

The White Horse, Hedgerley

HISTORIC BUILDING REPORT / April 2014

**Buckinghamshire
Archaeological
Society**



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Report number
BAS/2014-02

THANKS

to Dot Hobbs,
Kevin and Janet Brooker
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for giving the survey team access and
permitting us to make this survey
(and for several excellent lunches!);
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Report by Peter Marsden following a measured survey by Peter Marsden, Marian Miller, Andrew Muir, Michael Rice and Hilary Stainer. Photographs by Michael Rice.

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Figure 1:
*The White Horse
public house in
Summer 2012.*

1 THE SITE

1.1 Geographical context

The village of Hedgerley is in South Buckinghamshire, three miles south-east of Beaconsfield as the crow flies. The older part of the village is at the junction of two minor valleys, with modern housing developments on the hill to the south.

The White Horse public house stands near the northern end of the village, beside the north-south Village Lane. It stands beside the Rectory, built in 1846, and behind it on a hillside spur is the parish church of St Mary the Virgin. The pub has a large rear garden.

The building's Ordnance Survey national grid reference is SU 96972 87409.

1.2 Historic context

The village appears in manorial rolls from 1254.¹ It has several listed buildings, including the 16th-century Old Quaker House, which is close to the White Horse on the opposite side of Village Lane.

A building is recorded on the site in 1679 in the earliest Poor Rate Book of the village.

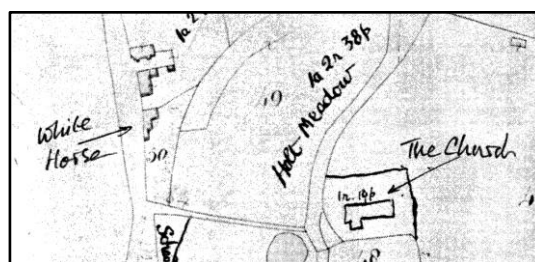


Figure 2: *The position of the White Horse
on the 1842 Tithe Map.*

The White Horse is first recorded by name in the Returns of Licensed Victuallers in 1753, the earliest year for which complete records exist, so it may have been a public house before that date.²

1.3 Listed building status

The White Horse is a Grade 2 listed building on the English Heritage National Heritage List for England.³ The full listing description is given in section 7 below.

2 THE BUILDING SURVEY

A level 2 survey following English Heritage 2006 guidelines³ was carried out at the White Horse during Summer 2010 by members of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society's Historic Buildings Group, as part of a wider investigation into listed buildings in Hedgerley.

The descriptions that follow are based on a survey of the structure and features that were visible in 2010, along with documentary evidence. No archaeological excavations or intrusive investigations, such as the removal of panelling, floorboards or carpets, were carried out.

A dendrochronological analysis of the roof timbers was undertaken, but there were insufficient tree rings available to produce a result. Dr Andy Moir, who carried out the survey, commented that the carpenters' marks on the roof timbers were similar to those at nearby Shell House, which were subsequently dated to 1681-83.⁴

3 SUMMARY

The White Horse as we see it today is the result of additions and changes dating back across three centuries. Its oldest part is the two-storey building facing on to Village Lane, built in brick with a timber roof-frame. A blocked window in the north gable-end indicates the position of an original newel stair, now gone, beside the large open fireplace in the Public Bar. There is a rear 19th-century wing and single-storey bar extension converted from an 18th/19th-century stable.

The Hedgerley Poor Rate Book entry for 1679 indicates that a building stood then where the White Horse is today. This date would be considered early for a brick-built vernacular building, but Hedgerley is known for its early brickmaking industry. This and other evidence supports a 17th-century date for the White Horse.

4 BUILDING OBSERVATION AND DESCRIPTION

4.1 The Exterior

4.1.1 West elevation (front)

The building faces west and is in three sections running from north to south:

- A two-storey building whose north gable-end wall is on the plot's northern boundary. This is symmetrical around a central doorway.
- A single-storey building which is today an extension to the main bar.
- A former garage, with a pair of wooden doors, currently used as a bar store or 'cellar'.



Figure 3: The west elevation

The two-storey section of the building is of brick, painted white, standing on a shallow brick plinth and with a horizontal string course of two bricks at first-floor level. The facade is symmetrical, with a central doorway flanked on both sides by a window on each floor.

The central doorway has a porch hood cantilevered from the wall on a pair of large wooden brackets. Its pitched roof carries machine-made red clay tiles. Beneath the hood the line of a former shallow brick-arched lintel is visible over the doorway. The wooden door itself is of four panels in a wooden frame.

To each side the two ground-floor windows are of twin six-pane wooden casements under shallow segmented brick arched lintels. The sills are obscured by window-boxes.

The two first-floor windows are of twin four-pane opening casements set tight under the eaves. Again the sills are obscured by window-boxes.

The roof is of plain machine-made tiles, a single span between vertical gables. At the northern gable is a tall chimney stack, set behind the ridge line, whose brickwork has a central vertical, integrated joint indicating an original single flue to which a second rear flue has been added at a later date. The brickwork of the front flue appears older than that of the rear flue. Each carries a single pot.

To the south is an attached single-storey building, again in brick painted white under a pitched roof, this time covered with old red clay tiles. Its roof is in-line with that of the main building. Today this is an extension to the pub's main bar.

This single-storey building has three windows and a door, all modern in wooden frames. The two northernmost windows match: two six-pane casements with an opening top-light. The door has an upper panel of frosted glass. To its right is a narrow window of three panes.

At the southern end of the range is a single-storey building with large wooden double garage doors. This has a pitched slate roof, again in-line though with a shallower pitch.



Figure 4: The garage in its summer finery.

4.1.2 South elevation

The gable end of the main two-storey pub building is clad in modern weatherboarding, without windows or other openings. It has a pub name board high up on the gable.

The south wall of the garage building is also gabled, of white-painted brick and has a single window in a wooden frame.

4.1.3 East elevation (rear) of the main building range

The rear elevation of the building is complex, with evidence of several different phases of building.

At the southern end of the range is the rear of the former garage, now a bar store, built of red brick with a low-pitched slate roof. This is accessed through a close-boarded door.

Abutting this to the north is the Bar Extension, single-storey in modern unpainted red brick with modern wooden windows and doors in wood frames. The southern-most door carries the word 'Gents', between three vertical lower wood panels and six upper panes of frosted glass. To its north are two narrow vertical windows, each of three panes, then a second identical door with the word 'Ladies'. Finally there is a pair of glazed French doors, each of ten clear-glass panes.

The roof of this single-storey section is obscured by a large awning.

Again to the north the rear wall of the two-storey main building, again in unpainted red brick, shows evidence of reconstruction. An external chimney stack, narrowing to half-width at shoulder height, has been built against this back wall, blocking an earlier window opening and doorway. The end of the former window's shallow brick-arched lintel can be seen beside the new brickwork of the chimney.

The upper level of the narrow chimney stack is obscured by Perspex roofing, but from the rear garden it can be seen to rise just above the ridge line of the main two-storey building. The upper brickwork is modern, having been recently rebuilt after a chimney fire..

4.1.4 The two-storey 19th-century eastern wing, and later additions

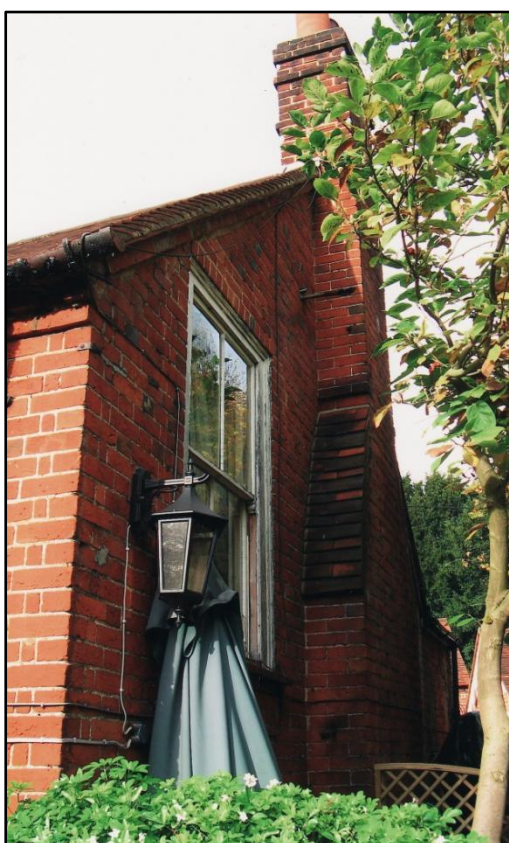


Figure 5: The back of the 19th-century wing.

A large two-storey rear wing has been added to the main pub building, of unpainted red brick and at a right-angle to the main range. The style of brickwork and large vertical sash windows on the first floor indicate that this was a 19th-century addition.

Where this extension joins the main building is the doorway to the Bar Servery. This is of lower than average height under a segmental brick arch and has a wooden 'stable' door in two sections. Beside this to the east is a window, also under a shallow arched lintel but this time of bricks-on-edge. The wall below this window is obscured by a large wooden cupboard housing power-supply meters. The wall above it is obscured by low Perspex roofing.

Against the south wall of the 19th-century wing there is a two-storey staircase tower. Again this is of red brick, but its door and windows openings are in a different style, being square rather than arched.

The vertical joint in the brickwork between wing and staircase tower is straight and unkeyed, and the edge of a circular tie-plate is visible, indicating that the tower was a later addition after the completion of the 19th-century wing.

A low, close-boarded wooden door gives access to the staircase. On its east side, where the wall of the tower rejoins that of the wing, a second-storey window in the latter is tight against a second unkeyed vertical brickwork joint – indicating that an original window has been partially blocked by the building of the tower.

The tower has a flat, felted roof, slightly higher than the eaves of the earlier wing.

The eastern wall of the 19th-century wing is a gable-end wall with a central external chimney stack. The stack is of red brick, narrowing at first-floor level, with tiled shoulders. The roof is of machine-made red clay tiles.

On each side of this chimney stack are two windows. Those on the upper floor are tall four-paned 19th-century vertical sashes with flat brick lintels and sills of narrow brick-tiles laid at a right-angle to the plane of the wall. Two windows on the ground floor are smaller, that to the south being a single unopening pane with a wooden sill in poor condition, that to the north a small modern plastic opening casement window with quarter-light and plastic sill.

The eastern gable wall of the wing has been extended northwards by 7ft to the plot boundary. An angled joint in the brickwork here indicates that the present one-and-a-half-storey flat-roof extension has replaced an earlier lean-to. The bottom 3ft of this earlier building had also incorporated a low, wide doorway whose brick-on-edge lintel is still visible in the wall. The doorway has been bricked up, leaving two ventilators from the kitchens.

4.1.5 North elevation

The northern gable end of the main building is of old white-painted brick, with a double-brick string course at upper-floor level matching that on the front of the building.

The unpainted brick internal chimney stack rises immediately behind the ridge line of the roof and carries twin pots. The upper brickwork of the gable end and chimney stack is clearly later than that of the lower part of the wall, indicating a later repair and rebuilding.

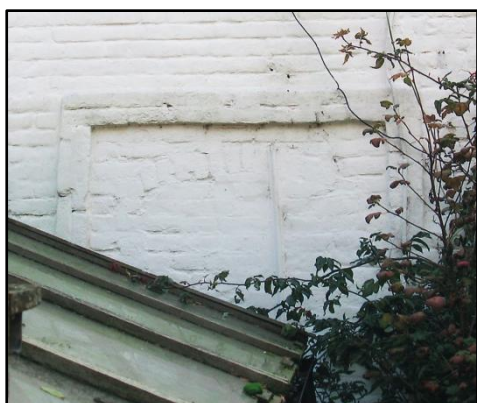


Figure 6: The blocked staircase window.

The most interesting feature of the gable end wall, which is visible only from the next-door garden, is the outline in the brickwork of a small former window opening close to the north-west corner of the building. This is at half-floor level, with the string course rising to pass over it, then descending again. The line of the former window's brick-on-edge arched lintel may still be discerned.

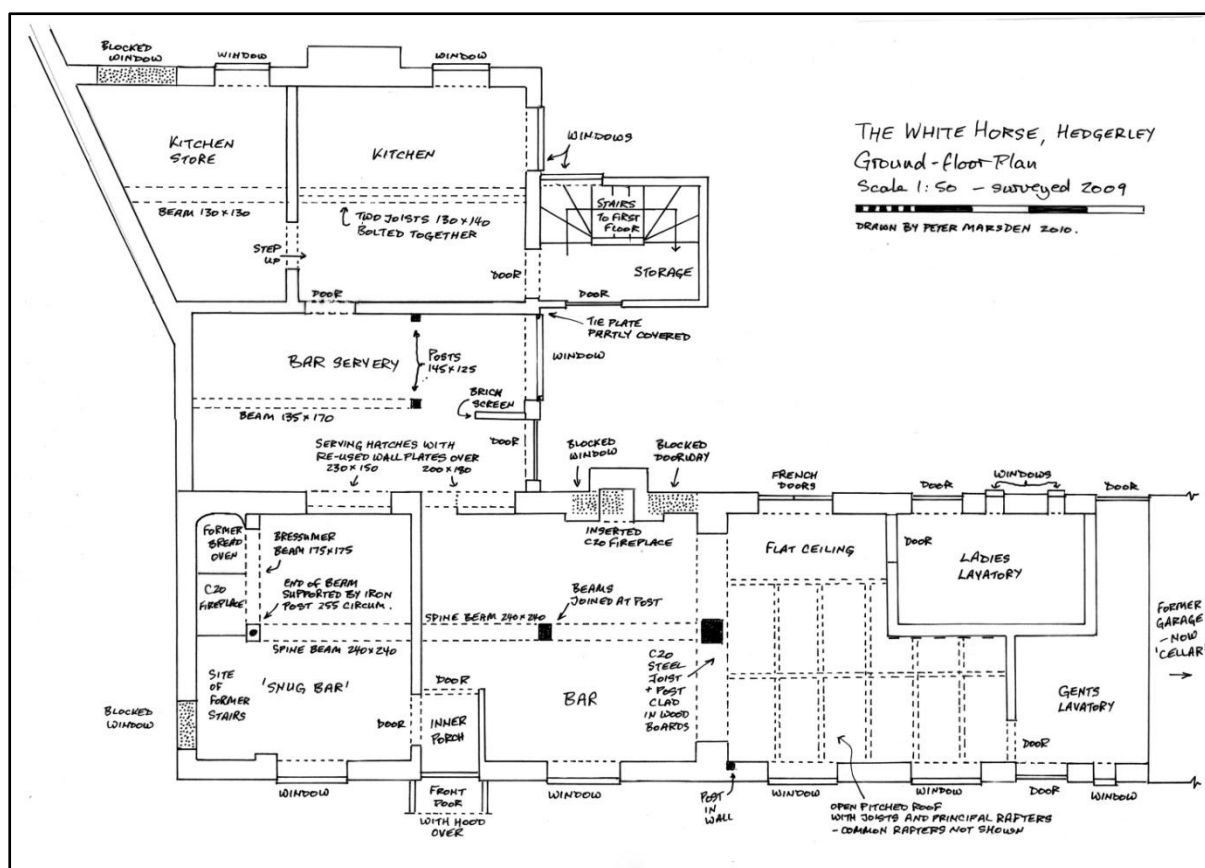
The north wall of the 19th-century wing extends eastwards from the gable end in the same plane, headed just under the eaves by a denticulated brick course. This is of old red brick and without openings. The brickwork of old and new buildings meets at an unkeyed vertical joint.

An S-shaped tie-plate is visible at the point where the rooflines join. In this position the tie-rod would strengthen the timber rear wall plate of the main building. The internal survey noted that this has been cut through (see section 4.2.10 below).

Part-way along the north wall of the 19th-century wing a later, flat-roof extension extends outwards, following the plot boundary at an obtuse angle. Like the similar extension to the eastern elevation, its brickwork shows signs of having been added to an earlier lean-to structure: some sloping brick courses show where the brickwork is a poorly laid addition to a pre-existing wall. An external brick 'pilaster' has been added to give added support to the corner of the building.

4.1.6 Land to the east and south

Behind the building the ground slopes gently upwards to the east. This area is used as a pub garden, with tables, seating and a brick-built barbecue hearth. The southern end of the plot is gravelled as a car park, which extends as far as the lane leading up to the parish church.



4.2 THE INTERIOR

The main entrance door in the west elevation of the building leads immediately into an inner porch made from wooden partitioning with multi-paned window and door. A door to the left (north) leads into the Public Bar. One straight ahead leads into the Main Saloon Bar.

4.2.1 The Public Bar

The main feature of this northern ground-floor room is an open fireplace served by a heavy chimney supported on a massive horizontal timber bressumer. This open fireplace occupies much of the north-eastern quarter of the room.

The fireplace, however, has undergone much reconstruction. The crossing point of the main spine beam of the building and the fireplace bressumer beam is supported from below on a cast-iron post. This has a circular metal collar at the top, above which the bressumer rests on a large metal plate. The fireplace itself has been opened to the side and the width of the bressumer reduced. The east wall of the open fireplace is curved and of reduced height.

The brick fireplace within this open space is a modern insertion.

Immediately in front of the chimney breast, the ceiling plasterwork slopes outwards, giving extra support for the hearthstone of another fireplace in the room above.

The area in the north-west corner of this room is an open space. There are no indications of the blocked window noted on the external north elevation. In the west wall of the room, to the north of the window, is a shallow alcove whose original function is not clear.

The bar counter is in the east wall of the room, a simple serving hatch. Above it the ceiling is supported by a heavy wooden beam. This beam appears to have been recycled from another location: oval holes in what is now its front face would originally have taken the vertical wooden laths of wattle-and-daub.

4.2.2 The Main Bar

This is a low-ceilinged room whose south wall, originally part of the building's end gable, has been removed to provide extended public bar space. The small bar counter in the north-east corner of the room is of relatively modern woodwork. Beside it is a small fireplace.

A central spine beam runs north-to-south across the centre of the room, supported on a central wooden post. The beam itself appears original and is roughly chamfered, but the post is machine-sawn and therefore a later insertion. The rest of the ceiling is lath-and-plaster, with no joists visible.

The bar counter is spanned by an old recycled timber wall plate, which supports the eastern wall of the building above. This rough-hewn wall plate also spans the corresponding bar counter in the Public Bar. An empty narrow rectangular mortise hole for a stud, in what is now the front face of the beam and which has been filled by a patch, indicates that the beam has been turned through 45 degrees, so is not in its original position. The beam also carried the remnants of a chamfer, with a plain sloping stop at one end.



Figure 8: The main bar, looking through to the 1980s extension. It is heavy with polished wood, but how much of this is old?

The cross-beam and post where the south wall has been removed are obviously recent additions: steel beams clad in boarding which has been 'hacked' to give a false impression of age.

Measured wall thicknesses vary but are consistent with a single build of the two-storey main building. That of the front (west) wall is 390mm, matched by the width of the modern crossbeam supporting the end gable (382mm) and the eastern wall (430mm, but including later tongue-and-groove panelling). The wall between the main bar and Public bar, on the other hand, is original stud-and-plaster only 148mm in thickness.

The fireplace in the eastern wall, with its external chimney stack, is a later addition. The woodwork of doors and windows carries 'false aging' marks.

4.2.3 The Bar Extension

The Bar Extension is beyond the boarded steel beam and central post that support the southern end gable above. Here most of the single-storey building is open to the roof, with stained timber trusses and other inserted timbering, but there is a narrow flat-ceilinged section along the eastern side of the room. The brick walls have been left unpainted.

The extension is L-shaped, with a section walled off in which doors lead to the toilets. These were not viewed. There is a fireplace in the southern wall of the room, but it is a dummy, having no chimney or flue.

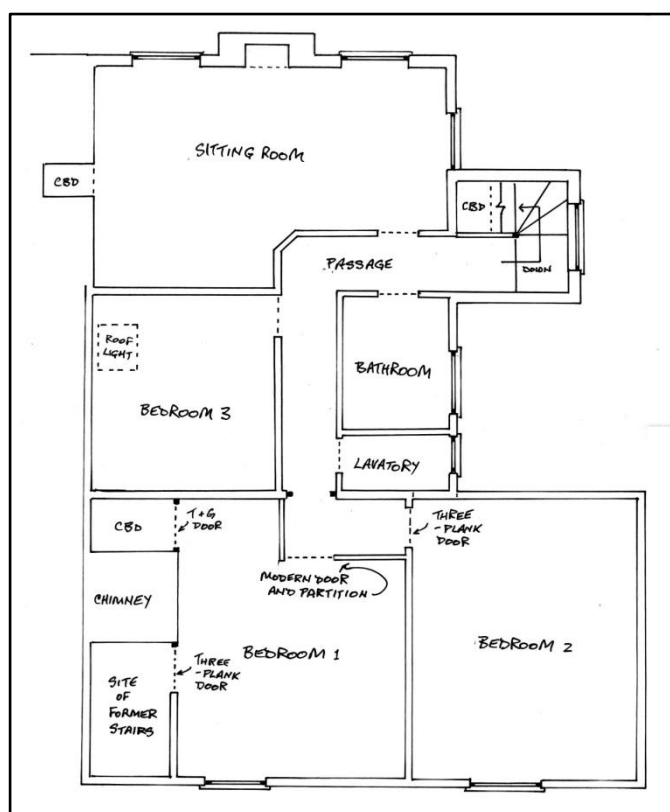
The servery is in the 19th-century extension and serves both bar counters. It has an unusually low ceiling for a 19th-century building.

A metal tie-rod also runs north-to-south through the building along the line of the dividing wall between the Servery and the Kitchen, which is beyond in the eastern section of the 19th-century extension. Its internal fixtures and fittings are all of 20th-century date. Its ceiling is supported by a north-to-south beam made up of two standard machine-sawn joists bolted together and chamfered. Beyond the kitchen is a store room.

The woodwork of the staircase dates from the late 19th or early 20th-century.

This L-shaped passage leads from the top of the stairs past the door of the Sitting Room, then turns through a right-angle to head west through the centre of the 19th-century wing. It ends in a small lobby in the main, older section of the building.

The internal walls of all upper rooms are plastered stud partitions 115mm thick. At the western end of the passage the doorway between the wing and the main building is flanked by two modern timber posts.



4.2.7 The Sitting Room

This large room has two east-facing sash windows and a smaller window facing south. The centre of the room is crossed by a north-south tie-beam stretching the full width of the room. Between the two sash windows is a 19th-century fireplace. In the northern wall of the room there is a small cupboard, which appears to be built into the triangular roof space at the north-east corner of the building. (It was locked).

4.2.8 The Bathroom and Lavatory

All fixtures and fittings are of 20th-century date.

4.2.9 Bedroom 3

This room, in the 19th-century wing, has no window – only a roof light. Its ceiling, which partly slopes to meet the northern eaves line, is crossed by a north-south tiebeam. This and all other timbers in this wing are clearly 19th-century, unlike those in Bedrooms 1 and 2.

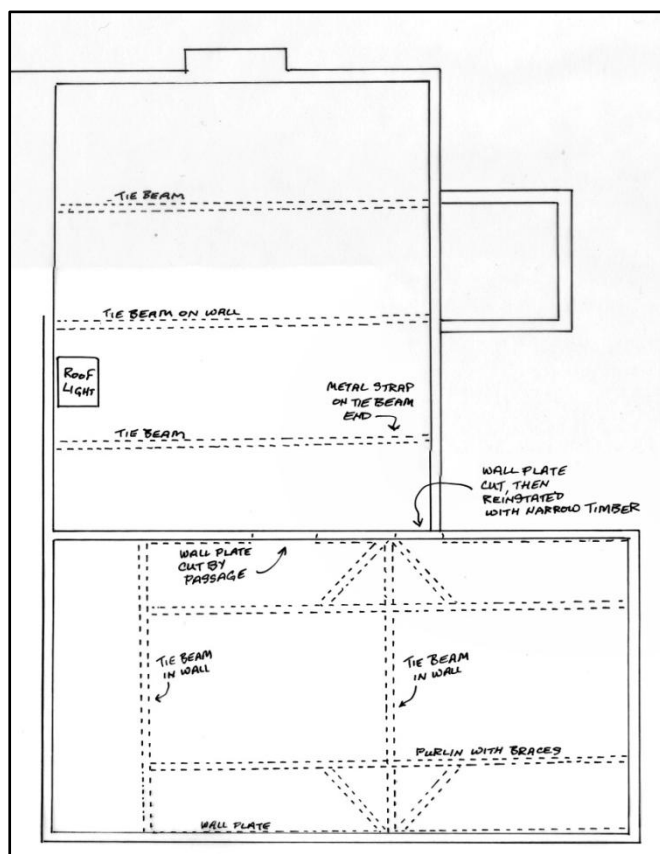


Figure 10: The first-floor timber-framing plan.

The northern wall of the room is made up of a solid central chimney breast, flanked on each side by cupboard doors. Any fireplace has been removed. The eastern cupboard has a modern tongue-and-groove door. The western cupboard, however, has an old three-plank oak door, set immediately next to the central chimney stack.

4.2.11 Bedroom 2

This room is entered from the lobby by a three-plank old oak door.

The timbering here is mostly a mirror image of that in Bedroom 1: wall plates atop east and west walls, tie-beam in the shared party wall between the two bedrooms (here the north wall) and braced purlins. But here there are no timbers visible in the south end-gable wall – perhaps indicating that this has been rebuilt at some point.

There is one anomaly: in the north-east corner of the room, beside the door from the lobby, the eastern wall plate has been cut through and removed as if to provide a doorway into the 19th-century wing – but the cut section has been replaced with a narrower piece of timber.

4.2.10 Bedroom 1

The south-east corner of this room has been partitioned to create a small lobby containing the doors to both Bedrooms 1 and 2. Inside this lobby the eastern wall plate of the old building, running from north to south, has been cut through at chest height to allow for the doorway from the 19th-century wing. Both the partitioning of the lobby and the door into Bedroom 1 are modern.

The ceilings of both Bedrooms 1 and 2 are open up to the level of the purlins. Large tie-beams are visible in the north and south walls of the room. The ceiling slopes down from east and west purlins to wall-plates which run immediately above window height in the east and west walls. In the plane of this slope two straight braces run from each end of the southern tie-beam diagonally up at around 45 degrees to meet each purlin. There are no matching braces at the north end of the room.

5 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

5.1 'The History of Hedgerley'

The following extract is taken from:

Michael Rice (editor), **A South Bucks Village: The History of Hedgerley** (Hedgerley Historical Society 2006) pages 79-81.

The White Horse

A building is recorded on the site in the earliest Poor Rate Book, so it was in existence before 1679. It is possible that part of the present building existed then and this was borne out by the surveyor for Wethered's Brewery in 1979, who considered parts of the building to be very old. It is not certain whether or not it was an inn at that time.

William Grove was paying the Poor Rate in 1679 and continued until his death in 1714; then follow:

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Widow Grove | 1715 – 1723 |
| William Turner | 1724 – 1727 |
| Widow Turner | 1728 – 1732 |
| William Parish | 1733 - 1738 |
| Widow Parish (Mary) | 1739 - 1746 |

It is during the time of Mary Parish that the earliest reference to the property occurs in documents formerly at Wethered's Brewery, Marlow. An abstract of Title refers to the will of Daniel Shrimpton of Chepping Wycombe, dated 1740, in which he left the property to his wife Elizabeth.

The first mention of the White Horse by name comes in the licensed victuallers returns of 1753, the earliest date from which complete records exist (**Stoke Victuallers**, L. M. Wulcho, 1950). The license was held at that date by John Stranson, who kept it until 1771. His widow then held it for a year; then follows:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| James Wright | 1773 - 1783 |
| James Siread | 1784 - 1786/87 |
| James Mason | 1788 – 1791 |
| Jonathan Nash | 1792 – 1794 |
| Thomas Elms | 1795 - 1822 |

By the early part of the 19th century the ownership had passed to Christman Brendel and his wife who, in 1814, sold it to Thomas Wethered of Marlow. The indenture between Christman Brendel, a victualler from Blackwall, his wife and Thomas Wethered of Marlow and William Hall, Innholder of Beaconsfield, refers to the property "*. . . known by the name or sign of the White Horse public house heretofore in possession or occupation of Mary Parish Widow and afterwoods of George Ives Farmer his Assigns or Undertenants and now of Thomas Elms...*"

Thomas Nash held the tenancy and license from 1823 and the Nash family remained for most of the rest of the century. During the 1830s, accounts at the Brewery show considerable expenditure for bricks, bricklayers, carpenters and blacksmiths, with reference to a *New Room*. The pub was probably the main meeting place in the village and Vestry meetings were regularly held here. In 1863, the Ancient Order of Forresters held a Court at the White Horse to form the first friendly society in Hedgerley.

The Nash family left by 1892, by which time John Dwight had become the publican. That year a dispute arose between the Rector of Hedgerley, Rev. J. H. Matthews, and the Brewery over the boundary between the Rectory and the White Horse. The matter was settled amicably when a Director of Wethereds, J. D. Powers, visited the Rector. A note of 30 November in the Brewery recording the visit states: *"The White Horse is in a very satisfactory condition indeed, thoroughly clean and in a good state of repair and J.D.P. said that Dwight might spend £2 10s. in having the fence around the garden repaired. Dwight said he proposed to make a change in the spring and hoped we would be able to offer him something where trade was a little brisker. Gave him 5/-"*.⁵

5.2 The Hedgerley Poor Rate Book

Entries in the accounts of the Overseers of the Poor in Hedgerley give the names of those who paid the Poor Rate for the White Horse between 1791 and 1806:

'August 1791 – Thomas Mason, 5s'

'3 April 1792 – George Ive for the White Horse 5s'

George Ive was a wealthy local farmer who lived at Court Farm and also paid Poor Rate on several other local properties.

'1801 – Thomas Ellams'

'1806 – Thomas Elms [sic] 10s for the White Horse'⁶

5.3 The old photograph

The old photograph (Figure 11) is probably from the early 20th century. It shows the main building of the White Horse with its rear-wall chimney stack and rear wing. In the foreground on the right is the garage now used as a Bar Store. In between there is a stable with a two-part stable door. Comparison with a modern photograph shows that the roof of the stable is set about a foot lower than that of the Bar Extension which has today taken its place.



Figure 11: The White Horse in the early 20th century.

5.3 The 1842 Tithe Map

The outline of the White Horse on the 1842 Hedgerley Tithe Map⁷ (Figure 12) shows the main building beside Village Lane with a large square rear wing. This concurs with the account of an addition in the 1830s in the records of Wethered Brewery.

Attached to the south is a small, narrower building. This is most likely the stable shown in the old photograph. In the 18th and 19th centuries a stable would be a necessary part of any country public house



Figure 12: The White Horse on the 1842 Tithe Map..

6 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF EVIDENCE

6.1 When was the White Horse built?

6.1.1 A note of caution

Many English public houses are historic buildings. For centuries the alehouse and the church have been the twin centres of village community. Both reflect communal continuity across the generations, and the materials of their buildings display this link with the past.

This is why our pubs frequently retain historic features, such as low beams and large ‘inglenook’ fireplaces, long after these have ceased to be a necessary part of everyday life.

But there is another side to this coin. For many modern pubs ‘heritage’ is a selling point. After beers, wines and spirits, historic features are just a stock-in-trade. Much work is put into achieving a ‘historic’ atmosphere as an attractive background for the social life that is their bread-and-butter.

To achieve this, ‘historic features’ may be added to a building. These may simply be modern copies and easy to spot. But there is an industry that recycles genuinely historic features – beams, fireplaces, bar counters, even whole rooms – into new or not-so-old pub buildings.

So when viewing and analysing public houses a pinch of salt is essential to separate the original from the additional.

6.1.2 Separating the later additions

At the White Horse there is much timber framing in the public bars, but the majority of this is not part of the structure of the building. Much has been added as part of the extension of the bar and conversion of the old stable, decorative woodwork to add atmosphere.

The wooden pillar and crossbeam that have replaced the original south wall of the main bar, for instance, are in fact structural steel joists to support the gable-end wall above, clad in boarding which has been ‘hacked’ to give a false impression of age.

The single-storey Bar Extension to the south has an open pitched roof, with visible joists and principal rafters. Its extensive wall-timbers, however, are decorative, dating from the 1980s conversion of the former stable.

Timbers in the rear wing are limited to tie-beams. This wing is stylistically of the 19th-century, built of brick with timber floor and roof.

But a timber cross-beam and two posts in the Bar Servery appear to be earlier and may have been retained from an earlier building. And there are other older timbers in evidence. Once the later additions are set aside, these older timbers can help date the building.

6.2 The main building facing the village street

The external walls of the White Horse are brick. Many timber-framed buildings of the 17th century and earlier were re-clad in brick when this became cheaper during the 18th and 19th centuries, leaving the original timber frame intact within the building. This is not the case at the White Horse.

The key to understanding the structure of the original building here is the lack of timber corner posts. On the ground floor of the two-storey building that fronts on to the village lane, original structural timbers are limited to those beams that support the floor above,

the bressumer beam above the open fireplace in the Public Bar and the beams above the bar-counter openings in the rear (east) wall.

Structurally, the main walls of the building are brick.

This is confirmed on the first floor, where the main timbers of the roof structure are visible – tie beams, wall plates, purlins and wind braces to the central timber truss only – but no corner posts or wall framing.

The pub's main two-storey building is of brick with a timber roof frame. The lack of corner posts and other wall-framing indicates that it was a brick building from the start.

Though end-gable chimneys were frequently later additions to earlier buildings in the 15th-18th centuries, this is not the case here. The roof includes wind braces only to the central truss, indicating that the brickwork of chimney and gable could be relied upon to take such stresses from the start.

Brick generally took over from timber-framing for smaller buildings in the 18th century, though it was in use in some areas of the south and east of England in the late 17th. On national evidence, therefore, the main building at the White Horse can certainly be dated as 18th-century.

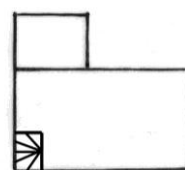
Three local factors, however, may push this back to the late 17th century.

First, Hedgerley had its own brick industry since at least 1344, when its tiles are to be found in the account books of Windsor Castle.⁸ This may well have brought brick construction to the village earlier than the average. Shell House, 500 yards up the road from the White Horse, is built of brick and has been dated to 1683 by both documentary and dendrochronological evidence.⁹

Secondly, this is supported by the similarity between the carpenters' marks on the roof timbers of the White Horse and Shell House, suggesting as similar construction date.

And thirdly, from 1679, when a building was first recorded on the site of the White Horse, William Grove paid the Poor Rate for 35 years until his death in 1714. The next 32 years saw the building

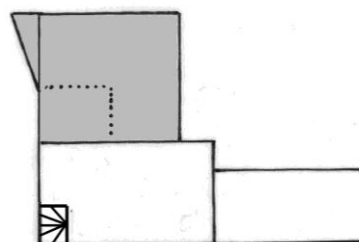
HOW THE WHITE HORSE GREW



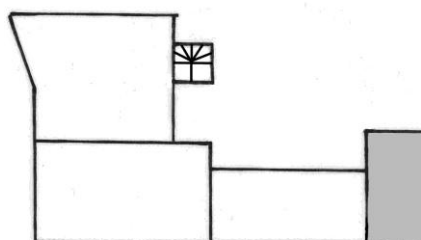
17th or early 18th century:
The main two-storey building, probably with a rear 'outshut'.



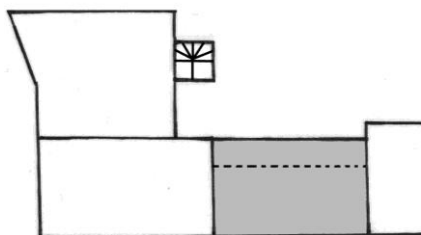
18th or early 19th century:
The stable has been added.



1830s: A new 19th-century wing incorporates the old outshut.



Early 20th century:
The addition of a garage



1980s: The old stable converted and extended to enlarge the main bar.

held by five different people – three of them widows.¹⁰ So unless the building dates from the late 18th century, its builder is most likely William Grove, which would mean it was built in the 17th century, around 1679 or soon after.

6.2.1 Features of the old building

The roof timbers visible on the first floor show that the original building was of two bays with a narrower chimney bay to the north which stretched the full width of the building (see Figure 10). The open fireplace is still there in the Public Bar. Its heavy supporting bressumer beam has been cut back and a cast-iron post inserted to take the weight.

The alcove at the east end of the fireplace, which has a curved back and is of reduced height, indicates the earlier position of a bread oven – or perhaps a ‘copper’ for brewing beer.

The original staircase would have been in the space beside this fireplace. This is shown by its arched window opening, now blocked, which can be seen ‘between floors’ in the north end-gable wall. The stairs, around a central newel-post, would have risen to the first floor, emerging in what is now a cupboard in Bedroom 1 – where the staircase’s original three-plank door is still in place.

This side-by-side conjunction of staircase and fireplace is considered to be a 17th-century feature, so may support an early date for the building.¹¹



Figure 11: A fine view of the White Horse in winter 2007.

A second old three-plank door serves Bedroom 2. Generally the fewer planks a door has, the older it is. Four-plank doors became more common by the end of the 17th century.¹² But you cannot date a building by its doors: after all, they can be easily moved from one building to another.

The structural spine beam that spans both Public and main bars is undoubtedly part of the original building, along with the ceiling joists it supports, though these are hidden beneath the plasterwork.

The single beam that spans the counters in both bars is also old, but isn’t in its original position. Its front face displays a square mortise slot and oval lath-holes for wattle-and-daub. These show that the beam has been previously used elsewhere because when re-used in its present position it was turned on its side.

This re-used beam may be telling us that this building wasn’t always a pub. It was inserted here to support the brick wall above the two openings, each wider than a door or window. Because a single beam spans both, the two bar-counter openings were probably made at the same time – though whether this was done around 1753, when the White Horse was first mentioned by name,¹³ or later is difficult to say.

6.3 The rear wing

The building style of the two-storey rear extension – the quality of brickwork and tall upper-floor sash windows – dates it to the 19th century. This is confirmed by the accounts of the

pub's former owners, Wethered Brewery of Marlow, which record considerable expenditure in the 1830s for bricks, bricklayers, carpenters and blacksmiths, with reference to a 'New Room'. This appears to have been a first-floor meeting room. Today it is the Sitting Room.

6.4 The Bar Served

The served, on the ground floor of this wing, is unusual. Its low ceiling is very unlike a 19th-century building. And the hand-chamfered cross-beam that supports this ceiling, with the two vertical posts, all appear to be older than the building.

These timbers may remain from an 'outshut', a single-storey outbuilding frequently attached to 17th or 18th-century cottages. The cross-beam and posts may show that when the 19th-century wing was added its ground floor retained at least part of this earlier building. It is also worth noting that the outer door and window of the Served have segmented brick arched lintels similar to those of the main 17th/18th-century building.

6.5 The Bar Extension

The old photograph of the White Horse (*Figure 11*) shows that the original building in this position was a small stable. The outline of the building on the Tithe Map (*Figure 12*) shows that this was built before 1842.

This building was converted in the 1980s in order to extend the pub's bar area. This involved considerable rebuilding, with doors and windows cut through the walls. This makes evidence in this area difficult to interpret. However the original footprint of the stable is probably still marked by the open pitched roof which covers only part of the Bar Extension today, being extended by a flat roof at the rear. Externally this roof has been raised by about 12 inches, sufficient to add insulation but no more. So it may include timbers from the original stable.

6.6 The final picture

The plan of the White Horse below shows the relative ages of the different parts of the present building, deduced from the analysis made here:

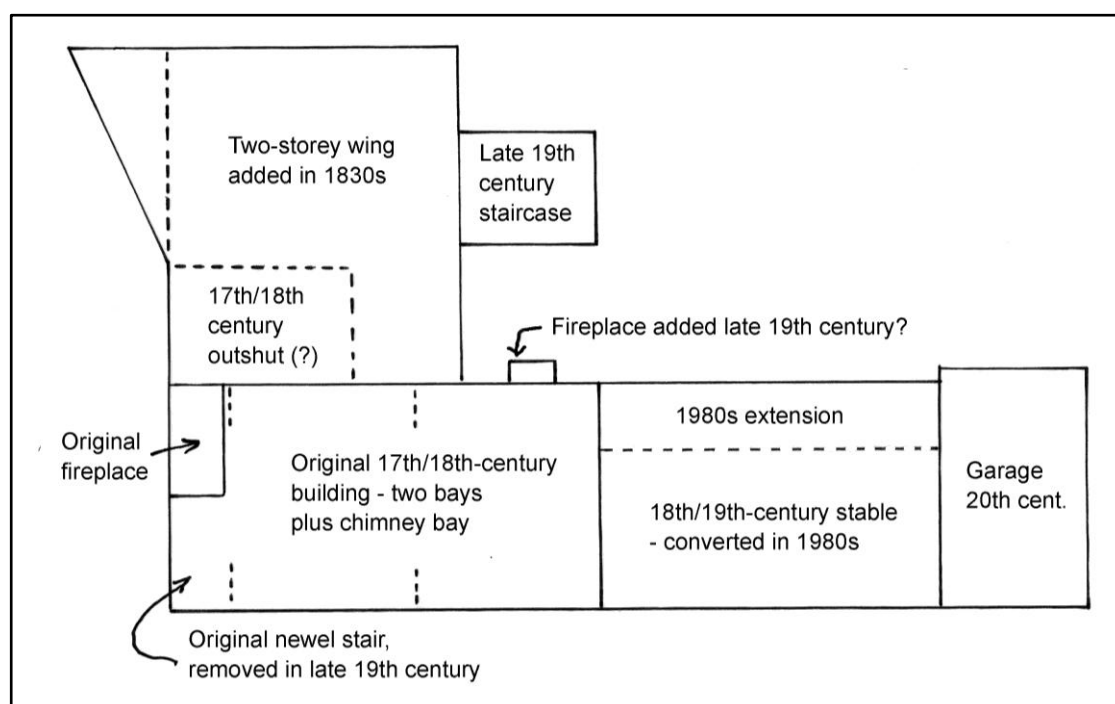


Figure 14: A plan of the White Horse, showing the age of each part of the building.

7 CONCLUSION: The English Heritage Listing

The English Heritage Listing number for the White Horse is 1164326. The building is listed Grade II. The description given in the Listing is:

‘C17, refronted C19. Timber-framed (1); white-washed brick; restored gable end covered with modern boarding; machine tile roof. String course at first floor level. Two storeys. (2) Modern one-storey addition on right hand (3). First floor with two 2-light casements set under eaves. Ground floor with central entrance beneath gabled porch on brackets and two 2-light casements with cambered brick relieving arches. All windows with glazing bars.’

Our survey suggests that the following amendments should be made:

- ‘refronted C19’:
The White Horse was originally built in brick; there is no sign of later refronting.
- ‘Timber-framed’:
The building is not timber-framed, but built in brick with a timber-framed roof which has tie-beams, purlins and a braced central truss. A major spine beam supports the upper floor and there are some re-used old timbers.
- ‘Two storeys’:
Two-storey C17 building of two bays parallel with road, with C19 two-storey extension at rear.
- ‘Modern one-storey addition on right-hand’:
Single-storey extension to the south is a conversion of a C18/C19 former stable.

8: Suggested further research

Some known records have not been consulted. The Centre for Bucks Studies in Aylesbury holds a collection of 87 files (Reference D/177) which contain deeds of individual properties owned by Wethereds the Brewers, of Marlow, who owned the White Horse for many years and held documents dating back to the 1740s. These may reveal details of building and repair work during the past 270 years.

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2. Michael Rice (editor) *A South Bucks Village: The History of Hedgerley* (Hedgerley Historical Society 2006) page 79.
3. English Heritage: National Heritage List for England, listing number 1164326.
4. Dr Andy Moir, personal communication.
5. *History of Hedgerley*, pages 79-81.
6. Bucks MS PR/99/3, Account Book of the Hedgerley Overseers of the Poor, various entries.
7. Hedgerley Tithe Map of 1842 (copy in the possession of Michael Rice).
8. Hilary Stainer, ‘Brick and tile-making in Hedgerley’, in *History of Hedgerley*, page 88.
9. Peter Marsden. ‘Why did Edward Penn build only half a house? Historic building analysis of Shell House, Hedgerley’, in *Records of Buckinghamshire*, volume 53 (Aylesbury 2013) page 224, and ‘Shell House, Hedgerley: A dendrochronological postscript’, in *Records*, volume 54 (2014).
10. *History of Hedgerley*, page 79.
11. See Pamela Cunington, *How old is your house?* (Yeovil 1999) page 164.
12. Linda Hall, *Period House Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900* (Newbury 2005) page 30.
13. *History of Hedgerley*, page 79.