Photograph taken facing south south-west.

A further four sash windows are set into the south-eastern elevation of range 3 (Photograph 4), along with a narrow doorway, again all flanked by queen closers. The decorative brickwork continues along this elevation. A large, red brick chimney, with oversailing brickwork, is visible from this elevation, projecting from the roof of range 3.



Photograph 4 South-eastern elevation of ranges 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Photograph 5 South-western elevation. Photograph taken facing east.



Photographs 6 & 7 Detail of chimney breasts on south-western elevation of range 1. Photograph taken facing north-east.

The south-western elevation of range 1 comprises red bricks (brick dimensions: 220 x 105 x 60mm) in a Flemish bonding pattern. Two large chimney breasts project from this elevation (Photographs 5, 6 & 7). The north-western chimney is the taller of the two, with a single set of shoulders, and comprises red brick, with occasional yellow bricks, (brick dimensions: 225 x 105 x 60mm) laid in Flemish bond. Several courses of oversailing bricks are present in the stack, while a chamfered course of bricks are located towards the base of the breast. Queen closers run up both edges of the chimney breast, and an S-shaped anchor plate is positioned towards the base of the stack. The south-eastern chimney is constructed from slightly smaller bricks (brick dimensions: 215-220 x 105 x 55mm) laid in a rough English bond. While this chimney breast has a chamfered course at the same height as the other, the stack is plainer with oversailing brickwork only used for the top courses. This breast also has two sets of shoulders as opposed to one.

A modern door, with a shell hood and fluted doric pilasters, is set into the brickwork between the chimney breasts. The doorway is flanked by narrow horned-sash windows, both of which are finished with queen closers. Above the door is a Venetian sash window, which also comprises horned-sash windows. Three of the lights, two of which are in the arched window, have Crown glass bullions. Queen closers are only present along one edge of this window, suggesting that the window opening has been increased in size. Range 1 has a further three windows across this elevation, two twelve-

light sashes and one eight-light fixed window, with arched brick lintels. None of these windows are flanked by queen closers suggesting they have been inserted into the elevation (Photograph 8). Along the eaves of range 1 there is dentil pattern brickwork, with alternating protruding headers (Photograph 8). This decorative dentil detailing continues across ranges 2 and 3.



Photograph 8 Detail of window in south-western elevation of range 1, first floor. Dentilled brickwork highlighted in green. Photograph taken facing north-east.

Range 2 is constructed from Flemish bond brickwork (brick dimensions: 225 x 105 x 65 mm), which seems to be similar in nature to the brickwork of range 1. There are two windows in range 2 on this elevation, both sash windows with arched brick lintels. The ground floor window has had clear repair work to the brickwork beneath it, with queen closers only present along its north-western edge, suggesting the window may have replaced a doorway. As the first floor window has no queen closers, it is likely inserted. The lowest fourteen courses of brickwork of range 2 protrude further than the rest of the elevation and, apart from the area beneath the window, is laid in a rough English bond. The ground floor of range 3 on the south-western elevation is dominated by a modern door adjacent to garage doors. On the first floor is an arched horned-sash window flanked by two six-light rectangular horned sashes, with no queen closers (Photograph 9). These windows have a continuous brick lintel with a central brick keystone. A rectangular brick parapet is present above the brick corning on this range (Photograph 9).



Photograph 9 Detail of windows and parapet of south-western elevation, first floor of range 3. Photograph taken facing east north-east.



Photograph 10 North-western elevation. Photograph taken facing south-east.

The north-western elevation is largely obscured by the neighbouring building (Photograph 10). There is an obvious change in the brick work on range 1 in this elevation, with the bricks used for the gable wall smaller (brick dimensions: 220-225 x 105 x 55mm) than those of the street-facing façade

(Photograph 11). Range 2 has two windows set into this elevation, both flanked by queen closers with arched brick lintels. The corner of range 2 has been rounded at ground level on this elevation (Photograph 12). Two sash windows and a fixed window are present on range 3, all surrounded by queen closers.



Photograph 11 Detail in change in brickwork, highlighted by the yellow arrow, north-western elevation of range 1. Photograph taken facing south south-east.

Photograph 12 Detail of curved corner on north-western elevation of range 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.

Interior

Each floor of the Old Palace has been divided into rooms, the locations of which can be found on figures 2 and 3. All of the rooms have plastered walls and modern floor covers (carpet, tiles etc), except when noted otherwise. All doors and windows have moulded architrave, unless otherwise stated. All of the windows have timber sills.

The roof structure of range 1 is largely obscured by modern plaster. It is presumably a later replacement and comprises pairs of rafters, with a purlin on each roof pitch, as can be seen in the ceiling of bedroom 7 (discussed below). Range 2 has a gabled roof formed from pairs of rafters, which

meet at a ridge-board at the roof's apex. They are reinforced by a series of high collars. The timbers used for the structure are all regularly sized, machine-cut timbers, suggesting the roof is later replacement. The roof structures of range 3 were not accessible at the time of recording.



Photograph 13 Interior of basement. Photograph taken facing south.

Basement

The basement of the Old Palace is located beneath range 1, accessed via a set of modern timber stairs. Although largely modernised, a large hand-sawn binding-beam is exposed in the ceiling of the basement (Photograph 13). An empty mortice is present in the underside of the beam, possibly an indication the timber is reused (Photograph 14). A small section of a second binding-beam is also exposed above the entrance from the stairs. An in-built cupboard is present in the south-eastern wall.



Photograph 14 Detail of empty mortice on binding beam in basement ceiling. Photograph taken facing south-west.

Ground floor

Occupying the south-eastern limit of the ground floor, the drawing room (Photograph 15) has several exposed beams in its ceiling, which are chamfered with lamb's tongue stops (Photograph 16). A large Murano glass chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The walls of the drawing room have ovolo panelling with a dado rail, the upper of which are painted white while the lower are stained dark with a foliage design. There is a door in the north-western, north-eastern and south-eastern walls. The north-western door is a simple two-panel door, with a brass lock case and H-hinges. There is a continuation of the dado rail across the central rail of the door and the same painted foliage pattern as the panelling is present (Photograph 17). The south-eastern door is the same style as the north-western, minus the foliage pattern and brass lock case. The north-eastern door is four-panel exterior door, the top two panels of which appear to form a shutter. It has a brass lock case and a plain surround. Two sash windows are present in the north-eastern wall with one fixed window in the south-western wall. A fireplace is in the south-western wall, with a timber surround, marble chimney piece and an iron fireback and hood. Hinges in the panelling adjacent to the fireplace suggest that a now blocked cupboard is located in the wall. Built into the south-eastern wall is a round-headed cupboard. It has panelled doors, with a moulded architrave, and a decorative faux keystone (Photograph 18).



Photograph 15 Interior of drawing room. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 16 Detail of carved stops in binding beam and bridging joists in ceiling of drawing room.
Example of a lamb's tongue stop highlighted in green. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 17 Detail of door in north-western wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing north-west.

Photograph 18 Detail of built-in cupboard in south-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-east.

Entrance hall 1 (Photograph 19) is a C-shaped room, adjacent to the drawing room. Several hand-sawn beams are exposed in the ceiling, some of which display curved lamb's tongue stops and have chamfered edges. The lower half of the wall is panelled, with a moulded dado rail. Doors are present in four walls. In opposing walls are a two-panel door and a six-panel door, both of which have small brass knobs. The final two doors comprise pairs of modern three-panel doors. Two small windows flank the door in the south-western wall.

In the centre of entrance hall 1 is staircase 1 (Photograph 20), which continues from the ground floor to the attic. It has a central hand-sawn newel post, that extends for the entire height of the staircase. The stairs are of a dog-leg type with a winder. Along the outer wall of the stairs is a round-topped handrail with corner anchor points while the inner wall has a moulded dado rail.



Photograph 19 Interior of entrance hall 1.
Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 20 Detail of staircase 1. The
hand-carved newel post
visible to the left. Photograph
taken facing south-west.

The dining room (Photograph 21) also has exposed hand-sawn beams in the ceiling with lamb's tongue carved stops, between which hangs a large Murano glass chandelier. Timber panelling lines the lower portion of the walls, which is topped with a moulded dado rail. There is a four-panel door in the north-western wall and a six-panel one in south-eastern wall. Both have brass lock cases and concealed butt-hinges. Two sash windows are set into the north-eastern wall. A large fireplace is in the south-western wall, which has a timber surround and a stone chimney piece (Photograph 22). A number of pieces of iron fireplace furniture are within the large opening, which has been lined with modern tiles, along with a small wooden door in the back.



Photograph 21 Interior of dining room. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 22 Detail of fireplace in south-western wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



Photograph 23 Interior of study. Photograph taken facing south.

In the study (Photograph 23), which dominates much of the ground floor of range 2, there is a moulded picture rail along each wall, which is interrupted by a shuttered sash window in the south-western wall, and a moulded skirting board. An in-built cupboard is present in the south-eastern wall, which has two sets of double doors and is surrounded by a decorative architrave. The door in the south-eastern wall has four-panels. Adjacent to the study is a modern restroom which has a four-panel door.

Entrance hall 2 straddles ranges 2 and 3. Cornicing is present at the top of each wall, below which is a picture rail, with a skirting board along the base. The sash window in the north-western wall interrupts both the cornicing and picture rail. Multiple doors are located in the three walls, largely comprising four-panel doors with brass knobs and decorative key plate covers, except the main entrance which is a modern six-panel door. Above the doorway between entrance hall 1 and the kitchen is a pair of servant bell boards (Photograph 25). Staircase 2 is against the north-eastern wall of the entrance hall. The stairs are a straight flight with a winder at ground floor level and have a closed stringer along with a panelled spandrel (Photograph 24). The balustrade has a tall newel post, topped with a ball finial, moulded decorative balusters and a round-topped handrail. At the top of the stairs hangs a simple domed pendant.



Photograph 24 Detail of newel post, handrail and balusters of staircase 2. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 25 Detail of butler's bell boxes on north-eastern wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.

The kitchen (Photograph 26), utility and pantry occupy the north-eastern extent of range 3. The kitchen, which is dominated by modern units, has a plain convex cornicing along the top of the walls with a moulded skirting board around the base of them. There is a four-panel door in the north-eastern and south-western walls, with two sash windows in the south-eastern wall. The utility room has also been modernised and has the same cornicing and skirting board. There are two four-panel doors along with a vertically planked door and a sash window. The pantry also has a single sash window.



Photograph 26 Interior of kitchen. Photograph taken facing west.

First floor

Bedroom 1, located in range 3, has decorative cornicing and picture rail with a simple skirting board. There is a single sash window, which interrupts the picture rail, in the north-eastern wall and a four-panel door in the opposite wall. A chimney breast projects from the south-eastern wall with an Arts and Crafts style fireplace, which has a timber surround, green-glazed tiles and an iron fire grate (Photograph 27).

Bedroom 2 is adjacent to bedroom 1 and has the same cornicing, picture rail and skirting board (Photograph 28). A sash window is present in both the north-eastern and south-eastern walls. In the south-western wall is a four-panel door, with a brass knob and small decorative key-hole cover.

Moulded cornicing is present along all walls of bedroom 3, as well as with a simple skirting board. Sash windows are located in both the north-western and south-western walls (Photograph 29), while a rectangular recess is present in the south-eastern wall. A four-panel door is set into the north-eastern wall. Projecting from the north-western wall is a chimney breast with a cast iron fire surround.



Photograph 27 Detail of fireplace in south-eastern wall of bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 28 Interior of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing south.



Photograph 29 Interior of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 30 Interior of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing north.

Around the top of the walls of bedroom 4 is moulded cornicing, while the lower portion of the walls are covered with panelling (Photograph 30). A decorative frieze is present along the south-eastern wall, with a geometric pattern. Two sash windows are present in the north-eastern wall while a single

window is in the south-western wall, which has timber shutters. The fireplace, in the north-western wall, has a moulded timber surround with a marble chimney piece and Delft tiles depicting coastal scenes. There is a cast iron grate in the fireplace and a marble hearth.

Directly opposite one another, there are doors in the north-western and south-eastern walls. The north-western door is a plank and batten door (Photographs 31 & 32), which is formed from three irregular sized planks secured with three battens that have chamfered edges. It is hung with iron strap hinges with round ends. There is a bar-type door latch, with a barley twist drop handle and star-shaped backplate, which is a later replacement. The door also has a timber lock case beneath the door latch. The south-eastern door is a double-thickness plank door, with the outer face comprising three roughly equal width vertical planks, separated by crease mouldings, while the inner face has six horizontal planks (Photographs 33 & 34). Decorative ended strap hinges secure the door; a later architrave has been fixed over the base plate of the hinges (Photograph 35). There is a door latch, the same style as the other door, and a timber lock case.



Photographs 31 & 32 Detail of door in north-western wall of bedroom 4. Photographs taken facing north-west (31) and south-east (32).



Photograph 33 & 34 Detail of door in south-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 35 Detail of strap hinge on door in south-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Blue arrow highlighting the architrave sealing the plate of the hinge Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 36 Interior of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 37 Detail of fireplace in south-western wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The walls of bedroom 5 are panelled with sash windows in the north-eastern and south-western walls, one of which has shutters. Two two-panel doors are located in the north-western wall. In-built cupboards project from the south-eastern wall. In the centre of the south-western wall is a fireplace, which comprises a carved surround with an iron fire grate and Delft tiles (Photograph 37).



Photograph 38 Interior of landing 2. Photograph taken facing north.

Landing 1, between bedrooms 4 and 5, has moulded dado rail and skirting board. A two-panel door and a four-panel door are present, along with the double-thickness plank door previously described. Landing 2 (Photograph 39), adjacent to bedrooms 1 and 2, has decorative cornicing and picture rail with a simple skirting board. A large Murano glass chandelier hangs from the ceiling. There is a dividing wall in the landing, with an arched doorway adjacent to a circular opening. The balustrade surrounding staircase 2 comprises the same style newel post, balusters and handrail as the ground floor. Multiple doors lead off of landing 2, which are largely four-panel doors with brass doorknobs. The door in south-eastern wall is the timber plank and batten door described in room 4. There is a sash window in the south-eastern wall.

There are two modern bathrooms located on the first floor.



Photograph 39 Detail of hand-carved newel post in staircase 1 (second floor). Photograph taken facing south.

Attic

In the centre of the attic is landing 3, flanked by bedrooms 6 and 7, all of which have a dormer window in the north-eastern wall. There is a simple balustrade around staircase 1, which utilises the central hand-sawn newel post with plain, flat balusters and handrail (Photograph 39).

Purlins are exposed in the ceiling of bedroom 7, which appear to be hand-sawn with modern machine-cut repairs (Photograph 40). A possible scarf-joint is present in the south-western purlin, but its type was not discernible at the time of recording.

The door between landing 3 and bedroom 6 (Photograph 41) is a four-panel door with a brass doorknob and lock case. A doorframe, comprising hand-sawn timbers, is visible from in bedroom 6. Small, iron pintles project from the doorframe (Photograph 42). The door between landing 3 and bedroom 7 is the same style, also with a hand-sawn doorframe.



Photograph 40 Detail of exposed purlins in ceiling of bedroom 7. Photograph taken facing south-east.



Photograph 41 & 42 Detail of door in south-eastern wall of bedroom 6, with detail of pintle.
Photograph taken facing south-east (41) and south (42).

The remaining structures (range 4)

The studio and storage shed, along with a courtyard area, form range 4. The storage garage and carport are both modern in construction, consequently they will not be described.

Exterior

Both the studio and storage shed have a mono-pitched roof covered with peg-tiles, with three roof lights inserted into the roof of the studio. At the north-western end, the studio has a half-width, curved parapet (Photograph 43). Both structures are brick built in Flemish bond, with the studio comprising red brick (brick dimensions: 225 x 110 x 60mm) while the storage shed is a mixture of red (brick dimensions: 225 x 110 x 65mm) and yellow (brick dimensions: 225 x 110 x 65mm) brick. The courtyard is enclosed with brick walls, which comprise a combination of red (brick dimensions: 225 x 110 x 65mm) and yellow (brick dimensions: 225 x 110 x 65mm) bricks. In the south-eastern wall of the courtyard, the bricks have been laid in checkerboard pattern (Photograph 45).



Photograph 43 South-western elevation of studio. Photograph taken facing north-east.

The studio has windows in the north-eastern and south-eastern elevations, all of which have been blocked from the interior of the building. They are all six-lights with a timber lintel and stone still. Each window is surrounded by queen closers. A set of replacement double doors is present in the north-western elevation of the studio, which are also flanked by queen closers. The north-western elevation of the storage shed is largely composed of yellow bricks, suggesting it has been rebuilt at some point. This is further evidence by the door in the elevation, which does not appear to have been inserted but

is not surrounded by queen closers, unlike the window in the north-western elevation. The window has a vertically planked door as a shutter.



Photograph 44 South-eastern elevation of studio. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 45 South-western elevation of storage shed. Checkerboard brickwork visible to the right. Photograph taken facing north-east.

Interior

The interior of both buildings has been modernised, with plain plaster walls and ceilings and modern floor coverings (Photograph 46). There is a brick lined pit in the centre of the studio's floor, which is accessed by a hatch (Photograph 47).



Photograph 46 Interior of studio. Photograph taken facing north.



Photograph 47 Pit in floor of studio. Photograph taken facing south-west.

7 Discussion

23 Kneesworth Street, colloquially known as The Old Palace, has origins in the early 17th century but many later alterations. Representing a part of King James I's hunting lodge, which at its peak occupied much of the centre of Royston, range 1 contains the oldest fabric and is all that remains of the King's Lodgings.

The King's Lodgings originally stretched across Kneesworth Street, with the chimney breasts projecting from the south-western elevation in the centre of the building. Bedlam (1866) records that, when first constructed, the building had a large footprint and was constructed from brick. The larger western wing of the lodgings was demolished by the Turnpike Trust, to allow for the widening of Kneesworth Street, proposed to have taken place in 1703 (Bedlam 1866).

The original brickwork of the palace can be observed in the north-western and south-eastern (although this elevation is largely obscured) elevations, from which it is evident that the street facing façade of the Old Palace has been rebuilt. The original bricks are smaller and laid in a rough English bond, which contrasts the regular Flemish bond of the south-western elevation. Both the bonding patterns and brick sizes are indicative of their respective periods of construction. English bond is accepted to be the first recognisable pattern in brickwork, emerging in the 16th century, with the thin bricks (~55mm thick) also typical of this period. Flemish bonding became the prevailing choice for brickwork by the end of the 17th century with bricks increasing in width (~60mm thick) from the middle of the century.

Using these differences in brickwork, we can also conclude that one of the large projecting chimney breasts on this elevation has also been rebuilt, likely at the same time. The bricks of the south-western chimney are slightly larger with a more regimented bonding pattern, while the other breast has smaller bricks in a rough English bond. The partial demolition of the building by the Turnpike Trust is most plausibly the catalyst for the rebuilding of both the elevation and the chimney.

It is clear that the rear elevation has also been reconstructed at some point, making it tempting to posit that both long façades were rebuilt at the same time. There is a disparity, however, in the architectural styles between both elevations. The north-eastern elevation is a very typical Georgian design while the south-western elevation is somewhat more conservative in character. The north-eastern face of the building has symmetrical fenestration set around a central doorway, with each window having the same precise flat-arched brick lintel, giving an air of subtle elegance. There are two decorative string courses, formed from moulded brickwork, along with a short, plain parapet added to make the building feel taller with a rectangular face. The strict symmetrical detailing of the north-western elevation is not present at the front of the building, nor are the moulded string courses or parapet to obscure the roof. It seems, then, easy to propose that the rear elevation was rebuilt later than the front and that the south-western elevation was rebuilt out of necessity, rather than personal style, resulting in an elevation with less decorative detail.

Although the windows are not original to the façade, the way they have been installed can help narrow the time frame of construction for the north-eastern elevation. The 1774 Building Act mandated that the timber box frame, which contained the pulley mechanisms, must be hidden in the surrounding masonry. The current windows have exposed boxing around the edges, implying that there is no space in the brickwork for them to be recessed, suggesting that the façade was rebuilt prior to this. The simple elegance of the elevation is also suggestive of an earlier Georgian date. After the spectacle of Baroque architecture, in the early to mid 18th century fashions became more subtle and refined in nature.

Similarities in appearance and construction suggest that range 2 was added to the palace around the same time that the south-western elevation was rebuilt. The brickwork comprises bricks of a similar size laid in the same bonding pattern with the same variation in colours.

Some original 17th century features survive on the interior of the Old Palace. Most prominent of which are the exposed chamfered beams in the ceilings of the ground floor rooms. Before the plastered ceiling came into common use in the late 17th century, ceilings would comprise exposed beams and joists (Hall 2005). For decorative purposes, these exposed timbers, particularly in wealthy houses, would be chamfered with attractive stops. The beams in the Old Palace have lamb's tongue stops, a style which generally postdates 1570 (Moir 2020). Although not decorative, the large binding beam in the ceiling of the basement is also likely an original feature of the structure.

The doors in bedroom 4 are also likely original to the palace. Plank and batten doors are the earliest and hardest style of door to accurately date. The earliest plank and batten doors typically comprise two to three planks, with between three and five battens, while four planks became common by the end of the 17th century (Hall 2005). The north-western door in bedroom 4 comprises three planks of unequal widths secured with three battens. The hinges of the door are hammered wrought iron, with rounded ends, and the minimal tapering on the strap of the hinges suggests they are likely from earlier in the 17th century. Although, as this wall represents the original exterior wall of the Kings Lodgings, it seems likely this door has been relocated within the building. The door in the opposing wall is also typical of the 17th century. A slightly different style, it is a double thickness door with crease mouldings, which are characteristic of this period. The hinges of this door are also hammered wrought iron, but slightly more decorative. Again, the lack of tapering on the strap suggests a date earlier in the 17th century.

The interior styling of the Old Palace, particularly in range 1, is typically Georgian. Panelled walls with high ceilings and moulded accents are frequently utilised interior design devices used during this period. The drawing room is the finest example of Georgian design in the Old Palace. The walls are entirely panelled, with decorative moulded cornicing and dado rail. In the corner of the room is an in-built display cupboard. It has a rounded head with curved, shaped shelves on the interior, suggesting it

would have been left open to display the enclosed items when visitors were present but probably otherwise kept closed. While most of the internal doors are not Georgian in origin, they do have wide moulded architraves which are likely original. In the later parts of the house, many of the 18th century interior design choices are emulated, though generally in a simpler fashion.

Ranges 3 and 4 are contemporary and were added to the Old Palace between 1901 and 1922.

Unsurprisingly, as an extension to the main house, range 3 has been constructed in a style sympathetic to the Georgian architecture of ranges 1 and 2. Continuing with the moulded brickwork, Flemish bonding pattern and flat arch lintels, at first glance it could be mistaken that range 3 was in fact also built in the 18th century. The studio was clearly constructed as garage for a motorcar, evidenced by the inspection pit in the floor, with the courtyard passageway to allow access. A motor house, as they were then known, built at this time is in evidence that the Old Palace continued to be a building of high social standing. Access to a motorcar was limited to the upper echelons of society, until at least the 1920s after which they slowly became more accessible.

Whilst at its core, range 1 represents the remains of the Kings Lodgings, it has undergone extensive renovation work during the Georgian period, obscuring many of the 17th century features. Small snippets of the original building can be identified, with some English bond brickwork and plank and batten doors emerging between the later fixtures and fittings. The Old Palace may not represent the most well-preserved palace building in Britain, but this unassuming structure played an important part in the story of the British Monarchy. It is said that while in Royston, King James I first found out about the conspiracy to assassinate him leading to the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot, signed the warrant for the execution of Sir Walter Raleigh and negotiated the marriages of two of his children to foreign nobility. Regarded as a divisive figure, James I struggled to win the favour of his English subjects and clashed repeatedly with Parliament over his royal authority, casting a shadow of controversy over his two decades on the throne. The decision of the Turnpike Trust to partially demolish a building so well loved by him, in favour of improved road, could be said to demonstrate how little some people thought of James I, even seventy-five years after his death.

8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Sibyl Thomas (Kay Pilsbury Architects) and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the historic building recording. The recording was carried out by Sarah Veasey with Xander Smith. Figures are by Sarah Veasey, based on architect's drawings by Kay Pilsbury Architects.

9 References

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

beam	horizontal members in timber-frames
brace	a structural element that provides stability
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
English bond	a brickwork bond created from alternate courses of headers and stretchers
Flemish bond	a brickwork bond created from alternating headers and stretchers within a single course
gable	the triangular shaped, upper part of wall at the end of a building
Georgian	period from 1714 to 1837
HE	Historic Environment
header	a brick laid at right-angles to the face of a wall, i.e. widthways
joist	a horizontal timber that supports floorboards above. Will sometimes carry boarded or plastered ceilings
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
pintle	an upright pivot on which a hinge rests
post	vertical members in timber-frames
purlin	a longitudinal timber giving support to the common rafters of a roof and normally set at right-angles to the slope of the rafters
rafter	an inclined timber following the slope of the roof
stretcher	a brick laid parallel to the face of the wall, i.e. lengthways
Victorian	period from 1837 to 1901

11 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

12 Contents of digital archive

The report (CAT Report 2257)

Digital plans

Site digital photos and log

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Distribution list

The Homeowner

Kay Pilsbury Architects



2025.12g_Photograph_001
Interior of drawing room. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_002
Interior of drawing room. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_003
Interior of drawing room. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_004
Interior of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_005
Detail of carved stops in binding beam and bridging joists in ceiling of drawing room. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_006
Detail of decorative fireback in drawing room fireplace. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_007
Detail of fireplace in south-western wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_008
Detail of panelling in drawing room (north-western wall). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_009
Detail of window in south-western wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_010
Detail of built-in cupboard in south-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_011
Interior of built-in cupboard in south-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_012
Detail of decorative carving on arch of built-in cupboard in south-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_013

Detail of blocked cupboard in south-western wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_014

Detail of door in south-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_015

Detail of door in north-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_016

Detail of window in north-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_017
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_018
Detail of light fitting in drawing room. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_019
Detail of door in north-western wall of drawing room. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_020
Interior of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing north north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_021
Interior of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_022
Interior of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_023
Detail of doors in south-western wall of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_024
Detail of window in south-western wall of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_025
Detail of window in south-western wall of entrance hall. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_026
Detail of exposed timbers in ceiling of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing east.



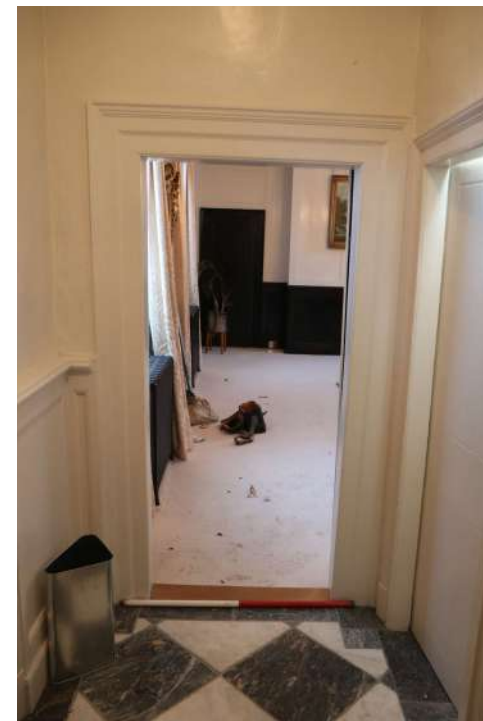
2025.12g_PhotoGraph_027
Detail of exposed timber in ceiling of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_028
Detail of carved stops in ceiling of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_029
Detail of doors in north-eastern wall of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_030
Detail of doorway in south-eastern wall of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_031
Detail of staircase 1. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_032
Detail of door in north-western wall of entrance hall 1. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_033
Interior of dining room. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_034
Interior of dining room. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_035
Interior of dining room. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_036
Interior of dining room. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_037

Detail of carved stops in binding beam and bridging joist in ceiling of dining room. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_038

Detail of fireplace in south-western wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_039

Detail of decorative fireback in fireplace in south-western wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_040

Detail of storage in fireplace in south-western wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_041

Detail of decorative fireback in fireplace in south-western wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_042

Detail of firegrate in fireplace in south-western wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_043

Detail of door in south-eastern wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_044

Detail of window in north-eastern wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_045
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_046
Detail of door in north-western wall of dining room. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_047
Interior of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_048
Interior of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing west north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_049
Interior of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_050
Detail of door in south-eastern wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_051
Detail of door in south-western wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_052
Detail of door in south-western wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_053
Detail of door in south-western wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_054
Detail of fanlight in south-western wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_055
Detail of window in north-western wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_056
Detail staircase 2. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_057
Detail of staircase 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_058
Detail of newel post, handrail and balusters of staircase 2. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_059
Detail of door in south-east wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_060
Detail of butlers bell boxes on north-eastern wall of entrance hall 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_061
Interior of study. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_063
Detail of window in south-western wall of study. Photograph taken facing west south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_062
Interior of study. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_064
Detail of built-in cupboard in south-eastern wall of study. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_065
Detail of door in north-eastern wall of study. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_066
Detail of picture rail in study. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_067
Interior of toilet. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_068
Interior of kitchen. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_069
Interior of kitchen. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_070
Interior of kitchen. Photograph taken facing south.



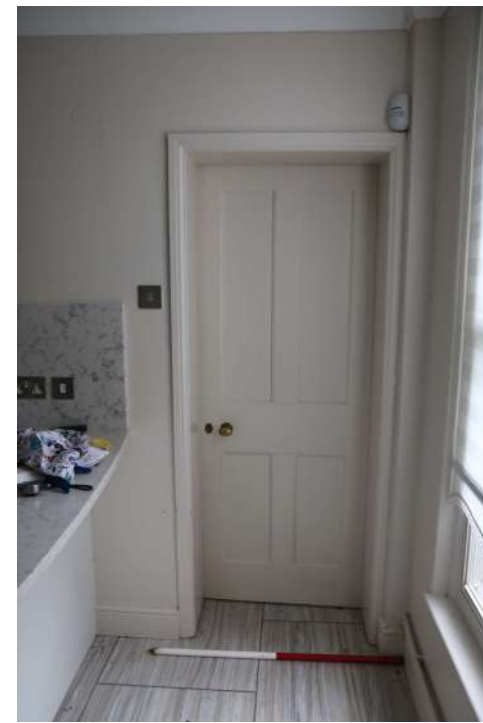
2025.12g_PhotoGraph_071
Interior of kitchen. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_072
Detail of window in south-eastern wall of kitchen. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_073
Detail of window in south-eastern wall of kitchen. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_074
Detail of door in north-eastern wall of kitchen. Photograph taken facing north-east.



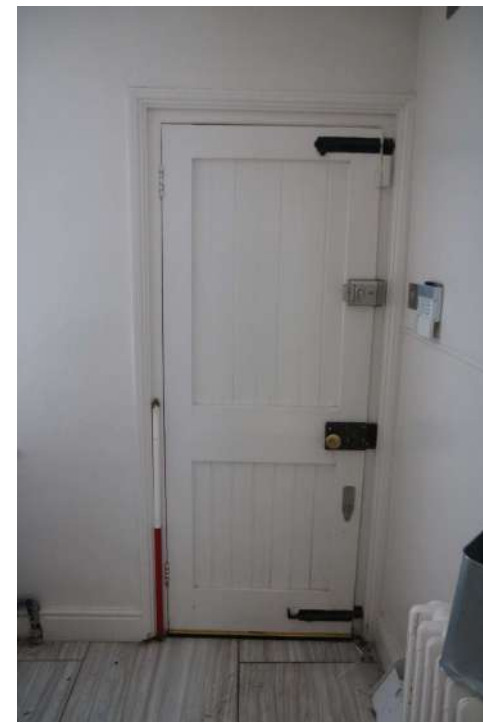
2025.12g_Photograph_075
Detail of door in south-western wall of kitchen. Photograph taken facing south-west.



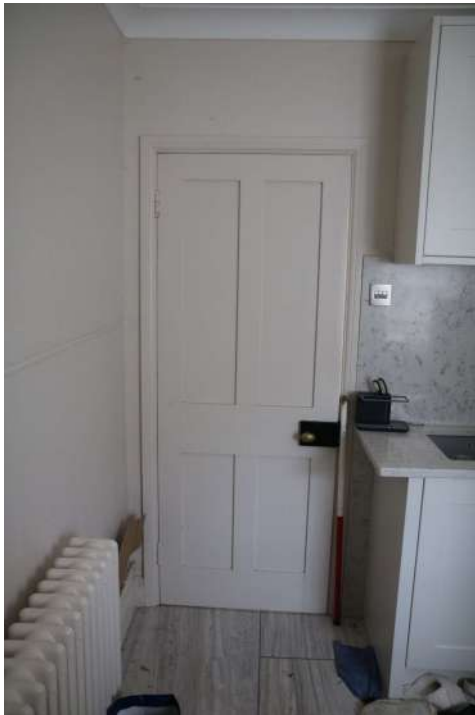
2025.12g_Photograph_076
Interior of utility room. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_077
Detail of door in south-western wall of utility room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_078
Detail of door in north-eastern wall of utility room. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_079
Detail of door in south-western wall of utility room. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_080
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of utility room. Photograph taken facing north north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_081
Interior of pantry. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_082
Detail of staircase 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_083
Interior of landing 2. Photograph taken facing west.



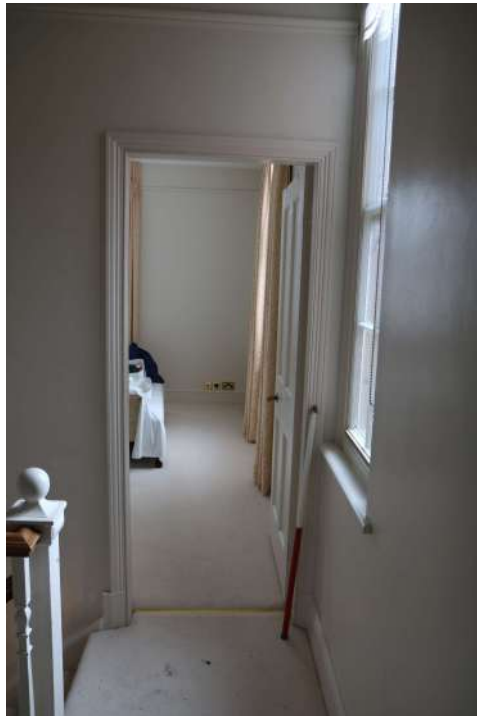
2025.12g_Photograph_084
Interior of landing 2. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_085
Detail of circular opening in landing 2 wall. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_086
Detail of light fitting in landing 2. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_087
Detail of door in north-eastern wall of landing 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_088
Detail of window in south-eastern wall of landing 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_089
Detail of door in south-eastern wall of landing 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_090
Detail of door in south-western wall of landing 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_091
Detail of arched opening in landing 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_092
Detail of picture rail and cornicing in landing 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_093
Detail of door in north-western wall of landing 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_094
Detail of door in south-western wall of landing 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_095
Detail of window in south-western wall of store. Photograph taken facing south-west.



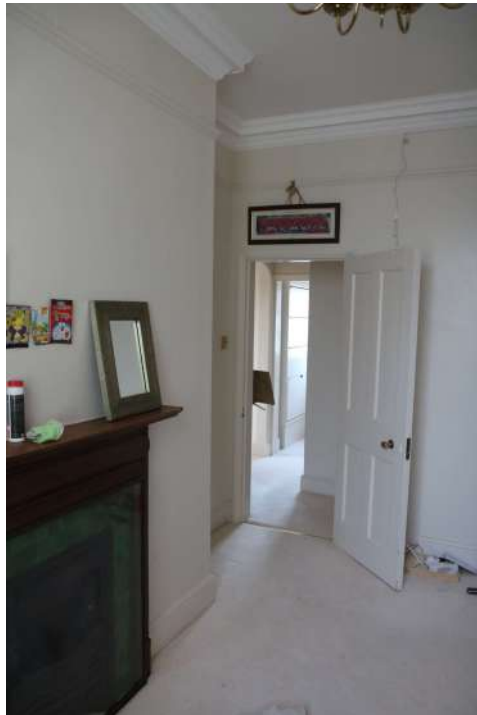
2025.12g_Photograph_096
Detail of door in north-eastern wall of landing 2. Photograph taken facing north north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_097
Interior of bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_098
Interior of bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_099
Interior of bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_100
Detail of picture rail and cornicing in bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_101
Detail of fireplace in south-eastern wall of bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_102
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_103
Detail of door in south-western wall of bedroom 1. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_104
Interior of bathroom 1. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_105
Interior of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_106
Interior of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_107
Interior of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_108
Interior of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_109
Detail of picture rail and cornicing in bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_110
Detail of window in south-eastern wall of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.



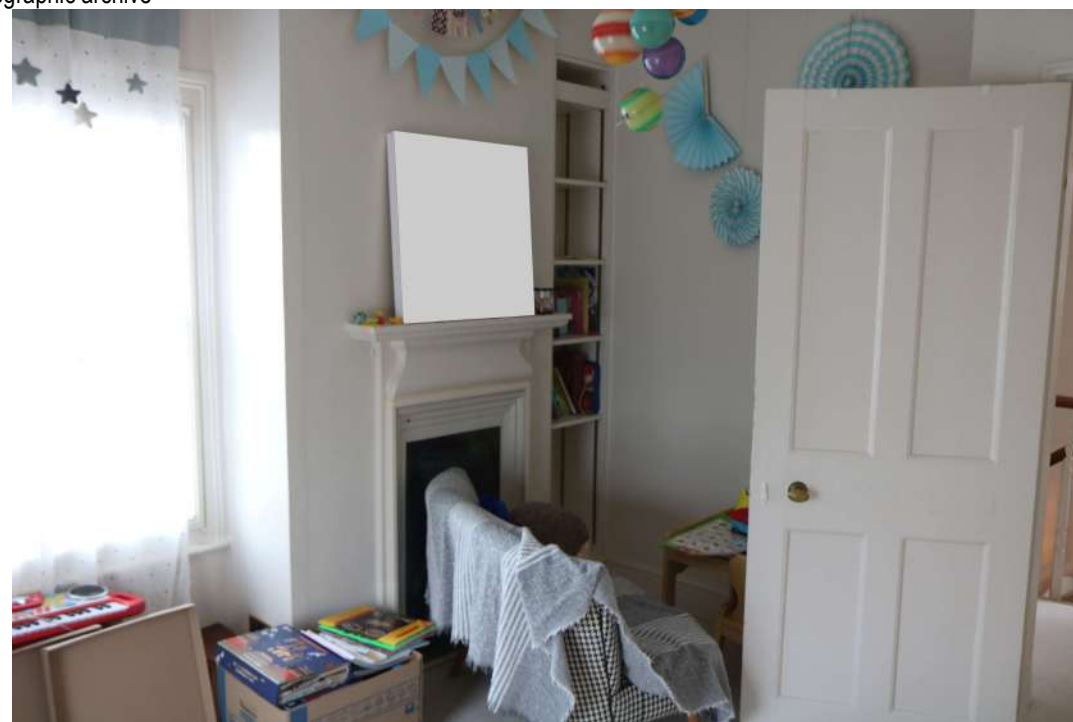
2025.12g_Photograph_111
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_112
Detail of door in south-western wall of bedroom 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.



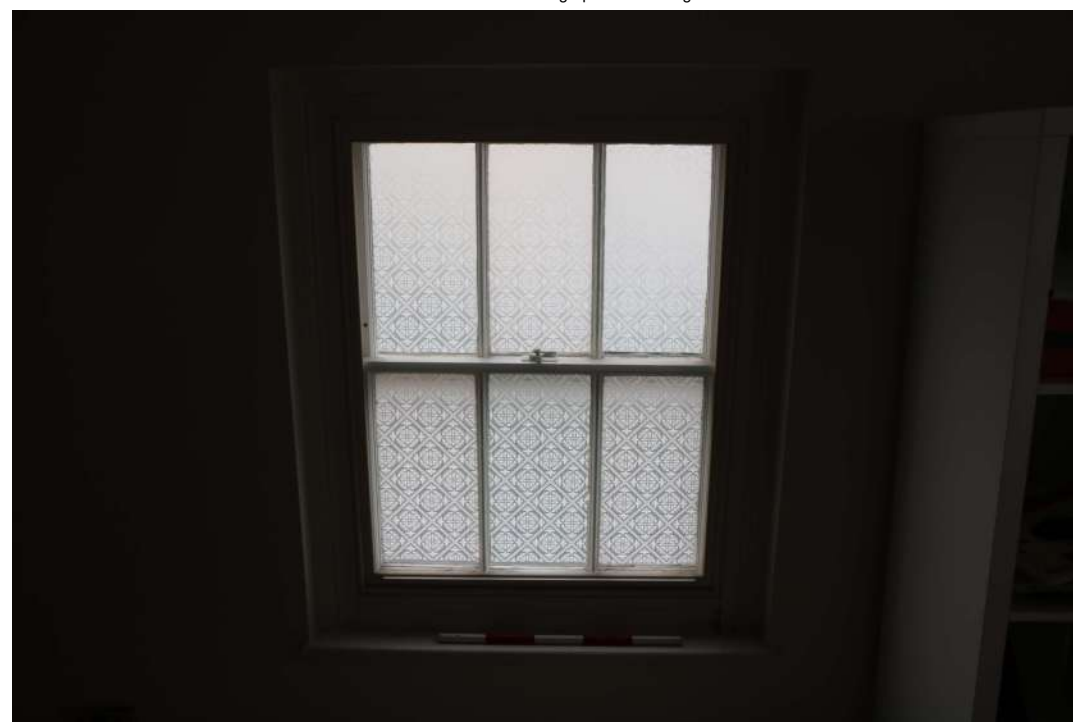
2025.12g_Photograph_113
Interior of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing west.



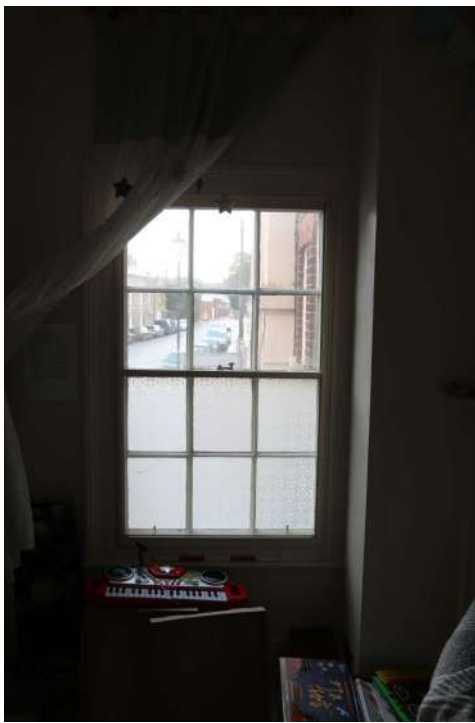
2025.12g_Photograph_114
Interior of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_115
Detail of niche in south-eastern wall of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_116
Detail of window in south-western wall of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_117
Detail of window in north-western wall of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_118
Detail of fireplace in north-western wall of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_119
Detail of opening in ceiling of bedroom 3. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_120
Detail of balustrade and newel post of staircase 2. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_121
Interior of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_122
Interior of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_123
Interior of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_124
Interior of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_125
Detail of door in north-western wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_126
Detail of decorative doorframe in north-western wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_127
Detail of strap hinge on door in north-western wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_128
Detail of window in south-western wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_129
Detail of fireplace in south-western wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south-western.



2025.12g_Photograph_130
Detail of decorative frieze on south-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_131
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_132
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_133
Detail of door in south-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_134
Detail of strap hinge on door in south-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_135
Detail of door in south-eastern wall of bedroom 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_136
Interior of landing 1. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_137
Interior of landing 1. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_138
Interior of bathroom 2. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_139
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of landing 1. Photograph taken facing north north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_140
Interior of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_141
Interior of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_142
Interior of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_143
Interior of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_144
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_145
Detail of window in north-eastern wall. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_146
Detail in built-in cupboard in south-eastern wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_147
Detail of built-in cupboards in south-eastern wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_148
Detail of window in south-western wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_149

Detail of panelling on south-eastern wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_150

Detail of fireplace in south-western wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_151

Detail of carved fireplace surround in south-western wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_152

Detail of door in north-western wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_153
Detail of door in north-western wall of bedroom 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_154
Detail of staircase 1. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_155
Detail of hand-carved post in staircase 1. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_156
Detail of staircase 1. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_157
Detail of hand-carved newel post in staircase 1 (second floor). Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_158
Interior of landing 3. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_159
Interior of bedroom 6. Photograph taken facing north.



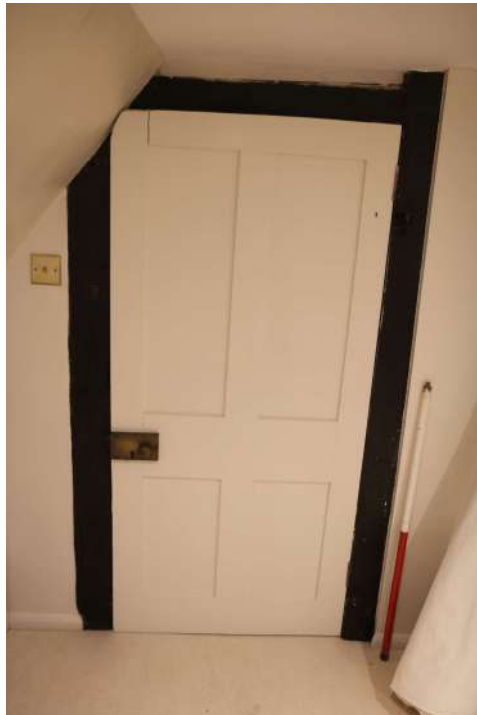
2025.12g_Photograph_160
Interior of bedroom 6. Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_161
Interior of bedroom 6. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_162
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of bedroom 6. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_163
Detail of door in south-eastern wall of bedroom 6. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_164
Detail of pintle in door frame in south-eastern wall of bedroom 6. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_165
Detail of window in north-eastern wall of landing 3. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_166
Interior of bedroom 7. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_167
Detail of exposed purlins in ceiling of bedroom 7. Photograph taken facing south-east.

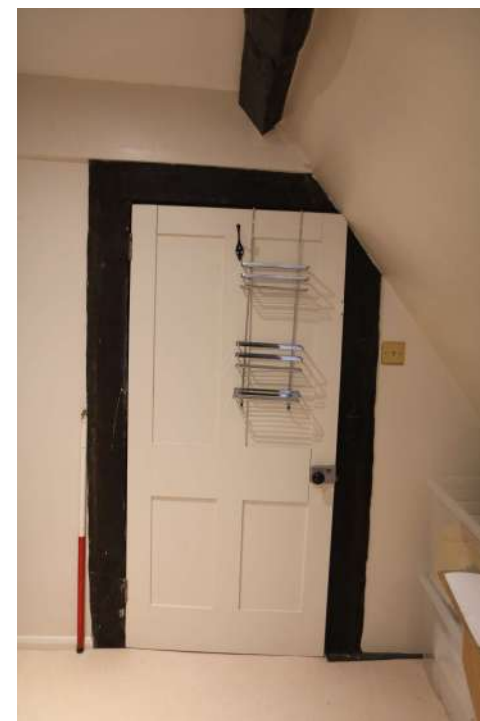


2025.12g_PhotoGraph_168
Detail of possible scarf-joint in south-western purlin in bedroom 7. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_169

Detail of possible scarf-joint in north-eastern purlin in bedroom 7. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_170

Detail of door in north-western wall of bedroom 7. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_171

Detail of timber-pegs and scarring from removal of strap hinges on door frame in north-western wall of bedroom 7. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_172

Detail of exposed timber in staircase 1. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_173
Interior of basement. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_174
Interior of basement. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_175
Interior of basement. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_176
Detail of empty mortice on binding beam in basement ceiling. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_177
Detail of basement stairs. Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_178
Detail of exposed timber in basement ceiling. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_179
Detail of exposed timber in basement ceiling. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_180
Detail of opening in north-eastern wall of cellar. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_181
Interior of studio. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_182
Interior of studio. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_183
Detail of door in south-western wall of studio. Photograph taken facing south-west.



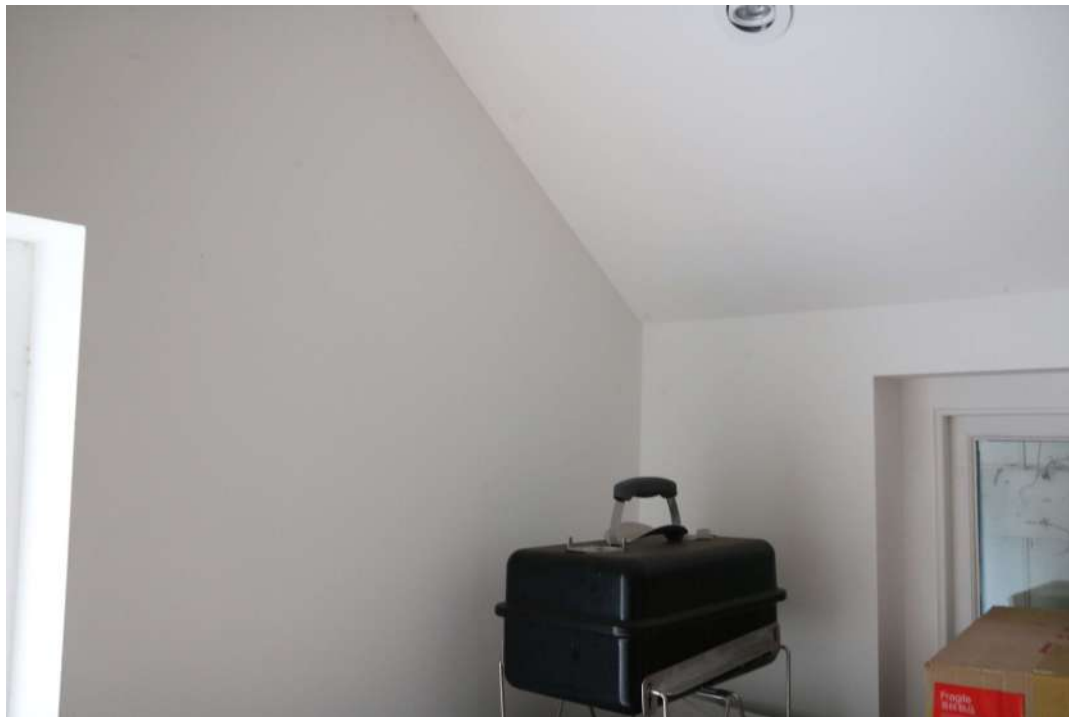
2025.12g_Photograph_184
Detail of exposed roof timbers in studio. Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_185
Example of roof window in studio. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_186
Pit in floor of studio. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_187
Interior of storage shed. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_188
Interior of storage shed. Photograph Taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_189
Interior of courtyard passage. Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_190
Interior of courtyard passage. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_191
Detail of window in south-eastern wall of courtyard passage. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_192
Detail of doors in south-western wall of courtyard passage. Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_193
Interior of garage. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_194
Interior of garage. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_195
North-eastern elevation of studio (range 4). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_196
Detail of window in north-eastern elevation of studio (range 4). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_197
South-eastern elevation of studio (range 4). Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_198
Detail of window in south-eastern elevation of studio (range 4). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_199
South-eastern elevation (range 4). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_200
South-western elevation of studio (range 4). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_201

Detail of roof shape on south-western elevation of studio (range 4). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_202

Detail of doors on south-western elevation of studio (range 4). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_203

South-western elevation of storage shed (range 4). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_204

North-western elevation of storage shed (range 4). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_205
North-western elevation of the courtyard (range 4). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_206
South-eastern elevation (ranges 3 and 4). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_207
Detail of window in south-eastern elevation, ground floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_208
Detail of window in south-eastern elevation, ground floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing west north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_209

Detail of window on south-eastern elevation, first floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_210

Detail of window on south-eastern elevation, first floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing west north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_211

North-eastern and south-eastern elevation (ranges 1, 3 and 4). Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_212

Detail of chimney projecting from range 3 from south-east/south-western elevation. Photograph taken facing north.



2025.12g_Photograph_213
North-eastern elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_214
North-eastern elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing west south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_215
Detail of door on north-eastern elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_216
Detail of window in north-eastern elevation, ground floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_217

Detail of window in north-eastern elevation, ground floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_218

Detail of door in north-eastern elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_219

Detail of window in north-eastern elevation, ground floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_220

Detail of window in north-eastern elevation, ground floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing west.



2025.12g_Photograph_221

Detail of windows in north-eastern elevation, first floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_222

Detail of window in north-eastern elevation, first floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_223

Detail of window in north-eastern elevation, first floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_224

Detail of dormer window, north-eastern elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_225
Detail of south-western chimney. Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_226
Detail of basement window, north-eastern elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_227
North-eastern elevation (range 3). Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_228
Detail of door in north-eastern elevation (range 3). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_229
Detail of window on north-eastern elevation, ground floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_230
Detail of door on north-eastern elevation (range 3). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_231
Detail of window on north-eastern elevation, first floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_232
Detail of window on north-eastern elevation, first floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing south south-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_233
Detail of window on north-western elevation (range 3). Photograph taken facing south.



2025.12g_Photograph_234
South-eastern elevation (range 4). Photograph taken facing north-west.



2025.12g_Photograph_235
North-western elevation of garage. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_236
Carport. Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_237
North-western elevation (ranges 1, 2 and 3). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_238
Detail of window in north-western elevation, first floor (range 2). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_239
Detail of window on north-western elevation, first floor (range 2). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_240
Detail of boot scraper in north-western elevation (range 2). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_241

Detail of curved corner on north-western elevation (range 2). Photograph taken facing south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_242

Detail in change in brickwork on north-western elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing south south-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_243

South-western elevation (ranges 1, 2 and 3). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_244

South-western elevation (ranges 1, 2 and 3). Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_245

Detail of window in south-western elevation, ground floor (range 2). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_246

Detail of window in south-western elevation, first floor (range 2). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_247

Detail of windows in south-western elevation, first floor (range 3). Photograph taken facing east north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_248

Detail of doors on south-western elevation (range 3). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_249
Detail of window in south-western elevation (range 2). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_250
Detail of change in brickwork in south-western elevation (range 2). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_251
Detail of window in south-western elevation, first floor (range 2). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_252
Detail of north-western chimney breast on south-western elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_253
Detail of door and windows in south-western elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_254
Decorative detail in door surround, south-western elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing east.



2025.12g_Photograph_255
Detail of boot scraper in south-western elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_Photograph_256
Detail of south-eastern chimney breast on south-western elevation (range 1). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_257
Detail of window in south-western elevation, ground floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing north-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_258
Detail of window in north-western elevation, first floor (range 1). Photograph taken facing north north-east.



2025.12g_PhotoGraph_259
Detail of roof construction of range 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Fig 2 Site location.

0 20 m

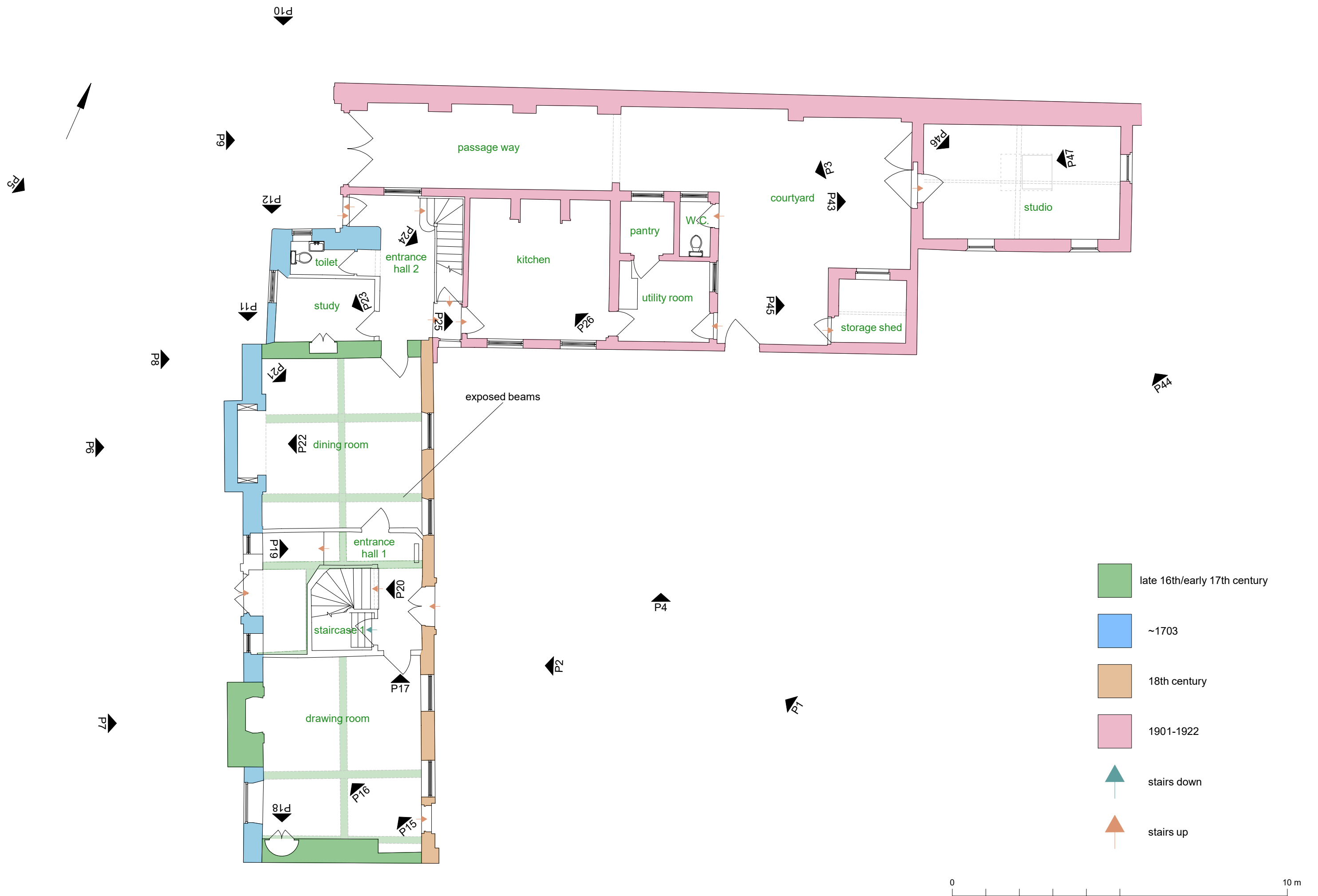


Fig 3 Ground floor plan. Location and direction of the photographs reproduced in the text shown.



Fig 4 Basement, first floor and attic floor plans. Location and direction of the photographs reproduced in the text shown.



Fig 5 North-eastern elevations.

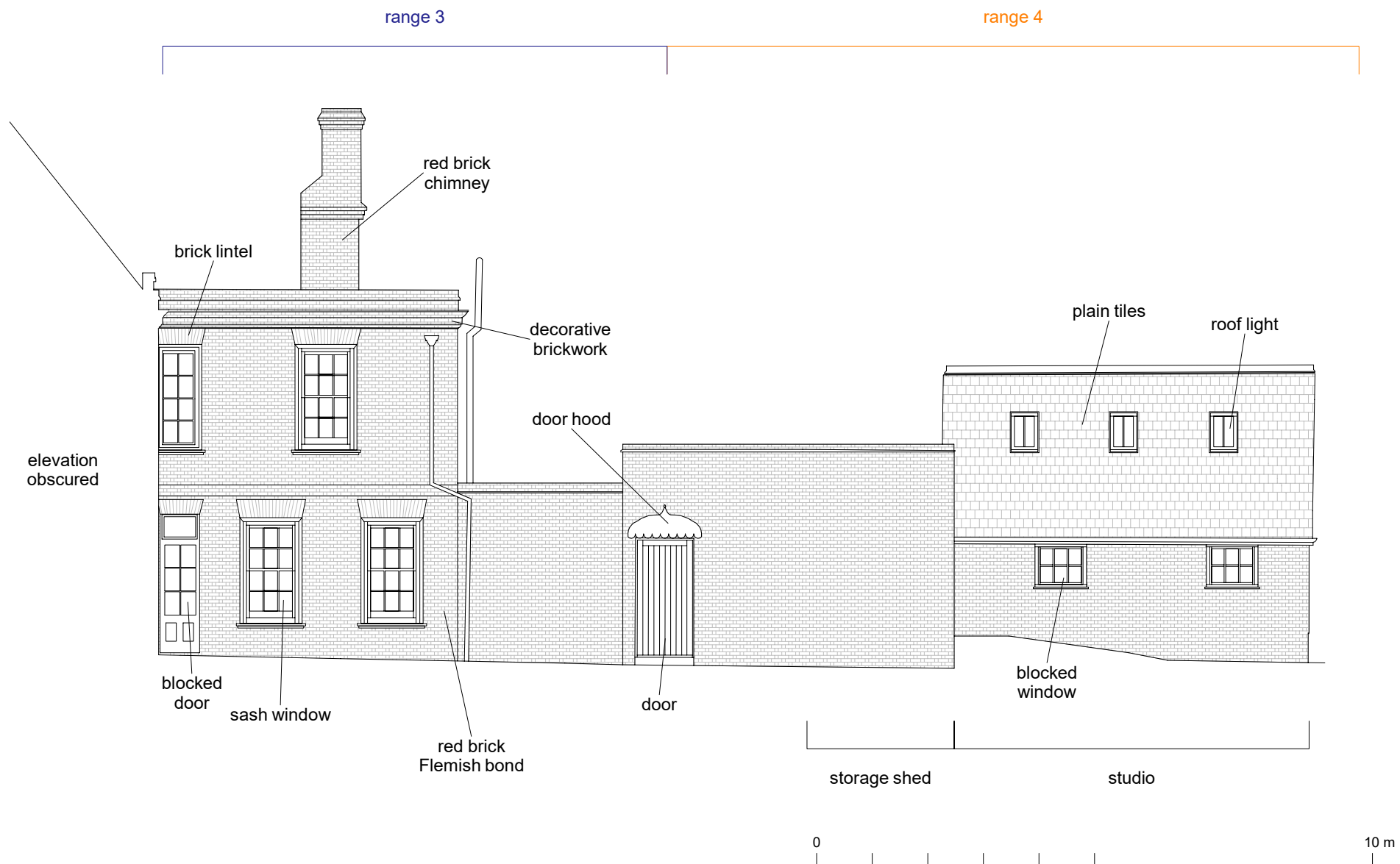


Fig 6 South-eastern elevation.



Fig 7 South-western elevations.

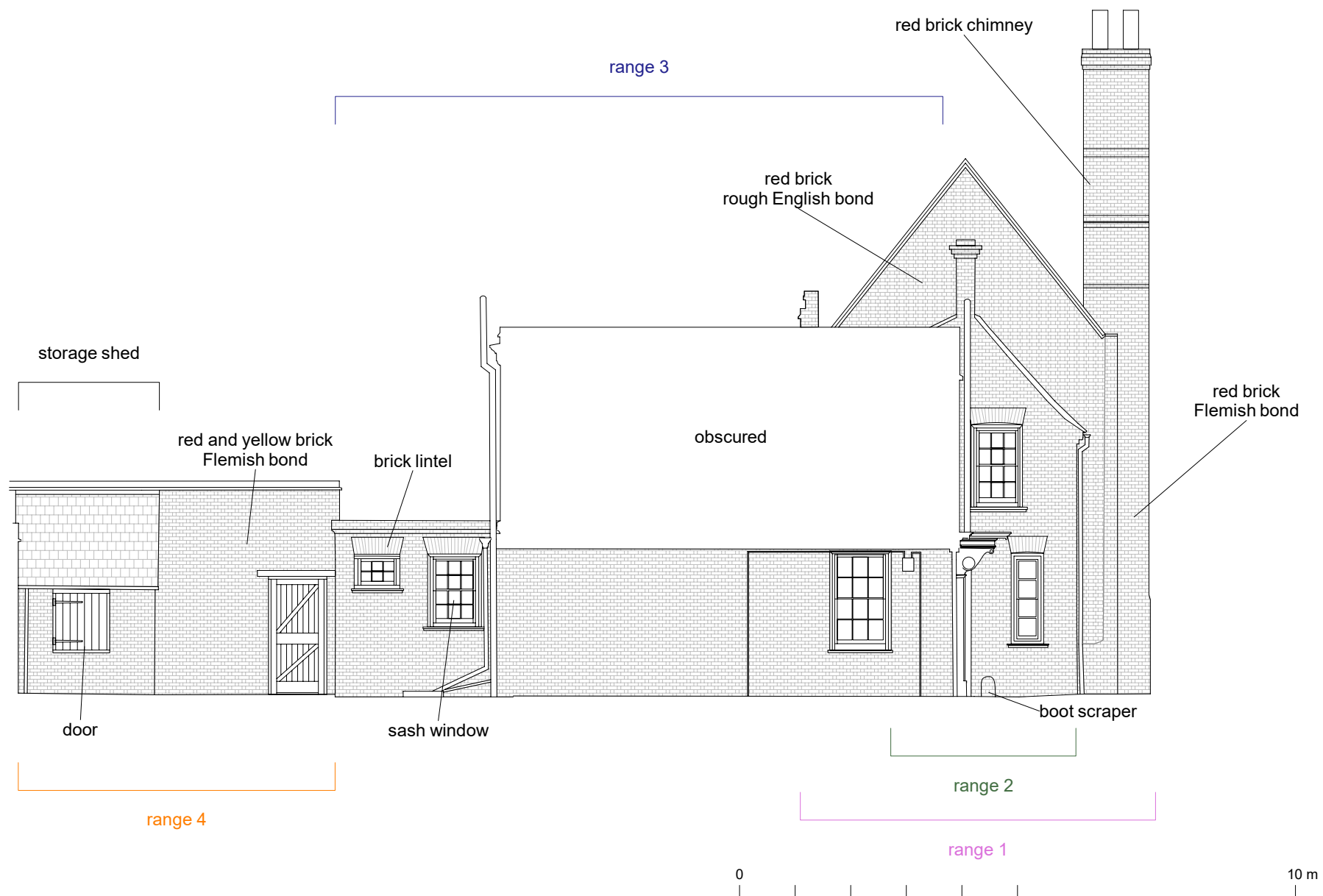


Fig 8 North-western elevation.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-540229

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-540229
Project Name	Analytical Buildings Record (Level 3) at The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5AB
Sitename	The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5AB
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2025/12g
Activity type	Analytical Buildings Record (Level 3)
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Jan-2026 - 23-Jan-2026
Location	The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 5AB NGR : TL 35566 40823 LL : 52.049224933487544, -0.024480630908852 12 Fig : 535566,240823
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Hertfordshire Local Authority District : North Hertfordshire Parish : Royston
Project Methodology	A Historic England Level 3 building recording was undertaken of the Old Palace, a Grade I listed building.

Project Results	A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at The Old Palace, 23 Kneesworth Street, Royston, Hertfordshire in January 2025 in support of a proposed planning application and listed building consent for an extension to the rear of the building. The Old Palace is all that remains of the 'Kings Lodgings' section of King James I's hunting lodge. It has origins in the late 16th/early 17th century with later 18th and 20th century additions. The building has been divided into four ranges (see Fig 1, pg 11) for ease of description. As it stands, the Old Palace is a brick structure, with a symmetrical Georgian elevation to the rear and an unassuming brick street-facing façade. Range 1 represents the remains of the Kings Lodgings, with the brickwork of the original palace structure surviving in the north-western and south-eastern elevations. Original brickwork can also be seen in a prominent chimney breast on the south-western elevation, one of two that projects into Kneesworth Street. The turnpike Trust partially demolished the building during the early 18th century, prompting the rebuilding of the Kneesworth street façade and the other prominent chimney breast. It was also at this time that range 2 was likely added to the Old Palace. The rear elevation was also rebuilt during the 18th century, but probably at a later date. Whilst the interior of the building largely comprises a combination of 18th century and modern features, some original pieces are nestled amongst the later fixtures and fittings. Two probable 17th century plank and batten doors, with wrought iron hinges, are present on first floor and a number of chamfered beams are exposed in the ground floor ceilings. Of the Georgian features in the house, the drawing room is an excellent example of 18th century interior design, with panelled walls and an in-built round-head display cupboard. Ranges 3 and 4 were completed between 1901 and 1922, extending the main house into an L-shaped footprint and adding a motor house, courtyard and shed to the rear.
Keywords	Hunting Lodge - Stuart - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Hunting Lodge - Georgian - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Hunting Lodge - Hanoverian - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Hunting Lodge - Victorian - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Hunting Lodge - Early 20th Century - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private individual
HER	Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD Historic England review - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;