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**Narrowgate House ('General Lambert's House' – HER 4522)  
31 and 33 Narrowgate, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 1 JN  
(House centred on NGR 4186299 6134983)**

**Historic Building Recording  
by  
Northern Counties Archaeological Services  
on behalf of  
Stablewood Leisure Ltd.**

Oasis ID: northern2 - 326218

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Northern Counties Archaeological Services, November 2018

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## Summary

*Narrowgate House is also known as 'General Lambert's House', or No. 31 and 33 Narrowgate. It is a substantial Grade II\* listed building situated on the west side of Narrowgate, part of the medieval street pattern of Alnwick, and a little north of its junction with Pottergate. This area is in close proximity to Alnwick Castle, and lies within the suggested line of the 15<sup>th</sup> century town wall. An extensive area of backlands or gardens west of the house includes a coach-house and stables range, also listed Grade II\*, and on the north the house adjoins the Grade II\* listed building known as Dorothy Forster's house.*

*Narrowgate House appears to date from the later 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, since a town plan of 1624 shows the site as divided into strip fields. The first building was a sub-rectangular single-pile house, fronting the street, perhaps divided into three properties. This was subsequently extended westwards, acquiring the coach-house and stables perhaps c.1800, and was considerably remodelled and re-faced with ashlar possibly c.1830, when owned by the prominent Alnwick solicitor, John Lambert. The present building footprint was fully established by c.1860.*

*The re-facing created, in external appearance at least, a substantial Regency-style town house, though it may also at this time have served as offices for John Lambert's legal practice, since he appears to have resided in Bondgate. After Lambert's death the house passed to his son Anthony, also a solicitor, and in 1861 was sold to William Dickson, of Thorp and Dickson Solicitors.*

*The house continued in use as solicitors offices until, under the ownership of the Thorp family, the practice closed in 2003. A number of schemes for conversion were subsequently prepared, but none reached fruition. The house was finally sold by the Thorps to the present owners for whom this report has been undertaken. Fittings and contents of the house were sold at auction, and a quantity of solicitor's papers deposited at Northumberland Archives.*

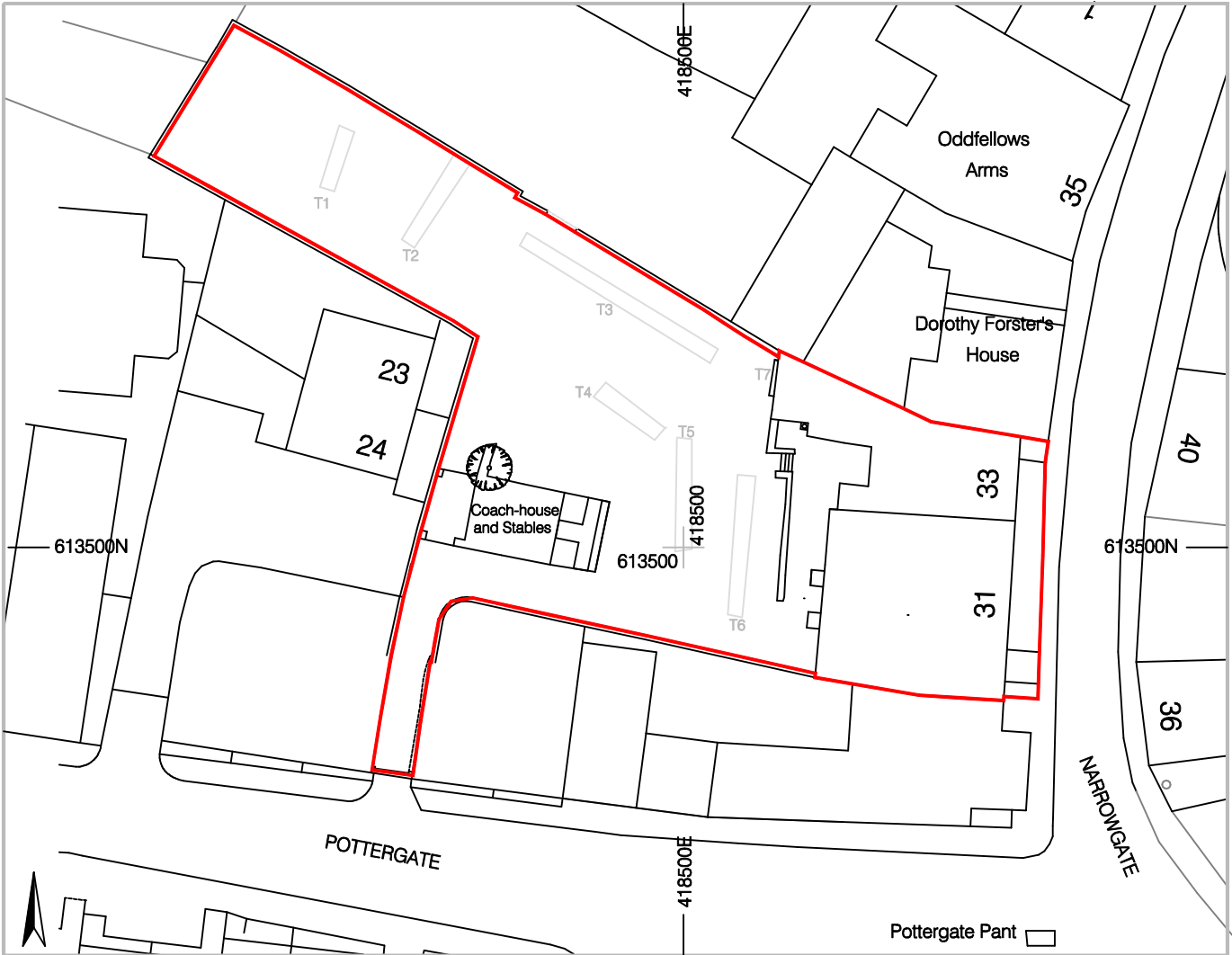
*Internally Narrowgate House is a palimpsest of features and fittings from the late-17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century onward. The most extensive and visible early fabric survives at basement level where, probably as a result of the house becoming offices in 1860s, there appears to have been little subsequent alteration. A kitchen range with vane-turned roasting spit mechanism is a particularly important survival. The ground and first floors which contain the principal rooms show more evidence for alteration, possibly associated with the re-facing, though little subsequent alteration. The second floor, like the basement, retains more visible fabric from the original house.*

*The coach-house and stable range, which will be demolished to provide access to the backland/gardens to assist with renovation of the house, were first recorded by ASUD in 2008. The building has been re-recorded in its current condition, updating and enhancing the 2008 report.*

Figure 1.



Narrowgate House



0 50m (1:500)

General and detailed site location plans, the lower showing the study area edged in red referenced to the national grid, also showing the 2008 ASUD evaluation trench locations. Crown copyright Northern Counties Archaeological Services Licence No. AL52567A0001

## **SECTION 1. Project background and recording methodology**

### **1.1 Site Location and setting**

- 1.1.1 Narrowgate House (HER 4522) is a Grade II\* listed building (Listed 20.2.52, No. 5330 Narrowgate (West side) 1/79 and 2/79; Historic England listed building no.235795). It lies on the west side of the medieval street of Narrowgate in the town and parish of Alnwick, a little north of the junction with Pottergate. It is currently on the Buildings at Risk Register (No.1041425). This area is in close proximity to Alnwick Castle. The site lies within the supposed line of the 15<sup>th</sup> century town wall, and a little north of the course of the Bow Burn, which was culverted in the 1820s.
- 1.1.2 West of Narrowgate House is an extensive area of backland in which there is a separate coach-house and stables range, also listed Grade II\*. On the north it adjoins the Grade II\* listed Dorothy Forster's house (HER 4521 and 4717).
- 1.1.3 The core of present building appears to date from the later 17<sup>th</sup>/ early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The northern three bays of the street frontage (No.33) range once formed a separate property, and it is possible the southern part of the building (No. 31) originated as two separate burgage plots. The whole was remodelled and re-fronted or re-faced as a substantial town house in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and was occupied by a firm of solicitors from the 1860s until 2003.
- 1.1.4 A planning application was submitted by Stablewood Leisure Ltd. For conversion of Narrowgate House into five short-term rental or residential units, with three new-build residential units in the garden/backland, involving the demolition of a late 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century coach-house and stable building. The remaining garden area (excluding a dwarf-walled strip next to the house) would be surfaced with a permeable material and contain parking.
- 1.1.5 After consideration of the potential impacts of the development by Northumberland Conservation, planning permission was granted by Northumberland County Council (Planning ref: 15/02603/FUL), conditional upon a programme of archaeological mitigation being first implemented. The mitigation programme comprises two main elements - historic building recording (external and internal), and archaeological excavation of the backland area. Briefs for both elements were prepared by Northumberland Conservation.
- 1.1.6 Northern Counties Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake the historic building recording in line with the Brief for Historic Building Recording (NC ref: A4/12: 23838(a), originally issued on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 but revised on the 6th October 2016 (Appendix 5). The revised Brief required this report to include specialist reports on the historic wallpapers and windows. Both were commissioned separately by the Client and form Appendix 3 and 4 of this report.

- 1.1.7 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in line with the issued by Northumberland Conservation. After some amendments, and with the inclusion of methodologies for the wallpaper and historic windows survey, the WSI was approved on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018. This report follows the scope of the approved WSI.
- 1.1.8 The Historic Building Recording and reporting was undertaken by John Nolan in 2018. Site visits took place on 28 May, 5 June, 13 June, 16 June, 30 June, 7 July, 9 August, 27 August and 20 September.

## **1.2 Previous site investigations**

- 1.2.1 In 2005 a room-by-room survey was carried out by English Heritage (now Historic England), authored by Allyson McCandlish, Helen Hughes, and Martin Roberts (EH 2005). This noted '*building construction techniques more suggestive of the seventeenth-century*', suggested the house had been remodelled c.1803, and that prior to c.1830 – the date given for conversion into solicitor's offices – it had comprised two houses. The survey exists only as a draft report.
- 1.2.2 In July 2008 Simpson & Brown Architects with Addyman Archaeology undertook another building survey for the owner, Robert Thorp, resulting in a 'Historical Building Assessment and Conservation Policy' (Simpson & Brown 2). Subsequently in February 2009 Simpson & Brown with Addyman Archaeology produced a report titled '31-33 Narrowgate, Alnwick, Northumberland. Conservation Statement and Strategy Report: February 2009' (Simpson & Brown 1). This included the statement that '*A report on the historical wallpapers...will be provided by Allyson McDermott and shall be appended to this report at a later date*' (ibid, 5). A brief summary report was produced (Allyson McDermott pers. comm.) but was not included when the 'Historical Building Assessment and Conservation Policy' report was revised and re-issued in 2010 (Simpson & Brown 2).
- 1.2.3 Three excavations have taken place adjacent to Narrowgate House. In 2001 five evaluation trenches were excavated on the north side of Pottergate, west of its junction with Narrowgate and on either side the rear entry into Narrowgate House, by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Williams 2001, 285). Subsequently three areas of that site were fully excavated. The earliest occupation evidence was found nearest Narrowgate (Area 3), where water-worn bedrock, possibly the bed of the Bow Burn, was found 2.5m below present ground level. Pottery from alluvial deposits was dated to the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Subsequently sand and gravel deposits were dumped as levelling on which were laid flagstone surfaces suggested to belong to a burgage fronting onto Narrowgate. There was evidence of burning on the flagstones, with heather wood, charcoal, and industrial waste. At the west end of Area 3 a

sand and gravel deposit 1.7m deep was cut by medieval pits used into the 15<sup>th</sup> century (PCA 2003, 12-14, HER 14002-14007).

- 1.2.4 In June-July 2008 Archaeological Services University of Durham carried out evaluation trenching in the backland of Narrowgate House, which has been suggested as having been crossed by an early routeway to Eglington (Conzen, 14). This revealed two apparently medieval pits and a gulley (HER ID 23472 -4), together with post-medieval features (HER ID 23470 – 1 and 23475 -7). Brickwork facing the northern burgage boundary wall was also identified as being a 'hot-wall' (ASUD).
- 1.2.5 Also in July 2008 an Historical Building Assessment and Conservation Policy' was produced by Simpson & Brown with Addyman Archaeology, hereafter referred to as Simpson & Brown 2. This was subsequently revised, and an updated version issued on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. This report noted the possibility that the existing building was of late 17<sup>th</sup>– early 18<sup>th</sup> century date, postulated a major 18<sup>th</sup> century remodelling, and suggested re-facing of the facade occurred between 1827 and 1860.
- 1.2.6 In 2012 a 'Moveable Assets' report was prepared by Simpson & Brown with Addyman Archaeology (Simpson & Brown 3). A copy of a draft version of this report was consulted in preparing this report.
- 1.2.7 In 2015 Spence & Dower Chartered Architects obtained copies of data held in the Historic Environment Record relating to Narrowgate House (HER ID 4522), the stable and carriage house (HER ID 23476), features revealed during the 2008 evaluation, and archaeological investigations on Pottergate.

### **1.3 Methodology**

- 1.3.1 Scale plans, elevations and section drawings of the house and outbuilding by ERRIS were supplied in digital format by Spence & Dower, Chartered Architects. These were checked and enhanced to show the location of any additional features and phasing detail, room/feature numbers, and the direction of the photographic record shots.
- 1.3.2 For checking and enhancing the elevations and sections, temporary bench marks were established on door sills of the Coach-house entrance (east side) and the back door (feature [49]) of Narrowgate House, related to the Ordnance Survey bench-mark on Pottergate Tower (64.52m AOD).
- 1.3.3 The principal structural units which comprise the footprint of the present Narrowgate House have been defined as units designated Builds A -G. These appear on schematic block plan Figure 14, and are referenced within the written report. The alphabetic sequence of Builds do not necessarily equate to phases of construction.

- 1.3.4 As a basis for detailed description of the building fabric, the Building Recording used the room numbering system initiated by English Heritage in 2005, and enhanced by Simpson & Brown with Addyman Archaeology in 2008/9. Some spaces which appeared to be discrete but had no existing numbers were added to the sequence. Room by room descriptions appear in Section 3.
- 1.3.5 For ease of reference in the written report, doors, windows, fixtures and fittings were assigned feature numbers in a running sequence from 1-200 for Narrowgate House and 200-217 for the Coach-house and Stables. The feature numbers appear in the text in square brackets e.g [1]. These numbers have been added to the floor plans and elevations (Figures 15– 22), and are cross-referenced to the photographic record. A feature list with brief descriptions and photographic record cross-references is given in Appendix 1.
- 1.3.6 The approved drawings submitted with planning application No.15/02603/FUL were consulted, and areas where significant interventions into the existing building fabric are currently proposed are identified within this report (Section 5). The relevant drawings - M561/03A (existing and proposed elevations), M561/05F (proposed floor plans), M561/06E (proposed site development plan), and 561/10 (internal fabric alterations) - are referenced in the text. The Historic Building Recording Brief (A4/12:23238(a) revised October 2016) does not however require the potential impacts of these interventions to be assessed.
- 1.3.7 The photographic record was taken in 400ASA 35mm black and white film using a Pentax P30 camera, and as digital Images using a Sony Alpha DSLR camera. Both cameras were tripod-mounted to ensure matching shots. Wherever possible each shot included a metric scale, north point, and photo-board with feature number. A selection of images from the digital photographic record have been used to illustrate this report. These have been given numbers with a bold P - prefix (eg. **P202**) which appear on the floor plans, with arrows to show the direction of shot. The photographic record, digital images and black and white equivalents, is listed in Appendix 2.
- 1.3.8 The Brief (section 3.3) required that published sources relating to the building and its history should be consulted and discussed. Consequently there has been no further research into primary archival sources other than obtaining copies of some surveys from Alnwick Castle Archives which had not been included in previous reports relating to Narrowgate House. Published sources were principally consulted at Newcastle University Library, the Literary & Philosophical Society of Newcastle, and on-line. A map regression sequence has been included in this report (Figures 3-10).

1.3.9 In line with Section 8 of the Written Scheme of Investigation, copies of this report will be produced for the Client and for Northumberland Conservation. The Recording Archive will be prepared in accordance with MoRPHE and CifA guidelines and deposited with Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn.

1.3.10 An OASIS form has been completed, (ID northern2-326218). The file size of the report is too large for uploading to OASIS, so it will be submitted as a grey literature report to the Northumberland Historic Environment Record with relevant previous reports on compact disc. Digital images will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service.

#### **1.4 Limitations on the Historic Building Recording**

1.4.1 Access to the backland boundary walls and the Coach-house/Stables was initially constrained by thick undergrowth, and even after strimming ground conditions remained difficult.

1.4.2 The interior of the Coach-house, and particularly the Stables, were hazardous for access due to unstable masonry and collapsed and collapsing floor and roof timbers. This limited the scope of the internal recording.

1.4.3 The Building Recording was a non-invasive survey. In Narrowgate House itself internal wall surfaces are mostly covered by plaster and, in many cases, also by wallpaper, obscuring the core structural fabric. Consequently in some cases this has had to be extrapolated from thicknesses shown on plan, or by tapping the wall.

1.4.4 Some areas of the building could not be safely accessed or were only partly accessible, due to condition. For example the north-western out-shot (Build G in this report) has had all its timber floor levels and staircase removed and could only be entered at ground level or viewed from openings in Build F to the east.

1.4.5 Room 41, an under-eaves roof-space, was only partly boarded-out, limiting examination of former rooflines and features on the north wall. At second floor level generally, extensive pigeon fouling and carcasses also restricted the scope of the recording.

1.4.6 The roof-void above Rooms 33, 39 and 42 (Build C) was not boarded-out and areas of the lath and plaster ceilings to spaces below were unstable, consequently this area was not accessible. The void above Rooms 35 and 37 (part of Build A) was similarly inaccessible.

1.4.7 Particular limitations are also noted in the room-by-room descriptions.

## SECTION 2. Site history and development.

### **Pre-Conquest.**

- 2.1 There is to date no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity on the site, or in its environs. In 1969 M.R.G. Conzen suggested Alnwick developed as a Saxon vill at a crossroads, and that the south-eastern section of Narrowgate once continued north-west toward Eglingham. The projected line of this early routeway, Conzen suggested, would cross the site of Narrowgate House and its backlands and putatively join a short, apparently truncated section of roadway shown on a town plan of 1624 by Robert Norton (Conzen, 15-16; Figure 3). However to date no evidence for the postulated Saxon settlement, or for the early routeway, has so far been found.

### **Post Conquest, Medieval.**

- 2.2 Primary archival research was not required by the Brief and there is little information in the secondary sources regarding medieval Narrowgate. The abrupt northward turn which Narrowgate takes after its junction with Pottergate has been suggested by Conzen as a re-alignment of his postulated early north-west route, following foundation of the castle in 1096. there are marked differences in the form of the burgage plots on the north side of Pottergate and the south side of Bailiffgate which raise some intriguing possibilities.
- 2.3 The earliest reference to Narrowgate appears to be in 1290 (Tate 2, 365), though it is uncertain how that street was physically defined at this date, or how far its built development extended. The Northumberland Lay Subsidy Roll of 1296 lists thirty-three inhabitants of Alnwick liable for tax, but none are identified to actual streets. The suburbs of Bondgate and Canongate were listed separately (Fraser, 1968).
- 2.4 There are marked differences in the form of the burgage plots shown on later maps between those on the north side of Pottergate, the south side of Bailiffgate, and the section of Narrowgate between them. The two former appear quite compact, almost truncated, while those of the eastern and west sides of Narrowgate at this point are much more elongated, as though taking advantage of a broad swathe of undeveloped ground. All that can be inferred from archaeological excavation evidence (paragraph 1.2.3-4) is that there was occupation on the north side of Pottergate and that the site of Narrowgate House was in some form of usage, but was not necessarily built upon, in the high medieval period.
- 2.5 Features containing medieval pottery were found during Evaluation trenching in the backland of Narrowgate House in 2008. Regrettably the pottery was not examined by an archaeological ceramicist and was simply assessed in the report under the headings '*medieval*' and '*late med or post-medieval*' (ASUD, 20). On the basis of the descriptions given in the report, some of the '*medieval*' sherds were possibly of late 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date. Only small

quantities of sherds recovered, and their condition was not noted so possible residuality cannot be assessed. This could represent rubbish disposal within a burgage plot.

### **Post-medieval (1500 - 1800)**

- 2.6 The 2008 Evaluation evidently produced some post-medieval pottery but as the ceramics were not examined by a specialist it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions as to site use. One sherd, described as late or post-medieval ware, may be a 17th-century slipware (ASUD, 11). Other post-medieval finds included the undated partial skeletons of a cat and a horse.
- 2.7 One of the principal sources for the history of Alnwick in the 16<sup>th</sup> century is a written survey of the possessions of Earl of Northumberland, made by George Clarkson of 1569. Unfortunately this contains no identifiable details of holdings in Narrowgate, the name only appearing in a later marginal note (AC A.1.1, Folio 20). The nearest sites to Narrowgate House named in the Survey are the 'Bowe Bridge' and 'pottergate towre' (ibid. f.26 and f.41).
- 2.8 The earliest town plan of Alnwick appears to be Robert Norton's '*Part of a platt of Alnewick*' of 1624 (Alnwick Castle O.I.1b). The Alnwick Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) and ASUD's 2008 Evaluation Report reference another survey of 1622 by William Mayson, but Mayson drew up terriers and it was Norton – who was estate surveyor to Duke of Northumberland in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, made the plans to accompany Mayson's 'surveys' (Butlin, 120).
- 2.9 On Norton's 'platt' (Figure 3). The present street configuration is clearly identifiable though neither Pottergate, Bailiffgate, or Narrowgate are actually named. It is immediately apparent that while the former two streets are lined with buildings the section of modern Narrowgate including the site of Narrowgate House, is undeveloped and shown as a number of broad, curving, agricultural strip fields. These appear to have once extended north-east, but by Norton's time had been bisected by a narrower street running from Bailiffgate to join 'Potte Gate', where a gatehouse is shown – perhaps the 'pottergate towre' of 1567. Norton's depiction of the long, curving, 'lands' suggests an explanation for the elongated burgage plots shown on later mapping.
- 2.10 The absence of buildings on either side of this section of street, and the position of the 'Potte Gate' tower are open to several interpretations, not least that Norton's plan is inaccurate. But Norton was an 'engineer' and gunner, and his extensive work for the Duke of Northumberland suggests he was not given to cartographic error – particularly on the Duke's 'home turf' (Conzen, 30). On the evidence of some medieval features and pottery from the backland of Narrowgate House (paragraph 2.2.4) it is possible that an area of medieval

development had at some date been converted to cultivation. At present it seems more likely that buildings first appeared here after 1624, on plots defined by the former cultivation strips, and the medieval features and pottery represent encroachment from the properties on the north side of Pottergate.

- 2.11 The 2008/10 report by Simpson & Brown/Addyman Archaeology reproduced part of an engraved 'View of Alnwick' copied from an unreferenced image in Frank Graham's Guide (Graham 1994, 9). Both attributed this to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but the engraving is in fact a copy of a painting in Alnwick Castle collections by the English artist Peter Hartover (fl. 1674-1690). It has not been possible to examine the original painting, only part of which can be seen on-line at <https://www.alnwickcastle.com> (Alnwick Civic Society pers. comm.).
- 2.12 The engraved version shows a line of tall building facades which Simpson & Brown (2008/10, 14) interpreted as the east frontage of Narrowgate House with a projecting porch or stair-tower as they suggest is shown later on John Wood's map (Figure 6). Without seeing the original painting it is difficult to be confident what the engraved version is showing, or even if Hartover was representing an actual or artistic view-point. If the tall building(s) are indeed the west side of Narrowgate then it might be asked, where are the backs of the houses on the east side? Simpson & Brown also suggest that a 'clock-tower' in the engraving is that of the castle's Stable Court, but this was not built until the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.13 The present Narrowgate House may then have have originated in the later 17<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly divided into three burgages or tenements, the southern two being later amalgamated into a single property which became 31 Narrowgate). Two clay-bonded stone walls found in the 2008 Evaluation may have divided the backlands of the latter burgage plots (ASUD, 9: Trench 6 contexts [27] and [38]).
- 2.14 The west side of Narrowgate, apparently known as the 'west rawe' in a borough rental of 1709 (Tate 2, 33) seems to have comprised four plots, owned by James Chapman, the heirs of Edward Robson, William Orde and the heirs of (shown William Browell. These may equate to those shown on Wood's 1827 plan as belonging (north to south) to Mr L. Russell, Mr. Forster, and the heirs of John Lambert). Russell's property was the northern extent of the 'west rawe' is indicated by Tate's description of Forster's property (presumably Dorothy Forster's House) as the brick house the *second* in Narrowgate. A property at the junction of Pottergate and Narrowgate seems thus to have been designated as being in the former street
- 2.15 A chronology of ownership appended to Simpson & Brown/Addyman Archaeology's report (Simpson & Brown 2, 72-80) cites (un-referenced) deeds of 1706 (Burn and Chipchase to James and Margaret Chapman), 1721

(Hannah and Elizabeth Robson to James Scott), 1726 (Mark Willoughby to Jane Forster) and 1766 (George Scott to James Grey). As these simply to refer to 'a property' in Narrowgate there is no clear linkage to the present Nos. 31-33 Narrowgate, and confusingly there is no overlap of 'ownership' names until 1800. The source of these deeds appears to be Robert Thorp; they may have subsequently been sold. No deed collections or other documents relating to Narrowgate House or Dorothy Forster's House can be traced at Northumberland Archives.

- 2.16 The first known 18<sup>th</sup> century town plan is that of 1769 by Armstrong (Figure 4) which shows a building occupying the site of Narrowgate House. More accurate is Thomas Wilkin's 1774 plan (AC O.I.9b, Figure 5). This shows that the building then on the site of 31-33 Narrowgate was a single-pile construction with no indication of sub-division. It also shows there was a south-western rear range overlying basement Rooms 26-30, and that the east façade had a 'forecourt' with what appear to be steps roughly in the centre. A linear feature appears west of the house, perhaps a terrace, with a small square structure at the centre, and a range of outbuildings against the south burgage plot boundary.

**1800 - present.**

- 2.17 Only in 1800 does a sequence of ownership apparently relating to Narrowgate House begin to emerge. It is about this date that the 2005 English Heritage report concluded on structural evidence that extensive modernisation and expansion of the rear range took place, and that previously the site had been two separate properties. Again the deeds are unreferenced, taken from McCombie's 'Chronology' (Simpson & Brown 2, 75-80).
- 2.18 A '*messuage, coach-house, stables, with 3 tenants*' was conveyed by Henry Jackson to James Richardson on 30 September 1800, and almost two years later Richardson conveyed the same to William Collingwood. McCombie says that evidence suggests there was a major change to house between this date (1802) and 1808, when Collingwood sold the  
*'burgage or tenement with coachhouses and stables, gardens, orchards, outbuildings and conveniences'*  
to Grace Hindmarsh. Inexplicably, McCombie states that 1808 is the first mention of the coach house and stables, and also suggests the house was probably re-fronted and extended about this time (ibid, 72 – 73).
- 2.19 In 1811 Hindmarsh sold the property to John Lambert (b.1783), son of solicitor Anthony and Julianna Lambert of Alnwick. The conveyance described it as a  
*Messuage burgage dwelling house or tenement with the coachhouse, stables gardens, orchards outbuildings conveniences and hereditaments...adjoining...in several tenures of James Haswell, George Wardell and Robert Thorp'* (Simpson & Brown 2, 76).

There was a further conveyance in 1814 by Hindmarsh and Haswell, the nature of which is unclear, to John and Anthony Lambert and William Cook. Anthony may have been John's father, who died in 1821, but could also have been John's son of the same name who inherited his father's property.

- 2.20 A new town plan was surveyed by John Wood in 1827 (Figure 6). This shows a much extended footprint to 31-33 Narrowgate. The house is deeper, with a larger south-western extension which appears to include the 'Dining Room', a north-west range, and the coach-house/stable. There is also an indication of the present entrance to No.33. Adjoining the east front of the house is what has been called a 'porch or entrance tower' (Simpson & Brown 2, 14) projecting across the forecourt into the street, in approximately the same position as Wilkin's 'stairs' (the approximate location is shown on Figure 16).
- 2.21 Wood marks 31-33 Narrowgate and a large enclosed backland area to the north (apparently the former backland of Dorothy Forster's House) as belonging to 'Heirs of John Lambert'. John Lambert followed his father's profession as a solicitor and for many years had one of the largest practices in the county (Tate 2, 407). Since John Lambert did not die until 1849, he had presumably settled the premises on his children. It is not known when or in under what circumstances John Lambert acquired the land behind Dorothy Forster's House. The next property north, now the Oddfellows Arms, is marked as belonging to 'Mr. Forster' and apparently included the buildings now Dorothy Forster's House and Dorothy Forster Court.
- 2.22 Pigot's *Northern Counties Directory* for 1834 gives John Lambert, attorney, as being at 49 Narrowgate. This was presumably the present Narrowgate House, since Atkinson states that 'Mr. Lambert, solicitor' lived in a house in Bondgate adjoining the White Swan (Wilson, 23). The system of house numbering was still evolving at this date, and did not become finalised until the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.23 Four undated ink sketch plans showing the southern part of house (31 Narrowgate) were found in the house in 2002. The originals are now untraceable, but photographs (NRO 6393/9-12) show they were drawn on back of printed papers, the typeface suggesting an early 19C date, possibly 1830s-40s. The functions of the rooms are given. There are some differences between the sketches and the existing floor layouts which may be no more than a result of rough drawing, but raises doubt as to whether they show 'as existing' floor plans or were outline drafts for a remodelling.
- 2.24 Another undated but probably pre-1850 archive, still in Narrowgate House, is a carefully-drawn sectional view of the internal plumbing and water supply to the southern house. Later rough annotations are dated 1900 and 1910. The

view shows a simplified kitchen fire in Room 22 with boiler and a sink on the east wall. Above is 'Front Lobby' (Room 2), with only one arched recess shown abutting an opening with panelled reveals, evidently door [45] with a 'Lobby' beyond (Room 8/9). Above this is 'Bath Room' (Rooms 10 and 10.1) containing a W.C and bath, served from a small and large cistern in the 'Cistern Room' (Room 40) on the second floor. The bath and 'C' (closet) and the large cistern are marked on the sketch plans (Figure 2, 11 and 12).

- 2.25 John Lambert, died on the 12th May 1849, leaving the house in Narrowgate Street to son Anthony, with appurtenances, two-thirds of the furniture, plate, linen, and all books. Anthony was subsequently listed in Directories as being in Narrowgate Street and a solicitor and treasurer of the County Courts and clerk for the tax commissioners (Whellan 1850-5). He died on the 26th May 1856 and the following year his executors leased the premises to George T. Easton, surgeon, for five years.
- 2.26 In October 1849 there was an outbreak of cholera in Alnwick. A map showing fatal cases, which was published in the Reports of Superintending Inspectors of the General Board of Health and is evidently copied from Wood, shows no eastward projection to the house frontage (NRO ZHE 2/13) (Figure 7).
- 2.27 The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of Alnwick of 1860 (Figure 8) shows that Narrowgate House had reached its full present plan form giving a clear *terminus ante quem* for construction of the north-west ranges. The coach-house and stables are shown, and a building abutting the northern burgage boundary wall, together with extensive formal-looking gardens. Significantly the projecting porch/stair-tower apparently shown by Wood is again missing. Simpson & Brown (report 2, 15 and note 2) reasonably suggest this is evidence that the re-fronting of the house occurred between 1827 and 1860, with the present southern flying stair replacing the former central access.
- 2.28 In 1861 the trustees of Anthony Lambert – one of whom was George Craster Lambert of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bengal Fusiliers, conveyed the premises to William Dickson, of Thorp and Dickson Solicitors (Simpson & Brown 2, 79). In 1868 the firm of W, W, and P.T. Dickson, solicitors were listed at 'Narrowgate House', the earliest use of the name (Mercer & Crocker, 5). By 1894 the firm had become Dickson, Archer & Thorp, Solicitors, with offices at Narrowgate House and at Amble (Kelly).
- 2.29 In 1925 it was also Collingwood Foster Thorp's private residence, possibly he was occupying No.33. An insurance valuation of 1960 described the property as suffering from 'dampness, woodworm in many of its interiors, and the roof requires to be continually repaired'. Electric light had at that time only recently been installed (Spence & Dower LLP/Woodhorn).

- 2.30 On the 15 July 2002 part of the south gable of the house collapsed during demolition of a garage on the corner of Narrowgate and Pottergate for redevelopment by Rivergreen Developments. It was rebuilt in breezeblock on a piled foundation, but the interruption to the firm's business prompted its closure and the beginning of several years of unsuccessful schemes for conversion of the building and the coach-house/stables.
- 2.31 As described in paragraph 1.2, these included the first building survey, by English Heritage, in 2005, and an Archaeological Evaluation in the backlands of Narrowgate House in September 2008 which included a survey of the coach-house and stables. In July 2008 Simpson & Brown Architects with Addyman Archaeology produced an 'Historical Building Assessment and Conservation Policy' followed by a 'Conservation Statement and Strategy Report' by Simpson & Brown in February 2009. In 2008-9 plans for conversion were prepared by Morton Hall Consulting Ltd.
- 2.32 The 2008 building assessment was revised In October 2010 by Addyman Archaeology, and in 2012 Simpson and Brown Architects *with* Addyman Archaeology produced draft plans and elevations for conversion proposals, and undertook a 'Moveable Assets Report', listing furniture, fittings, and other contents of the house. In September that year a Protected Species Report was produced by Sarah Taylor. At this time Narrowgate House was still owned by Robert Thorp.
- 2.33 Narrowgate House was sold in April 2013 to Stablewood Leisure, and '*An Options Appraisal and Economic Viability Assessment*' was commissioned by Northumberland County Council. This was prepared by DTZ and Spence and Dower and issued in the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. Subsequently a new conversion scheme was prepared by Spence & Dower LLP largely in line with that report and including an enabling project of mews houses. This was approved subject to conditions by letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- 2.34 Subsequently, in 2018, a new architect, Michael Atkinson Architecture + Heritage, was appointed to oversee roof repairs funded by grant from Historic England. To enable these works and in pursuance of the planning condition, this Historic Building Recording Report and Wallpaper Survey were commissioned.

### **Summary of the historical, archaeological, and cartographic evidence.**

- 2.34 Whilst some possible 'lost' medieval development on the site cannot be ruled out, the site of Narrowgate House appears to have been agricultural land as late as 1624, and the earliest building fabric which probably survives in the present structure, may not have appeared until the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

- 2.35 Frustratingly little can be found that clearly relates to the present Narrowgate House. There are no references in any known 18th or early 19th century published histories of Northumberland (Wallis, Mackenzie), nor is it even mentioned by Alnwick historians Davidson (1822), or Tate (1866) or John Atkinson Wilson (1872).
- 2.36 A town plan from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century (Norton 1624) suggests that the site of the house was not built upon at that date. Subsequently a single pile house was constructed, and this is apparently shown on Armstrong's 1769 town plan. Wilkin's map gives more detail, showing the outline of an eastern forecourt broadly comparable with that now existing. And what appear to be in-turns marking the site of a front stair just south of centre. This presumably led to a central doorway. Wilkin also shows that the house had developed a south-western outshot, but there is no indication that the house was divided into two.
- 2.37 Wood's plan of 1827 (Figure 4) shows a feature, hatched as the main house and so implying a structure, in the same position. It is possible, but unlikely, Wood had 'borrowed' this detail from Wilkin and misinterpreted an open set of stairs as a roofed structure, or that the stairs shown on Wilkin had roofed over to form a porch. Both plans show an enclosed forecourt, but it is not clear if this was the present sunken forecourt or a railed area at ground level, and street levels subsequently rose when the Bow Burn was culverted.
- 2.38 Wood marks an in-turn of the forecourt at the north end of the street frontage indicating the approach to the front door of what is now No.33, implying the house was divided into two properties at this time, though it also possible the north door was a 'tradesmans' entrance to a unified property. By c.1860 the division between the large southern house and the smaller northern house is clear (OS1).
- 2.39 The documentary sources give no precise date for the remodelling and ashlar cladding of the street frontage (and possibly also the south-west rear range). Although 'Regency' in appearance the earliest decorative schemes found in the house, detailed in Appendix 4 of this report, suggest this could have occurred slightly later, perhaps during the reign of William IV.
- 2.40 Although nothing has been found to justify the epithet 'General Lambert's House', or to support the statement that 'General Lambert' 'occupied the building when he visited Alnwick to attend the Quarterly Session' (EH 2005) the building was certainly owned by John Lambert, a solicitor, between 1811 and his death in 1849. Perhaps the term 'General' derived from an association of the property with George Craster Lambert, another son of John and Juliana

Lambert of Alnwick, who retired from army service in the 101<sup>st</sup> Bengal Fusiliers with the rank of Major-General, married, and lived at Bolton Hall near Eglington until his death on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1898 (NCH 7, 228). George Lambert was a trustee under the will of Anthony, John Lambert's son, so may have used the property until its sale to William Dickson in 1861.

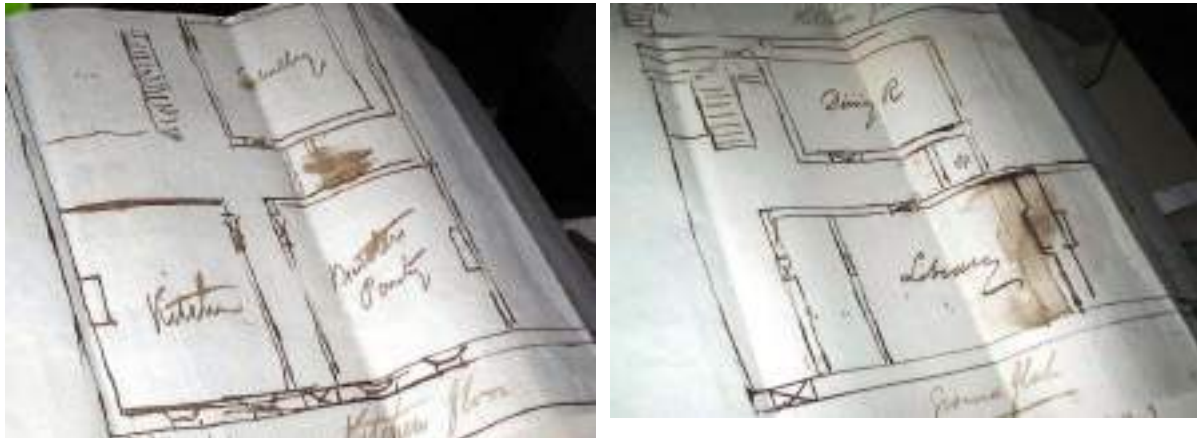
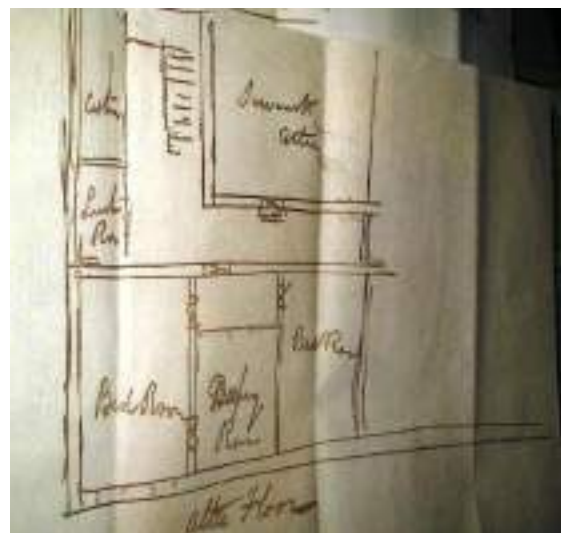
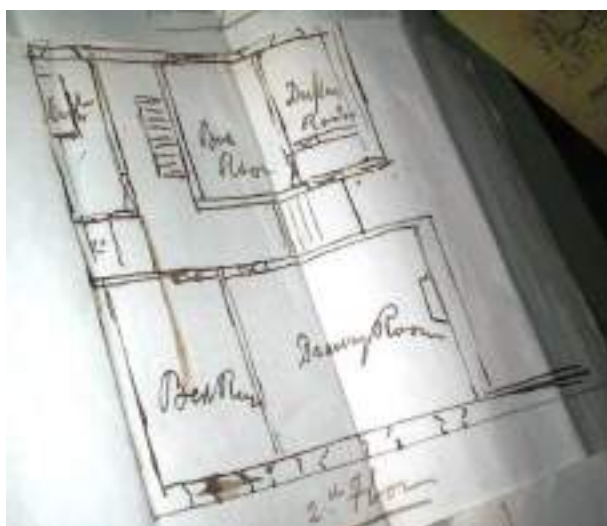


Figure 2. Undated sketch floor plans of what is now 31 Narrowgate, photographed as found in the house in 2002, now at Northumberland Archives (NRO 6393/9-12). Image 9 is the basement (top left), image 10 is the ground floor (top right), image 11 is the first floor (lower left), and image 12 is the second floor (lower right). Images supplied by Spence & Dower LLP.



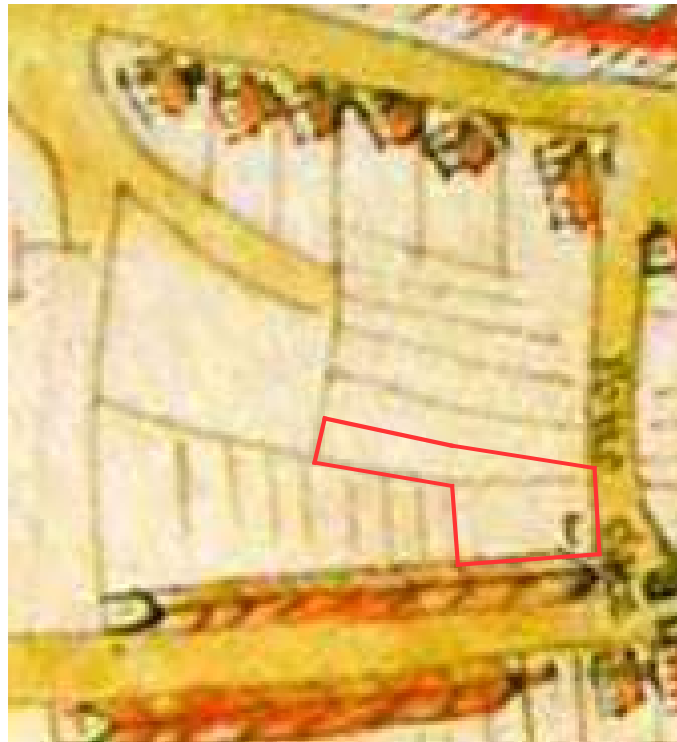


Figure 3. Robert Norton, 1624. Extract from *A Platte of of Alnewick* with the approximate area of Narrowgate House outlined. Narrowgate is on the right, with a gatehouse captioned 'Potte Gate'. No buildings are shown between Bailiffgate (top) and Pottergate (bottom). Conzen's truncated 'early route' across the site is top left (Collection of the Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle, O.I.1.a).



Figure 4. Lt. Andrew Armstrong and Son, 1769. Alnwick, from their map of Northumberland. The representation of the house is schematic but suggests a western outshot. The northern boundary may be misplaced ([communities.northumberland.gov.uk](http://communities.northumberland.gov.uk)).



Figure 5. Thomas Wilkin, 1774. Extract from his plan of Alnwick. The single-pile house with its western outshot and backland is clearly identifiable though the north and south boundaries are too far apart. The forecourt appears to be crossed by a flight of steps to an entrance just south of centre in the east facade (Collection of the Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle, 0.I.9b)

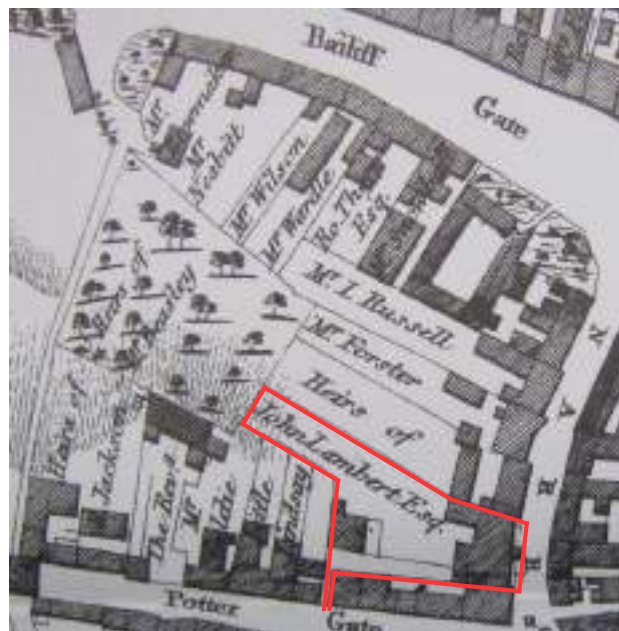


Figure 6. John Wood, 1827. Extract from his plan of the town and borough of Alnwick, 1827. The western outshot has extended north (Builds C and D), and the coach-house stables have appeared. The east facade is shown with a projection over the forecourt, actually encroaching onto the street. This appears to be in approximately the same position as the 'stairs' on Wilkin. (Frank Graham reprint, 1991, NCAS collection).

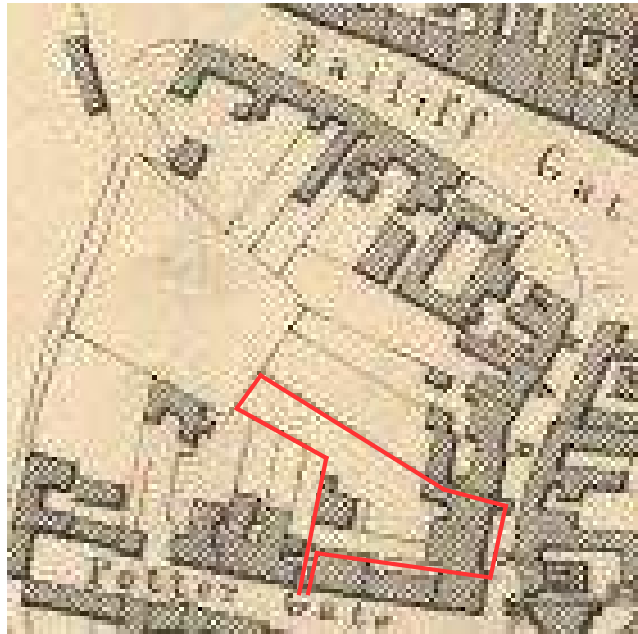


Figure 7. Extract from the plan (based on Wood 1827) showing locations of fatal cases of cholera during the epidemic of 1849, to accompany the Reports of the Superintending Inspectors of the General Board of Health. Narrowgate house is shown without any projecting feature on the east facade (communities.northumberland.gov.uk).



Figure 8. First edition Ordnance Survey 25" (1:2500) map sheet XXXII.9, c.1861. Narrowgate House appears in its fully developed form, with garden walks, beds, and a building against the north boundary wall which may have been a kennels. The division of the house into the later 31 and 33 Narrowgate is shown (Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn).

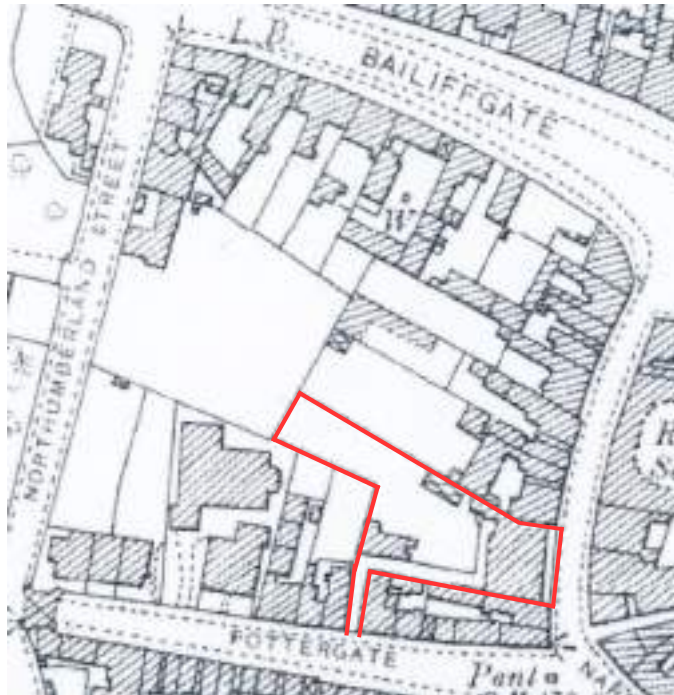


Figure 9. Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25" (1:2500) Northumberland (Old Series) XXX11.9 (1897). The footprint of the house appears as on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. A large glass-house is shown against the northern boundary wall. (National Libraries of Scotland).



Figure 10. Third edition Ordnance Survey 25" (1:2500) (New Series) XXXV.1 and 2. Revised 1921-22. Published 1923. The house footprint is unchanged. A smaller glass-house has appeared against the northern boundary wall. (National Libraries of Scotland).

### **SECTION 3. Historic Building Recording: Backlands and Coach-house**

#### **THE BACKLANDS**

- 3.1 The backlands or garden west of Narrowgate House form an L-shaped plot (Figure 1) the area northern associated with No.33 is elongated and narrow; that associated with No.31, which contain a coach-house/stables building (see below), is shorter and wider. These differences may reflect early tenurial divisions. At the commencement of the recording programme the entire backland was heavily overgrown and largely inaccessible. Even after extensive strimming little detail could be seen.
- 3.2 The backland area associated with No.33 is bounded on its north side by a stone-coped wall into which a double-door gateway has been inserted (**P1**). The eastern section of wall, from a point 2.5m west of the doorway, is a substantial 'double-wall' - brick to the south, and sandstone rubble to the north in which some re-used ashlar is visible. The brick 'skin' is keyed into the stonework and incorporates vertical and horizontal 'flues' running between the stone and the outer brickwork (**P2-3**). This forms a 'hot wall', first identified in 2008 (ASUD 2008, 15).
- 3.3 In a 'hot-wall' flues carried hot air from a fire-house or furnace, warming the bricks and encouraging fruit trees trained against it to flower earlier in cold climates and protecting the fruit blooms (Green 2000, 223). The double-skin with a brick outer face, the heavy copings, and vents are all characteristic features of this form of garden structure (ibid, 226-8). The 'hot-wall' extends east to be butted by the north-western outshots of No.33 (Figure 14, Build G). It appears within Room 15d of Build G, where it has been truncated by a timber staircase, and from the stone coping visible from the roof, also forms the north wall of Build F.
- 3.4 A hot -wall was built at Gibside c.1771, but others at Meldon Hall and Belsay Hall appeared in the 1830s. The bricks in the Narrowgate House hot-wall measure 220mm x 110mm x 62mm, comparable with examples from Lemington Glass Cone (1797) and Oakwellgate Station (1838-9), suggesting a construction date of between c.1800 and 1830. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century hot-walls were considered old-fashioned and were supplanted by heated glass-houses (ibid. 229), such as that shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 9) the floor of which was found during the 2008 evaluation (HER 23471) and horizontal and vertical wall-scars are visible.
- 3.5 The date at which the double gateway was inserted through the 'hot wall' - rubble from the stone backing wall being used to fill in the area above the lintel - is unknown, but presumably must post-date disuse of the latter. The existing frame and door-leaves appear to be 20<sup>th</sup> century, though the opening itself

may be earlier and associated with the situation shown on Wood's 1827 map where the backland of Dorothy Forster's House and 31- 33 Narrowgate seem to have been under John Lambert's ownership (see paragraph 2.20).

- 3.6 The south wall of the backland to No.33 is high and built of sandstone rubble. This wraps round to the south, forming the north boundary wall of the No.31 backland against which the coach-house/stables are built. The southern section of boundary wall to No.31 wall is entirely modern, associated with the adjacent 2003 redevelopment in Pottergate.
- 3.7 The only former garden features which can still just be seen are a coped dwarf retaining wall shown on the 1860 Ordnance Survey map. This runs parallel with and some 3m west of the house Build C (see Figure 14) forming a sunken terrace area against the rear of Narrowgate House. At its southern end the dwarf wall is truncated where formerly it returned west to join the south-eastern corner of the coach-house/stables. Part of this return was located in Trench 6 of the 2008 Evaluation (ASUD,10 context 26).
- 3.8 At its northern end the dwarf wall runs to the foot of a truncated flight of stone steps, then takes a dog-leg west before returning north to butt the north-western corner of the No.33 outshots (Figure 14, Build G). This latter section at least must post-date construction of the westernmost outshot. The steps are shown on a photograph of c. 2002 (Figure10) with a capstone to the north-west angle apparently that which is now in the coach-house (see paragraph 3.20). The surviving dwarf wall and steps will be retained within the proposed development (Approved drawing M561/06D).



Figure 11. The dwarf wall (left) and garden steps c.2002. A cap-stone similar to that in the foreground is now in the coach-house. To the right is one of the pieces of architectural masonry described in paragraph 3.8 below. (Courtesy of Spence & Dower/Woodhorn)

- 3.9 Four pieces of detached architectural masonry were noted in Simpson & Brown/Addyman Archaeology's 2008 report, one of which appears from photographs in that report to have been a section of coping from the roof parapet. Of the others, part of a pilaster/column now stands on the dwarf wall near the steps, a large moulded block lies face-down to the south, and an ecclesiastical-looking jamb lies among overgrown stacks of salvaged building materials at the western end of the backland/garden.

## **THE COACH-HOUSE AND STABLES** (Figures 12-13)

### **Background**

- 3.10 Initial recording comprising a ground plan, outline elevations, and some photographs, was undertaken in 2008 as part of the backland evaluation (ASUD). In the succeeding ten years the condition of the building, and the backland area generally, has dramatically deteriorated. Internal timber features in the stables themselves have collapsed and access to this part of the building is now difficult and dangerous. Vegetation and tree cover against

the north side has greatly increased, making that side of the building virtually inaccessible.

- 3.11 The site conditions inevitably limited the scope of the recording. The drawn record in this report (Figures 12 -13) is based on the 2008 survey, digitally traced, and checked and corrected on-site (where conditions permitted) through additional survey and levelling. The photographic record clearly shows the extent of dilapidation since 2008.

### **Description**

- 3.12 The building range comprises three bays under the remains of a double pitched roof once covered in Welsh slate, with ceramic ridge-tiles. The western bay was built as a carriage- or coach-house, the central bay was a stable once containing stalls for three horses, with hayloft above. The eastern bay appears always to have been an open yard. The external walls are faced with sandstone ashlar, dressed with bold diagonal tooling. Much of this is badly spalled. The wallheads have a projecting course of sandstone tabling which is continued over the east gable. The western gable appears to be rubble, and built off the western boundary wall.

### **South elevation.**

- 3.13 The coach-house is accessed by a shallow two-centred arched opening [201], the jambs retain iron hinge-pins on the west side, a catch plate on the east, and rebates for a single, large, externally-hung door (**P4**).
- 3.14 The central, stable, bay, has been two-storeyed. It was only accessible at ground level from the south through a centrally-placed ogee-arched doorway [203]. This retains an original tripartite door: two hinged leaves on its west side and a single leaf on the east (**P4-6**). This form of stable door, with the single leaf restricting entry and egress to a groom or stable-hand, can also be seen in the c.1747 stable block at Gibside. The timber door frame is cut to the form of the door-head. On either side of the door are windows [202, 204] with projecting sills and the remains of sash-cases.
- 3.15 Above door [203] is another opening at first-floor level [205]. This is a pitching eye, where supplies of hay would be delivered for storage in the hayloft (**P4**).
- 3.16 At the east end of the south elevation another door [206], apparently original to the facade, has a flat lintel and gives access to a small yard (**P9**).

### **East elevation.**

- 3.17 At ground level this is low-height wall enclosing the yard area, capped with stone slabs (**P11**). There are no features or openings in the elevation at this level, but a section of lower walling toward the north seems to represent an earlier phase of construction (**P12**). The rear (west) wall of the yard continues

upward to form a gable to the western, two-storied, stables. There is what appears to be a narrow ventilation slit [216] approximately in the centre of the gable, though this may be a result of weather erosion on the sandstone. This feature is inaccessible.

### **North elevation.**

- 3.18 Examination of this elevation was severely restricted by heavily overgrown rubble and other debris (**P13**). At the eastern end a doorway [207] leads into the yard. The only other features visible are three rectangular sockets [208] which appear to correspond with joists inside the main range. These may represent a former lean-to against the north wall. At the western end of the building the rear wall of the carriage house had continued to meet the burgage boundary wall, but this has been breached [209] to allow vehicle access through into the garden area to the north. The date of the breach is unknown, but is probably mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The opening is spanned by a composite timber lintel now showing severe deflection (**P14**). As this supports unstable masonry above, this area of the building is unsafe and consequently access for survey was limited.
- 3.19 In the eastern side of the breach, the east jamb of a former opening can be seen at a height [210], suggesting a former window (**P15**). A little further east are the remains of the eastern wall of an out-shot which has abutted the main building range. Little of this structure remains, and the outer face of the east wall has been lost to a sycamore tree growing at the junction of the two buildings which has severely dislodged and distorted the masonry. This area is in an unsafe condition.
- 3.20 A recess in the east wall with hand-moulded common brick, apparently served by a flue lined with similar brick (dimensions 230mm x 110mm x 60mm), is still visible and was interpreted in 2008 as the site of a possible shoeing forge [211]. There is now no obvious bellows location or evidence for tuyere and hearth. Alternatively it might have been a boiler for preparing hot mash feed.

### **Interior: Coach-house.**

- 3.21 The floor is obscured by fallen debris, though part of sandstone sill to the south door [201] was exposed for use as a temporary bench mark (55.58m OD). Visible among the vegetation is a large moulded cap-stone which appears to be from the garden stairs (see Figure 11).
- 3.22 The east wall and inner face of the eastern jamb have been rendered and lime-washed: the scar of a timber fitting [213] perhaps a shelf is visible in the angle; higher in the east wall another scar in the render running the width of the building, is probably the site of a tack rail [214]. The render stops where the northern opening has been broken through. There is a butt-joint where the

east wall of the carriage house meets the south wall of the main building, suggesting it is an inserted partition (**P16**).

- 3.23 The west wall and west gable forms part of property division recorded as early as Armstrong 1769 (Figure 4). It is built of sandstone rubble in which an area of rubble and brick patching [212] may represent a blocked flue belonging to a building on the west side of the boundary wall (**P17**). The absence of render over most of this wall-face suggests it has been stripped for re-pointing or consolidation.
- 3.24 Photographs from the 2008 recording and surviving joists show the coach-house had a timber first floor above the carriage porch. The undersides of the joists show that the latter had a lath and plaster ceiling, and the first floor was apparently accessible from the hayloft of the stables. Evidence that this space was utilised is shown by jamb-stones forming the east side of a high-level opening [210], most of which was lost when the north wall was breached.

**Internal: stables.**

- 3.25 As described in paragraph 3.11 above this comprises a two-story range with hayloft above. The lower storey has been rendered and lime-washed. The floor is now deeply buried in fallen debris, rubbish, and vegetation (**P6-8**), and consequently could not be recorded.
- 3.26 Photographs and the plan from the 2008 report shows there were three stalls along the north wall with mangers fed through hatches from the hayloft above. All this timber structure has since collapsed. Pieces of pine stall post with beaded arisses lie among the debris.
- 3.27 The western window reveal [202] is recessed to presumed floor level but has a timber sill or shelf, and may have contained a cupboard. The eastern window [204] is solid below the sill. Both windows have internal lintels of re-used timber, some showing dowel holes.
- 3.28 As noted above (paragraph 3.21) there is a butt joint where the west wall dividing the coach-house and stables meets the south wall of the main building. The eastern wall also has butt joints north and south (**P7-8**). This suggests the external stone shell was built first, and division of internal spaces took place subsequently.
- 3.29 The hayloft has been supported on eleven plain squared joists running north-south on the narrow axis of the building. The joist ends sit on timber wall-plates. These, and the flooring they carried, are in last stages of total collapse and decay. The hayloft was served by a pitching eye [205] in the south wall above the doorway. There was presumably ladder access internally, probably

via the 'hatch' in the south-west corner recorded in 2008. The hay was put into the 'chutes' - also marked on the 2008 survey - and gravity-fed into the mangers below.

**Internals: Yard.**

- 3.30 This area is too confined and overgrown for meaningful recording. What appears to have been the original access was through the doorway in the south-facing elevation [216] which has a relatively modern softwood door-frame with beaded arrises (**P9**). Wood (Figure 6) shows this area as an open yard with a circular feature towards the north end, which may have been a pump.
- 3.31 At the north end of the yard, abutting the east wall of the stables is a stone-built 'store' under a Welsh slate mono-pitch roof. This may have been a wash-house, or served the stables as a tack-room or feed preparation area. The east-facing doorway is similar to [216].
- 3.32 At the south end of the yard a similarly-sized out-shot also abuts the east wall of the stables and has a mono-pitch Welsh-slate roof, sloping north. The north wall is of common brick (dimensions 230 x 110 x 70mm) and is probably late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The outshot has latterly at least been a toilet, the fittings of which are of late 20<sup>th</sup> century date (**P10**). This too has a door to the east [215] with the remains of a frame similar to that on the north.

**Discussion: the backlands, Coach-house and Stables.**

- 3.33 The northern boundary wall is for most of its length a hot-wall, built for propagation and protection of fruit trees in cold climatic conditions. The sandstone rubble wall, visible where the brick facing and flues have fallen away, is almost certainly part of the hot-wall construction. The 'double-skin' of brick and stone is a feature of 'hot-walls' recorded elsewhere in the north-east (Green, 223-8).
- 3.34 The date of construction of the 'hot-wall' is unknown. Brick dimensions and character suggest it was probably built between the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It may have been a remodelling of an earlier boundary, since it appears to closely follow the line shown on Wilkin (1774). It is of course just possible that Wilkin was in fact showing the 'hot-wall', though this would be unusually early for a north-eastern, non-grandee, garden.
- 3.35 The primary build of the Coach-house and Stables appears to have been a shell of an east-west oriented range formed by the north, east and south walls: the west wall being an existing boundary wall. The building is not on Wilkin (1774) but appears on Wood (1827). Further refinement of the construction date is suggested by Simpson & Brown's report of 2008/2010, in which

McCombie states that the first reference to a coach house and stables associated with the house occurs in 1808 (Simpson & Brown 2, 72). This contradicts an earlier reference where a deed of 30 September 1800 also mentions a '*messuage...coach house stables*' (ibid, 75).

- 3.36 The internal partitions which separate the coach-house and stables, and the stables and the yard, were added subsequently as shown by their not being fully keyed into the outer walls. This probably represents no more than a second 'fitting-out' stage of the primary build, though it could also be evidence that the internal partitioning has been altered. The eastern partition wall of the stables was in this position by 1827 (Wood), when the eastern third of the building range is shown as an open yard with a possible well or pump towards the north.
- 3.37 It is not clear when the two out-shots in the yard were constructed. That in the north-west corner appeared between 1827 and 1860. The doorway facing north may have been broken through the north wall at this date. Subsequently, perhaps in the later 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the south-west angle of the yard was also enclosed, this time with a brick wall. This out-shot was, latterly at least, used as a toilet.
- 3.38 The north wall of the carriage house has been breached to form a high, full-width, opening allowing vehicle access over the garden and presumably to the double-doors in the northern boundary wall. The appearance of the timber lintel and patching of the breached wall ends suggests this was formed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**P1** (top). The north burgage boundary wall looking north-east showing the start of the 'hot wall', pierced by a later double-door vehicle access. Scale 2m. NGA5/060

**P2** (below). Collapsed section of the 'hot wall' showing keying-in bricks and the exposed stone wall behind, with coping slabs and vents. Scale 2m. NGA6/059





**P3** (top). Detail of the 'hot wall' structure showing keying-in bricks, flues, and sooting on the earlier masonry boundary wall. Scale 20cm. NGA6/058



**P4** (top). The coach-house and stables, south elevation, looking north-east. The carriage entrance [201] is on the left, window [202] and stable entrance [203] with pitching-eye [205] above is on the right. Scales 1m and 2m. NGA2/001

**P5** (below) Stable entrance [203], showing ogee arch and two-section door leaf (left) with single leaf open. Scales 1m and 2m. NGA2/013





**P6 (top).** Stables: interior looking south-west to the inner face of the stable door [203] showing two-section door leaf with hinges and bolts and inner face of ogee lintel. Scales 1m and 2m. NGA2/010

**P7 (below).** Stables: interior looking west, showing window [202], butt-joint between the west partition wall and the external south wall, and fallen/collapsing timberwork. Scale 2m. NGA2/008





**P8** (top). Stables interior looking north-east, showing east partition and butt joints with outer walls, remains of manger (left) and fallen/collapsing joists. Scale 2m. NGA2/011

**P9** (below). Southern yard door [206] looking north, showing modern planked door. Scale 2m. NGA2/024





**P10** (top). Yard: looking through the doorway of the southern outshot, showing 20<sup>th</sup> century toilet bowl and illustrating the restricted space for photography within this area Scale 2m. NGA2/025

**P11** (below). The coach-house/stables looking west, showing the yard wall with the east gable of the stables beyond. A narrow possible ventilation slot [217] in the east gable is just visible. Scale 2m. NGA2/015





**P12** (top). Detail of the east wall of the yard, showing construction joint and differences in the the build to the south and north. Scales 1m and 2m. NGA2/026

**P13** (below). The stables and yard looking south-west, showing the north doorway [207] to the yard and one of the beam-slots [208] in the north wall of the stables. Scale 2m. NGA2/016





**P14** (top). Looking south into the coach-house through the inserted double-doorway [209], showing timber lintel and joists to first floor. Scale 2m. NGA2/019

**P15** (below). The possible forge [211], completely covered by creeper and vegetation, looking east. The jamb of a former opening [210] in the north wall of the coach house can be seen above the photoboard. Scale 2m. NGA2/021





**P16** (top). Interior of the coach-house, looking south-east, showing the east jamb of the entrance [201], the butt-joint between the internal and external walls, and the scar of missing shelf [213]. Scale 2m. NGA2/022

**P17** (below). Interior of the coach-house looking west, with west jamb of the entrance (left), showing brick patching [212] in the west wall, and remains of plaster render. Scale 2m. NGA2/023

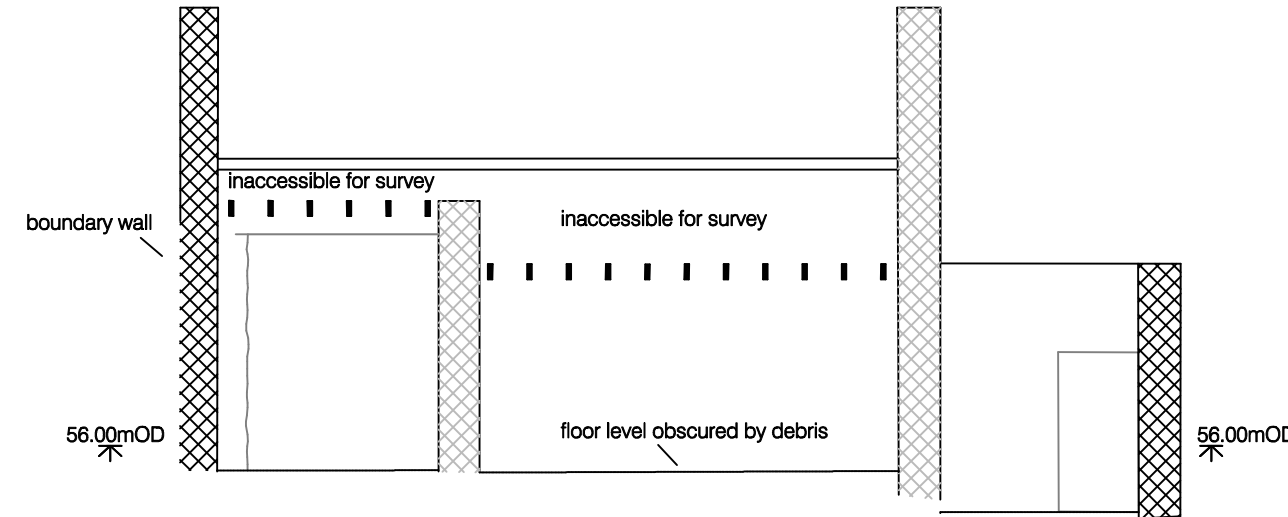
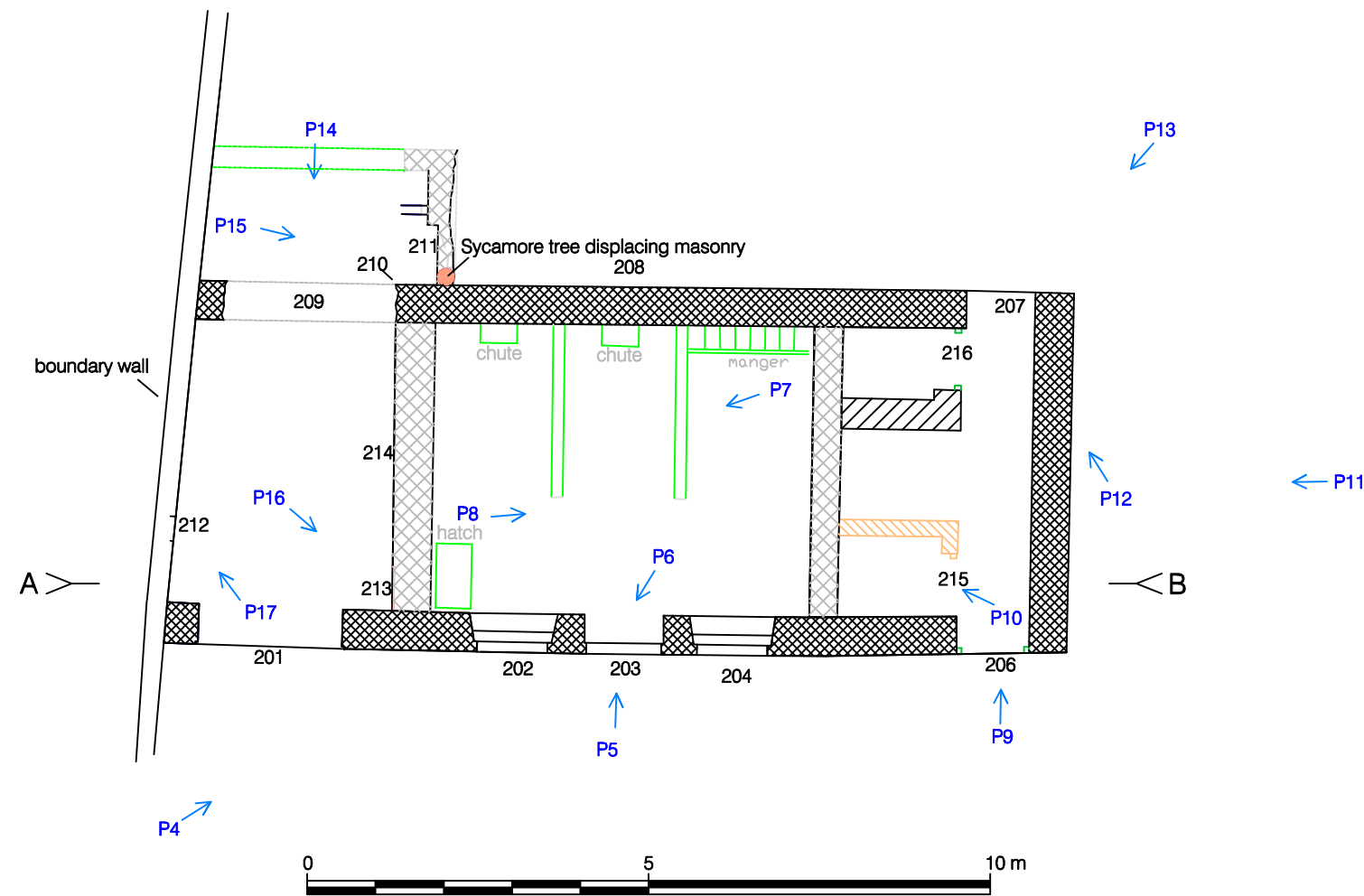


Figure 12

Narrowgate House, Alnwick

Coach House and Stables

Ground plan and east-west section



Section A - B

Key

- 206 feature numbers in NCAS report
- P24 Plate numbers (with direction of shot)
- 54mOD levels related to Ordnance Survey bench mark on Pottergate Tower
- Primary build c.1880?
- Secondary build c.1880?
- 1827 1860
- l.19th-e.20th century
- joists
- features noted in 2008, but no longer extant

Based on a survey by ASUD 2008, with amendments and additions by NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.

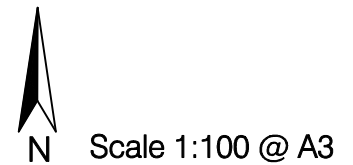


Figure 13

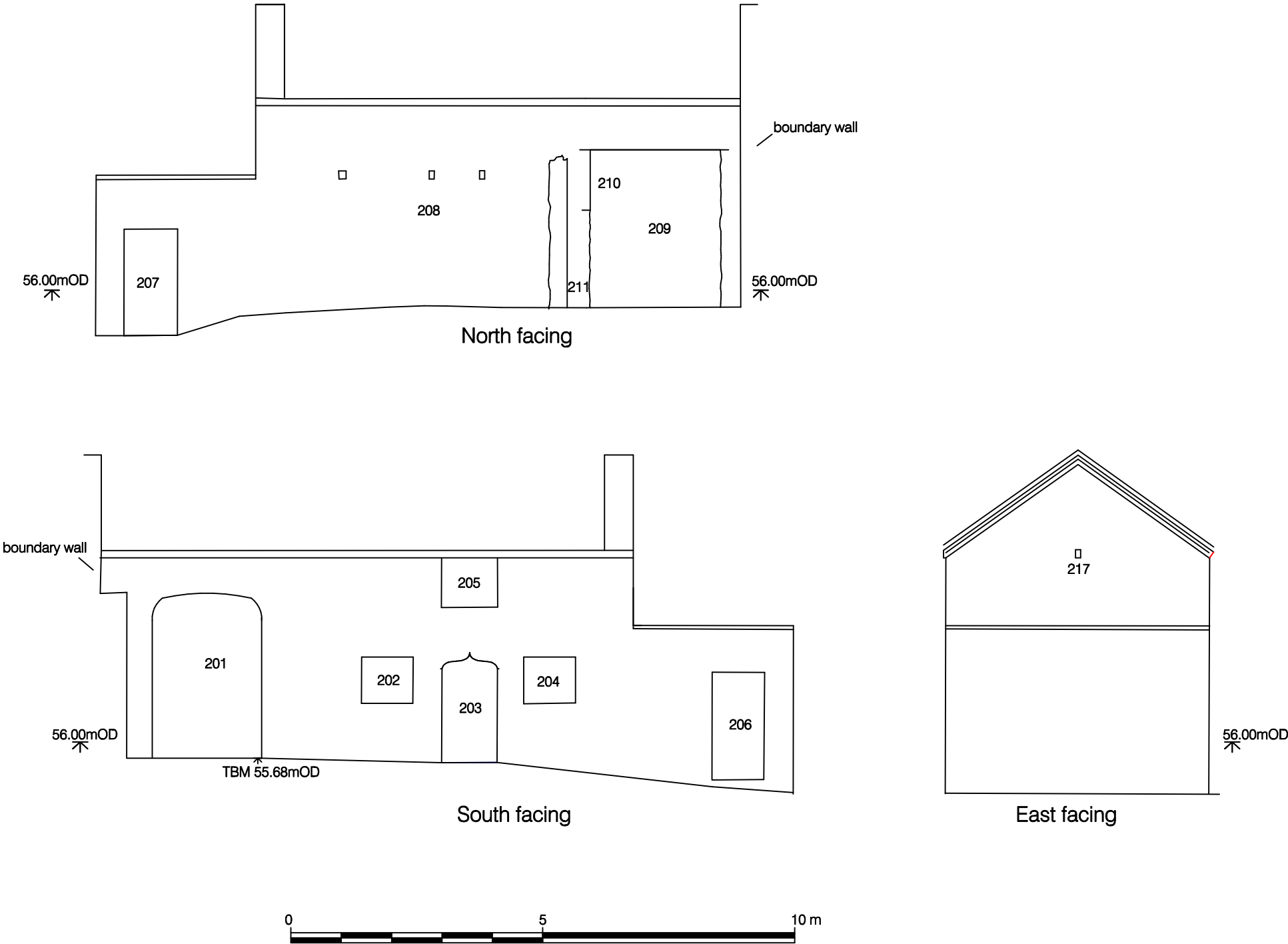
Narrowgate House, Alnwick

Coach House and Stables

Outline elevations

Key

- 206 feature numbers in NCAS report
- P24 Plate numbers (with direction of shot)
- 54mOD levels related to Ordnance Survey bench mark on Pottergate Tower



Based on a survey by ASUD 2008,  
with amendments and additions by  
NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.

#### SECTION 4. Historic Building Recording: Narrowgate House

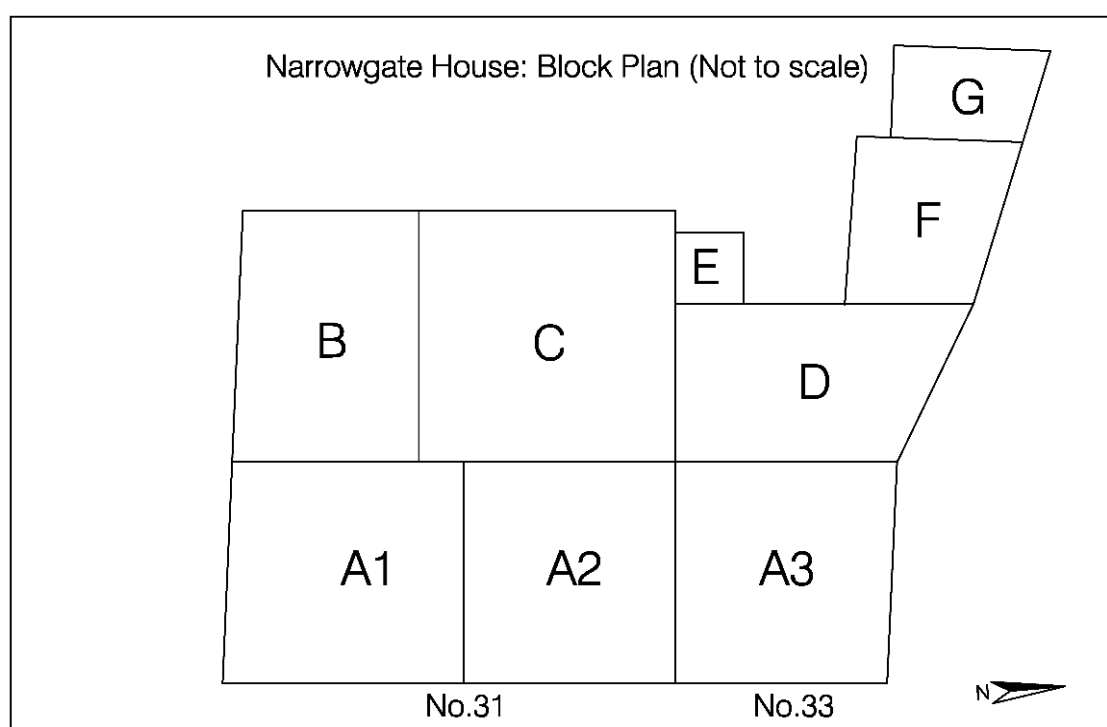


Figure 14. Schematic block plan of Narrowgate House showing the principal structural units. These do not necessarily equate with phases of construction.

**Build A1 – A3.** Initial construction, possibly late 17<sup>th</sup> century, comprising a single-pile burgage fronting Narrowgate, perhaps divided into three units

**Build B.** South-west extension to A1, pre-1774, possibly originally single-storey, and possibly including basement rooms 26-30.

**Build C.** Extension (and possible rebuilding) of B, raising both to two storeys, creating a double-pile southern house, pre-1827.

**Build D.** Western extension to A3, originally single-storey, post-1774 and pre-1827. The ashlar facing on the visible west elevation appears contemporary with Build E

**Build E.** Final western extension, post-1827, pre-1860, forming a lobby or possibly a stair-tower to the northern house. Ashlar facing extends onto the outer face of Build D.

**Build F.** Western extension, pre-1827. May pre-date D (relationship ambiguous) and be associated with the hot-wall.

**Build G.** Possibly also pre-1827. Its relationship with Build F is also ambiguous.

## **4.1 THE HOUSE: EXTERIOR.**

### **East facade** (Figure 20)

- 4.1.1 This elevation, set back from the streetline, comprises eight bays, divided horizontally by three plain bands which do not correspond with internal floor levels, and finished with a heavy ogee-moulded cornice and parapet above (**P18**). The elevation is faced with sandstone ashlar, closely jointed with a lime putty, and dressed with a fine vertical tooling. The ashlar facing has been applied as a 'skin' to a pre-existing fabric, as is shown by numerous small spalled areas in which the leaded-in iron ties securing the ashlar 'skin' to the earlier masonry can be seen (**P23**).
- 4.1.2 Window sizes are not graduated. Those at the basement level are smaller and narrower than those of the three floors above, possibly relict openings from before the re-fronting. The ground and first floors are the same size, and those on the attic floor windows are the same width but shorter, giving an impression of uniformity. But they are not wholly symmetrically placed: the northern three bays, belonging to No.33, and those of No.31 to the south, are separated by a wider area of blank masonry reflecting an earlier internal division of space.
- 4.1.3 The basement floor lies below present street level and has a sunken 'forecourt' in front, with a dwarf wall railed to the street and accessed through a wrought-iron gate by a short flight of stairs [200] at the south end (**P20, P21**). The 'forecourt' does not extend the full length of the façade but ends at a sandstone ashlar-faced wall on which access to the front door of No.33 is reached. A butt-joint between the facing of the house and the ashlar wall shows that the latter pre-dates the stone facing (**P22**). A similar butt joint appears at the south end wall, which is also abutted by steps [200] (**P25**). It is proposed to construct a new stone stair at the north-east corner of the forecourt (Approved drawing M561/05F).
- 4.1.4 The ground floor of the house is at a slightly higher level than that of the street, and is reached by flying stairs [199] at the southern end of the facade, leading to the front door of No. 31 (**P24**). The 'forecourt' railings are a mixture of wrought iron and mild steel. The earliest appear to be the 'returns' on either sides of the flying stairs, where they meet the ashlar-faced facade. These incorporate boot-scrapers on both sides. The railings along the street frontage which incorporate two low gates, one to the 'forecourt' and one to the front door of No.33, all appear to be 20<sup>th</sup> century mild steel replacements (possibly reusing some earlier elements) with welded and rivetted joints
- 4.1.5 There is no evidence that there have ever been any rainwater goods on this facade.

***Principal North and South facades***

- 4.1.6 The south gable of the House is almost entirely obscured by the adjoining new build, though photographs from 2002 show the ashlar facing of the east facade ending in a rather ragged western return at the south-east corner. This is still visible at second floor level (**P18**). Beyond this the south facade appears to be sandstone rubble, with a large patch of brick marking a flue which rises to chimney [180].
- 4.1.7 The north gable is also largely obscured by the adjoining Dorothy Forster's House, though again sandstone rubble walling is visible above the roofline of the latter, and below the ashlar-facing of the parapet.

***Rear west, south-west and north facades*** (Figure 21)

- 4.1.8 These are complex, being the result of several phases of building all apparently dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> or first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.1.9 The principal western facade (**P26**) belongs to Build C (part of No.31 Narrowgate) and, like the eastern facade, this faced in squared, closely-jointed, sandstone ashlar with sharp fine vertical tooling (Simpson & Brown, 18). There are no floor bands, and the facade rises from a shallow offset to a heavy, projecting cornice presumably incorporating a gutter as there is a possibly 19<sup>th</sup> century cast-iron rainwater head and down-cornet below the southern end. The wall is substantial - 0.66m thick – which may in part represent the 18<sup>th</sup> century outshot shown by Wilkin, re-faced in ashlar like the east facade though there are no obvious signs of spalling from rusting ties. At the north-west angle there is evidence for subsidence, also visible internally (see Room 7)
- 4.1.10 To the north, four phases of outshots associated with No.33 Narrowgate present differing western and south-western elevations (**P27-28**). The earliest appears to be Build D, the west wall of which is now largely enclosed by later outshots Builds E and F, where it is rubble faced. The short section of exposed west face between the later outshots is clad in squared ashlar which has vertical and oblique tooling. The detailing of the sill to window [49] is of the same form as those to Build C.
- 4.1.11 Build E, which butts Builds C and D, is similar but more lightly finished with vertical and oblique tooling and a slight margin. The window sills do not match those of Builds C and D. That Build E is secondary to Build D is shown by discontinuities in the joints facing joints and a mortar-grouted vertical joint at the junction of the builds.
- 4.1.12 Build F is ashlar-faced to the south with oblique, vertical and cross-hatch tooling and margins. Where this facade meets Build D, the finer-tooled ashlar facing of the latter appears to have been keyed into Build F. Internally there is

a suggestion that the line of the south wall of Build F once extended east, perhaps joining the west face of A3 on the south side of corridor Room 5. The west wall of this build is now fossilised within Build G: this too has fine tooling with margins and was evidently once an external face though the lack of weathering suggests Build G was added not long after its construction. Build F may have originated as a structure associated with the hot-wall.

4.1.13 Build G, which butts Build F on the south, and its west wall is keyed into the brick 'hot-wall' facing of the northern burgage wall, has boldly-pecked ashlar facing with defined margins on the west and south elevations.

4.1.14 Build D retains a cast-iron gutter and rainwater head .Builds G and F have iron gutter brackets but only a detached section of PVC gutter.



**P18** (top). Narrowgate House, east facade, looking north-west. The new build on Pottergate is on the left, Dorothy Forster's House in the distance.

**P19** (below) Narrowgate House looking south-west with Dorothy Forster's House in the foreground, and Pottergate pant in the distance.





**P20** (top). Basement forecourt looking north showing the sandbagged door [8] to the basement and the railed steps to the door [69] of No.33 Narrowgate in the background. Scale 2m.

**P21** (below). Basement forecourt looking south, with the railed 'flying' stairs leading to the door [41] of No.31 Narrowgate in the background. Scale 2m.





**P22** (top). Basement window[26] showing casements, and the butt joint between the ashlar facing of Narrowgate House and the earlier masonry carrying the steps up to the door of No.33. Scale 2m.

**P23** (below). Detail of the ashlar facing to Narrowgate House at basement level, showing an example of the spalling around a leaded-in iron fixing. Scale 20cm.





**P24** (top). The 'flying' stairs to the front door of No.31 showing railings and boot-scraper, with steps from basement forecourt to street behind. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P25** (below). Basement window [1] showing renewed casements and offset plinth course, butted by the steps [200] to Narrowgate. Scale 1m.





**P26** (top). The west facade of the principal western extension showing chimneys [190] (centre) and [191], windows [83], [84], [92], [136] and [140]. Rear door [49] partly concealed by creeper and overgrowth. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P27** (below). West facades of extension to No.33 showing chimneys [193] (centre) and [195] (left), windows [73],[79] (boarded), [121] and [128]. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P28** (top). South facing facades of the western out-shots to No.33 showing chimney [195], windows [80], [82] (concealed by creeper), [123] and [127] (concealed by creeper). The brick "hot wall" is to the left. Scales 1m and 2m.

## **4.2 THE HOUSE: INTERIOR**

- 4.2.1 The following section is a room-by-room descriptive record, based on a room numbering sequence originally allocated by English Heritage (now Historic England) in 2005 and used in the 'Draft Report on interiors-Site visit 13<sup>th</sup> July 2005' (EH 2005). The sequence was expanded by Simpson & Brown with Addyman Archaeology in 2008, with some further additions by NCAS in 2018.
- 4.2.2 Number 1 of the 2005 number sequence was allocated to the east (1a) and west (1b) elevations. It is not a room number, and is not used in this report. Numbers 31 and 32 were omitted from both the English Heritage and the Simpson and Brown room sequences.
- 4.2.3 Room usages, where given, are taken from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plans (NRO 6393/9-12) unless otherwise stated.

### **4.2.4 BASEMENT ROOMS (Figure 15)**

This is a semi-basement with a floor level c.1.7m below pavement level in Narrowgate. It is not clear if this is a result of excavation, or if the street level was raised when the Bow Burn was culverted in the 1820s. There is no evidence that ground levels have risen at Dorothy Forster's House. In the 1960s this floor level was described as 'a range of cellars' with access to a basement forecourt, and not used except for coal storage.

The western cellars, Rooms 26-30, correspond with the footprint of the south-western extension shown on Wilkin's map of 1774 and thus are likely to belong to the 18<sup>th</sup> century building. The suggestion that they pre-date the present west range Build C is supported by Room 27 occupying only the southern half of the footprint of Room 7 above. Rooms 28 and 29 also appear to show evidence for later remodelling.

#### **Room 22. Kitchen (Build A1)**

The 2005 report by English Heritage states 'it seems likely that the room has remained untouched since the 1830s'. This is confirmed by the Historic Building Recording.

*Floor* – sandstone flags, worn. The floor is proposed to be lifted and relaid on a damp-proof course (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Walls* – the east and west walls are rendered sandstone rubble. In the eastern window reveals the junction between the sandstone rubble walling and the later ashlar facing is visible. The north wall is of orange-red, hand moulded brick (dimensions 240 x 140 x 55mm) in English Garden Wall bond (five stretcher courses to one header course), also rendered, and butting the east and west walls. The

western part of this wall (which includes the doorway) is proposed for removal (Approved drawings M561/05f and 10).

*Door* – access is by door [7] from Room 25. The leaf is detached. It is two-panelled, apparently 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a later wooden towel-holder fixed to the inner face (**P31**). A wrought-iron bow handle, presumably once belonging to the door, is attached to the east side of the architrave.

*Windows* – in the east wall [1] and [2] are both 2/2 pane, with *lamb's tongue* glazing bars and appear to be early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. One of the two small upper lights are casements (the southern in [1] and northern in [1]), as is the lower larger southern light of [2]. The other panes are in fixed lights. The lower lights of [1] are modern replacements (**P22**).

*Shutters* - the shutters to [1] have been removed. Window [2] has a pair of single leaf shutters, plain on the outside and backed internally with sheet iron, with a locking bar and turn-catch. Both are hung on squared butterfly hinges.

*Fire* – a large kitchen range [4] occupies much of the south wall, with square-dressed sandstone jambs and lintel (**P29**). There is a central hearth with iron grate. On the east side a circular cast-iron side oven with detached door, on the west a copper with tap. The hearth has an iron pot crane. Above is an iron-cased mechanism complete with key and elaborate brass and iron gearing and pulley system (**P30**) with turned brass urn-finals either end, for a cradle spit, and a hook perhaps for a bottle-jack. Inside the flue is the iron rotary vane which, powered by up-draught, turned the spit, a system found in 18<sup>th</sup> century kitchen ranges (Eveleigh, 15).

Simpson & Brown (2008/10, 26) suggest this range is possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> century but dating the feature is problematic. The so-called 'plumbing diagram' still in the house shows the 'kitchen' fire as a much more modest affair - apparently just the present central hearth, with fire-bars and 'boiler' connected to pipework, some of which is still visible in the wall-cupboard to the west. A similarly-sized fireplace appears on the sketch-plan of the 'kitchen floor' (NRO 6393/9). Both may only have been simplified renditions of a more complex range, but it could also mean the present range is a result of later upgrading– perhaps even as late as the early 1830-s or 1840s.

*Cupboards* – in the alcove on west side of the range is a boxed-in cupboard, the door in a thin-framed leaf (**P29**).

*Fittings* – on the north wall is a board with a row of eight servant's bells [6] (**P31**), none of which have any associated name-tags. A detached stone sink leans against the north-east corner wall: the 19<sup>th</sup> century plumbing diagram suggests this may have stood in the alcove by window [1].

*Ceiling* – this is lath and plaster, bulging and partly collapsed, on square-sawn east-west joists supporting the ground floor. The stub ends of earlier north-south joists running through from Room 25 protrude through top of the north wall (**P31**).

### **Room 23. Butler's Pantry (Build A2)**

In 2008 a number of artefacts were noted, including a printing press and ink bottles. These had been removed before the building recording. It is possible this was a back kitchen or scullery – before the latter was moved to Room 27.

*Floor* – sandstone flags, heavily worn

*Walls* - the east wall is sandstone rubble, the north, south, and west walls are brick, of similar dimensions and period to those in Room 22. All walls have been rendered. The south and west walls are proposed for removal (Approved drawing M516/10).

*Door* – in the south-west corner is [10], with thin a two-panel leaf of 18<sup>th</sup> century form, now hanging only on the top hinge.

*Windows* – in the east wall are [12] and [13] both with the same configuration of casements as those in Room 22. In the west wall there is a fixed six-pane window giving borrowed light to corridor Room 24.1. All have *lamb's tongue* glazing bars and appear to be early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Shutters* – both windows have pairs of two-panel leafs (**P34-35**).

*Fittings* – against the south wall are two framed and panelled cupboards with internal shelving (**P35**). Both have thin (25mm) two-panel doors hung on H-hinges, the panels roughly raised and fielded to the inside and flush on the outside: they have been reversed, as shown by scars of repositioned locks. The upper inner panel of the eastern door has some graffiti in a late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century hand (**P36**) including an enigmatic list of abbreviated place-names:-

*London 1*  
*Carl 1*  
*Morp 1*  
*Belf 1*  
*Berw 2*  
*Sund 1*  
*Ed 1*

The cupboards, together with the south wall, are proposed for removal (Approved drawings M561/05F and 10). The alcove west of the fire is a wall-cupboard with internal shelving, and there is a shallow stone sink in the alcove to the east. There are wooden shelf/tables against the east and west walls [21] and [19].

*Fire* - against the north wall is a kitchen range, possibly of the same period as that in R23, but less complex (**P34**). The central hearth has two levels of iron grate and

an a pot-crane, but no spit mechanism. On the west side is a recess containing a cast-iron pot serving as a 'copper' for heating water. The brickwork below is 20<sup>th</sup> century suggesting adaptation perhaps to feed heat from the central hearth. In the eastern recess is a stone sink.

*Ceiling* – this is lath and plaster which presumably masks the east-west joists from Room 22 and corridor 24.1.

### **Room 24. Kitchen (Build A3)**

This lies within the footprint of No. 33 Narrowgate, though there is structural evidence that there was always a communication with No. 31 to the south. Although described as a 'kitchen' in the 2008 Simpson & Brown/Addyman Archaeology report, the fire shows no evidence for pot-crane, spit, or copper, unlike Rooms 22 or 23, and has a more domestic feel.

*Floor* – worn sandstone flags

*Walls* – the north, west, and east walls are rendered sandstone rubble, part of the original single-pile house. A large area of render is missing on the west wall showing some re-used squared and fair-faced ashlar among the rubble construction. The south wall is brick, of late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century form, butting the east wall and ending in a faced return at [22] in line with the east side of passage Room 24.1 (P37). The 2005 English Heritage report stated that this was a doorway cut in the south wall after c.1830, but the brickwork return is clearly as-built. A partition formerly ran from [22] to enclose the southern half of the room.

*Door* – accessed from passage Room 24.1 by opening [22] which may have once contained a door (P37). The passage formerly continued north where Room 24 was divided by a partition (now removed), which contained doors to the north and east. In the west wall an opening [31], which appears never to have been fitted with a door, leads to steps up to ground floor Room 15 (P38). The angle the stairs take, and the treads being markedly less worn than those of [40] to the south, suggests they were inserted as part of a possibly late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century remodelling involving the western extension Build D. The stairs will be retained in the proposed development, but will be blocked at ground floor level (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Windows* – in the east wall are [25] and [26] which follow the form of those in Rooms 22 and 23. Window [26] is proposed to be formed into an emergency exit (Approved drawing M561/05F). Simpson & Brown noted a blocked window in the west wall, but no convincing evidence for this can be found and it is possible that the scar of the former partition was mistaken for a joint in the masonry.

*Shutters* – both windows have pairs of single leaf, two-panel, shutters. All are lined internally with sheet iron. That on southern shutter of window [26] has been cut from a sheet with black-painted stencilling of which '20 x 24' and '1-0-19' can be

distinguished.

*Fire* – in south wall is a 3-centred brick-arched fireplace in a brick breast which seems integral with the brick walls in the recesses to the east and west (**P40**). The bricks are hand-moulded, orangey-red (dimensions 230 x 110 x 50mm) suggestive of a late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century date. Above the arch is a horizontal timber beam. There is now no evidence for any cooking apparatus associated with a kitchen, though the 2005 English Heritage report notes 'range fittings'.

*Fittings* – the recess to the east [24] is open shelved, and the south wall west of the fire show scars of former shelving. Against the north wall is a late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century cast-iron sewer pipe [28] on brick supports. In the north-east corner a ?coal chute [27] emerges, perhaps served from Room 5 above (**P25**).

*Ceiling* – seven mostly rough-hewn joists span the room for east to west, some have iron hooks driven into their sides (**P38-39**). At least two joists have a complex timber-merchant's mark (**P41**) which also appears in passage Room 24.1, suggesting construction of the two spaces was contemporary.

#### **Room 24.1 North-South passage (Build A2)**

This runs from the east-west passage Room 25, and serves Rooms 23 and 24.

*Floor* – worn sandstone flags

*Walls* – the west wall is sandstone rubble, rendered and limewashed, and forming the west wall of the single-pile house. The east wall is brick, rendered and limewashed (**P37**).

*Windows* – inserted into the east wall is [18] giving borrowed light

*Ceiling* – seven substantial east-west joists, limewashed, extend over the east wall into Room 23. At least three joists have the same timber merchant's mark as those in Room 24 suggesting they were contemporary constructions and already part of a single occupancy.

#### **Room 25. East-West passage (Build A2)**

*Floor* – sandstone flags, worn

*Walls* – the north and south walls are brick, rendered and limewashed. At the east end, the north wall in-turns to form a wall-cupboard. The western part of the south wall and the whole of the north wall are proposed for removal (M561/10).

*Door* – at the eastern end is a door of vertical planking with battens [8] hung on strap hinges. The inner face has been covered in sheet iron, carefully cut to fit over the

battens (**P32**). There is an iron spring catch (**P33**), almost identical to one from Somerset dated 1826 (Hall, 59), below which is a later iron-cased lock, There are modern draw-bolts. The sheet iron and all fittings are screwed, suggesting a late 19<sup>th</sup> -early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The wall-cupboard has a late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century plank and batten door leaf on strap hinges.

*Fittings* – in the north wall at the east end is a wall-cupboard recess built integrally with the north wall and projecting back into Room 23. This contains some large diameter lead water pipes. The door is vertically-planked and battened, with a modern iron latch.

*Ceiling* – the passage is spanned by fourteen close-spaced north-south aligned joists, some waney-edged. These appear to run south from a substantial east-west beam above the south end of passage Room 24.1, and which presumably extends to the east wall, masked by the north wall of the passage. The joists run over the south wall of the passage into Room 22, where they have been cut off. The east-west beam and difference in orientation of the floor joists to the north and south may reflect an earlier sub-division of No.31.

### **Room 26. Passages and stairs to/from ground floor (Build B)**

Like Rooms 27 - 30 this lies below the footprint of the western extension shown on Wilkin (1774) and was probably in existence then. The English Heritage report of 2005 notes that this was 'not thoroughly examined' at that time.

*Floor* – sandstone flags at foot, and at top landing.

*Walls* – all are sandstone rubble, rendered and limewashed. At the foot of the steps the stair passage skews slightly southward – here the south wall appears to have been cut back to accommodate the steps, suggesting they are an alteration.

*Staircase* – [40] sandstone treads, heavily worn (**P44**).

*Doors* – a very heavy cast-iron door and frame, probably mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century, lies on the flagstone floor at the head of the stairs. It is obviously *ex-situ* and may have come from Room 8.1. In the west wall door [49], 45mm thick, six-panelled and lined internally with sheet iron, leads into the backlands. This appears to be of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century character.

*Window* – at the head of the stairs in the west wall is a 3/6 sash [48] with narrow *lamb's tongue* glazing bars, probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century (**P44**).

*Shutters* – the window has a pair of leaves with raised & fielded panels and *ovo/lo and fillet* moulding to the outside, and is faced internally with sheet iron.

*Ceiling* – at the foot of the stair it is an east-west brick-vault (**P44**). Above the stairs themselves and at the head of the stairs it appears to be a lath and plaster soffit.

### **Room 27. Scullery (Build B/C)**

This appears to have lain below the west extension shown on Wilkin (1774) which presumably accounts for the room only partly extending below the footprint of Room 7 in the later western range above. Latterly this room seems to have been partly used as a coal store. The 2005 English Heritage report notes this was 'not thoroughly examined'. On the floor are two large cast-iron strong-boxes/safes. On the lid of one are some very mildewed paper and parchment documents.

*Floor* – sandstone flags

*Walls* – sandstone rubble, rendered and lime-washed.

*Door* – access from passage Room 30 is by [36] at the south-east corner. The door itself is an asymmetric six-panel leaf, boldly raised and fielded to the outside, and quite different to any other doors in the building (**P42**). It may be early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Windows* – in the centre of the west wall is an opening from a light well [34]. It is possible this was once fitted with a glazed light.

*Ceiling* – closely-spaced, narrow, squared and sawn joists run from east-west. Some have iron hooks driven into their sides (**P42**). The joists and ceiling have been limewashed.

### **Room 28. Vaulted dog-leg passage leading to coal-shute Build B)**

Number allocated by Simpson & Brown/ (report 2). Like Rooms 26, 27, 29 and 30 this lay below the footprint of the western extension shown on Wilkin's 1774 plan and is presumed to have been in existence then. A long, narrow passage with a strong light source at one end, this space did not photograph well. The dog-leg return and coal-shute at the west end were too confined for any meaningful photographic recording.

*Floor* – sandstone flags.

*Walls* – all are sandstone rubble, rendered and lime-washed. At the west end, the return of the south wall has a vertical joint suggesting that wall pre-dates stairs [40].

*Door* – at the east end of the passage is [37], with a nine-panel leaf and architrave. Possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> century

*Window* – at the west end of the main passage is an opening [39] from a light well. Again it is possible this was once fitted with a glazed light.

*Fittings* - In the west wall of the southerly return is a coal chute [38] formed in the rubble masonry.

*Ceiling* – the main passage is a brick-arched vault. The short southern return at the west end is exposed sandstone rubble and the undersides of the treads of stair [40]

### **Room 29. Blind passage (Build B/C)**

Number allocated by Simpson & Brown (report 2). Like Rooms 26-28 and Room 30 this lay below the footprint of the western extension shown on Wilkin's 1774 plan and was presumably also in existence then. The original function of this space is unknown, though latterly it may have been a coal store. The end and side walls appear integral, so it does not appear to have extended further north. Possibly it once contained a wooden stair rising to ground level.

*Floor* – sandstone flags, raised slightly above the level of passages R25, 26 and 30..

*Walls* – all are sandstone rubble, plastered

*Door* – opening [33] has a plain frame with remains of one H-hinge attached. The leaf has been removed – possibly this is the detached one now in Room 24.

*Ceiling* – brick vaulted and limewashed.

### **Room 30. Passage from Room 25 to stairs (Build B/C)**

Number allocated by Simpson & Brown (Report 2). Like Rooms 26-29 this also lay below the footprint of the western extension shown on Wilkin's 1774 plan and was presumably also in existence then. This space could not be meaningfully recorded photographically.

*Floor* – sandstone flags.

*Walls* – sandstone rubble rendered and lime-washed. The east wall is the west wall of the single-pile house.

*Ceiling* – this is brick-vaulted as far as a beam defining the junction of Room 26 and stair [40].



**P29.** Room 22 looking south-east, showing range [4] with oven, pot-crane, and boiler, and cupboard [5] on the right. Lath and plaster ceiling collapsing. Scale 2m.

**P30.** Room 22. Detail of range [4] showing opposed gearing for a roasting spit driven by a fan in the flue, and the pot-crane. Scale 20cm.





**P31.** Room 22 looking north-east showing door [7], servant's bells [6], and truncated north-south joists to 1<sup>st</sup> floor. A detached stone sink leans against the east wall. Scale 2m.

**P32.** Room 25 looking east to door [8] showing sheet-iron backing. Door [9] to wall-cupboard is visible on the left. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P33.** Room 25. Detail of door [8] showing a spring catch of a form known from the 1820s. Later iron-cased lock below. Scale 20cm.

**P34.** Room 23. Looking north-east, showing range [16], alcove cupboard [17] (left), stone sink [15] (right, behind drainpipes) and window [13] (right). Scales 1m and 2m.





**P35.** Room 23 looking south-east, showing cupboards [11], window [12], table [21] and gas fitting [14]. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P36.** Room 23, detail showing incised graffiti in inner panel of eastern cupboard door. Scale 20cm.





**P37.** Doorway [22] into R24 looking south along corridor R21, showing finished return to brick partition wall and east-west joists to first floor. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P38.** Room 24, looking west to stairs [31] in masonry wall and east-west joists with hooks. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P39.** Room 24 looking north-east, showing masonry wall, sewer pipe [28], chute [27] near window [26], and detached door leaf with H-hinges. Scale 2m.

**P40.** Room 24 looking south-east showing fire [23], doorway [22] on right, shelved alcove [24] and window [25]. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P41.** Room 24, detail of joists to 1<sup>st</sup> floor looking north, showing timber-merchant's mark. Scale 20cm.

**P42.** Room 30 looking west into doorway [36], showing assymetric panel leaf. An H-hinge on frame to door [33] (Room 29) is just visible on right. Scales 1m and 2m.

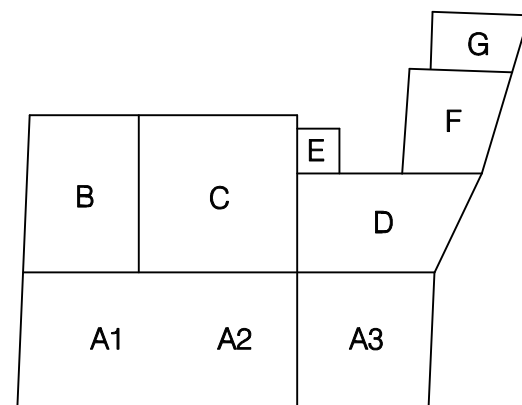




**P43.** Room 27 looking north-west, showing lightwell opening [34], sawn joists to 1st floor, and cast-iron safes. Scale 2m.

**P44.** Room 26, looking west up steps [40], showing worn treads, edge of vaulted brick ceiling, and kink in the south side of stair passage. Window [46] visible at the top. Scale 2m.





Block plan showing principal structural units

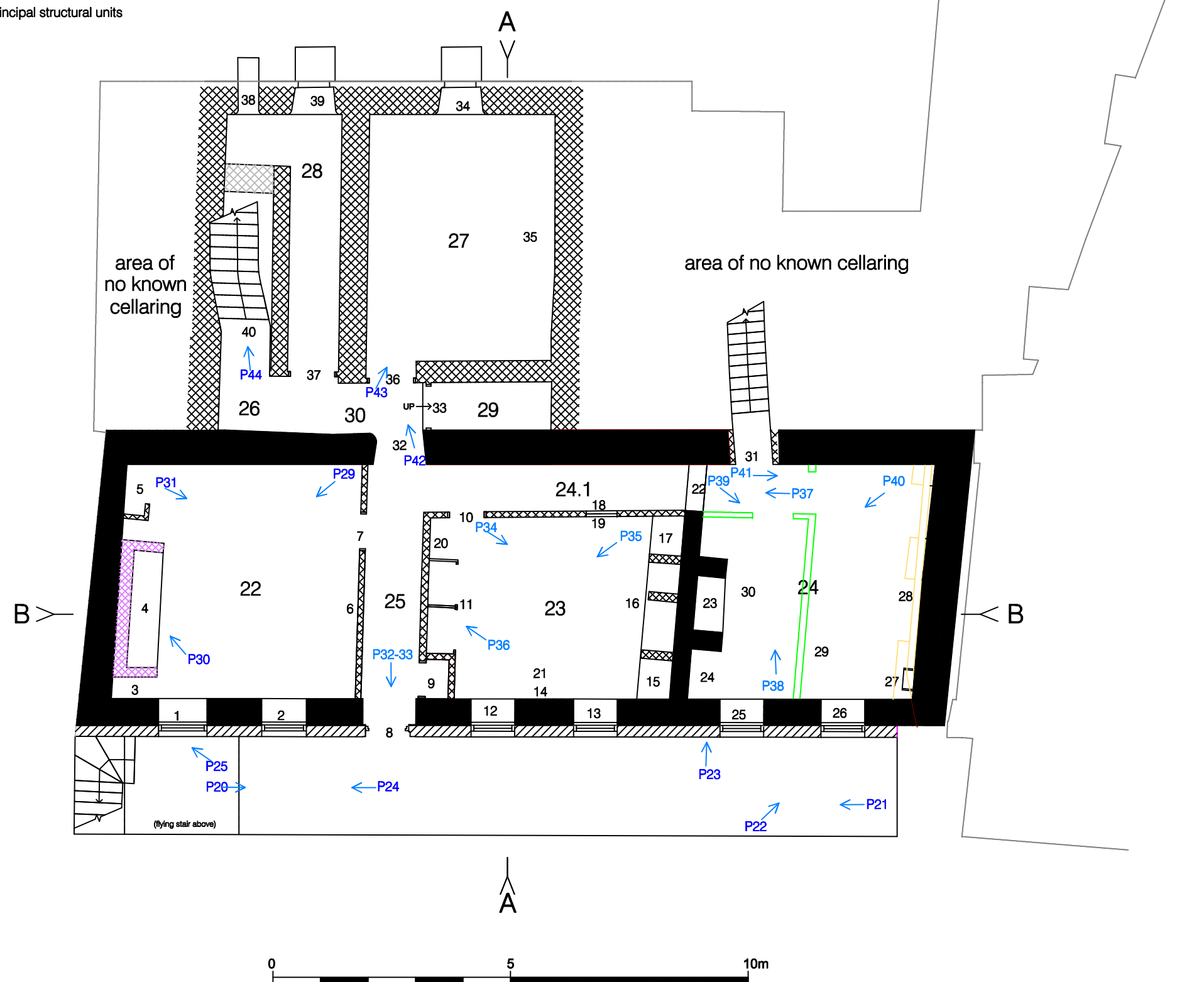










Figure 15

Narrowgate House, Alnwick  
Basement Floor Plan

Key

- 15b Room numbers
- 181 Feature numbers in NCAS report
- P24 Plate numbers (with direction of shot)
-  late 17th-early 18th century core fabric
-  18th century (pre-1774)
-  18th century (post-1774)
-  late 18th -early 19th century (pre-1827)
-  c.1830
-  late 19th-21st century
-  features now removed
-  section lines (Figures 22-23)

Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3

#### **4.2.5 GROUND FLOOR ROOMS (Figure 16)**

##### **Room 2. Lobby & hall (Build A1)**

The front door is shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch plan (Figure 2), but the corridor beyond has a flush south wall with no alcoves or chimney breast, or western partition and doorway [45]. The flue rising from the kitchen (Room 22) below must however have been in existence. Possibly the 'alcoves' either side were enclosed, or the present form of hallway and doorway at its west end, is later than the sketch.

*Floor* – pine butt-boards, 60-70mm wide, aligned north-south.

*Walls* – the east and south are lath & plaster over (presumably) stone. In the south wall are two arch-headed alcoves flanking a central (presumably brick) flue rising from range [4] in basement Room 22. This may have contained a ground-floor fire previous to remodelling of this level. The moulded string appears to be secondary to the west and north doorways [45] and [54].

*Skirting* - ogee & fillet moulding on upper edge.

*Doors* – the main (front) door [38] from Narrowgate Street is wide, the leaf with six raised-and-fielded panels, brass letterbox, ball-handle, and a modern Yale lock. This is probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a flat-headed 4-pane overlight above (P45).

A little west are a pair of inserted 20<sup>th</sup> century doors with single-pane overlight [39], forming an entrance lobby and cutting the cornice (P46). At the west end of the hall there is a six-panel door with semi-circular glazed overlight [45] (P48). Another door [54] in the north wall leads into Room 3.

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster with a cornice of tablet flower medallions, with moulded bands above and below (P47), cut by inserted partition [39].

##### **Room 3. Library (Build A1/2)**

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch plan of the ground floor (Figure 2) which names this as Library shows no communication between this room and Room 4 to the north, as No.33 was a separate property at this time. The south-east corner of the room has been partitioned-off to form a small office space (Room 3.1). Previously the room would have been lit by four east windows.

*Floor* – 180-190mm north-south aligned pine butt boards. Boards run under southern partition into R3.1. Some areas of patching, and carpet edging strips indicate former partition.

*Walls* – the east and west walls are plastered masonry. The north wall is rendered brick, the south wall is stud partitioning forming Room 3.1

*Skirting* – deep, with ogee moulding.

*Doors* – the room is accessed from Room 2 by [54] in the south-west corner, the leaf is 35mm thick with originally six raised-and-fielded panels on the north side, but the central panels have been replaced by a single pane of frosted glass with word 'ENQUIRIES' applied (**P58**) The leaf and architrave may be late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The door has been hung on the opposite jamb, then as now using plain square butterfly hinges. This doorway is proposed to be blocked (Approved drawings M561/10).

A similar door [53] in the west wall leads from corridor Room 6. Also 40mm thick this has six raised and fielded panels with *ovolo* moulding, a brass-cased lock with ball handle, and a late 20<sup>th</sup> century perspex finger-plate (**P65**). This doorway may have been re-positioned as its equivalent shown on the sketch floor plan in Figure 2 is further north. In the north-west corner of the room, door [62] leads into Room 4. This is thinner (30mm) but again has six raised-and-fielded panels to the south, brass-cased lock and ball handle, and a late 20<sup>th</sup> century perspex finger-plate. All these doors have moulded architraves and are hung on robust squared butt-hinges.

*Windows* – there are three in the east wall [57 - 59] all are 6/6 sashes, pegged frames, with no horns and narrow *ovolo* glazing bars, and moulded architraves (**P61**), and presumably early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The catches are cast brass, all but that on [57] are later 19<sup>th</sup> century replacements.

*Shutters* – all windows have two pairs of leaves, with three raised and fielded panels to the outside with *ovolo* moulding. All have an added hanging stile to which robust, squared butterfly hinges are attached - the original stiles retain the outlines of H—hinges, which were common into the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Attached to the southern leaves are narrow, plain, hinged centre-sections, hung on splayed butterfly hinges, a style dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the 1780s. This and the added hanging stiles are evidence that the shutters have been re-used from earlier narrower windows (Simpson & Brown 2, 31). All hinges are attached with screws – possibly hand-cut as the slots look off-centre. The shutters are secured by oblique iron bars slotted to fit over a turn-catch (**P63**).

*Fire* - in the projecting chimney-breast on the north wall is [61], with a surround of black marble pilasters and scrolled brackets to the mantles shelf. A mid-20<sup>th</sup> century gas fire has been removed and its backing plate bent forward revealing a 19<sup>th</sup> century cast iron surround and grate (**P61-62**).

*Alcoves* – on the east side of the fire, alcove [60] the alcove was formerly shelved out (**P61**).

*Ceiling* – this is lath and plaster, cracked, with late 20<sup>th</sup> century florescent tube lighting units (**P61**). It has a cornice with a frieze of *rinseau* foliate scrolls, between moulded bands (**P64**). At the south end of the room this has been cut by insertion of

the stud partition forming Room 3.1, at the north end the frieze runs continuously across the chimney-breast, alcove [60] and doorway [62] suggesting these spaces were enclosed when the cornice was formed.

Wallpapers – papers have been examined in alcove [60] and on the east side of the chimney-breast. These range in date from c.1860 to the c.1890s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 3.1 (Build A1)**

This small space, presumably an office, was created probably in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by partitioning-off the south-east corner of Room 3.

*Floor* – 180-190mm wide pine butt-boards aligned north-south (part of Room 3).

*Walls* – the east wall is masonry under plaster. The north, east, and south walls are stud partitions with horizontal wainscot planking. The whole north wall is proposed for removal (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10).

*Door* – the space is accessible only from R3 through a 40mm thick six-panelled door [55].

*Skirting* – on the south and east walls a deep ogee-moulded skirting, possibly early 19<sup>th</sup> century, runs through from Room 3. The stud partition walls on the north and west have a narrow, simple, 20<sup>th</sup> century skirting.

*Window* – in the east wall is [56], of the same form as [57-59] in Room 3 (**P59**). The northern reveal has press cuttings and other paper ephemera pasted inside the shutter recess, mostly relating to the air-force in the late 1930s and into the 1940s (**P60**).

*Shutters* – like those in Room 3 these have *ovolo* moulding and an additional hanging stile with robust squared butterfly hinges. Again the southern shutter carries a narrow, plain, centre leaf. The northern shutter, a single panel, is now detached.

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster, with a continuation of the cornice and frieze from Room 3 on the east and south (**P59**).

### **Room 4 (Build A3)**

Previously this was part of the separate northern house (33 Narrowgate). Its original function is unknown.

*Floor* – 200-220mm wide butt-boards with some later and narrower replacements.

*Walls* – the east and west walls are masonry, plastered. The north and south walls are brick, plastered.

*Skirting* – this has *ovolo and fillet* moulding and stops short of fire surround (**P67**) indicating the fire has been replaced.

*Door* – on the west side of the fire is [62] with a 6-panel leaf, the panels raised and fielded only on south side. This is an inserted doorway, post-dating the amalgamation of 31 and 33 Narrowgate.

A former doorway [67] in the north-west corner of the room, which communicated with corridor Room 6.1, has been converted into a cupboard. This has a probably 18<sup>th</sup> century six-panelled leaf originally hung on L-shaped hinges, the scars of which remain (**P68**). The panels are raised-and fielded with *ovolo* moulding on the inner face, flush panels and *ovolo* moulding to the room. The leaf has an oak wood-grain finish, suggested to be late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Appendix 4). In the north wall there is also the outline of a blocked door [66] corresponding to cuts in the skirting. It is proposed to reopen this door. Simpson & Brown suggest there was another possible blocked door to the north-east, but nothing has been identified in this survey. A new doorway is proposed for this area.

*Windows* – in the east wall are windows [64] and [65], like those in Room 3 these have 6/6 sashes with narrow *ovolo* glazing bars, probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and moulded architraves.

*Shutters* – like Room 3, both windows have pairs of three-panel leaves, raised and fielded to the inside, *ovolo*-moulded externally, and narrow plain centre leaves hung on the south shutter.

*Fire* – the surround and mantle of [63] is stove-enamelled cast-iron, and probably 20<sup>th</sup> century. Scars on wall above and the truncated skirting either side suggest this replaced a larger earlier fireplace, The width of the hearthstone matches the scars.

*Ceiling* – presumably lath and plaster, with a moulded cornice and the scar of central rose for a gas light. The first gas-works in Alnwick dates from 1825. (Tate 1, 224-5)..

*Wallpapers* – the rear wall of the cupboard is lined with paper dating from the 1930s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 5. Entrance Hall (BuildA3)**

This was formerly the entrance hall to the northern house (33 Narrowgate). It lies immediately north of basement Room 24 and on apparently previously undisturbed ground, so it may have originated as a through-passage from the street to the backlands before being incorporated into the house.

*Floor* – 150mm butt-boards, aligned east-west.

*Walls* – the north wall is, presumably, sandstone rubble below plaster. The southern wall is either brick or a stud partition and also plastered. There is a dado rail on each

side with embossed wallpaper below. The west end of the hall is proposed to be blocked-off, and a new partition inserted further east to create an en-suite bathroom. Two doorways are proposed to be inserted in the south wall, the western of which appears to be a re-opening of [66] (Approved drawing M561/10), the other is a new opening (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Door* – this is the front door to No.33 [69], 50mm thick and eight- panelled externally (alternating rectangular and square) with brass letterbox, lock, and Yale lock. The lower six panels are raised and fielded, the upper two have been replaced by glazed lights. On the ashlar facing just north of the door is the scar of a door-bell. Internally the door is covered by diagonal planking (**P72**) to which is attached a lock with the maker's plate '*Chubb's Patent, 57 St. Paul's Churchyard, London*'. The door is hung on large cranked hinges with spearhead terminals, a form which could date from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

At west end of Room 5, where it joins north-south corridor Room 6.1, is another door [68] with boarded-over fanlight above. This is 30mm thick, four-panelled with *ovolo* moulding, and hung on plain square butterfly hinges. The outline of blocked door [66] to Room 4 is visible toward the west end of the south wall. A second blocked opening in this wall, noted by Simpson & Brown could not be located.

Wallpapers – these broadly span the period from the 1930s to the 1960s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 6. Corridor, running north-south (Build C)**

This is part of the southern house, 31 Narrowgate. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plan (Figure 2) shows the northern end of the corridor partitioned off.

*Floor* – 150mm butt-boards, aligned north-south.

*Walls* – the east wall is presumably rendered masonry, the west wall is brick or stud.

*Skirting* – low, with *ovolo* moulding

*Doors* – at the north end is an inserted partition containing a four-panel door [70] with a square six-pane overlight above, hung on hinges stamped 'AK & SONS' (Arthur Kenrick & Sons, which became 'AK & Sons' after 1827 and were making door furniture by 1840, though they do not appear to have started casting hinges until c.1844 (<http://kenricks.co.uk/about-us-2/timeline-2>). At the south end, pairs of shallow pilasters [51] and [197] rise to arched heads above moulded springers (**P69**). Doors [53] and [88] on the east and west open into Rooms 3 and 7 respectively.

*Ceiling* – at the south end between [51] and [197] there is a cornice of *foliate* decoration. North of [197] the ceiling is plain.

### **6.1 Hallway/corridor, running north-south (Build D)**

This continues the line of Room 6 into No. 33, but is narrower, and leads to and from the front door [69].

*Floor* – 150mm butt-boards, aligned east-west.

*Walls* – the east wall is presumably masonry, rendered, and was the west wall of the original single-pile house. The west wall is a lath and plastered stud partition.

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo*-moulded.

*Door* – in the west wall is [76] a thin six-panelled leaf leading into Room 15b with a four-pane oversight above the door. At the north-east end of the corridor doorway [68] leads into Room 5. In the east wall the outline of blocked door [67] leading into Room 4 is visible.

*Ceiling* – plain lath and plaster.

*Wallpapers* – these have been identified as dating from the 1930s to the 1950s-60s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 7. Dining Room (Build C)**

The decorative schemes identified in this room suggest it was from the outset a 'principal reception space' (*ibid.*). The footprint of this room, labelled 'Dining Room' with a doorway approximately in its present position, is shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plan (Figure 2). Latterly it was fitted with book-cases as part of the solicitor's offices.

*Floor* – 180mm wide butt-boards aligned north-south, showing evidence for subsidence at the north end, possibly caused by an infilled cellar or other sub-surface feature.

*Walls* – the east, south and north walls appear to be brick. The west wall, which is ashlar-faced externally, seems to be plastered masonry at the south-west corner of the room, but lath and plaster lined to the north. It is possible the lath and plastered wall represents a rebuild associated with the external ashlar facing, and the solid section is part of an earlier western outshot.

*Skirting* – high.

*Door* – the only access is from Room 6 through [89], which has a raised and fielded six-panelled leaf with ogee moulding. This is proposed to be blocked and a new doorway created to the north (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10)

*Windows* – in the west wall are [83] and [84], both 6/6 sashes with narrow *ovolo* glazing bars, and probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Shutters* - both windows have two pairs of two-panelled shutters, the panels are *ovolo*-moulded with an applied frame of moulding (**P69**). Window [83] is proposed to become an emergency exit (Approved drawing M516/05F).

*Fire* – centrally-placed in the north wall chimney-breast this [85] has a black marble surround with decorative pilasters (**P69**). The hearth-stone is displaced and the breast above the fire shows cracking, both associated with the subsidence in the floor at this point.

*Fittings* – there is a bell-pull in the south-east corner. On the east wall is a photograph of the board of *The British Law Insurance Co. Ltd. North Eastern Local Board 1955'*, including R.W.T. Thorp.

*Ceiling* – higher than other rooms on this floor, this has a deep cornice with complex a frieze of *anthemion* and *palmette* and *waterleaf* decoration (**P69 – 70**).

*Wallpapers* – the earliest decorative scheme appears to be painted and stencilled and dating from the 1820s-30s. There are succeeding schemes spanning the 1830s-1850s, and the 1930s/40s to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (Appendix 4).

### **Rooms 8 and 9. Principal stair and stairwell (Build B)**

In this report Rooms 8 and 9 are combined as in functional terms they form a single space. They form part of Build B, which appears to occupy the footprint of the western outshot shown by Wilkin in 1774.

*Floor* – this is sandstone flagged, and runs under the east wall to end above the line of the outer face of the west wall of basement Room 22, runs under the line of the rebuilt south wall, and ends at [51] on the north.

*Walls* – the east and west walls are sandstone. The south wall was rebuilt in breeze-block following collapse of part of the east gable in 2002. It has modern plaster and skirting. A former partition running obliquely from the east wall to stairs [47] has been removed.

*Skirting* – low, ogee and fillet moulding, plain modern replacements on the south and south-east.

*Stair* – the principal stair [47] rises in two flights via a half landing to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The north banister has a scrolled terminal, matching the curtail on the bottom tread. The south banister now ends in a straight terminal, an alteration made when the southern part of this space was partitioned (**P64**). The scar of a corresponding southern curtail to the lower tread is visible in flagstones (**P65**). The balusters are plain, squared, and

a mixture of wood and iron. The string is cut, with decorative brackets below the treads. The stair is probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Door* – access is through [45] in the east wall (described under Room 2) and [50] to the west, which is pine, 35mm thick, with six plain panels to the outside, still partly covered by tattered baize fastened with brass studs on leather strips (**P69**). The inner east face was formerly baize-covered too, as shown by lines of the stud-holes, but this has subsequently been reinforced with strips of sheet iron (**P66**). The door has been fitted with a spring closer, and an eye in the locking stile takes a hook in the skirting on the north wall. A small brass bow handle may be original but has been repositioned.

*Window* – the only light is [92] on the half-landing, which is a tall 9/9 arched-head sash with robust *ovolo* moulded glazing bars. This is presumably early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Shutters* – these are three--panelled, with ogee *and fillet* moulding, folding back into recesses lined with flock paper.

*Ceiling* – there is a cornice on the north and east walls of the same form as in Room 2, which once continued on the south side of stairs [47] but has been cut through, perhaps when the southern part of the space was formed into a vaulted strong-room 8.1, since removed. The detached cast-iron door and frame in Room 26 may have come from this space.

Wallpapers – the only identifiable paper dates to the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is the same as the latest in Room 7 (Appendix 4).

### **Room 8.1 Former vaulted strongroom (Build B)**

Part of Build B, this was a vaulted space used by Dickson, Archer & Thorp as a strongroom for deeds. The security of this was compromised by the partial collapse of the south gable in 2002 and the vaulting was subsequently removed.

*Floor* – sandstone flagged as Room 8/9. A scar in the flags against the south wall may relate to a former partition or fitting within the strong-room.

*Walls* – the north wall, flanking stair [47] is brick, the south wall is breezeblock and recently plastered. Photographs from 2002 seem to show an arch-headed doorway in the south wall, abutting the west wall.

*Skirting* – modern softwood .

*Door* – a cast-iron door and frame, detached, now on the floor of Room 26. The door was apparently cast from a four-panel wooden door (Simpson & Brown 2, 23).

*Window* – in the west wall is [46], a 3/6 sash with *ovolo* glazing bars. This had a shutter of planks faced by sheet-iron with iron bars, now removed (ibid, 36).

### **Room 15. East-west passage (Build D)**

Occupying the southern part of Build D, this was described as 'back stairs and toilet' in the 2005 English Heritage report, and as the 'back stair ' by Simpson & Brown. The stairs gave access to the first floor of the western extensions to the northern house but may also have functioned as service stairs when the building was in unified usage.

*Floor* – 150mm butt-boards where visible, but much is covered by old linoleum.

*Walls* – the north wall is a timber-faced stud partition forming the side of stairs [90]. At the north-west corner the stud partition forming the south wall of Room 15b is visible. The south wall appears to be mainly brick, but thickens to the west where a more substantial wall, perhaps an eastern return to the west wall of Build D, has been cut back. That west wall appears to have breached to create doorway [72] into Room 15a. To the north of this is a vertical joint, perhaps an earlier blocked window (**P72**).

*Doors* – at the west end of the passage is [72], which has a relatively modern plank and batten leaf, leading into Room 15a. This is proposed for removal (Approved drawing M561/10). On the north, below the service stair, is [71] leading via stairs [31] to basement Room 24, which has been reinforced with sheet iron. A blocked doorway [75] in the stud partition at the head of stairs [90] led into Room 15b and may pre-date both the cellar stairs [31] and staircase [90] since the door to [31] is hung to open against the blocking.

*Staircase* – the lower flight of service stairs [90] are possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with slender turned balusters and newel post. They may have been relocated here from elsewhere in the building. The south side is boarded and reinforced by strips of sheet iron (**P56**). The staircase is proposed for removal (Approved drawings M561/05F - where it is shown in the wrong position – and M561/10).

*Fittings* – overlying the blocking of doorway [75], below the stair landing, is a row of turned wooden coat-hooks (**P71**).

*Wallpapers* – the earliest is identified as being 1930s (Appendix 4)

### **Room 15a. Back porch/lobby (Build E)**

Not numbered by English Heritage in 2005. This appears after 1827 (Wood) and before c.1860 (OS1). Its ashlar facing makes a butt-joint with Build C to the south, but seems to be contemporary with the ashlar facing of Build D to the north and east.

*Floor* – sandstone flagged.

*Walls* – the north and west walls are sandstone rubble, with evidence for considerable modern re-pointing and consolidation. The east wall has more regular squared sandstone and appears to be part of the west wall of Build D.

*Skirting* – only surviving on the south and west walls, this is *ovolo*-moulded with a stepped base,

*Door* – the room is accessed from Room 15 by [72], which breaches the west wall of outshot Build D and has a plank and batten door. In the north wall is [74] which leads to the backland, six-panelled externally, lined internally with sheet iron.

*Window* – in the west wall is [73], a 2/2 sash without horns and with *lamb's tongue* glazing bars. It is early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Shutters* – a pair of single panelled leaves with *ovolo and fillet* moulding, lined inside with sheet iron.

Wallpapers – 1930s-1960s (Appendix 4)

### **Room 15b (Build D)**

This space appears to form part of a possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century rear range to No.33. A number of detached doors and window elements are stacked against the west wall. It was described as the caretaker's lounge in 1960. The room was not surveyed by Erris.

*Floor* – these are 150mm wide butt-boards.

*Walls* – the east and south walls are stud partitions covered with lath and plaster. The east wall is proposed to be significantly remodelled involving openings at the north and south ends, and insertion of new east-west partitions (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10).

The west wall has been largely stripped to expose rough-coursed sandstone rubble. It has been breached for doorway [181] leading west into Room 15c. In the northern reveal of window [79] angled brickwork abuts a vertical joint which may be part of an earlier opening, though confused jointing south of [181] may indicate that the south wall of Room 15c once extended further east into the space occupied by Room 15b (**P73**). The north end of the west wall ends at an open joint between it and north wall, which is brick-faced and runs through from Room 15c. The bricks look relatively late, possibly of the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> century. A faint line running around the south, east and north walls below the wallpaper, suggested by Simpson & Brown as the scar of an earlier, lower, ceiling soffit, is a c.1920s frieze paper (Appendix 4).

*Skirting* – on the north, south and east walls this is *ovolo* moulded.

*Window* – in the west wall is [79] now boarded-over internally and lacking its architrave. It is a 6/6 sash, apparently with *ovolo* and fillet glazing bars (Simpson & Brown 2, 39). It has been suggested that the vertical joint north of the window (**P73**) is the jamb of an earlier window, pre-dating construction of Room 15c (ibid.). The window is proposed to become an emergency exit (Approved drawing M516/05).

*Fire* – in a projecting chimney-breast which butts the brick face of the north wall is [77]. The surround and mantle-piece have gone, but were apparently of 1960s-1970s date (ibid.). The fire-brick lining to the throat remains (**P73**).

*Doors* – in the east wall is [76], thin-framed, six-panelled, with a four-pane oversight, leading from Room 6.1. On inside of the locking stile is an embossed brass or copper finger-plate showing a shepherd and sheep, probably of late 19<sup>th</sup> century date (**P74**). This door is proposed for removal (Approved drawing M561/10). In the west wall doorway [181] with a modern softwood frame and earlier six-panelled leaf may partly occupy the position of an earlier window. The centre and upper panels have been replaced with frosted glass (**P75**).

*Cupboards* – at north-east corner is a deep, shelved-out, recess with planked back and ceiling [78]. Possibly this has been formed out of a former doorway. The door is missing. This contains a number of items including glass jar batteries, lamp globes and a broken barometer. An alcove to west of the fire [129] has been used as a cupboard.

*Ceiling* – plain lath and plaster.

Wallpapers – the earliest is possibly 1890s, the latest 1970s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 15c (Build F)**

Original function is unknown. It appears to have been converted into a kitchen as part of the caretaker's accommodation, and may be the room called caretaker's dining room in 1960. Not surveyed by Erris.

*Floor* – 150mm wide butt-boards.

*Walls* – the south, east, and part of the west walls, are of rough coursed sandstone. The west wall ends in a face of a tooled ashlar with a small gap between that face and a similarly-faced ashlar pilaster embedded in the north wall (**P76**). The pilaster may be associated with the 'hot-wall' described under the backland/garden (see paragraphs 3.2 - 3.4) as similarly sized piers projecting from the brick face of the hot-wall at Belsay Hall conceal chimney outlets (Green, 226). The north wall is brick which is soot-stained, also suggesting an association with the hot-wall, and butts the pilaster and runs behind the fire, and through the east wall into Room 15b. On either

side of the fire, at a height, are timber beams carrying sandstone rubble masonry. These appear to post-date the brickwork. Sockets for wooden plugs show that all the walls have been lined with lath and plaster.

*Door* – the room is accessed from R15b through [181], broken through the east wall. There is another much larger opening [182] with a brick-arched head in the west wall (**P76**), which the 2005 English Heritage report states was blocked at that time, though it is unclear if the blocking contained a doorway for access to the staircase in Rooms 15d and 21. The brick dimensions are 235 x 115 x 65mm, broadly of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century form. This opening is not shown on approved drawing M561/05, which shows a new doorway through the wall further to the north.

*Window* – there is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century 6/6 sash [80] in the south wall, with narrow *lamb's tongue* glazing bars. This is proposed to become an emergency exit (Approved drawing M561/05F). The east and west shutters have both been two-leaf, and hung on plain butt-hinges.

*Fire* – a projecting brick chimney-breast which butts the brick north wall contains [81] a substantial and well-preserved, probably early 20<sup>th</sup> century, cast-iron and stove-enamelled kitchen range bearing the trade name 'BETTA', with a cast-iron mantelpiece above. The breast above the mantelpiece shows part of a brick-arch, part of an earlier fire, broken to the east by patching of stone and brick (**P76 – 77**).

*Ceiling* – traces of the now-removed ceiling show it was of lath and plaster on machine-sawn joists.

### **Room 15d (Build G)**

The 2005 report by English Heritage noted this room contained a timber 'back staircase' rising to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. It has been suggested this room originated as part of an early glass-house or conservatory (Simpson & Brown 2, 23). Possibly this was the 'caretaker's scullery' in 1960. This space was too confined for comprehensive photographic recording.

*Floor* - formerly boarded with joists laid east-west resting on rubble scarcements, but all timberwork had been removed before the recording. The scarcements may have been hacked from a plinth of mortared rubble.

*Walls* - the west and south walls are sandstone rubble with some plaster and wallpaper surviving west of window [82]. There is a suggestion that the west wall has been raised. A door-way sized recess or alcove [183] at south end of the west wall may have been a cupboard.

The north wall shows several constructional differences which are difficult to interpret (**P78**). The lower part is sandstone rubble which returns on the east and west sides and is rough-faced, suggesting it is either core-work to a rubble plinth or that internal facing has been removed. Above this there has been brick facing –

perhaps a continuation of the brick-faced hot-wall, containing joist sockets. In approximately the middle of the wall, the brickwork and sandstone rubble wall behind has been cut back, presumably to facilitate insertion of the former staircase. The brickwork has been roughly faced-up and there is a suggestion that this was to seal off the voids left by cutting the flues of the 'hot-wall'. There is a chase for a too-fall roof on the face. At the north-east corner, the vertically-tooled ashlar pilaster noted in Room 15c is again visible (**P78**), buried within later rubble and brick. There is a small gap, between the south face of the pilaster and the east wall which is similarly vertically-tooled ashlar with dressed margins, which has clearly been an external wall-face.

*Door* – the room is accessed through the arched opening described in Room 15C.

*Window* – in the south wall is [82] a 6/6 sash with no horns and narrow *lamb's tongue* glazing bars. Although heavily overgrown with creeper, a two-leaf shutter can be seen on the east side and a three-leaf shutter on the west, all with plain squared butterfly hinges.

*Stair* – the 'shadow' of stair [185], now removed, rises against the east wall leading to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.



**P45** (top). Room 2 looking east to the front door [41] to No. 31 Narrowgate. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P46** (below). Room 2 looking east from doorway [45], showing lobby partition [42] cutting frieze. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P47** (top). Room 2, ceiling showing a detail of the frieze cut by lobby partition [42] (on the right). Also showing damp staining from Room 18 above. No scale.

**P48** (below). Room 2 looking west , showing door [45], alcove [44] to the left, and door [54] to Room 3 on the right. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P49** (top.) Room 8/9 looking south-west, showing first flight of main stair [47] and altered southern handrail. Scale 1m.

**P50** (below). Room 8/9 showing scar of former curtail step on the south side of stair [47] with iron fixing in the flagged floor. Scale 20cm.





**P51** (top). Room 8, looking west to the inner face of door [50] showing iron sheeting. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P52** (below). Room 26, looking west to the inner face of door [49] showing iron sheeting. Door [185] to the south cellar steps on left. Scale 1m.





**P53** (top). Room 26, looking east to door [50] showing the remains of a baize covering. To its outer face. Door [185] to south cellar steps is on the right. Scale 1m.

**P54** (below). Room 6, north-south passageway looking south to inserted partition [70], with the door to Room 15b [76] (boarded-over) in the right foreground, and scar of former doorway [67] just visible on the left. Scale 2m.





**P55** (top). Room 8/9, east wall, north of door [45], showing a decorative wooden gas-light mounting [52] and late 1950s-early 1960s electric light switches and ducting. Scale 20cm.

**P56** (below). Room 6 looking north, showing lower flight of service stairs [90] to first floor. Scale 1m.





**P57** (top). Room 5, looking east showing diagonally-planked door [69]. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P58** (below. Room 3, looking south to door [54] showing the decorative cornice cut by the west partition wall of Room 3.1. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P59** (top). Room 3.1, partitioned area of Room 3, looking south-east to window [56] showing cornice and skirting running through from Room 3 . Scales 1m and 2m.

**P60** (below). Northern reveal of window [56] (shutter detached) showing WW2 cuttings relating to air forces. Scale 20cm.





**P61** (top). Room 3 looking north-east showing fire [61], door [62] to Room 4 on its left, alcove [60] to the right, windows [58] and [59], and decorative cornice. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P62** (below). Room 3. Detail of fire [61] showing sheet iron blanking-plate associated with a late 20<sup>th</sup> century gas fire (removed). Scales 1m and 2m.





**P63** (top). Room 3, window [59] showing internal view of shutters with plain central leaf and locking bar. Scale 1m.

**P64** (below. Room 3, north-east corner of ceiling showing cornice and frieze running across alcove [60]. No scale.





**P65** (top). Room 3, detail of door [53] showing 19<sup>th</sup> century brass-cased lock (inverted) with ball handle and late 20<sup>th</sup> century perspex finger plate. Scale 20cm.

**P66** (below). Room 4 looking south-east, showing fire [63], windows [64] and [65], and cornice. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P67** (top). Room 4 looking south, showing fire [63] and door [62] leading from Room 3. Scale 1m.

**P68** (below). Room 4 showing door [67] formerly leading to passage Room 6.1, subsequently converted into a wall-cupboard. Scale 2m.





**P69** (top). Room 7 looking north-west, showing fire [85], window [83] and decorative cornice. An area of wallpaper formerly concealed by shelving is visible in alcove [87] to the left of fire. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P70** (below). Room 7 looking south-east, showing door [88], decorative cornice, and wallpapers on the south wall exposed by the removal of bookcases. Scale 2m.





**P71** (top). Room15, showing row of turned wooden coat-pegs[75] on the north wall. Scale 20cm

**P72** (below). Room 15, looking west from the north stairs to the basement, showing vertical joint on masonry exposed by removal of wall-plaster. Door [72] to Room 15a is on the left, with inserted concrete lintels. Scale 2m





**P73** (top). Room 15b looking north-west. Door [76] from passageway Room 6.1 on the right, fire [81] with former wall-cupboard [129] to left, and door [181] to Room 15c in the west wall, with inserted concrete lintel above, and detached fittings Scales 1m and 2m.

**P74** (below). Detail of embossed finger-plate on the inside of door [76]. Scale 20cm.





**P75** (top). Room 15c looking east to door [181], showing butt joint between west and north walls, and ceiling joists exposed by removal of lath and plaster soffit. Scales 1n and 2m.

**P76** (below) . Room 15c looking west into Room 15d, showing opening [182], range [81] and. butt joint between west and north walls on the right. Scales 1m and 2m.

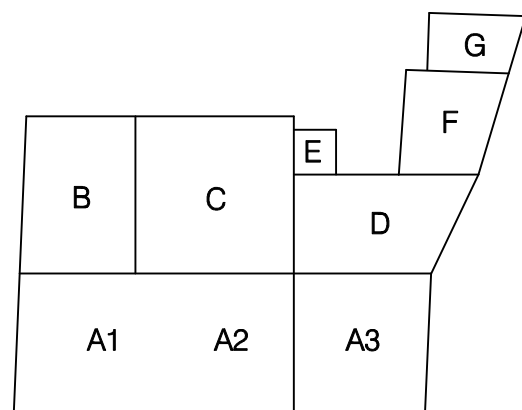




**P77** (top). Room 15c, north wall showing detail of range [81] with earlier brick and stoned chimney breast above. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P78** (below). Room 15d. North wall, showing sandstone base with brickwork above containing sockets for former floor joists, and patched brickwork forming part of the external 'hot wall', cut back' to accommodate (missing) timber stairs. Scale 1m and 2m.





Block plan showing principal structural units

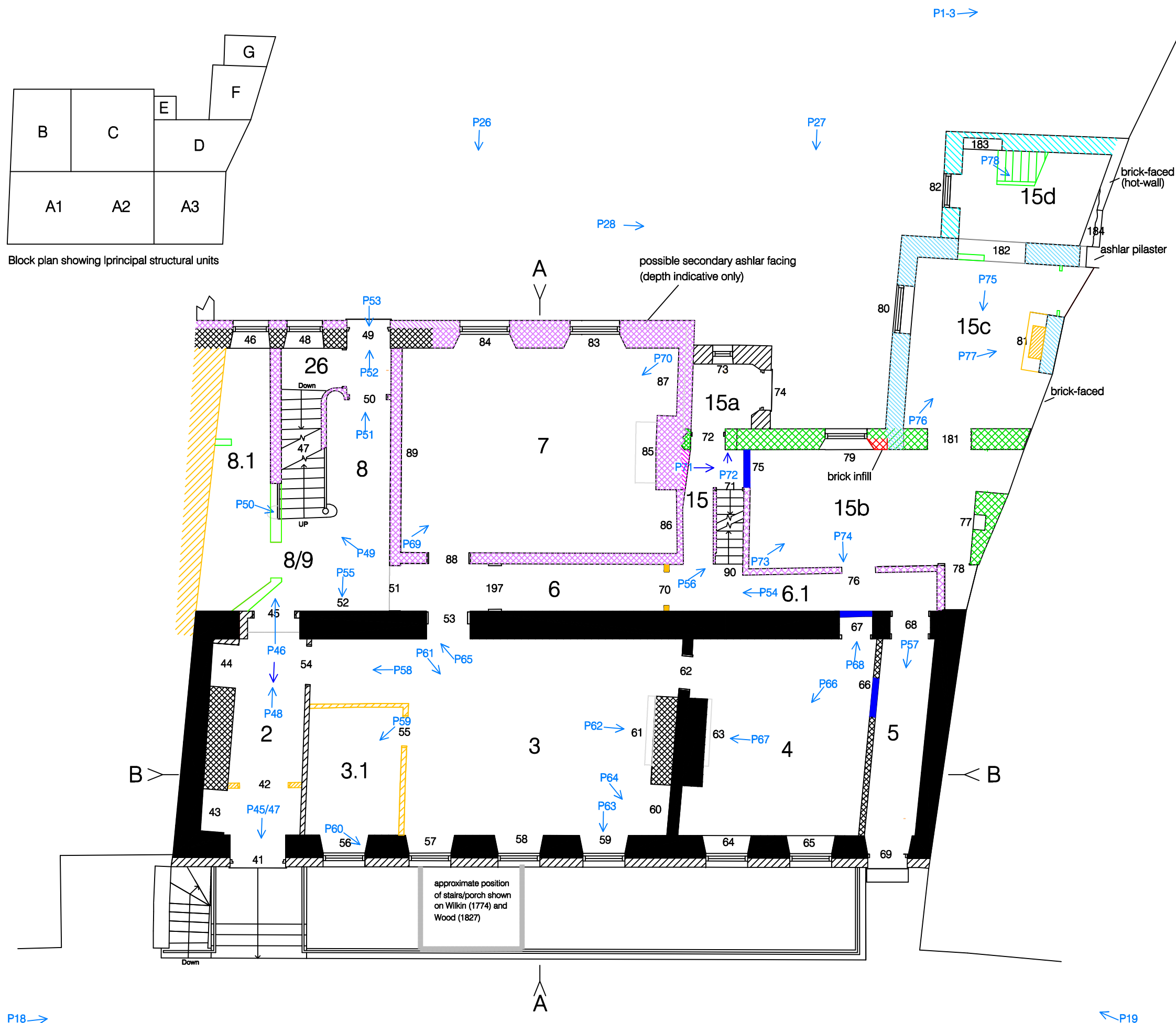


Figure 16

# Narrowgate House, Alnwick Ground Floor Plan

## Key

- 15b Room numbers
- 181 Feature numbers
- P24 Plate numbers (with direction of shot)
- late 17th-early 18th century core fabric
- 18th century (pre-1774)
- 18th century (post-1774)
- late 18th -early 19th century (pre-1827)
- c.1830
- c.1827-60 (two phases)
- late 19th-21st century
- features now removed
- blocked openings
- section lines (Figures 22-23)

Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3

#### **4.2.6 FIRST FLOOR ROOMS (Figure 17)**

##### **Room 10 Store-room/bathroom (Build B)**

Called 'bathroom and closet' by Simpson & Brown (report 2,41). The early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch plan of this floor (Figure 2) shows a bath against the south wall and a 'C' (convenience) at the east end.

*Floor* – 170-190mm butt-boards aligned east-west

*Walls* – the east wall is sandstone rubble with evidence for quoins close to south-east corner of the room representing the south-west corner of the south gable wall of the earlier, single-pile, house. Simpson & Brown suggest there is a blocked window in the northern side, but no evidence for this has been found. It is proposed to open a doorway in this wall, apparently in the area of the supposed blocked window (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10). The west wall is a modern stud partition which is proposed for removal. The south wall is breeze-block, a rebuild of 2003 after the south gable partly collapsed during adjacent building work. Plans from before the collapse show the eastern end of the wall thicker, reducing in two shallow returns to the west. The north wall appears to be a brick partition, containing a blocked doorway [97].

*Skirting* – on the north wall is *ovolo* moulded skirting.

*Door* – in the north wall is [93] thin, with six raised-and-fielded panels to Room 8.1, and a moulded architrave (**P82**). This is possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century

*Fittings* – there is a modern (late 20<sup>th</sup> century) kitchen sink unit against the north wall

*Windows* – Simpson & Brown note a possibly blocked window in the east wall where there is an apparent area of rebuilt rubble masonry just north of the quoins, but this appears more extensive and erratically-edged than would be necessary for blocking a window or door.

##### **Room 10.1 (Build B)**

Formerly part of Room 10, this has been partitioned off to form a toilet cubicle.

*Floor* – 170-190mm wide butt boards aligned east -west

*Walls* – the east wall is masonry (see Room 10), the south wall is the 2003 breeze-block repair and the north wall is brick partition. There is a low skirting on the south and west walls, presumably a replacement after rebuilding the south wall in 2003.

*Door* – in the east wall is a modern softwood leaf and architrave [94].

*Window* - there is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century 6/6 sash [95] in the west wall, with no horns and narrow *ovolo* glazing bars.

*Shutters* – a pair of two-panelled leaves with *ovovlo* moulding

*Fittings* – modern sanitary-ware

*Ceiling* – modern plasterboard

### **Room 11. First-floor landing of principal stairs (Build B)**

The 2005 English Heritage report and Simpson & Brown 2 apply this number to the first floor landing and north-south corridor. In this report sub-divisions a – c have been introduced to reflect actual divisions of space.

*Floor* – 160-190mm wide butt boards aligned north-south.

*Walls* – the east wall is rendered masonry (the west wall of the single-pile house); the west wall is externally ashlar-faced, internally it is covered with render, and may be earlier brick. The north and south walls are brick partitions.

*Skirting* – low, and runs across blocked doorway [97].

*Doorways* – in the south wall is [93] the leaf with six raised and fielded panels. Immediately east of this is a blocked doorway [97] (**P82**).

*Stairs* – the final two flights of the principal stairs [91] rise, via a half-landing, to the second floor (**P81**).

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster with a cornice of tablet flower medallions, with moulded bands above and below along the south wall (**P81**).

### **Room 11a. Toilet (Build E)**

This space within Build E was accessed from the half-landing on stair [90/130] by a doorway in a partition which had been removed before the recording. The opening left by its removal shows that the west wall of Build D has been breached, evidently to accommodate the stair in its present form.

*Floor* – butt-boards.

*Walls* – the east wall is part of the outer west wall of Build D which has been breached to accommodate the service stair. The south wall is part of the north wall of Build C, and the west and north walls are sandstone rubble inner face of Build E (**P91**).

*Skirting* – only surviving on the south wall, this is low and *ovolo* moulded.

*Window* – in the west wall is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century 6/6 sash without horns, and thick *ovolo and fillet* glazing bars [128] (**P91**).

*Shutters* – the window has a pair of two-panelled shutters, with a plain centre leaf attached to the southern shutter. All are hung on on squared butterfly hinges and backed with sheet iron.

*Ceiling* – part of a lath and plaster soffit survive, patched with modern plasterboard.

#### **Room 11b. Landing at the head of the Service Stair (Build D)**

*Floor* – 200mm wide butt boards.

*Walls* – an offset on the south wall, c.1m above the landing level, corresponds with the floor level in Rooms 12 and 13 and may mark the original masonry wallhead of Build D, with thinner brickwork above possibly associated with raising Build B/C to two stories.

*Stairs* – reached by the short second flight of Service Stairs [130].

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster.

#### **Room 11c. Corridor north-south (Build C)**

*Floor* – butt boards, with a raised central area giving access to Rooms 12 -13.

*Walls* – the east wall is rendered masonry, the west wall is brick

*Skirting* – south of the steps to the raised central area is a low *ovolo and fillet* skirting. North of the raised area there is none.

*Doorways* – at the south end of the corridor is an arch-headed opening with moulded springers [102]. At the north end is an inserted partition [131] with a six raised-and-fielded panel leaf (**P86**).

*Stairs* – at the centre of the corridor the floor level is raised by six steps [142] and [132] to reach the raised floor levels of Rooms 12-13 (**P85**). The steps on the north side were presumably added when the southern and northern houses were in combined usage.

*Ceiling* – plain, lath and plaster.

*Wallpaper* – on the east wall is paper probably from the 1920s (Appendix 4)

#### **Room 12. Bedroom (Build C)**

*Floor* – 160-200mm wide butt-boards

*Walls* – externally the west wall is ashlar-faced but may clad an earlier brick wall; the north, south, and east walls are brick partitions. The asymmetric position of the north wall suggests it is a secondary subdivision of a larger space once incorporating Room 13.

*Skirting* – low with a cavetto moulding.

*Door* – in the north wall is [139], six raised & fielded panels to the corridor, flush inside, with gilt-brass coat-hook.

*Window* – there is a 3/6 sash in the west wall [140] with no horns, narrow *ovolo* glazing bars, and a moulded architrave. The catch is in its original position and is 19<sup>th</sup> century cast brass (**P87-88**). The sill has a hinged lid to a storage compartment.

*Shutters* – there are a pair of three-panelled leaves with *ovolo* and *fillet* moulding to the outside, with a central plain panel attached to the northern leaf.

*Fire* – against the south wall is [141] with a wooden surround and square-headed cast-iron plate (**P86**).

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster with a moulded cornice which terminates at the window architrave (**P86**).

### **Room 13. Dressing Room (Build C)**

Simpson & Brown (report 2, 42) considered the cornice in this room to date from c.1800. It is part of Build C, which was in existence by 1827 (Wood) and appears in its present form on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plans (Figure 2).

*Floor* – 180-200mm wide butt-boards aligned north-south.

*Walls* - the west and north-west walls are masonry (Build C), the south and east are brick partitions and appear to be secondary insertions.

*Door* – in the east wall [135] is 6-panelled, though the upper and lower panels have been replaced by frosted glass. The centre panels are flush with *ovolo* and *fillet* moulding to the inside, raised-and-fielded with the same moulding to the outside.

*Fire* – wooden surround with square-headed cast-iron plate and overmantle with swags and motifs [137] (**P90**).

*Window* – this [136] is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century 3/6 sash as in Room 12, but has a two-door cupboard below the sill (**P89**). There is a pair of three-panelled shutters with

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster, with a cornice that on the north side runs across the east alcove - presumably once enclosed - into the west alcove, and onto the west wall where it terminates at the window architrave. The cornice along the south wall, which appears to be an secondarily inserted partition, does not exactly match the rest.

#### **Room 14. Lobby or closet (Build C)**

Termed 'inner lobby' by English Heritage (2005), this space is shown in its present form on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plan (Figure 2). This space was not meaningfully photographable.

*Floor* – as Rooms 12 and 13.

*Walls* – the north and east walls are brick, plastered. The west wall may be brick, or stud-famed with lath and plaster. This appears to be a secondary division of a formerly larger space.

*Doors* – the space is accessed from Room 11c by an opening in the east wall [133], and communicates with Rooms 12 and 13 by doorways [135] and [139].

*Fittings* – there is a row of early 20<sup>th</sup> century iron coat-hooks [134] on the east wall.

*Ceiling* – plain lath and plaster.

#### **Room 16. (Build A3)**

Part of the northern house, the survival of 1820s-30s wallpaper in this room suggests a fashionable Regency interior, perhaps a withdrawing room. Latterly this room contained book-cases and was probably used as part of the solicitor's offices.

*Floor* – butt-boards some 250mm wide.

*Walls* – the north, west and east are presumably sandstone rubble under plaster. The south wall is brick. There is some extensive modern re-plastering (**P98**). It is proposed to insert a new partition at the north end of this room (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo* moulded.

*Doors*- the room is accessed from the northern end of corridor Room 11 through [116], which has panelled reveals. The leaf has four raised-and-fielded panels with *ovolo* moulding and was originally hung on north jamb. It has been rehung upside-down on the south side (**P101**). The hinges are large, rectangular, brass butterfly hinges stamped in italic '*T & C Clarkes Patent*' (T & C Clarke of Wolverhampton, working between 1795 and the early 1960's). This doorway may be an insertion, replacing one which is now a wall-cupboard [118] in Room 19, and connected with

the amalgamation of the north and south houses and insertion of the back or service stair.

The room is also accessed from Room 17 to the south via [110] in the south wall, the leaf has six raised-and-fielded panels with *ovolo* moulding, hung on large brass butterfly hinges stamped 'A K & Sons Patent Pivot', made by the firm of Archibald Kenrick in West Bromwich (see Room 6). Both doorways have similar moulded architraves (**P99**). Simpson and Brown (report 2, 42) suggest this was doorway is a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century insertion as no doorways in this wall are shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plans (Figure2).

*Windows* – in the east wall [114] and [115] are early 19<sup>th</sup> century 6/6 sashes, without horns and with narrow *ovolo* glazing bars and replacement brass catches (**P98**). In northern reveal of [114] is a pasted paper notice giving 'Rates of Contributions as from 5<sup>th</sup> October 1931'. It is proposed that window [115] will become an escape window (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Shutters* – both windows have a pair of three-panelled leaves with applied *ovolo* moulding (as in Room 18), turned wooden knobs, and hung on plain square butterfly hinges. Both the northern leaves have narrow, plain, centre panels, that on [114] hung on splayed butterfly hinges; that on [115] has later square hinges. Shutters on [114] have a gilt brass spring-catch for the locking bar, [115] has a simple bar and turn-button fastening.

*Fire* – in the chimney-breast on the south wall [112] has a 'Gothick' carved timber surround and overmantle with grotesque masks. The cast-iron plate is square-headed, and framed in marble. This is similar but more elaborate to the fire in Room 18. Both are probably early-mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (**P99-100**).

*Cupboard* – on the west side of the fire an alcove has been made into a wall-cupboard [113], with a two-panelled door with *ovolo*-moulding and moulded architrave (**P99**). The interior is shelved and lined with paper.

*Ceiling* – modern plastered soffit and simple cornice.

*Fittings* – there are scars and hold-fasts for a bookcase on the west wall and shelving on the north wall. On the east side of the fire is a small shelf-table [111] (**P99**).

*Wallpapers* – the earliest are 1820s-1830s, the latest 1870s – 1880s (Appendix 4)

### **Room 17. Drawing Room (Build A2)**

The presence of Regency wallpaper in this room suggests there was an association with Room 16 in the 1820s-1830s – predating use of narrowgate House as solicitor's office – perhaps as a suite of fashionable function rooms. The absence of any

doorway on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plan (Figure 2) communicating with Room 16 to the north may just mean that one had been sealed.

*Floor* – butt-boards 170-200mm wide, laid north-south.

*Walls* – all are plastered and papered: below these surface finishes the east and west walls are presumably sandstone rubble, and south and north are brick.

*Skirting* – deep, ogee and fillet moulded. A separate narrow gilded fillet has been applied to the top of the skirting but only survives on the west wall.

*Door* – the room is accessed from corridor R11 through a doorway [103] with panelled reveals, the leaf has four raised and fielded panels with *ovolo* moulding and is hung on rectangular brass butterfly hinges. There is communication with Room 16 through doorway [110] and a blocked former doorway in the south wall [109], now covered by wallpaper (**P95**).

*Windows* – in the east wall are [104], [105], [106], like Room 16 these are all 6/6 sashes, without horns, with narrow *ovolo* moulded glazing bars and replaced brass catches.

*Shutters* – all windows have paired leaves with three raised-and-fielded panels with *ovolo*-moulding, the southern one carrying a narrow, plain, centre leaf. The panelled leaves are hung on plain rectangular butterfly hinges attached to additional hanging stiles with beaded moulding, the narrow centre leaves hang on splayed butterfly hinges. The additional stiles and plain hinges show the shutters have been re-used 18<sup>th</sup> century fittings from earlier and narrower windows, as in Room 3 below. All have white ceramic knobs. Stencilled designs are visible on the upper two panels of the shutters to windows [104-105] (**P96**), and appear faintly on other shutters.

*Fire* – in the centre of the chimney-breast against the north wall is [137] with an early 19<sup>th</sup> century Classical-style white marble surround with fluted jambs. The cast-iron plate is square-headed (**P92**). The grate is missing, and the lining to the throat appears to be 20<sup>th</sup> century brick.

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster with a deep cornice and frieze incorporating *palmette* and *rosette* motifs (**P93-94**).

*Fittings* – above the fire, on either side of the chimney breast, are two gilt-brass bells with floral decorated circular covers and hammers operated by a system of wires and bell-cranks that run round the north-west angle of the room [108] (**P93-94**). There is a gilt brass pivoting gas lamp fitting [196] between windows [105] and [106] (**P97**).

*Wallpapers* – the earliest is 1820s-1830s, the latest (and still extant) is 1850s-1870s, and underlies the gas light fitting [196] (Appendix 4).

### **Room 18. Bedroom (Build A1)**

This is named on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plans (Figure 2). The room is deteriorating. A large section of the lath and plaster ceiling has collapsed due to water penetration from the room above.

*Floor* – butt-boards 180-190mm wide, are laid north-south and run under the north wall into Room 17.

*Walls* – the east wall is masonry under plaster, and where the masonry is exposed in the south-east corner it appears to be integral with that of the south wall and runs behind the brick chimney breast to the west wall, which is also masonry. It is proposed to open a new doorway into Room 10 at the south end of in this wall (Approved drawing M561/05F). The north wall is a brick or stud partition containing blocked doorway [109] at the east end. It is proposed to open a new doorway at the west end of this wall (Approved drawing M561/10) and insert a new north-south partition (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Skirting* – low with a simple *ovolo* moulding to the top edge.

*Door* – in the west wall is [98], with panelled reveals and a leaf with four raised and fielded *ovolo* moulded panels.

*Windows* – in the east wall [100] and [101] are 6/6 sashes with narrow *ovolo* glazing bars. The lower part of recessed reveals are modern ply-panelled (**P83**). Window [100] is proposed to become an escape window.

*Shutters* – both windows have a pair of three-panel shutters, raised-and-fielded with *ovolo* moulding, hung on plain squared butterfly hinges, as in Room 16. The southern leaves carry narrow plain centre panels on earlier splayed butterfly hinges with the addition of leather strips. Both have turned wooden knobs. The shutters are 18<sup>th</sup> century, reused and rehung in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Fire* – against the south wall is a wide chimney breast is [99] with a carved wooden 'Gothick' surround and overmantle enclosing a square-headed cast-iron plate and grate (**P84**). This is similar to, though less elaborate than, the fire in Room 16 and probably dates to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Cupboards* – an alcove to the east of the fire the alcove has been shelved.

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster with a moulded cornice that runs across the south side of the room cutting across the alcoves either side of the fire, suggesting these were enclosed when the ceiling was formed.

*Wallpapers* – the earliest is 1820s -1830s, the latest early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Appendix 4)

### **Room 19. (Build D)**

This is part of Build D, an ashlar-faced rear extension to the northern burgage (No.33) which appears to have developed in several construction phases, probably including Build E. The earliest decorative finishes are wallpaper, possibly 1840s. Latterly this was part of the Caretaker's apartments.

*Floor* – butt-boards, 170-200mm wide, aligned north-south.

*Walls* – the west and east walls are sandstone rubble, the west has been stripped to expose the masonry, and has been raised above the level of the door lintel (**P102**). It butts the brick north wall, visible within the alcove cupboard [120]. A vertical joint to the north of window [121] suggests an earlier window opening or other structural joint (as in Room 15 below). The east wall retains plaster and some wallpaper. The south wall is stud partition, butting the west wall, in which a former roofline is visible). This is proposed to be remodelled to extend over the site of the service stair, and a new partition inserted running from doorway [117] to [122] (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo* moulded.

*Doors* – accessed from corridor Room 11 by [117] which has a four-panel leaf with *ovolo* moulding. Another four-panel door in the west wall [122] leads into R20 (**P102**). This has an inserted modern concrete lintel and repair to the masonry above. Doorway [118] in the east wall formerly led into Room 16, but has been blocked and made into a wall-cupboard. The door leaf is thin (30mm), four-panelled, raised and fielded with *ovolo* moulding to the inside with the scar of a former lock. Another wall-cupboard against the north wall [120] has a similar leaf, hung on plain H-hinges.

*Window* – in the west wall [121] is a 6/6 sash, no horns, with narrow fillet and *ovolo* moulded glazing bars. The lower sash and sash case are modern replacements.

*Shutters* - the central leaf of the shutters is hung on splayed butterfly hinges of 18<sup>th</sup> century form. The shutters may have been re-used from elsewhere in the building.

*Fire* – in a brick breast built against the north wall is [119], with a late 19<sup>th</sup> century wood surround and mantelpiece, cast-iron arch plate and register grate (**P103**).

*Cupboard* – there is a wall-cupboard [120] in the alcove on the west side of the fire, fitted with a four-panel leaf, with *ovolo* and fillet moulding. There is another wall-cupboard [118] in the east wall, probably formed from an earlier doorway opening into Room 16.

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster, with some holes. A raking double-rafter encased in the lath and plaster south partition appears to represent the line of an earlier, lower, mono-pitch roof (Simpson & Brown 2, 17), and the lath and plaster to the east of the rafter

belong to that earlier phase of build. The angle at which the rafter meets the west wall (some 0.88m below the present wall-head) suggests this was the roofline of a single-storey outshot which was subsequently raised: Simpson & Brown however refer to it as 'the early two-storied lean-to range'.

Wallpaper – earliest c.1840s, latest 1950s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 20. Caretaker's room (Build F)**

*Floor*- 200mm butt-boards laid north-south.

*Walls* – all have been stripped of lath and plaster lining. The south, east, and west are sandstone rubble, the north is brick (**P104-6**). The head of the east wall has been raised in brick to support the roof-timbers (**P104**).

*Skirting* – removed with the lath and plaster wall lining.

*Door* – in the east wall [122] appears to have been formed from an earlier window opening. In the west wall an square-headed opening formerly gave access to Room 21. This has a timber lintel and is a breach, or enlargement of an earlier opening in the wall (**P105**). This doorway is not shown on approved drawing M561/05F, which instead has a presumably new opening through the west wall further north, approximately in the position of blocked opening [125].

*Window* – in the south wall [123] is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century 3/3 sash with narrow *ovolo* glazing bars. North of [126] in the west wall the north jamb of a blocked opening rendered with horsehair plaster [125] is visible. This may have been an earlier window (**P105**), blocked when Build G was added.

*Fire* – in the north wall is [124] with wood surround and square-headed cast-iron plate. Above in the chimney-breast is part of a brick relieving arch. Brickwork on the east side of the chimney-breast is keyed into the north wall. The west side is sandstone rubble, possibly later (**P106**).

*Ceiling* – this was lath and plaster, but had been removed before the recording.

*Wallpaper* – the only identifiable surviving paper is probably of the 1930s (Appendix 4)

### **Room 21. Part of Caretaker's premises (Build G)**

As the flooring has been removed this space could not be accessed, and no meaningful photographs could be obtained.

*Floor* – all timber-work has been removed.

*Walls* – the south, west and east are sandstone rubble. The north wall is brick and appears to be a continuation of the brick 'hot-wall' applied to the sandstone rubble burgage wall in the garden to the west. In Room 21 too the brick has been applied to a core of sandstone rubble. Both brick and masonry have been cut back on the eastern side to accommodate a flight of stairs rising from Room 15d below.

*Door* – the only access appears to have been from Room 20 through [126].

*Window* – in the south wall is [127], an early 19<sup>th</sup> century 6/6 sash, with narrow *lamb's tongue* glazing bars.

*Fittings* – the north and east walls show traces of a former open-well timber stair, probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century, rising from Room 15d.



**P79** (top). Room 8, moulded wooden rosettes on beam supporting the third flight of the principal stairs [91]. Scale 20cm.

**P80** (below). Window [92] transected by the half-landing of the lower flights of the principal stairs [47], showing iron grille and robust glazing bars. Scale 1m.





**P81** (top). Room 8, looking south-west to the third flight of the principal stairs [91] showing bannister, balusters, and areas of modern plaster patching. Window [92] in background. Scale 2m.

**P82** (below). Room 8, looking south to doorway [93] into Room 10, also showing outline of blocked door [97]. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P83** (top). Room 18 looking south-east, showing windows [100] and [101] and collapsed ceiling. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P84** (below). Room 18, fire [99] (photoboard inverted) with Gothic moulded timber surround. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P85** (top). Room 11 looking north, showing steps to raised floor levels of Rooms 12 and 13, door [104] to Room 17 on the right, and door [131] in an inserted partition in the background. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P86** (below). Room 12 looking south-west showing fire [141], window [140] and cornice. Scale 2m.





**P87** (top). Room 12, detail of window [140] showing 6/3 sash, shutters, and window seat with hinged lid for storage. Scale 2m.

**P88** (below). Room 12, detail of original cast brass catch on sash frames. Scale 10cm.





**P89** (top). Room 13, looking west showing 3/6 sash window with storage below sill, and cornice to inserted south partition wall. Scale 2m.

**P90** (below). Fire [137] showing decorative overmantle and grate, probably c.1830. Scale 1m.





**P91** (top). Rooms 11a and 11b, looking west from [130] to window [128] showing scars of former partition, and cut through the west wall of the first western extension to No.33 (right). Scale 2m.

**P92** (below). Room 17, late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century fire [107] showing marble surround and wallpaper. Scales 1m.





**P93** (top). Room 17, detail of wallpaper, cornice, and brass-faced bell [108] on the east side of the chimney breast. No scale.

**P94** (below) Room 17 detail of bell-cranks in the western alcove serving bells [108] on chimney breast. No scale.





**P95** (top). Room 17 looking south showing door [103] , wallpaper and skirting, and site of blocked door [109] at the right-hand side of the south wall. Scale 1m and 2m.

**P96** (below). Room 17, southern shutter to window [104] showing (faintly) stencilled decoration to the raised and fielded panels. Scale 20cm.





**P97** (top). Room 17, gilt-brass swinging-arm gas-light fitting [196] between windows [105] and [106]. Scale 20cm.

**P98** (below). Room 16 looking south-east showing fire [112], door [110] to Room 17, windows [114] and [115], and modern ceiling soffit and replastering. Scale 2m.





**P99** (top). Room 16 looking south, showing fire [112], fixed table [111], door to wall-cupboard [113] on the right, abutting door [116] leading to Room 11b. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P100** (below). Room 16, detail of fire [112] showing wooden surround with Gothic 'grotesque' masks and overmantel. Scale 1m and 2m.





**P101** (top). Room 16, detail of door [116] showing inverted brass-cased lock and ball handle with bell-knob in the architrave. Scale 2m.

**P102** (below). Room 19 looking north-west, showing fire [119] with wall-cupboard [120] to the left, and the west wall stripped of render with modern concrete lintel and repairs above door [122] leading to Room 20. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P103** (top). Room 19, fire [119] showing arch plate, grate, and timber overmantle. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P104** (below). Room 20, looking east to door [122] in modern frame, butt-joint between east and north walls on the left, and brickwork raising the roof level above. Scale 2m.

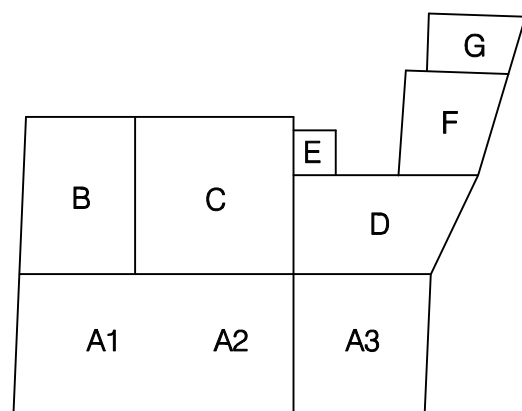




**P105** (top). Room 20 looking west to opening [126] leading to Room 21, reveal of blocked opening [125] to the right, and butt-joint between the west and north walls. The scars of the lath and plaster ceiling soffit and a shelved wall cupboard are visible. Scale 2m.

**P106** (below). Room 20, detail of fire [124] in a patched brick and masonry breast, with brick north wall behind rising to sandstone rubble. Scales 1m and 2m.





Block plan showing principal structural units

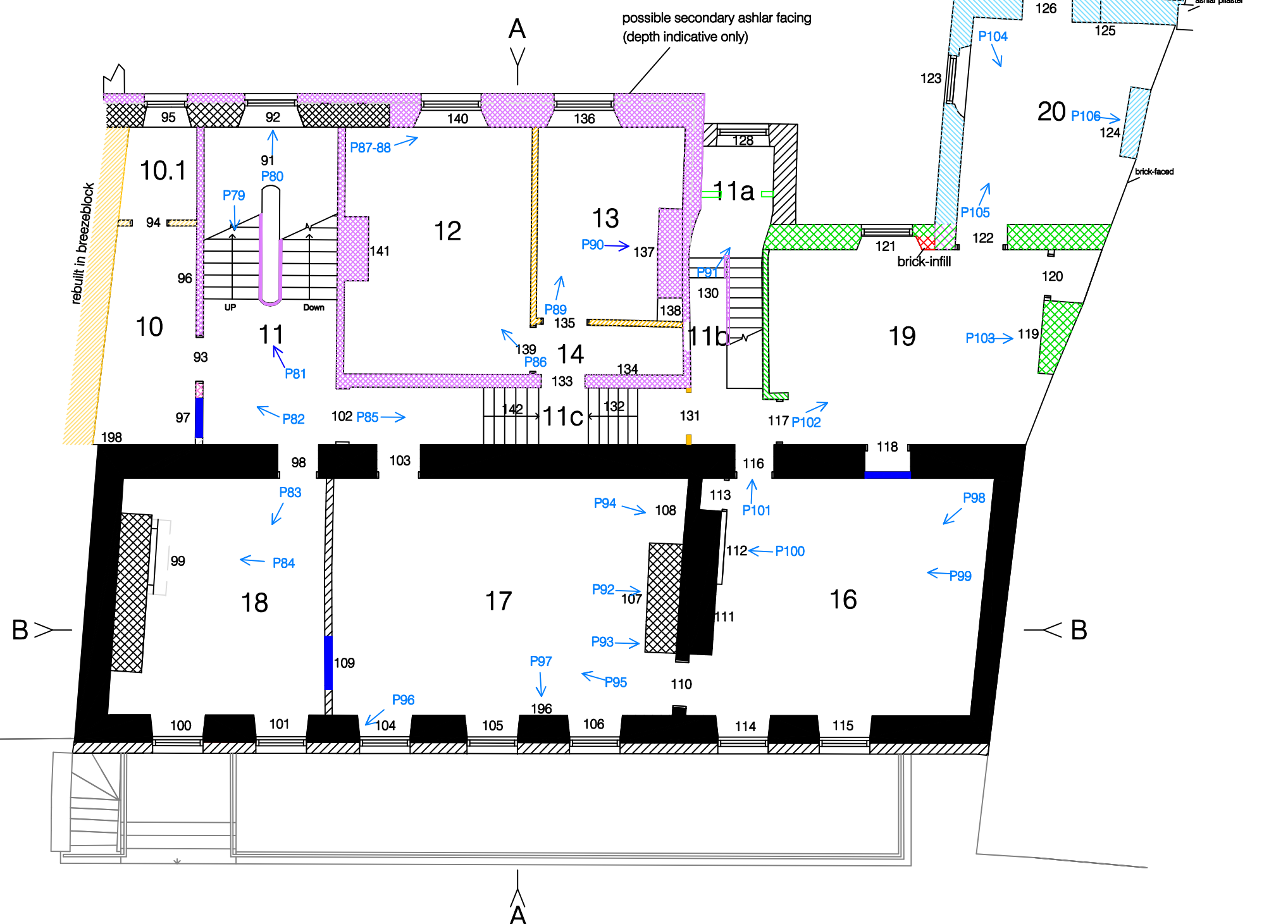


Figure 17

Narrowgate House, Alnwick  
First Floor Plan

### Key

- 15b Room numbers
- 181 feature numbers in NCAS report
- P24 Plate numbers (with direction of shot)
- late 17th-early 18th century core fabric
- 18th century (pre-1774)
- 18th century (post-1774)
- late 18th -early 19th century (pre-1827)
- c.1830
- late 19th-21st century
- features now removed
- blocked openings
- A > section lines (Figures 22-23)
- < B

Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3

#### **4.2.7 SECOND (ATTIC) FLOOR ROOMS (Figure 18)**

In 1960 this level was described as five attic rooms used for storage – all in poor order. Their condition has not improved, and in addition to areas of unstable and collapsed ceiling severe pigeon infestation of most of the eastern rooms made these difficult to access and hazardous for any detailed recording.

##### **Room 33. Corridor running north-south (Build C)**

The 2005 report by English Heritage assigns an 18<sup>th</sup> century date to this space. The ceiling above the southern part of the corridor is disintegrating and in a dangerous condition, limiting the recording in this area. At the north end a large section of fallen ceiling is a further obstruction.

*Floor* – 170mm wide butt-boards laid north-south, apparently sloping down north of the doorway to Room 39, though this area is covered by fallen lath and plaster ceiling, so there may be steps.

*Walls* – the east wall is masonry, plastered and lime-washed. The west wall is brick, changing to lath and plaster at the north end against Room 41.

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo*-moulded

*Door* – close to the south end at opening [147] is a timber partition containing an open-framed leaf covered on both sides with baize, and with a spring closer to the north side (**P107**). This presumably served as a baffle between the servant's attic and the 'family' bedrooms.

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster, collapsing at the south end, fallen towards the north (**P107**). At the north end two rafters from the roof of Build D cross the corridor.

##### **Room 34. Bedroom (Build A2)**

This is named and shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch plans (Figure 2). Recording and inspection of this space was limited by extensive contamination of all surfaces by pigeon droppings, live birds, and bird carcasses.

*Floor* – 150mm tongue-and-groove boards laid east-west. A single broad (22mm) board runs transversely across, giving access to a gas pipe.

*Walls* - east and west walls are sandstone rubble, plastered and lime-washed. Large area of plaster on the west wall is missing, the remaining plaster shows tack-lines for walls for fixing hessian across battens as a base for wall paper as in Room 36. The north and south walls are stud-framed, with brick nogging (see Room 35 and Room 36) (**P118-120**). It is proposed to remove the whole south wall with doorway (Approved drawing M516/10).

*Skirting* – this is low, and runs all round the room, post-dating the blocking of [162].

*Door* – [157] is thin framed, two panels crudely raised-and-fielded internally, with *ovolo*-moulded stiles. It is probably 18<sup>th</sup> century. There appears to have been a door [162] now blocked, east of the fire.

*Windows* – in the east wall are [156] and [159], both early 19<sup>th</sup> century 3/3 sashes with narrow *ovolo* glazing bars, set in full-height reveals (**P120**).

*Shutters* – both windows have pairs of leaves with two panels raised & fielded with *ovolo*-moulding to the outside. Both southern shutters have a narrow central leaf attached: that on window [159] is hung on splayed butterfly hinges. These appear to be reused 18<sup>th</sup> century fittings.

*Fire* – in the brick chimney-breast against the north wall is [160], with timber surround and mantelpiece, square-headed cast-iron plate and grate. Patched plaster suggests the present fire surround is secondary (**P121**).

*Cupboard* – [161] the alcove west of the fire has been fitted as a wall-cupboard [161] with a thin two-panel leaf with *ovolo*-moulding (**P121**). It is proposed to remove the door and back wall of the cupboard to create a new doorway (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10)

*Ceiling* – formerly lath and plaster, this had been removed before the recording. The roof timbers are exposed, showing a mixture of early and later timbers as in Room 36. One of the main beams has been cut and spliced with a steel support (**P120**).

*Wallpaper* – only surviving on the north wall, the earliest is probably 1840s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 35. Dressing Room (Build A2)**

This is named and shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plans (Figure 2) as only being accessible from Room 36 through a now-blocked doorway [153]. The 2005 English Heritage report includes this under Rooms 37 and 38.

*Floor* – 150mm wide tongue and groove boards aligned east-west. A broad (22mm) board crosses the floor from Room 36 north-south giving access to a gas-pipe.

*Walls* – the north and south walls are stud framed with brick on-edge nogging (brick dimensions 240 x 110 x 55mm). The east wall is (presumably) sandstone rubble. The west wall is stud covered with lath and plaster.

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo*-moulded, and overlies a wallpaper.

*Door* – access from lobby Room 37 is through [155] which has a thin-framed (32mm thick) late 18th/early 19th century three-panel leaf, the lower single panel raised-and-fielded externally, *ovolo*-moulded inside, the two upper panels replaced with frosted glass. The door leaf is hung on H-hinges and has an open-case iron door lock (**P116-117**). In the south wall there is a rather crudely-blocked doorway [153], shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plans (NRO 6393/12) as the only access to this space. It is proposed to reopen this doorway (Approved drawing M561/10) Possibly the leaf of [155] may have originally belonged to this opening, and has been repositioned.

*Window* – in the east wall is [156], a 3/6 sash with narrow *ovolo* glazing bars and moulded architrave (**P115**) in full-height reveals as in Rooms 34 and 36.

*Shutters* – the window has a pair of two-panelled leaves raised & fielded internally, *ovolo*-moulded externally, hung on squared butt-hinges. The southern leaf carries a narrow plain centre leaf hung on splayed butterfly hinges. The panelled leaves have turned wooden knobs (**P115**).

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster.

*Wallpaper* – the earliest is 1820s -1830s, latest probably early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Appendix 4).

### **Room 36. Bedroom (Build A1)**

This is named on the sketch floor plans (Figure 2). In the 2005 English Heritage report this appears to be part of the description of Rooms 34 and 35. Severe contamination from thick deposits of pigeon droppings and rotten floorboards limited safe inspection of this space.

*Floor* – this is composed of 150mm-wide butt-boards aligned east-west.

*Walls* – the south, east and west walls are sandstone rubble, plastered and lime-washed. The plaster on the west wall runs on behind the north wall which is a stud framed partition with brick nogging (see Room 35) (**P112**). The east wall has an offset at its head c.300mm deep, before rising again to form the inner face of the roof parapet. There are traces of lines of tacks on the west and north walls for fixing hessian across battens as a base for wall paper.

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo*- moulded.

*Door* – the room is accessed from lobby Room 37 through [148] which has a thin-framed (34mm thick ) leaf of two-panels crudely raised and fielded to the outside, *ovolo*-moulded inside. The leaf has been reversed to hang on the former locking stile. Screwed to the upper inner panel are two brass plates, the top one reading:-

'Clerk of the Alnwick Corporation'  
the lower reading:-

'Wm. T. Hindmarsh Commissioner for Oaths  
Clerk of the Joint Burials Committee  
Deputy Steward of Bamburgh Manors  
Registrar of Belford County Court'

The upper plate overlies the lower (**P113**).

At the east end of the north wall is the site of another door [153] rather roughly blocked (**P112**).

*Windows* – in the east wall are [158] and [159], both early 19<sup>th</sup> century 3/6 sashes with narrow *ovo/lo* glazing bars in full height reveals, with moulded architraves and panelled heads.

*Shutters* - both windows have a pair of two-panel leaves, raised-and-fielded to the inside, *ovo/lo*-moulded to the outside. The central plain leaves are hung on the southern shutter with splayed butterfly hinges; that in window [158] is narrower than [159]. The knobs are missing. These are probably reused 18<sup>th</sup> century fittings.

*Fire* – a wide brick chimney-breast against the south wall contains [149] with stone surround and a square-headed cast-iron plate similar to that in Room 34. The mantelpiece is missing (**P110**).

*Cupboards* – the alcove [154] west of fire was formerly shelved out. East of the fire is wall-cupboard [150], which has a two-panel leaf with *ovo/lo* moulding.

*Ceiling* – this was lath and plaster, but had been removed before the recording leaving the roof-timbers exposed. These are a mixture of old roughly-squared beams and rafters with timber-merchant's/carpenter's marks, and later sawn timber of narrower scantling, with some very modern repairs and additions. The southerly beam has been cut at its west end and spliced to a steel channel girder (**P110, 114**). This has 'XX' and 'W VI' chiselled into the south face. The northerly beam is intact and this truss was drawn (Figure 22). These older timbers may be late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Sockets in the east wall suggest beams have been removed, or repositioned. It is proposed to remove the hipped roof above this room (and Room 35) to create a roof-deck (Approved drawing M561/05F). The potential impact of this on the surviving old roof-timbers is unknown.

*Wallpaper* – the earliest is a lining paper of the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the latest is 1900-1920s (Appendix 4).

### **Room 37. Lobby (Build A2)**

The 2005 English Heritage report conflates this with Room 38 – apparently a mistake for 36. This space could not be meaningfully photographed due to restricted angles and the unstable ceiling soffit in the corridor.

*Floor* – raised by one step up from corridor Room 33, at opening [147] this has 150mm butt-boards aligned E-W, the remainder are 150mm wide tongue and groove boards sloping down to east.

*Walls* – the north and south walls are stud framed with brick on-edge nogging. The east wall is a stud partition, the west wall is brick, plastered.

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo*-moulded.

*Door* – opening [147] is a breach in the masonry of the west wall of Build A. It shows no evidence for a frame or door. Doorways [148] on the south, [155] on the east, and [157] on the north, lead into Rooms 34 -36.

*Ceiling* – this is lath and plaster, sagging.

Wallpaper – possibly 1930s (Appendix 4).

### **38. Bedroom (Build A3)**

Called 'North House bedroom' by English Heritage in 2005, who noted that this room retained much of its 18<sup>th</sup> century fittings.

*Floor* - this is raised above the level of corridor Room 33 by two steps, and has 140mm wide butt-boards, laid east-west.

*Walls* – the north, east and west walls are sandstone, rendered except for an area of the west wall where it has been removed (the outer face of this wall is fully visible in Room 41). There are some areas of recent plaster patching around the base of walls. The scar of a possible inserted partition, now removed, is visible in the ceiling.

*Skirting* – removed, but leaving a visible scar.

*Door* – the only present access is through [171] reached by two steps from corridor Room 33. The leaf has been removed (**P125**). This door could only have been usable after raising the height and roof-line of Build D to its present level. It may have originally been a window. In the south-east corner alcove [174] is a blocked door formerly leading into Room 34.

*Windows* – in the east wall [172] and [173] are early 19<sup>th</sup> century 3/6 sashes with narrow *ovolo*-moulded glazing bars and possibly earlier architraves. The lower part of the recess for [172] has been in-filled to create a window seat.

*Shutters* – window [173] has a pair of leaves with two panels raised and fielded-to the inside, *ovolo* moulding to the outside. The shutters to window [172] have been removed, the reveals filled with ply panels.

*Fire* – set in a wide brick breast [175] has a surround of dressed sandstone jambs and lintel with narrow bead moulding. The hearth has a cast iron grate flanked by carefully-cut curving sandstone jambs (**P126**). The flue is lined with brick. The whole has an 18<sup>th</sup> century character.

*Wall-cupboards* – alcoves both sides of fire have been used as cupboards. That on the east is shelved but the door leaf is missing, that on the west is enclosed with a thin (34mm thick) two-panel door and contains a row of possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century turned wooden coat-pegs [176] (**P127**). It is proposed to open this into a new doorway (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10)

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster, partly fallen on the west side, with no evidence of a cornice. An angled scar in the soffit appears to mark a former partition (**P124**).

*Wallpaper* – the only paper currently identifiable dates to the 1840s (Appendix 4).

*Roof space* – not accessible, though a mixture of new and old timbers is visible through the gap in ceiling, the older timbers appear to be recycled from an earlier roof-structure.

### **Room 39. Servant's attic (Build C)**

This appears, without any projecting flues but with a central east doorway, on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch floor plans (Figure 2). The plainness of the room reflects the status of its occupants.

*Floor* – because of the high-ceilinged ground floor Room 7 this is raised two steps up from corridor Room 33. It has 180-200mm wide butt boards laid east-west.

*Walls* – the south and east walls are plastered brick. The west wall is a stud partition to under-eaves space Room 39.1. It is proposed to install new partitions to a bathroom and toilet at the north end of the room, with a new doorway in the east wall (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10).

*Skirting* – low, *ovolo* moulded.

*Door* – the room is only accessible from corridor Room 33 by [164], which has a thin (31mm thick) leaf with four panels raised and fielded to the outside, flush on the inside, and three small glazed lights at the top separated by *ovolo* and *fillet* glazing bars. It is hung on H-hinges, with a drop catch and bow handle probably of mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> century date, but it has been repositioned. The leaf has additional 25mm-wide framing all round to fit a larger opening, and the scar of former catch and bow handle on the hanging stile shows it has been reversed. It has been lime-washed (**P121**). In the centre of the west wall is a low door [167] leading to under-eaves space Room 39.1.

*Fire* – against the south wall is a brick breast containing [169] which has a plain dressed sandstone surround (**P122**). Another narrow breast [165] against the north wall may simply be the flue from Room 13 below (**P123**).

*Ceiling* – low, lath and plaster, with some rafters exposed (**P122-123**).

### **Room 39.1 Under-eaves space (Build C)**

This space was too restricted for photographic recording, and was cluttered with empty deed boxes.

*Floor* – 160-170mm wide butt-boards.

*Walls* – the west wall is sandstone rubble, the east wall is a stud partition. The south and north walls are of orangey-red bricks measuring 230-240mm x 115mm x 70mm.

*Door* – access from Room 39 is by [167] a low, thin (23mm thick) two-panel leaf, hung on plain H – hinges. The lock has been replaced.

*Ceiling* – there is no soffit, just exposed rafters and the underside of the slated roof.

### **Room 40. Cistern (Build B)**

Shown on the early 19<sup>th</sup> century sketch plans as divided into two, perhaps also containing a lavatory.

*Floor* – 170mm wide butt-boards laid east-west.

*Walls* – the south wall is breezeblock, rebuilt in 2002. The north wall is brick (dimensions 234 x 30 x 57mm) with a sawn timber wall-plate running through, the colour of the brickwork below is 'fresher' than that above, suggesting this had been concealed by the cistern (**P109**). The east wall is partly rendered, but the sandstone quoins noted in Room 10 below are visible again at this level, extending up to parapet level (**P109**). It is proposed to install a new partition at the western end of the room.

*Skirting* – on the east wall only and stopping at the former south wall face, this is low and *ovolo* moulded

*Door* – the room is accessed by [144] which has a thin (25mm thick) four panel leaf hung on squared butterfly hinges and fitted with a modern drop-latch. A small door at the head of the ladder stairs high in east wall gives access to the roof leads.

*Stairs* – a wooden ladder-stair [146] with a turned newel post similar to that on ground floor stairs [90] on the north side rises to the roof access. The bannister is a

modern softwood replacement. It is proposed to remove this stair and install a new stair to a roof terrace (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10).

#### **Room 41. Under eaves space (Build D)**

Access to this space was very restricted due to the sloping roofline, thin joists, and water-damage to the lath and plaster soffit of Room 19 below. There are a number of empty tin and wood deed boxes tumbled about, and some archive material, including a fine mss. plan of Benton Park House, lies between the joists.

*Floor* – only partly boarded, the rest mostly unsound narrow joists carrying the lath and plaster ceiling to Room 19 below.

*Walls* – the northern half of the east wall is roughly-squared sandstone bonded with white lime mortar. There is no evidence for this having been rendered or lime-washed, and there is little sign of weathering. The southern part of the east wall is a projecting stud partition covered with lath and plaster. The north end of this, from doorway [177], is proposed to be removed and a new partition inserted enclosing the south end of the space. A new wall is shown on the approved drawing cutting across the north end of the room. This and a new window in the west wall are associated with the proposed mansard roof over this space (Approved drawings M561/03A, /05F and /10).

The north wall (**P128**) could not be safely accessed for detailed examination. It appears to comprise a continuation eastward of the brick-faced burgage plot wall in English Garden Wall bond (five stretcher courses to one header) as described in Room 20. A raking joint or scar in the brickwork is just visible, perhaps a former roof-line associated with the west wall of Room 19 below. Projecting from the burgage wall is what appears to be a fossilised gable built in what looks like earlier brick, partly supported by a brick arch and rising to a chimney flue. The face of this feature has two raking scars which suggest earlier rooflines to a narrower rear range (**P128**). The lower part of the south wall is orangey-red brick (dimensions 245 x 120 x 70mm), at the east end of which is a southward return which forms the west side of corridor Room 33 and the north-east corner of Room 39. Standing forward of this is a narrow (120mm) raking joist supporting brick infill below the stepped tooled ashlar facing of the north wall of Build C. A dark raking scar cutting across the stepped ashlars represents an earlier too-fall roofline to Build D.

*Door* – accessed through [177], which has a thin framed leaf with four plain panels, possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century (**P125**).

*Windows* – there are two glass panes serving as skylights [196] and [197].

*Roof* – the joists, rafters, and torched underside of the slating are exposed. All the timber is late and sawn. These will presumably be removed when the existing mono-pitch roof is replaced by the proposed mansard roof shown on approved drawing M561/03A.

**Room 42. Landing at the head of the principal stairs (Build B)**

*Floor* – 170mm butt-boards, aligned north-south.

*Walls* – the east wall is presumably a continuation of the masonry visible in Room 40, rendered. The north and south walls are brick partitions, also rendered. It is proposed to install an entrance lobby at the north-east corner.

*Ceiling* – lath and plaster, in an unstable condition. It is proposed to install a rooflight at the south-east corner.



**P107** (top). North-south passageway Room 33, looking north showing baize door [163] opening [147] leading to Rooms 34, 36 and 37] and fallen lath and plaster ceiling Scales 2m.

**P108** (below). Room 40 looking east showing quoins of single pile house, ladder to rooftop, and 2003 breezeblock rebuilt south gable to the right. Scale 2m.





**P109** (top). Room 40 looking north-west showing brick partition forming the south side of the stairwell and discolouration probably indicating the site of the bath of the 19<sup>th</sup> century building. Scale 2m.

**P110** (below). Room 36 looking south, showing fire [149] and formerly shelved-out wall-cupboards [150] and [154] either side, Scales 1m and 2m.





**P111** (top). Room 36 looking south-east, showing cupboard [150], windows [151] and [152], and beams resting on offset on east wall. Scale 2m.

**P112** (below). Room 36 looking north-west, showing door [143], blocked door [153] and roof-timbers. Horizontal and vertical lines of tacks for lining paper are visible in the plaster. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P113** (top.) Room 36, detail of brass nameplate on inner face of door [148], door hung with H-hinges. Scale 20cm.

**P114** (below). Room 36, detail of roof timbers resting on offset in east wall, with possible timber-merchant's and carpentry marks. No scale.





**P115** (top). Room 35, looking east to window 156] with shutters closed. Scars of shelving visible on the adjoining walls. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P116** (below). Room 35 looking west to door [155] showing H-hinges. Scale 2m.





**P117** (top). Room 35. Detail of internal lock on door [155]. Scale 20cm.

**P118** (below). Room 34 looking south-east, showing door [157] leading from lobby Room 37, window [158], and on-edge brick-nogged stud partition. Scale 1m.

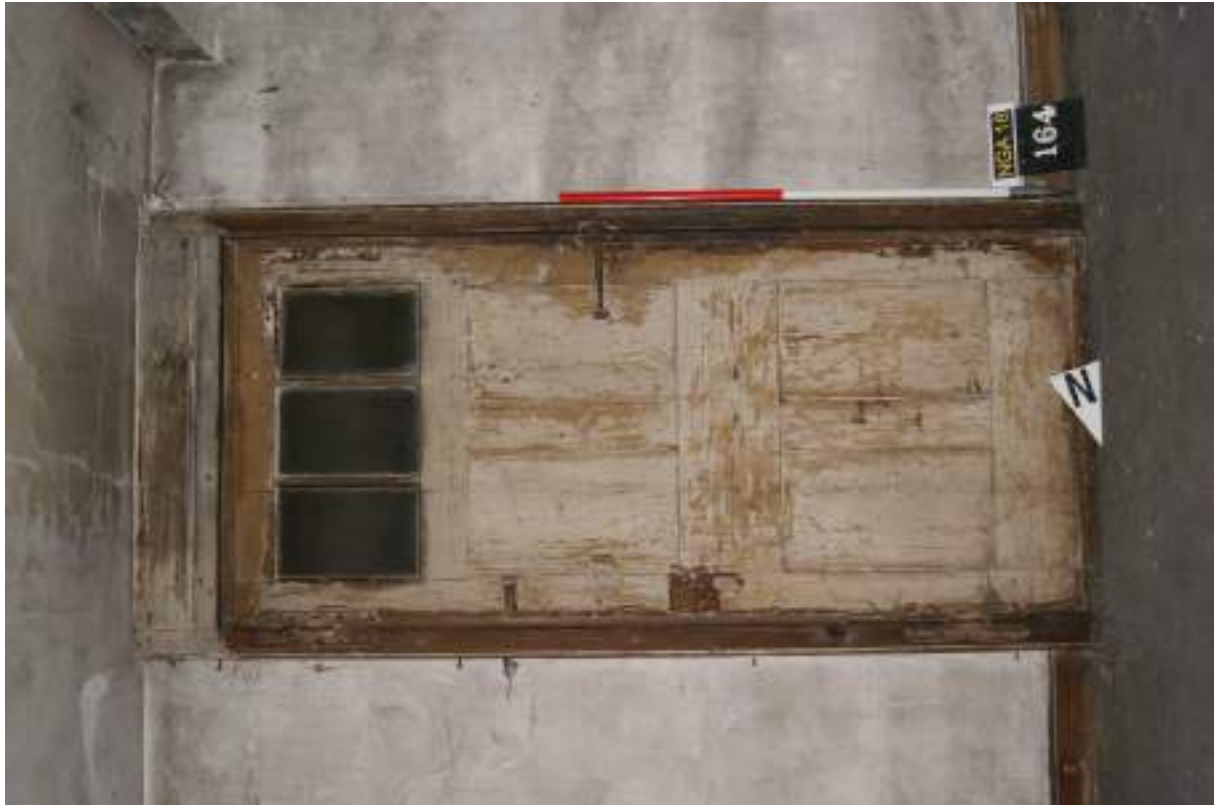




**P119** (top). Room 34 looking east, showing windows [158] and [159], sandstone rubble masonry below lime-washed render, and roof timbers resting on scarcement on east wall. Thick deposits of pigeon droppings on floor. Scale 2m.

**P120** (below). Room 34 looking north-east, showing fire [160] with brick breast rising above the lime-washed render, and wall-cupboard [161] on the left. Window [159] just visible on the right. Pigeon dung and carcasses on the floor. Scale 2m.





**P121** (top). Room 39, inner face of reversed door [164] showing fittings and hinges, Scales 1m.

**P122** (below). Room 39 looking south showing fire [168], exposed roof joists, and skylight [169]. Scale 1m.





**P123** (top). Room 39 looking north showing flue rising from Room 13 below, door [164] and boxed in feature [166] to left. Scale 1m.

**P124** (below). Room 38 looking south-east showing fire [175], door to wall-cupboard [176], window [172] to left and scar of a former partition in ceiling soffit. Scales 1m and 2m.





**P125** (top). Room 38. Doorway [171] from passage 33 looking towards door [177] to room 41. Scales 1m and 2m.

**P126** (below). Room 38. Detail of fire [175] showing sandstone sides perhaps imitating a Bath grate Scales 1m and 2m.





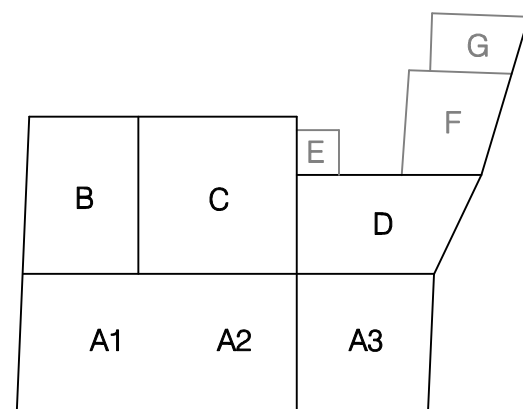
**P127** (top). Room 38. Detail of turned wooden coat pegs in wall cupboard [176]. Scale 20cm.

**P128** (below). Room 41. Looking north to brick arch and flue in north wall. Scale 1m.





**P129** (top). Room 41 looking south, showing brickwork and stepped ashlar facing to the north wall of the western extension. Scale 1m.



Block plan showing principal structural units

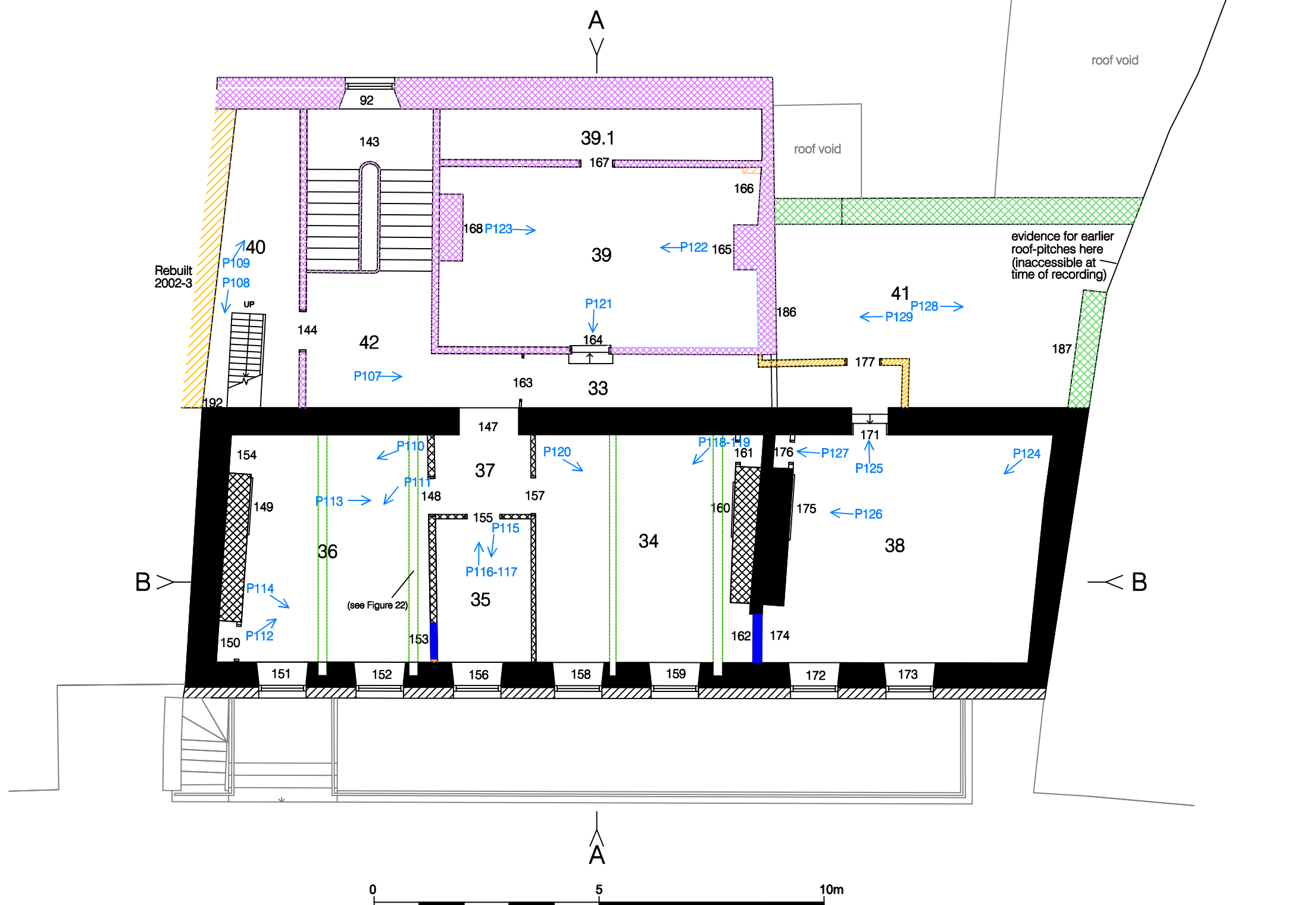


Figure 18

# Narrowgate House, Alnwick Second Floor Plan

## Key

- 15b Room numbers
- 181 Feature numbers in NCAS report
- P24 Plate numbers (with direction of shot)
- late 17th-early 18th century core fabric
- 18th century (pre-1774)
- 18th century (post-1774)
- late 18th -early 19th century (pre-1827)
- c.1830
- late 19th-21st century
- features now removed
- blocked openings
- section lines (Figures 22-23)

Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3

#### **4.2.8 ROOF (Figure 19)**

The roof is accessed through a small door [194], lined internally with sheet-iron, at the head of ladder stair [146]. It was described in 1960 as mainly slated but partly lead covered; all the lead was stolen in 2014 and emergency repairs have been carried out principally using roofing felt and bitumen-backed lead foil. The original single-pile east range (Build A) is under two small hipped roofs with access all round. The western range (Builds B and C) is a single steeply pitched roof and the western side cannot be physically accessed.

Extending round all but the south-west side of the house is a sandstone ashlar parapet with ogee-moulded coping. The east parapet appears integral with the ashlar re-facing and rises from an internally-chamfered base. In the centre of the inner face there are traces of fixings, perhaps for a flag-pole. At the north-east and south-east ends of the east parapet the corner coping stones are dressed to fit a right-angled return but as the sections of parapet on the north and south gables stand higher, the copings do not meet.

Near the north-west angle, the northern parapet abruptly steps down in height to approximately the level of the eastern parapet. It then wraps round the angle, again with a corner coping cut to a right-angle, and runs southward above Build D (**P131**). This section of parapet shows serious deflection outwards, monitored by a glass tell-tale. There is a short return west at the north gable of Build C, and the parapet is cut, or abuts, chimney [191]. The coursing of this short section of parapet tilts slightly downward to meet the level coursing of the facing on Build C: the relationship between the two builds is ambiguous (**P132**).

At the south gable there is only a short section of the higher parapet abutting chimney [180]. West of this, the parapet coping is at the same level as that on the east facade, and the ashlar facing rises from the level of the east cornice.

The higher sections of parapet have been described as 'demonstrably early' with the east parapet being secondary (Simpson & Brown 2, 16). The structural evidence described above rather suggests the reverse, and this is indicated on Figure 19.

#### **Eastern range, original single-pile house (Builds A1-3 )**

**Roof -** This has two separate low, hipped, roofs, with Welsh slate and extensive roofing felt and other *ad hoc* repairs. The valleys around the roofs are a mixture of felting and bitumen-backed lead foil. It is proposed to remove the southern hipped roof and create a roof deck (Approved drawing M561/05F).

At least four trusses are visible within the building in Rooms 34 and 36. These have substantial, roughly squared, tie-beams with what may be carpentry or timber-merchant's marks on their sides. Two have been

spliced with steel supports due to rot. The ends of paired principal rafters of lesser scantling are seated into the tie-beams and rise at a shallow angle to meet at the ridge with overlap joints secured by single dowels. Pairs of short struts rise from the tie-beams to join the principals with overlap joints, presumably nailed. One truss has been drawn (Figure 22). The tie-beams, principals, and joinery methods are of possibly late 17th-early 18<sup>th</sup> century character.

**Chimneys** - At the south end of the northern hipped roof is [189] a very large brick stack rising from a sandstone ashlar base (**P130**). Above the ashlar the stack is a pale yellow brick, possibly made by Radcliffe Coal Co., Amble Staith, between 1875-1955 or Broomhill Colliery, between 1866-1900 (Davidson, 23, 25) and seven pots. There are fragments of lead flashing left in some joints. This chimney served fires [16] and [23] (basement), [61] and [63] (ground floor), [107] and [112] (1<sup>st</sup> floor), and [160] and [175] (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

At the south gable is [188], the lower part of which may be 18<sup>th</sup> century brick (**P134-135**). The upper part of the stack is red engineering brick of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A single decorative ceramic pot survives. This chimney served fires [4] (basement), [99] (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), and [140] (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

### **Western range (Builds B and C)**

**Roof** - This is covered with a single, pitched, roof with smaller, thicker, Welsh slate. The eastern pitch is shorter and steeper than the western. It is capped with stone ridge-tiles. It is proposed to install a rooflight at the southern end of the eastern pitch (M561/05F).

**Chimneys** – approximately central on the roof-ridge is [190] built of possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick with a single ceramic pot surviving. This is in an unstable condition. It served fires [141] (1<sup>st</sup> floor) and [168] (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). At the north gable is [191], the stack of which appears to be wholly of yellow Radcliffe or Broomhill brick. This has two ceramic pots. This chimney served fires [85] (ground), [137] (1<sup>st</sup> floor), and [167] (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

### **North-west outshots (Builds E-G).**

**Roof** - All are mono-pitch roofs, covered with Welsh slate. The apex of pitch of the north-west outshot is capped by the stone flagged coping of the boundary wall between No. 33 and Dorothy Forster's House.

**Chimneys** – At the north-east end of Build D is [193], which has a stack of possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> century orangey-red brick (rising from Room 41) raised above

parapet level with 'Broomhill' stamped bricks (**P131**). There is a single

ceramic pot. The head of this stack is in an unstable condition. This chimney served fires [77] (ground) and [119] (1<sup>st</sup> floor).

Rising from the northern boundary wall coping on the north side of Build F is a narrow chimney [192] of possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century brick (**P136**). This served fires [81] (ground) and [124] (1<sup>st</sup> floor).



**P130** (top). Looking north along the valley gutter from roof access door [194], showing (left) c himney [191] serving Rooms 39,13 and 7 of the western extension, and (right) chimney [193] serving Rooms 34/38,16/173/4 and 23/24, and the hipped roofs of the single-pile house. Scale 1m.

**P131** (below). Detail, looking north, showing the return on the western parapet to join the north wall of the western extension, Chimney [191] and the 'step' on the northern parapet. Scale 1m.





**P132** (top). The western parapet looking south-east, showing deflection in the stonework, chimney [191] and junction of the parapet with the ashlar facing of the western extension. No scale.

**P133** (below). The north-eastern angle of the parapet looking north, showing base chamfer to the eastern parapet and evidence for remodelling shown in the 'step' on the coping. Scale 1m.





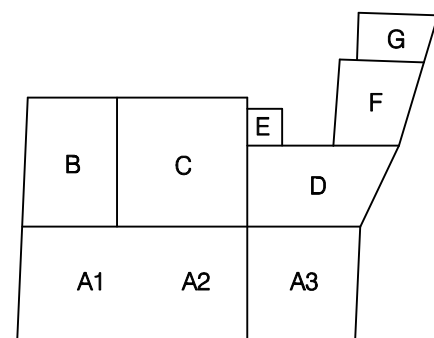
**P134** (top). Looking south along the eastern parapet showing base chamfer, chimney [180] serving fires in Rooms 36,18 and 22, and the slated hipped roof over 31 Narrowgate. Scale 1m.

**P135** (below). Detail of the south-eastern angle of the parapet showing evidence for remodelling, and chimney [180]. Scale 1m.





**P136.** Looking north-west from the parapet with the mono-pitch roof of Build D below, and that over Builds F and G beyond. Dorothy Forster Court is on the right.



Block plan showing principal structural units

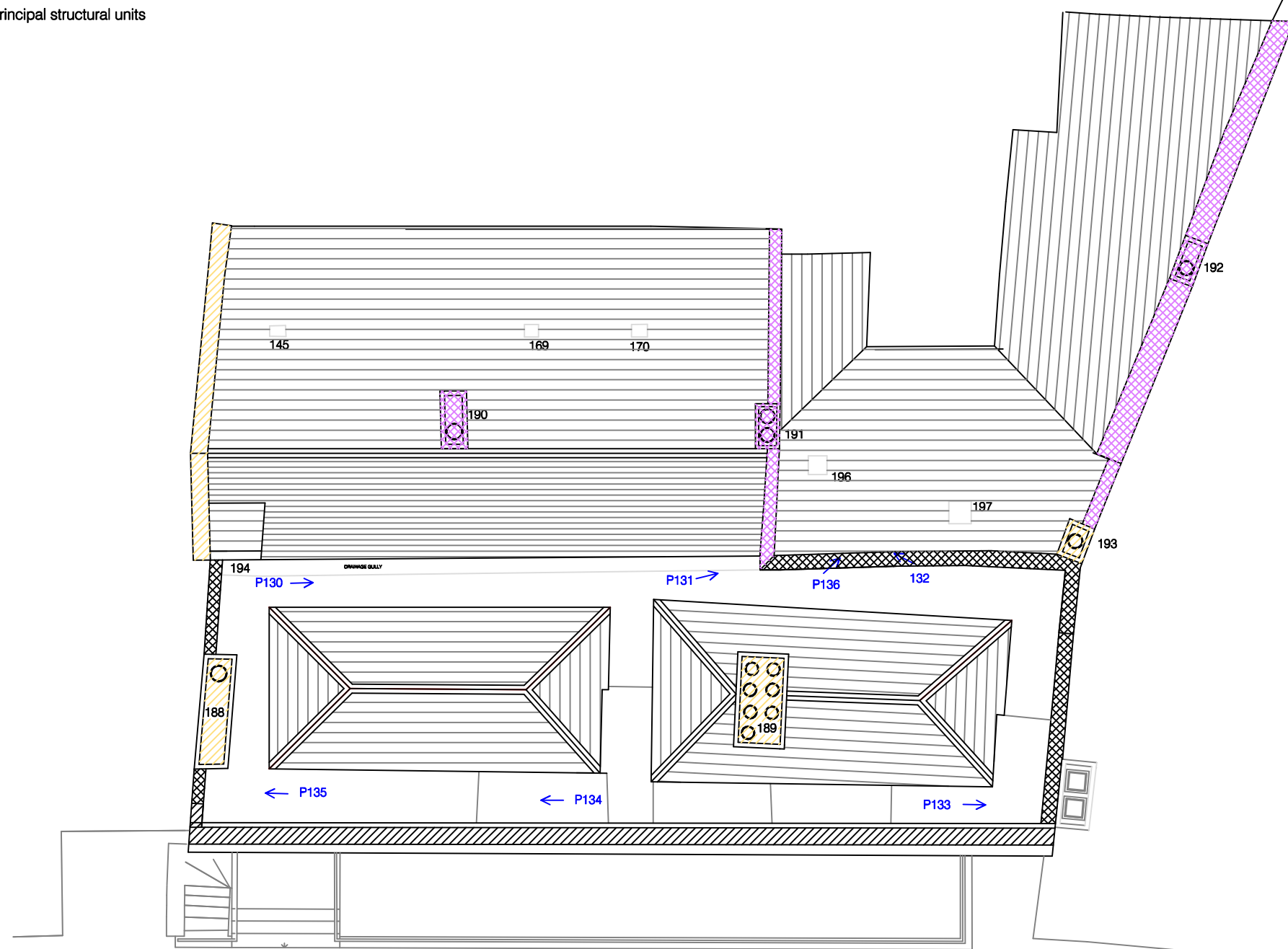






Figure 19

Narrowgate House, Alnwick  
Roof plan

# Key

- 181 feature numbers  
in NCAS report
- P24 Plate numbers (with  
direction of shot)

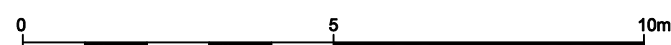
-  ?18th century (pre-1774)
-  late 18th -early 19th century  
(pre-1827)
-  c.1830
-  late 19th-21st century

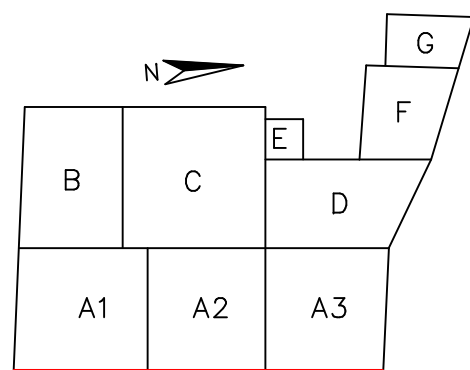
Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3





Block plan showing location of elevations



East Elevation

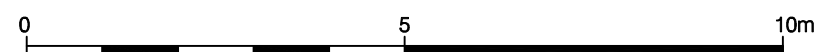


Figure 20  
Narrowgate House, Alnwick  
East facing elevation

Key

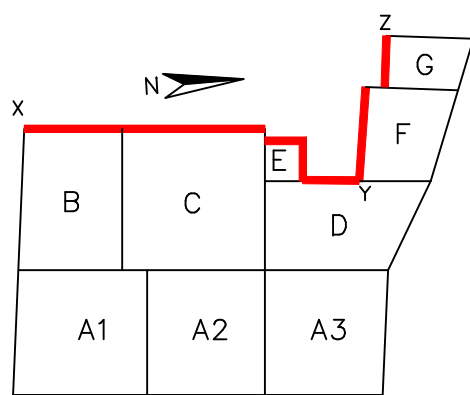
- 175 feature numbers used in in NCAS report
- 54mOD levels related to Ordnance Survey bench mark on Pottergate Tower

Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018

Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3



Block plan showing location of elevations

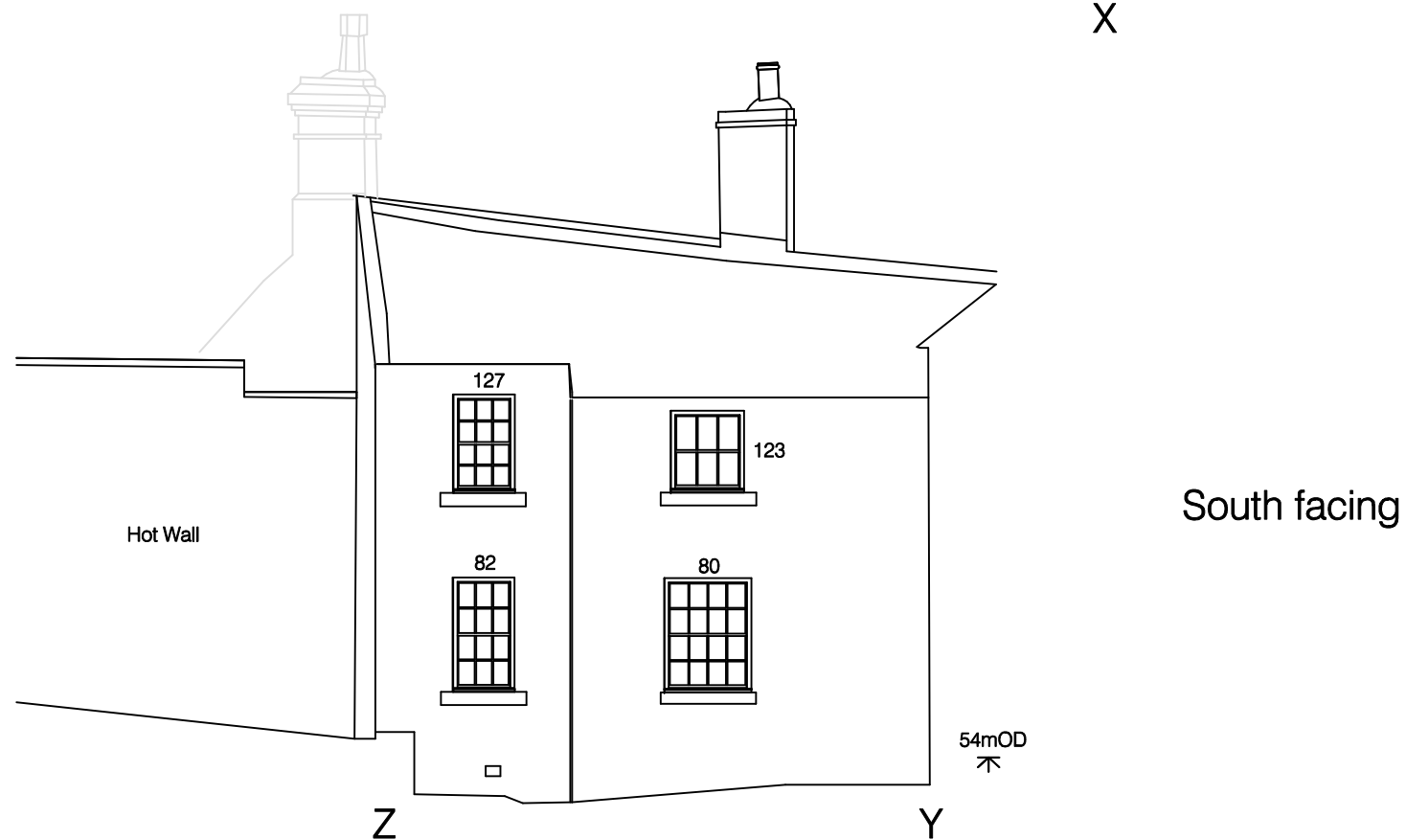


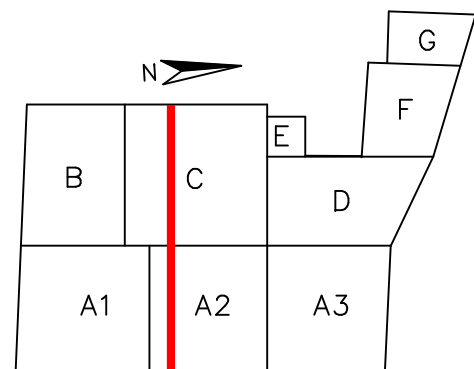
Figure 21  
Narrowgate House, Alnwick  
Rear elevations

- Key
- 175 feature numbers used in in NCAS report
  - 54mOD levels related to Ordnance Survey bench mark on Pottergate Tower

Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018  
Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3



Block plan showing location of section

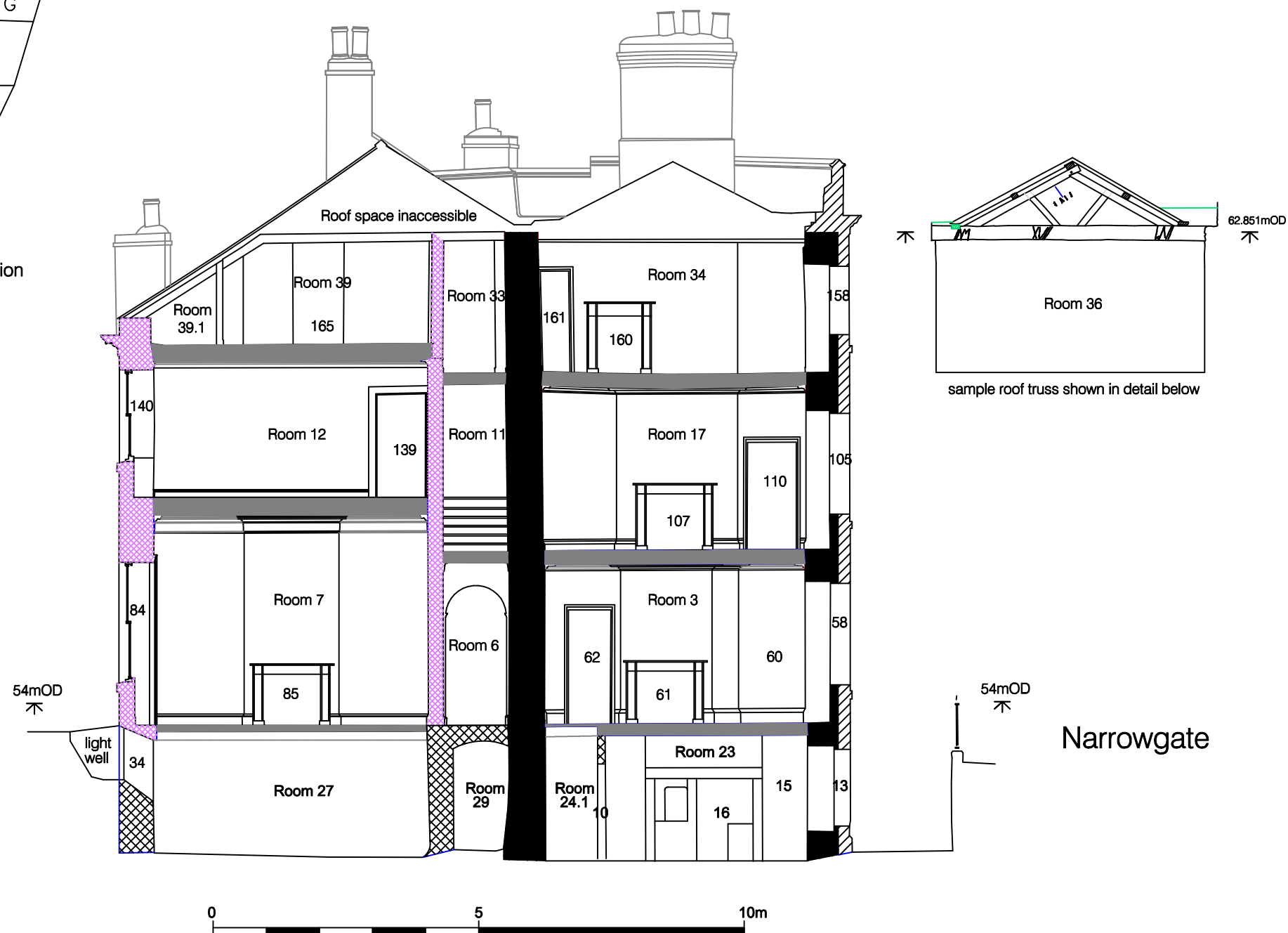


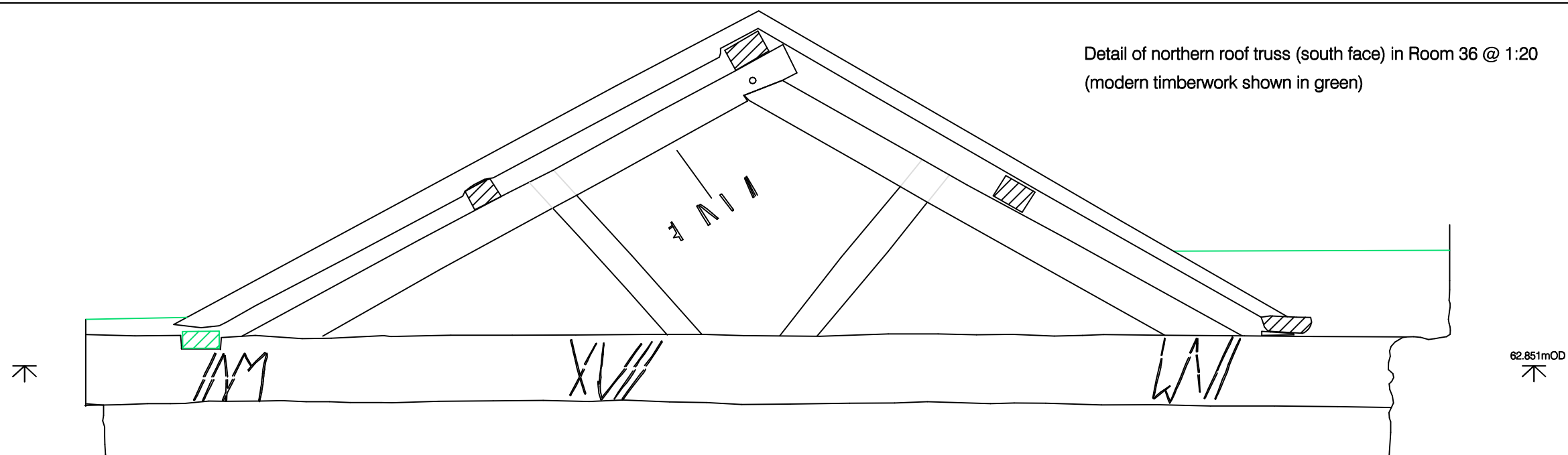
Figure 22

Narrowgate House, Alnwick  
East-west section  
(facing north)

### Key

- 181 Feature numbers in NCAS report
- 54mOD levels related to Ordnance Survey bench mark on Pottergate Tower
- late 17th-early 18th century core fabric
- 18th century (pre-1774)
- 18th century (post-1774)
- c.1830

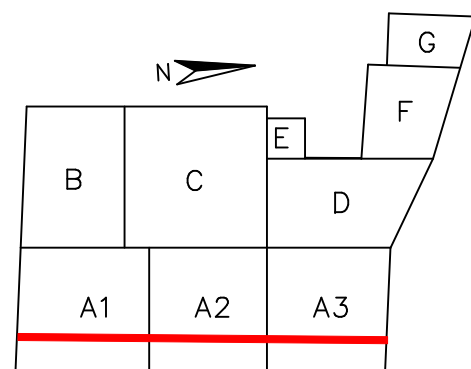
Detail of northern roof truss (south face) in Room 36 @ 1:20  
(modern timberwork shown in green)



Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018  
Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.

Scale 1:100 @ A3





Block plan showing location of section



Figure 23

# Narrowgate House, Alnwick North-south section (facing east)

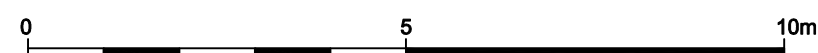
## Key

- 181 Feature numbers in NCAS report
- 54mOD levels related to Ordnance Survey bench mark on Pottergate Tower
- late 17th-early 18th century core fabric
- 18th century (pre-1774)
- c.1830
- late 19th-21st century

Based on a survey by Eriss Ltd., for  
Spence & Dower LLP, with amendments  
and additions by NCAS 2018  
Client: Stablewood Leisure Ltd.



Scale 1:100 @ A3



## SECTION 5. Significant areas of building fabric and potential impacts

- 5.1 Narrowgate House is, as a whole, of significance as a multi-period town house which has undergone relatively minor internal alterations during the last c.200 years. This importance was noted in the English Heritage report of 2005 *'The significance of the interiors...lie in the house's unique history of use which has resulted in the remarkable survival of its interior fittings and overly decorative schemes'* (EH 2005, 1).
- 5.2 Some areas of the extant building fabric have identifiably higher significance value than others, and some areas within the building footprint have high potential for further understanding of the historic structure and its site. These are outlined below, together with a number of potential impacts of conversion identifiable from and referenced to the currently approved scheme drawings (M561, listed in grant of LBC 15/02604/LBC dated 14 October 2016).
- 5.3 **Exterior.** A new stone stair is proposed to be constructed at the north-east corner of the eastern basement forecourt (M561/05F), and the mono-pitch roof above Room 41 is proposed to be replaced by a heightened mansard roof.
- 5.4 **Basement.** This level contains some of the earliest and least altered building fabric substantially dating to the late 17th-early 18<sup>th</sup> century, and is consequently an area of high significance.

*Room 22* – Listed Building Consent has been given for a scheme involving removal of the brick north wall (Approved drawing M516/10). Removal of this wall will involve the loss of the service bells [6].

*Room 23* – Consent has also been granted for removal of the south and west walls (Approved drawing M516/10). This will involve the loss of the possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century cupboards [11].

- 5.5 **Ground.** Much of the southern house (Builds A1-2, C and D) reflects alterations associated with the re-facing in ashlar, suggested to date broadly between 1827 and 1860, which 'modernised' Narrowgate House as gentleman's town house. Many features and fittings from the earlier house were however retained or adapted for reuse. This level is also significant for the western extensions, the development sequence of which is still not fully understood.

*Room 3 - Doorway* [53] which is probably part of the c.1830 remodelling is proposed to be blocked. It would be desirable for the door leaf and architrave to be re-used.

*Room 3.1* - The north wall is proposed to be removed. As this is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century partition it is of minor significance. The newspaper cuttings in the north reveal of window [53] should be preserved in situ possibly through encapsulation (Approved drawing M561/05F and /10).

*Room 5* - Two doorways are proposed to be inserted in the south wall, the western-most appears to be a re-opening of a now-blocked doorway [66] (Approved drawing M561/10), the other however is a new opening (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Room 7* - Doorway [88] which is part of or possibly predates the c.1830 remodelling is proposed to be blocked, and a new doorway inserted to the north (Approved drawing M561/05F and /10). It would be desirable to re-use the door leaf and architrave in the new opening.

*Room 15* - The late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century service or back staircase is proposed for complete removal (Approved drawing M561/05F - where it is shown in the wrong position - and /10.72), as is the probably 20<sup>th</sup> century modern plank and batten door leaf leading into Room 15a (Approved drawing M561/10).

*Room 15b* - Door [75] with an embossed finger-plate is proposed for removal (M561/10), and the east wall is proposed to be significantly remodelled involving openings at the north and south ends, and insertion of new east-west partitions (Approved drawing M561/05F and /10). It would be desirable to re-use the door leaf and finger plate.

**5.6 First floor.** As with the ground floor, the divisions of space and many features and fittings reflect the 'modernisation' which took place between 1827 and 1860.

*Room 10* - it is proposed to open a doorway connecting with Room 18 at the south end of the east wall apparently where Simpson & Brown 2 suggested there was a blocked window, though this is considered doubtful (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10).

*Room 18* – In addition to the new doorway into Room 10, it is proposed to open a new doorway at the west end of the north wall, a possibly 18<sup>th</sup> century brick or stud partition which contains a blocked doorway [109] at its east end (Approved drawing M561/10). A new north-south partition will be inserted (Approved drawing M561/05F).

*Room 20* – the extant arched doorway [126] is not shown on approved drawing M561/05F, which instead has a presumably new opening through the west wall further north, approximately on the site of blocked opening [125].

- 5.7 **Second floor.** This level was less affected by the 19<sup>th</sup> century 'modernisation', perhaps being partly servant's accommodation. It retains a number of earlier features, fittings, and divisions of space. The rooms within Builds A1-A3 have suffered from water ingress and a pigeon infestation.

*Room 34* - The probably 18<sup>th</sup> century stud and brick-nogged south wall containing doorway [157] is proposed to be removed and replaced by a new one slightly further south. It would be desirable to reuse the door and architrave in the new wall. It is also proposed to remove the door and back wall of the cupboard [161] to create a new doorway into Room 38 (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10), though there is already a blocked doorway between the two rooms [162].

*Room 35* – Door [155] which has an early 19<sup>th</sup> century lock, is proposed to be blocked. The door leaf has previously been repositioned, and it would be desirable to reuse it with the lock.

*Room 36* - It is proposed to remove the hipped roof above this room (and Room 35) to create a roof-deck (Approved drawing M561/05F). The potential impact of this on the surviving old roof-timbers is unknown. It would be desirable to retain the principal east-west beams which have carpentry and merchant's marks on them. If these beams are to be removed, the ends should be examined for further timber-merchant's/carpentry marks. It is also proposed to reopen blocked door [153] (Approved drawing M561/10).

*Room 38* - It is proposed to open cupboard [176] in the south wall into a new doorway (Approved drawing M561/05F and /10), though there is a blocked doorway [172] at the eastern end of the wall. This will involve the loss of a row of turned wooden coat-pegs, which it would be desirable to retain.

*Room 39* - It is proposed to block the existing doorway [164] and install new partitions to a bathroom and w.c at the north end of the room, served by a new doorway in the east wall (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10). The door leaf has previously been repositioned but appears to be 18<sup>th</sup> century, with an early bow handle. It would be desirable to reuse this door.

*Room 41* - The north end of this room, from doorway [177], is proposed to be removed and a new partition inserted enclosing the south end of the space. A new wall is shown cutting across the north end of the room. This and a new window in the west wall are associated with the proposed new mansard roof over this space (Approved drawings M561/03A, /05F, and /10). The north wall of this room contains significant brickwork features of probable 18<sup>th</sup> century date which could not be safely accessed at the time of recording.

**5.8 Roof.**

It is proposed to remove the existing timber stair to the roof in Room 40 and install a new staircase providing safe access to the roof terrace formed by removing the southern hipped roof and creating a roof deck (Approved drawings M561/05F and /10), and regular ongoing maintenance of the roof area. The impact upon the surviving older roof-timbers in this area is unknown.

## SECTION 6. Discussion

- 6.1 The precise date of construction of Narrowgate House is unknown, but Norton's plan of 1624 (paragraphs 2.8 - 2.10) provides evidence that the site of Narrowgate House was not built-upon at that date. Unfortunately no other town plans are known before Armstrong's small-scale plan of 1769, by which time the building was already in existence.
- 6.2 This very broad date-range for construction may be narrowed by a borough rental of 1709 which lists four properties as forming the 'west rawe' of Narrowgate. These appear to correspond with the present Narrowgate House (No. 31 and 33), the burgages to the north (Dorothy Forster's House (No. 35), and the Oddfellows Arms.
- 6.3 The earliest identifiable structural elements, principally the fire in basement Room 24 but also some of the fittings, suggest the first phase of building on the site of Narrowgate House probably took place toward the very end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps between c.1690-1700. This is broadly compatible with the English Heritage report of 2005 which noted '*building construction techniques ...suggestive of the seventeenth-century*'. The brick partitions defining the passages Room 24.1 and 25 may be slightly later since, unlike the partition and fire between Rooms 23 and 24 which echoes the skewed gable ends, these run square to the side walls.
- 6.4 The form and appearance of that first building (Builds A1-A3) can only be partly inferred from surviving fabric. It appears to have been of single-pile form and a rectangular shell of sandstone rubble, the inner face of which is still partly visible in the north, south, east and west walls and the outer (west) face and quoins in Rooms 10, 40 and 41. It is possible this shell was internally divided into three units, since there are (now at least) basement level flues rising from fires in Rooms 22, 23 and 24. It is not clear when the present division of the property between the southern two-thirds (Builds A1-A2) and northern one-third (Build A3) emerged, or how the floor levels were accessed prior to creation of the principal and service stairs in the western extensions.
- 6.5 There is only one substantial east-west internal division to the single-pile house, which has latterly marked the division between 31 and 33 Narrowgate. This is not however a continuous cross-wall but has a faced return at the west end, implying that there was always communication at least between the northern and central parts of the house at this level. The cross-section (Figure 23) shows a slight degree of deflection in the floors at a point between Rooms 22/26, Rooms 3/3.1, Rooms 17/18 and Rooms 35/36 perhaps caused by removal another substantial cross wall in this area. This may also account for the difference in the alignment of basement-level floor joists at this point.

- 6.6 It has been suggested (Simpson & Brown 2, 17) that the second floor was raised to its present height as part of a major 18<sup>th</sup> century remodelling, though this view was based largely on the assumption that the engraving reproduced by Graham showed Narrowgate House in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with a markedly different roof form to that at present. But as stated in paragraph 2.11, the engraving is actually a copy of a late 17<sup>th</sup> century painting, and may not be showing the west side of Narrowgate. There are undoubtedly a significant number of 18<sup>th</sup> century fittings within the house, many of which have been re-used, but this need not imply a major remodelling at this period.
- 6.7 There is however evidence for a presumed extension of the house in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Wilkin's map of 1774 shows a substantial south-western out-shot which appears to correspond with the existing rear basemented area (Build B). This may have been significantly rebuilt and extended to create Build C before c.1827. It is unknown if Wilkin's out-shot was a single-storied 'too-fall' or if it rose higher and contained a predecessor to the present principal stair.
- 6.8 There is also evidence for the parapet having been remodelled, sections on the north and south gables which stand higher than on the east and west have been considered to belong to the early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century house, the east parapet being a later rebuild (Simpson & Brown 2,16). Whether the existing two low-hipped roofs reflect the original roof form or were associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century re-facing is uncertain. Carpentry details in the surviving trusses suggest the pitch at least belongs to the earlier building. Prior to the present Welsh slate, the roof(s) may have been covered with red pantile, fragments of which occur below the floorboards in Room 7 and used in the walling of Room 15a.
- 6.9 The pattern of fenestration and other external openings in this first phase building is again unknown, though on the east facade it may broadly be reflected in its present appearance. The evidence of shutters having been adapted to fit wider openings in the ashlar-faced facade suggests that the present windows are mainly enlargements of narrower windows which existed prior to the re-facing. A major difference between the earlier and the re-fronted house appears to be at ground floor level, where in 1774 Wilkin appears to show a flight of steps slightly south of the centre which presumably led up to the principal entrance.
- 6.10 Wilkin's 'steps' appear to be in the same position as a square projection on Wood's 1827 plan which has been interpreted as a projecting porch or stair-tower. The small scale of these plans limits the level of accuracy with which they can be superimposed onto the modern digital survey, but the stairs/porch appears to coincide with ground-floor windows [57/58] or [58/59]. The inference is that a central doorway survived into the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, if not later.

- 6.11 If this interpretation is correct the present ashlar-faced east facade must, as suggested by Simpson & Brown, be later than 1827. The projecting 'porch' is *not* shown on a plan for the Board of Health of 1849 (Figure 7, based on Wood) nor is it on the 1860/1 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8), so the 'porch' and the central doorway it presumably served disappeared between 1827 and 1849. Not only must the re-facing been a major piece of building work, but it inevitably involved remodelling of some internal spaces of the original house. Whether the western ranges, which are also ashlar-faced, belong to the same phase of 'gentrification', remains unclear.
- 6.12 It is unclear if the present sunken basement 'forecourt' on the east is a product of excavation, or if the level of Narrowgate street has been raised, perhaps associated with culverting the Bow Burn in the later 1820s. Half-basements with steps leading up to a slightly raised ground floor, as at Narrowgate House, were popular in late Georgian period and basements were often built on actual ground level and the road in front could be built up with debris (Yorke, 46). The present road level appears compatible with the ground floor of Dorothy Forster's House, so unless Narrowgate made an abrupt descent to the Bow Burn valley and bridge, it seems most likely that the sunken basement was largely created by excavation.
- 6.13 Wilkin's indication of a main doorway slightly south of centre may to imply that the present south-north division of the house was established by 1774, though Wilkin does not show any obvious street access to the northern house. The division between Builds A2 and A3 is evident on the undated, but probably first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, sketch floor plans (Figure 2), and again on the c.1860 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 8). Thereafter it is explicit in the street numbering of 31 *and* 33 Narrowgate.
- 6.14 The sketch plan of the basement level contains three elements which might be expected of the service area of a gentleman's house – kitchen, butler's pantry, and scullery. For such a prestigious town residence it is perhaps surprising that there is no wine cellar or evidence for wine racks. It is quite possible that such features were removed after 1861 when the building became solicitor's offices. The presence of conveniences such as the bath and water-closet are further evidence for domesticity.
- 6.15 Despite the scale of the building work which the ashlar facing must have involved, no record of the date, architect or builder, can be traced. Perhaps the strongest candidate (Simpson & Brown 2, 73) appears to be William Smith, designer of the Mechanics Institute and of the Savings Bank, the latter founded in 1816 chiefly through the exertions of William Burrell and John Lambert, who was secretary and treasurer until his death in 1849 (Tate 2, 210, 218). In the 1830s Smith was also apparently the designer of a planned development for Lambert in the Howick Street area of Alnwick, in what

Pevsner calls 'a variety of styles...from chaste Georgian to Gothick'. The building specifications apparently included ashlar fronts, chimneys, and slate roofs' (Pevsner, 144).

- 6.16 Various dates for the ashlar facing of the east facade and western extension have been suggested. In 2005 English Heritage concluded it occurred in the early 1800s. Grace McCombie has suggested between 1802 and c.1808 (Simpson & Brown 2, 72-73), while the authors of that report concluded on map evidence that the east facade was 'skinned' between 1827 and 1860 (ibid., 15, 19). The evidence cited in paragraph 6.11 above suggests this might be narrowed to post-1827 and pre-1849. All suggested dates however tend toward the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.17 McCombie also suggested the undated sketch floor plans of 31 Narrowgate (Figure 2) to be 'possibly original building plans' (Simpson & Brown 2, 73), by which she presumably meant plans for the refaced and extended building. The main report though suggests these to be of mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> century date 'before a number of modifications were made in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century' (ibid., 19). The sketches were drawn on the backs of printed papers with a type-face which broadly suggests a pre-c.1850 date. Both date and accuracy are questionable, and though they show the front entrance to No. 31 in its present post-re-facading position, there are some differences from what is now existing. They may be preliminary drawings which were subsequently amended..
- 6.18 Dating evidence for the refacing from the extant fittings is equally ambiguous. Throughout the building all the sashes are plain - that is without horns - a feature which appears in the c.1830s and became common thereafter. Glazing bars are, with a few exceptions, narrow and broadly early 19<sup>th</sup> century in character (Appendix 3), and the sash pulleys appear to be iron. All suggest a general refenestration, though not necessarily as a single event, early in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The sashes in the east facade must be contemporary with the re-facing as they are made to fit openings which, on the evidence of the re-used shutters cited below), are wider than those of the earlier facade. Most of these sashes have had their lever-arm catches replaced, both originals and replacements appear to be of 19<sup>th</sup> century character.
- 6.19 The shutters to the eastern facade appear to be of 18<sup>th</sup> century date, but have been adapted by the addition of second hanging stile to fit the wider window openings of the ashlar-clad facade. They are hung on plain rectangular, butterfly hinges, while the central plain leaves are predominantly hung on earlier, splayed, butterfly hinges. Evidently the shutters were dis-mounted from earlier, narrower, windows with the third leaf still attached, and re-fitted using later hinges. It is also evident that many door leaves have over

time been reversed, rehung, and many have probably migrated within the building.

- 6.20 Evidence from the wallpapers so far identified is again not particularly helpful in dating structural development. Regency period papers do survive on the east walls of some eastern rooms, but the ashlar re-facing was simply an externally-applied skin, not a rebuild of the east facade, and consequently need have had no physical impact on internal decorative schemes. These wallpapers may well pre-date the re-facing. Similarly the stencilled and painted decoration in Room 7, which is of a similar period, does little more than confirm the archive plan evidence (Wood) that this part of the western extensions was in existence in the 1820s.
- 6.21 Gas fittings. wooden rose wall-mounts and some mantle fittings, survive in Rooms 8/9, 10, 17 and 23. The first gas works was established in Alnwick at Canongate in 1825, so these fittings must be of that date or possibly later. The swinging-arm gas-mantle bracket mount in Room 17 overlies the latest wallpaper, dated to 1850-1870, though it may have been refixed after papering. The fitting is of 19<sup>th</sup> century character, but otherwise is not closely datable.
- 6.22 The sheet-iron backing or re-enforcing on doors and shutters is most likely to have been a security measure dating from the period after c.1861 when the house was identifiably used as solicitor's offices. Whether this was installed throughout the building at the same time is uncertain. All are fastened with screws, and some appears to be galvanised.
- 6.23 It has been said the house was 're-unified' between c.1860 and 1875 (Simpson & Brown 2, 23), presumably following to the acquisition of the house by the attorney William Dickson in 1861 when it is thought to have become offices, though the significance of the latter date is unexplained. The term 're-unification' is slightly misleading since a suite of rooms remained functionally separate from the business area, principally the rear range Rooms 15b-15d, 19 – 21 which were later known as the caretaker's apartments. Where integration rather than reunification is apparent is in the original 'single- pile' house where doorways through the east-west partition linked Rooms 4 and 16 with those to the south, however these may have been formed when the frontage was re-faced.

## **SECTION 7. Conclusions.**

- 7.1 The findings of this Historic Building Recording broadly confirms the conclusions of previous reports (English Heritage 2005 and Simpson & Brown 2) regarding the date of Narrowgate House. In summary the core of the building fabric is potentially late 17<sup>th</sup> century, with extensions to the west and internal remodelling in the course of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Further extensions to the north-west were made in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The east façade, and perhaps also the west, was faced in ashlar, probably with associated internal remodelling and some redecoration, after 1827, possibly c.1830. Stylistically this could be late Regency, or William IV.
- 7.2 It seems unlikely that these broad dates can be further refined unless documentary records of work done to the house can be found, or additional evidence comes to light in the course of restoration. In accordance with Paragraph 8.4 of the WSI, areas of the building where there is a possibility that further detail of the historic fabric or features may be revealed in the course of conversion works have been identified.
- 7.3 Principally these relate to apparently un-cellared areas within the footprint of the house where deposits or artefacts relating to phases of the house development, or pre-construction land use, may survive. These are marked on Figure 15 as 'area of no known cellaring'. Another area is the second floor Room 41 where traces of earlier roof pitches are visible in the brickwork of the north wall, but cannot currently be safely accessed or adequately recorded. This is indicated of Figure 18.
- 7.4 As suggested in the Written Scheme of Investigation such areas in particular should be subject to a Watching Brief during the works stage of the development, and as and where appropriate further recording be carried out to ensure the completeness of the archaeological record.
- 7.5 Despite years of deterioration, which is evident as early as the 1960s, Narrowgate House remains a building of high local, if not regional, significance in terms of its structural evolution, surviving fittings, decorative details, and its physical presence in the Alnwick streetscape. Critical to its survival is the implementation of a sympathetic scheme of restoration and adaptive re-use.

### **Terms used in the report**

*Backland.* Area behind a burgage: can be gardens, out-buildings. Frequently contains rubbish and/or cess pits.

*Burgage.* In urban terms, a building fronting onto a street usually with an area of backland to the rear. The whole is usually referred to as a burgage plot.

*Butterfly hinge.* A hinge in which the outer ends of the plates splay into a dove-tail, as opposed to a plain butt-hinge, which is square or rectangular.

*Curtail.* Curled scroll end to the lowest tread on a stair.

*Hanging stile.* That part of the frame of a door, window, or shutter which carried the hinges.

*Hot-wall.* A brick-faced garden wall containing flues and ducts for the circulation of warm air from a furnace or boiler, used to encourage fruit trees to flower in cold climates.

*Lands* – a medieval cultivation strip. These vary in size but can be up to 1km long and 9m wide.

*Single-pile house.* A building one-room deep, usually ranged along a street frontage. A double-pile house is two rooms deep.

*Timber merchant's mark.* Stamped or chiselled marks made by the timber supplier, frequently stamped on the ends, to show if timber had been illicitly trimmed before reaching the purchaser.

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