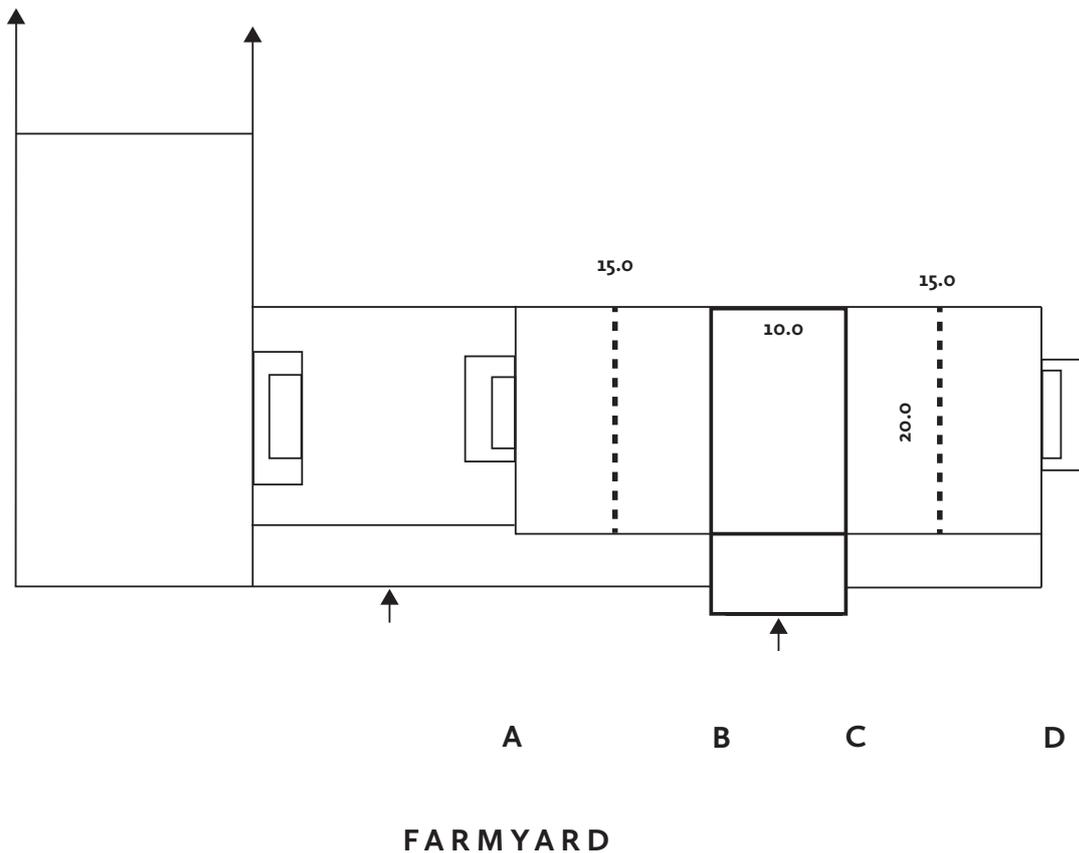




Bolinge Hill Farmhouse

1954 Gil

House. C16 timber frame, extended as an L-shaped block in the C18 [viz below 1879], with C19 and C20 alterations and additions. Walls of roughly-coursed malmstone with brick plinth, quoins, and cambered openings: the western (oldest) unit being tile-hung. Tile roof, gabled to the original part, hipped to later units, including a single-storeyed wing. Two storeys, irregular fenestration. Casements. Plain doors.



The main (north) front has been brought forward, with interior passages, and is a C20 'Georgian' facade in conforming materials. Interior: much of the frame is exposed in the oldest part, and on the 1st floor are two malmstone Tudor fireplaces, with arch mouldings stopped in the lower jambs.

Description

Although the listing is early, it did pick up the broad development sequences, and correctly identified the oldest part of the house — A > D — which faces north onto the farmyard. A > D consists of three main elements — a central bay (C10.0) behind the porch

Bolinge Hill Farmhouse *continued*

flanked by tong bays AB and CD (cl 5.0), there are multi flue external stacks at each end and two dormers on the southern roof slope. The stairs down to the cellar (which extends eastwards and is part-barrel-vaulted) and through first floor to attic are contained within BC; there is evidence that those to the attic have been modified.

There are a series of transverse girders flanking the entry bay BC and dividing the long flanking bays. These are neatly stop-chamfered, but the stops at the northern end are well back from the walling with some evidence for pressure marking. Framed partitions at B and C are in regular squarish panelling, with an earlier door site at C (1st floor south). Curiously, the framed partition at C is misaligned with the girder; is this evidence of modification? Where timber-framing is visible it is generally of quite heavy scantling. The fine malmstone fireplaces at first floor have depressed spandrels with moulding stopped well up the jambs. The attics are fully useable and framed with clasped side-purlins, closed queen strut trusses at B & C, raking struts above the girders bisecting the flanking bays and straight wind bracing. The side-purlins are scarfed in relatively short lengths on both sides. There are 2 dormers to the south.

Comment

The pressure marking on the girders suggests that before the stone and brick facing the northern elevation of A > D was jettied, that is, the first floor projected forward beyond the ground floor, and it is just possible that the first-floor and above was framed upon ground floor masonry. Although the visible framing is of good quality, the scarfed purlins suggest

there may have been some local difficulty obtaining the required lengths. The quality of the first-floor hearths, if in their original positions, indicate the status of the rooms; the original fireplaces at ground floor, may have been the more common ingle-nooks with timber bressumers.

The single bay to the east, with its large hearth, may have been a kitchen addition.

Diagnostic detail — the plan, end stacks, well-proportioned rooms with useable attics, pattern of framing, roof construction and style of stone hearths all suggest dating in the first half of the 1600s, making the house Jacobean or Carolean.

A datestone survives above a doorway into the eastern range — TB 1630 — probably moved from the western elevation. This must have been Thomas Bilson, who inherited when his father (bishop of Winchester) died in 1616, and the house could represent investment justifying a raised rent.

A large, fully aisled four bay barn with hipped and tiled roof, north of the early house, is of contemporary style and construction, and evidence of considerable acreage.

Earliest ref. to manor found so far:

1238FF 10 acres, 2 messuages, with appurtenances, In West Mapledurham

William Finamur, plaintiff, and Hawise widow of Herbert de Ferre, defendant.

WEST MAPLEDURHAM manorial descent (principal house demolished 1839)

(1289-1327) Bruton > (1327-c1400) Markaunt> (-1422)

Levechild > Roger > 1533 Wm Shelley (d1548) > Thos Shelley

(d1577) > Wid & sons/o Henry Shelley (d. 1585) > Bp

Bolinge Hill Farmhouse *continued*

Thos Bilson (1605) > Legge (1754) took name Bilson
VCH 1908

'BOLINGEHILL FARM, situated about a mile north
from the village of Buriton, and a little to the south-
east of Weston

Farm, seems from early times to have been a parcel
of the manor of West Mapledurham. In the fine
conveying West

Mapledurham to the Rogers in 1426 'Bonelynche'
is mentioned, no doubt representing the modern
Bolingehill. Again Bowlinch Farm is mentioned in
a deed of 1678 between Leonard Bilson of West
Mapledurham and Thomas his son, and George and
William Legge. Bolingehill Farm still belongs to the
Legge family. '

1879 57M78/EIS35 Charge of E900 for permanent
improvements at Isington Farm and Bolinge Hill Farm
in favour of Reverend Henry Legge

1911 117M91/CB8/1/2 ref the two oast houses and two
kilns at Bolingehill Farm, hoppers' huts in Causeway at
Bolingehill Farm (also known as Bolinge Hill Farm)

1922 AHHH1/10/42 Plan of Bolinge Hill Farm: tenant
J.E.Gibson

1989 64M99/B145 Report on Bolinge Hill Farm,
Includes photographs