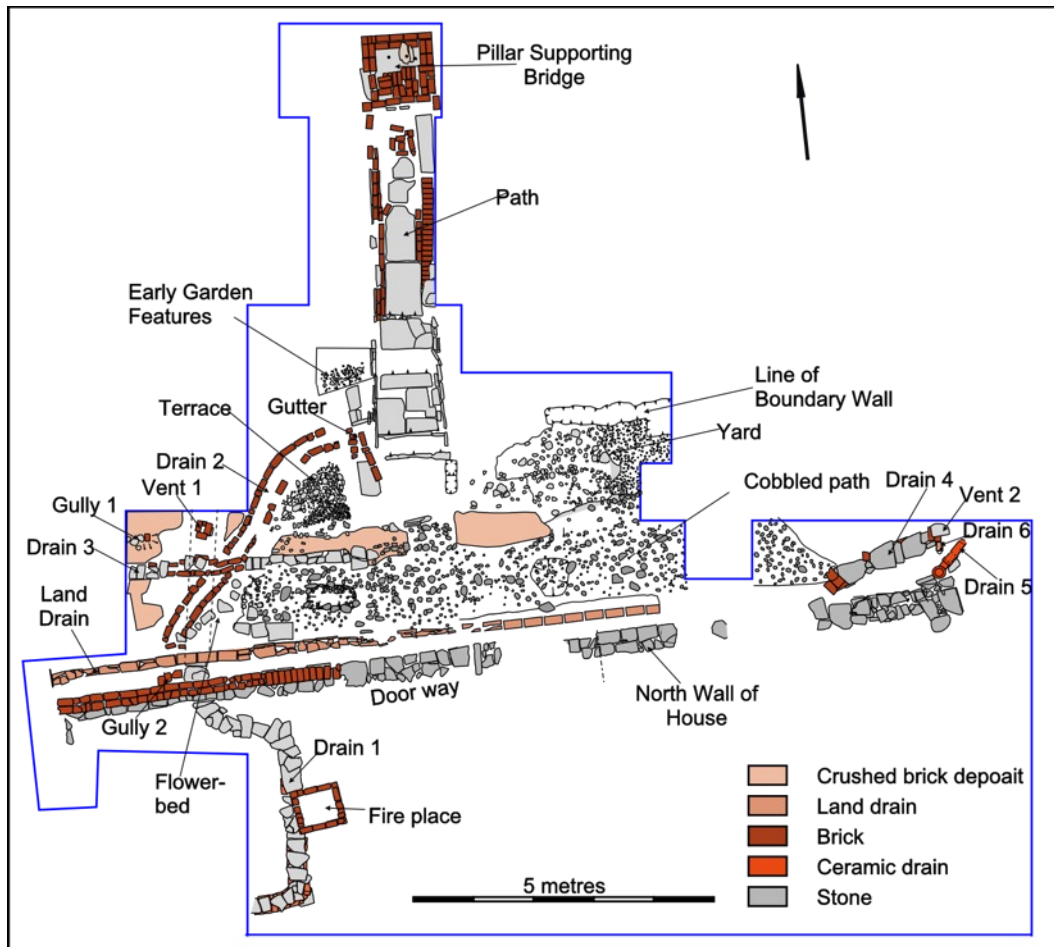


## Northern Area 1880 - 1947

The excavation had initially focused on the building. As the dig progressed it became clear that to the north of the house there were well preserved remains of paths, yard surfaces, gardens, drains and other features.

This update describes our findings.



### Paths and Yards

On the north side of the house a roughly cobbled yard surface extended for 4 metres terminating in a boundary wall.

Adjacent to the north wall a raised cobbled path 2 metres wide had been laid directly onto the yard surface. The cobbles were loosely laid and held into place by soil which formed around them. By raising it above ground level it would have provided a dry walkway along that side of the house.

The construction of the path to the bridge had breached the boundary wall and cut through the yard surface. This had necessitated a partial resurfacing of the yard with a layer of compacted sand. The surface had been maintained by filling any hollows which developed with fire ash.

Sometime later the rest of the boundary wall was removed and the ground levelled. No trace of the wall remains but the cut made when the wall was taken down suggests that it was built from brick.



*Yard surface looking east. Partially resurfaced at western end. The slot left by the removal of the boundary wall can be seen along the north-eastern edge of the yard.*

## Foot Bridge

Around 1900 a footbridge was built to span the Trub Brook and enable access to a spring on the north bank. The spring was the only source of clean, fresh water for the house.

Pillars constructed from brick and concrete supported a timber walk way about 0.59 metres (2 feet) wide fixed to the pillar with two large iron bolts.

The path referred to above was laid opposite the north doorway of the house. Constructed from reused stone and brick it is 1 metre wide and stretches 7 metres to the footbridge. The ground level falls to the north and there were four shallow steps in the path.

An unusual feature of the path are the words “Bobbies Grave” chipped into one of the paving stones. Presumably a memorial to a deceased pet.



*The southern bridge support looking from the Trub Brook towards the house. Two large iron bolts held a timber walk way a fragment of which is still in place.*



*Looking north towards the Trub Brook. The footbridge path is constructed from reused paving stones edged with brick at the northern end. Vertical flagstones prevent garden soil spilling onto path.*



*“Bobbies Grave” Inscription chipped into a paving stone. Marian was asked about this and recalled that a small pet dog had gone missing but didn’t recall its name. The area was not excavated. Best to let sleeping dogs lie.*

## Gardens and Garden Terrace

From around 1890 the house had been occupied by gardeners on the estate. During the excavation we found a large number of plant pot fragments and evidence of garden features dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

On the west side of the path and to north of *drain 2* a feature composed of small cobble stones is thought to be the site of a garden feature dating between about 1880 and the construction of the bridge path. It was discovered towards the end of the season and there wasn't sufficient time to explore it fully but we are hoping to return to it in future excavations.

Between the north wall of the house and *drain 2* a curving feature of small, irregularly shaped sandstone boulders appears to have been a raised flower bed.

In the angle between the late drain and bridge path and bordered on the north and west by a curving drain (*drain 2*) a small terrace had been created. Surfaced with small pebbles on the south side and bordered with larger pebbles to the north, it seems to have been a decorative garden feature.



*The garden terrace centre left is bordered on the north and west sides by drain 2 and on the south side by the base stones of the later drain 3. To the south of drain 3 is the badly damaged remains of the cobbled path and the remains of the ceramic land drain which runs the length of the building. On the extreme right is the north wall of the house. The gap in the brick course is the location of the north doorway. In the north-eastern corner of the photograph is the start of the pathway leading to the footbridge.*

## Drainage Systems

A feature of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century refurbishment was the introduction of a drainage system to the site.

The shallow topsoil quickly becomes saturated and boggy after heavy rain and especially in the winter months. The earliest (*drain 1*) was installed during the house refurbishment. It was constructed with brick sides, a stone base and capped with stone which included some reused roofing stones. This was built under the floor of the living room, exiting under the north wall foundation and continuing towards the Trub Brook. Its purpose seems to have been to prevent water building up under the living room floor.

Drains were installed to remove water from the roof gutters and a large drain at the east end of the building which seems to have used to take effluent from a washing facility located in the workers house.

Over the years various changes to the drainage systems were made. Later improvements included the introduction of land drains along the north and south walls of the house, the use of modern sewer pipes to remove effluent from the kitchen extension and to replace the drain from the workers house.

Area E was opened last summer and has provided us with a detailed insight into the sequence of drain construction.



*Area E demonstrates the phasing of the various drains in the north-west of the site. Drain 1 was installed during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century refurbishment of the house. It is clear from the stratigraphy that all the other drains post-date this. It is also clear that drain 2 is earlier than both drain 3 and the land drain.*

The next report will look at the earlier phases of the house and some of the earlier finds from the site,