

Ancells in the Hole, Braintree Road, Shalford, Essex. CM7 5JA.
Historic building recording of the Summer House. Recorded 20 01 2021.



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2020 Google earth. Location of Ancells in the Hole, Shalford.



2020 Google earth. Detail of the site showing the buildings under study.

Location

Ancells in the Hole, Braintree Road, Shalford, Essex. CM7 5JA. The House is located on the junction of Braintree Road with Codham Mill Lane and the lane to Iron Bridge Farm. Historically called Tan Office Farm and still marked on maps as such. The House is at NGR: TL7327728074. The Store is at TL 73268 28089. The Garage is at TL 73273 28096. The Stable is at TL 73277 28102. The Pig Pens are at TL 73266 28107. The ruin of the Summerhouse is at TL 73266 28099.

Listing

The buildings are not Listed. The House is Listed and this is presented in Appendix 1.



AD2000. Aerial photograph from the east. The site is virtually unchanged today.

Scope of this Report

This report records and analyses the archaeological fabric of the buildings under study. This report adheres to Historic England Level 2 as outlined in Historic England. Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice. 2017. Page 25.

The House is recorded separately in the report: Ancells in the Hole, Braintree Road, Shalford, Essex. CM7 5JA. Historic building recording of the House. Recorded 25 02 2021.

A complex of buildings has been united under one roof built as a workshop and materials store in the LC20th. It comprises a redundant stable, a redundant barn and a redundant piggery. The larger buildings have been stripped down to fragmentary frames and their roofs lost. To avoid repetition unless stated the fabric is LC20th from the 1970's onwards by aerial photographic evidence.

There is also a separate stables, a garage and a collapsed summerhouse.

1. Summer House – completely collapsed.

This report is an extract from the original report: Ancells in the Hole, Braintree Road, Shalford, Essex. CM7 5JA. Historic building recording of the Outbuildings. Recorded 20 01 2021. This report is to support the removal of the collapsed building.

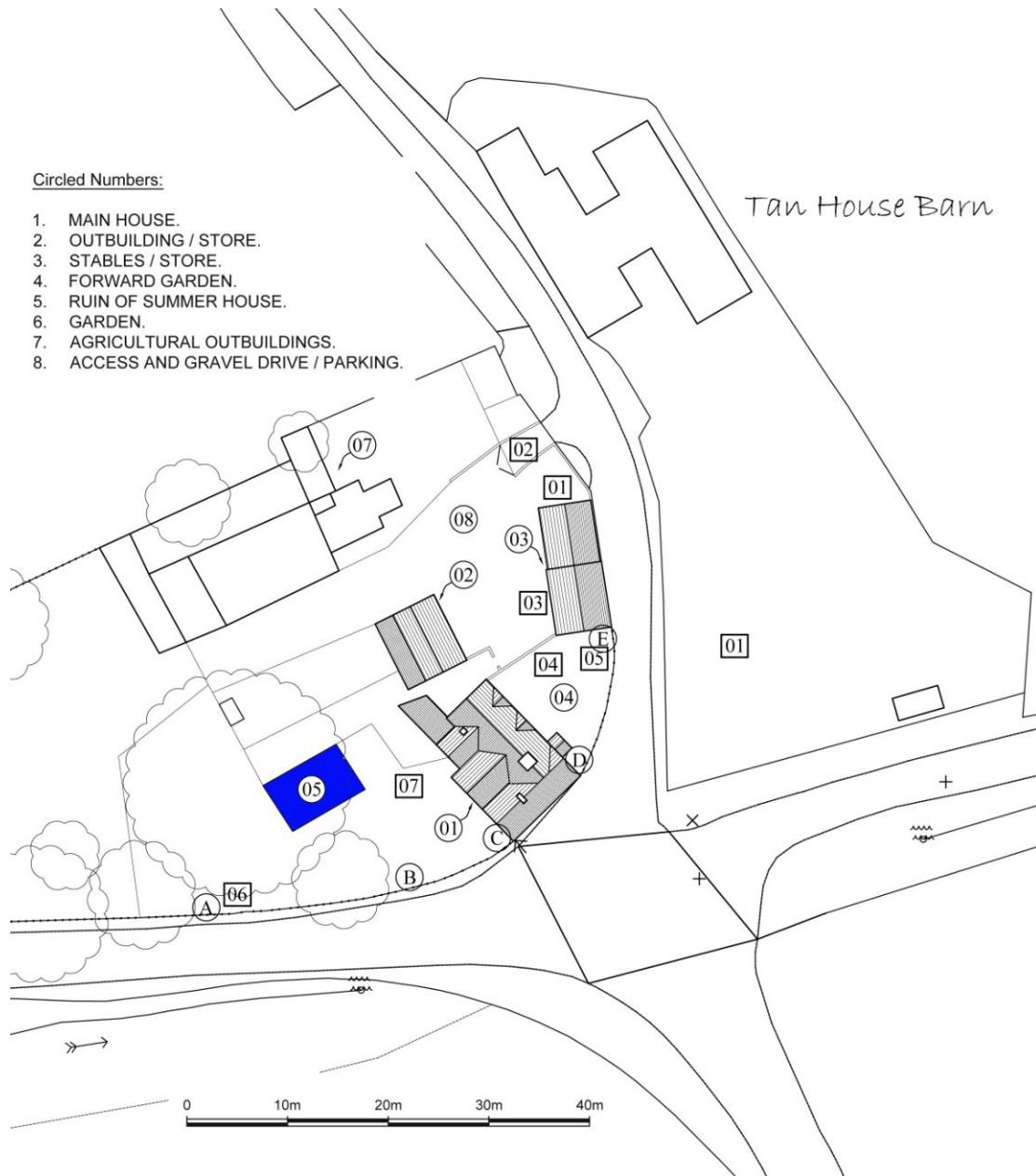
Additional photographs taken in 2020 and 2022 are included.



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Circled Numbers:

1. MAIN HOUSE.
2. OUTBUILDING / STORE.
3. STABLES / STORE.
4. FORWARD GARDEN.
5. RUIN OF SUMMER HOUSE.
6. GARDEN.
7. AGRICULTURAL OUTBUILDINGS.
8. ACCESS AND GRAVEL DRIVE / PARKING.



Tan House Barn

2022. Plan of Ancells in the Hole with the Summer House ruins highlighted. Andrew Stevenson Associates.

1. Summer House – MC20th.



2020. The north elevation of the Summer House before the failed scaffolding was removed.



2020. The east elevation of the Summer House before the failed scaffolding was removed.



2021. Looking W across the Summer House ruins.



2021. The east elevation of the Summer House.



2021. The south elevation of the Summer House.



2022. Looking SE at the Summer House. Andrew Stevenson Associates.



2022. The east elevation of the Summer House. Andrew Stevenson Associates.

The Summer House is a MC20th timber-framed building that has been allowed to collapse under its own weight and failing fixings. Anecdotally, the author has passed by this building many times in the last 25 years and it was always ruinous. Aerial photography shows it in good condition in the 1970's but by the 2000's it was being supported by an armature of scaffolding and by the 2010's the roof had collapsed.

The frame was made of reused elm and softwood timbers fixed with wire nails with exposed primary bracing and interrupted studwork. The infill panels were plasterboard and the floor concrete. The roof was made from pole rafters in fresh condition and still clad entirely with bark. The battens are machined softwood fixed with wire nails. The thatch was only 12in thick at most.

Historic Photography



1970's (undated). Ancells from the south.



1970's (undated). Ancells from the east. The Summer House can be seen in complete condition.



2000's (undated). Ancells from the SW. The Summer House has deteriorated.



2000's (undated). Ancells from the SW. Photograph under glass.



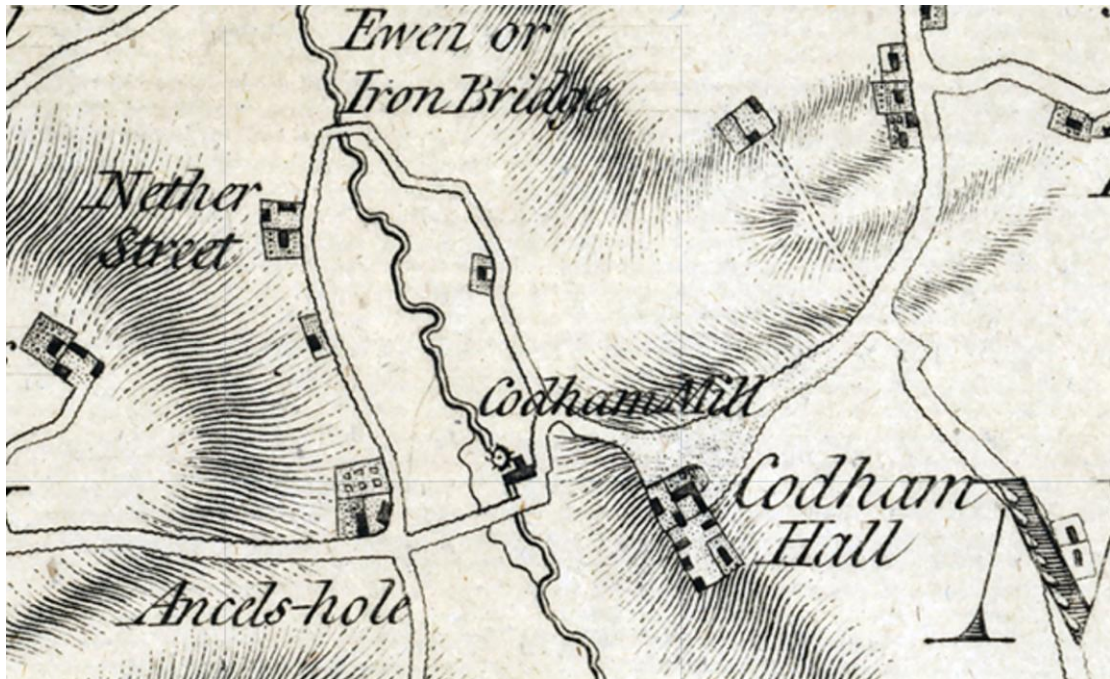
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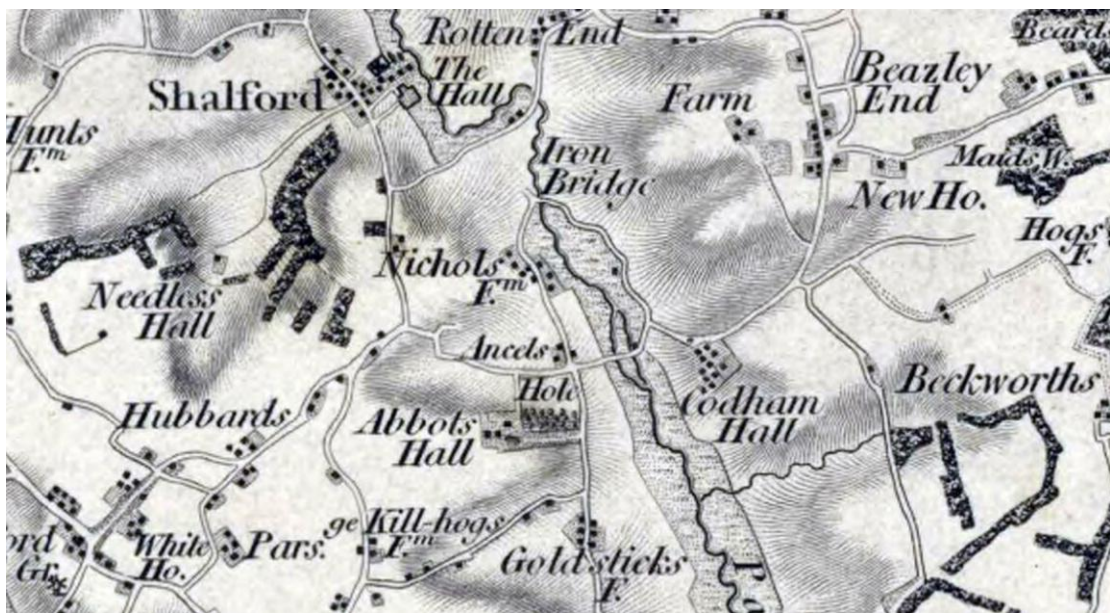
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2000's (undated). Ancells from the east. The Summer House has lost its thatched roof.

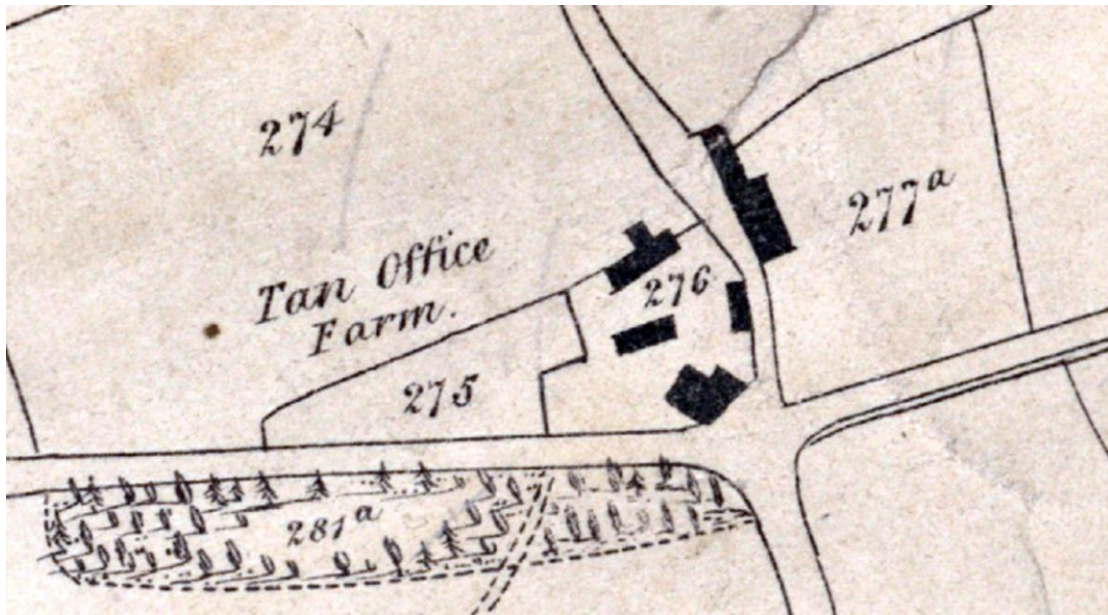
Topographical Survey from Maps



1777 Chapman and Andre's Map of Essex.

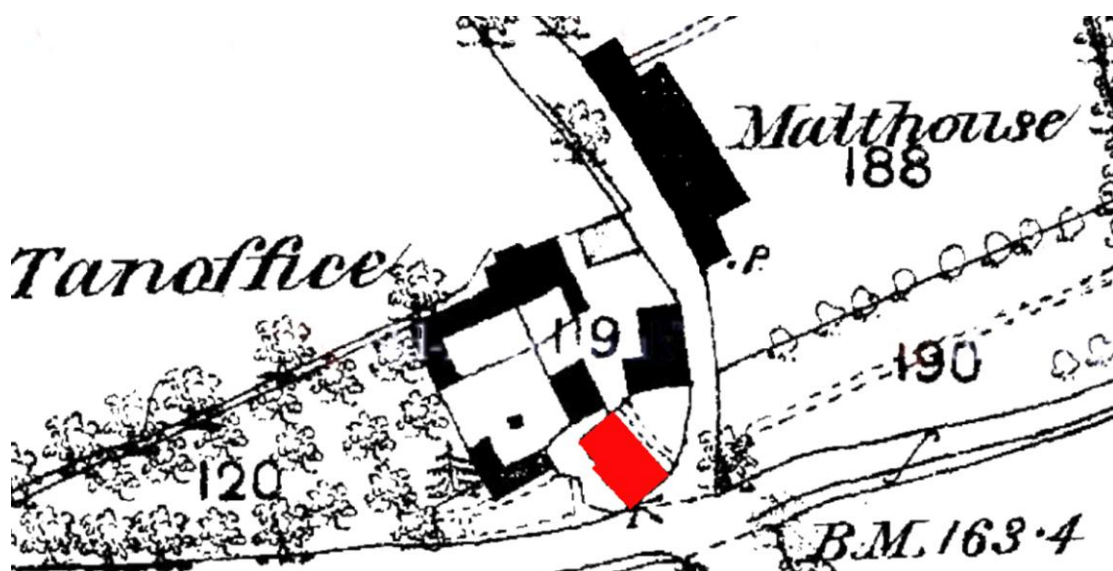


1805 Ordnance Survey.



1846 Tithe Map for Shalford.

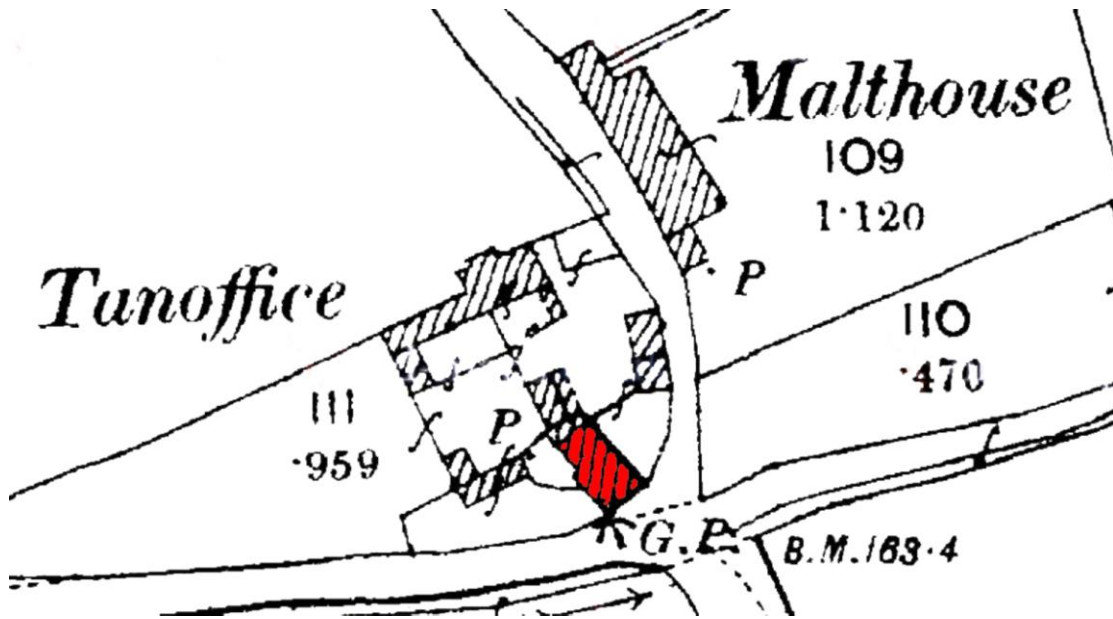
Plot 276 Homestead Tan Office Farm was owned by John Edward Beldham and occupied by Ebenezer Fitch. White's Directory of Essex 1848 has Ebenezer Fitch (maltster), Tan Office. White's Directory of Essex 1863 has Charles Fitch, Tan Office. The PO Directory 1874 has Charles Fitch, maltster and farmer.



1876 Ordnance Survey. The House is highlighted in red.

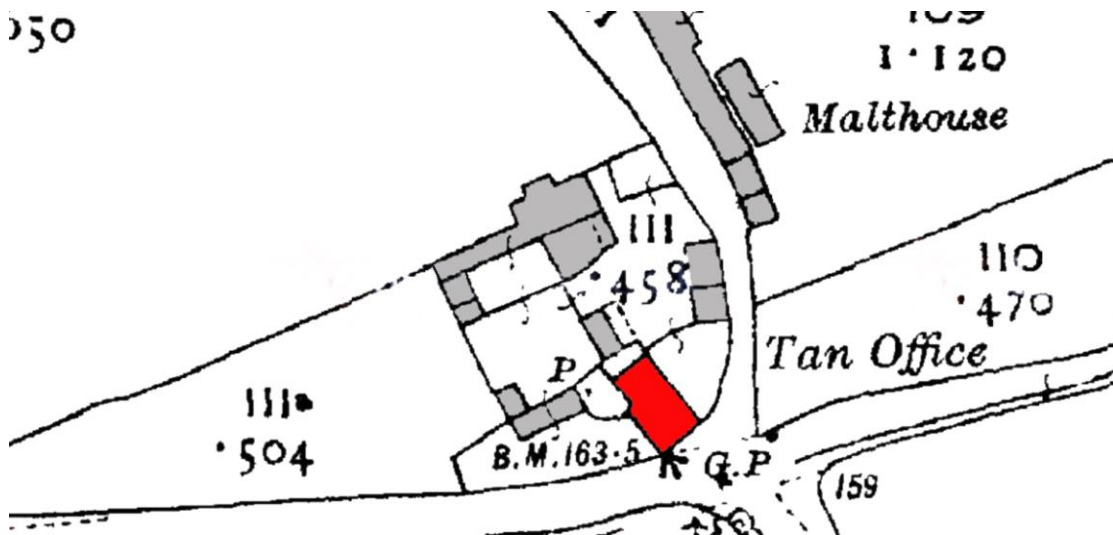


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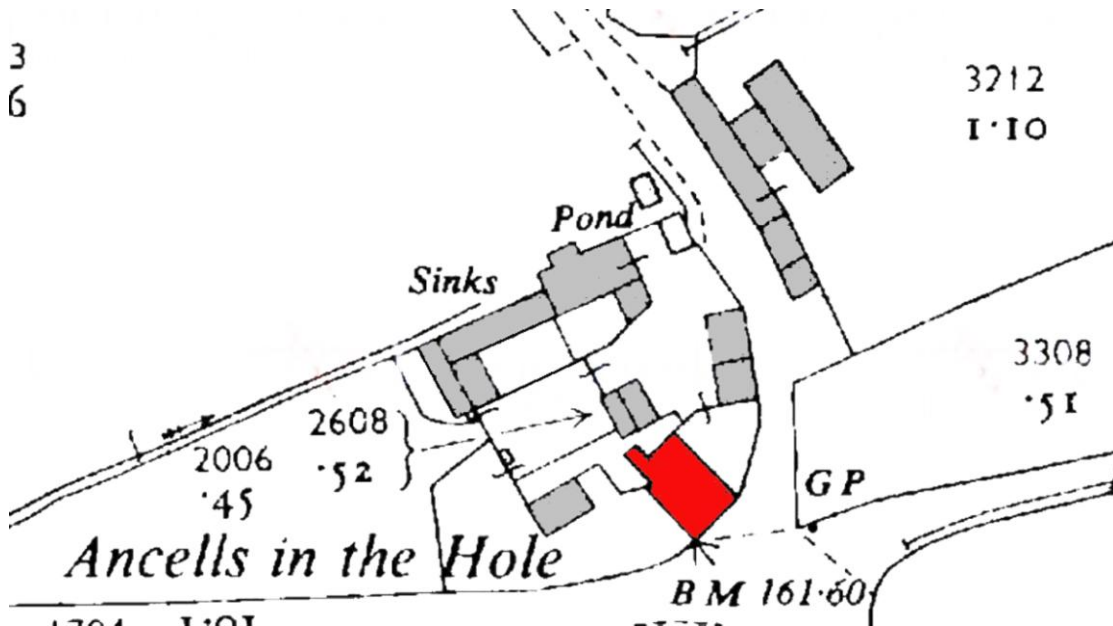
1897 Ordnance Survey.



1923 Ordnance Survey.

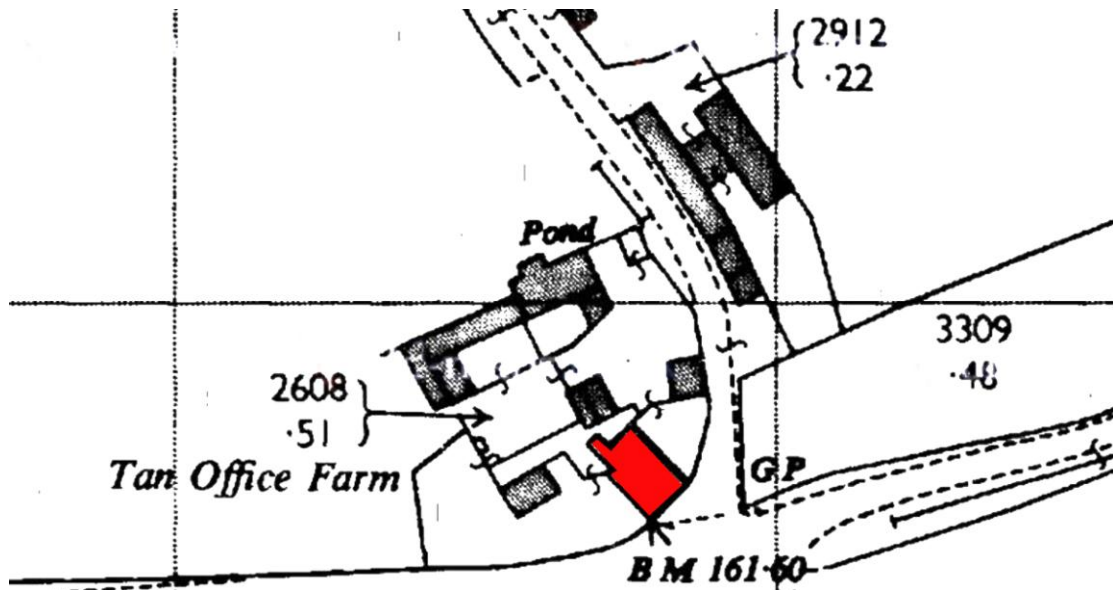
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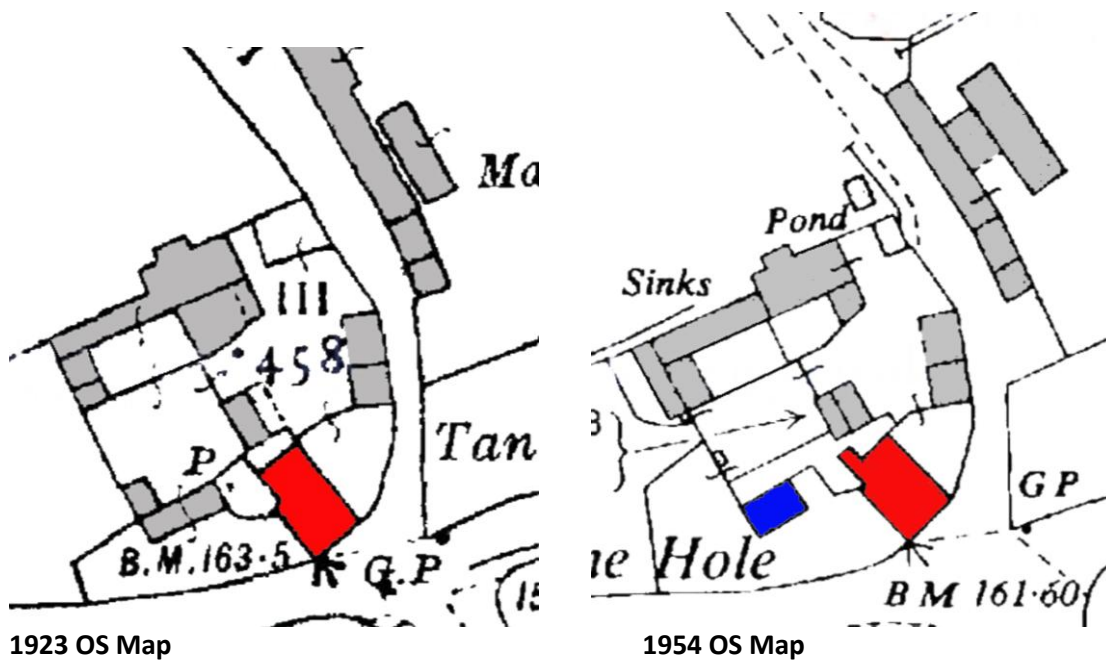
1954 Ordnance Survey.

The footprint of the Summer House replaces an earlier L-shaped building between 1923 and 1954.



1969 Ordnance Survey.

Phasing and Discussion



1923-1954. The Summerhouse.

The mapping indicates that the present footprint of the Summer House was established between 1923 and 1954 however the remaining fabric suggests a building late in that bracket and heavily modified in the 1960's or 1970's. The Summer House was allowed to fall into ruin over about 30 years and is now a collapsed collection of unusable machined timbers and plasterboard.

The frame was made of reused elm and softwood timbers fixed with wire nails with exposed primary bracing and interrupted studwork. The infill panels were plasterboard and the floor concrete. The roof was made from pole rafters in fresh condition and still clad entirely with bark. The battens are machined softwood fixed with wire nails. The thatch was only 12in thick at most.

Significance

The Summer House was built in a period of relative prosperity for the farm in the MC20th and photographs shows it as an attractive C20th idea of a timber-framed building with a faux scantling frame and thatched roof. Falling out of use as a farm in the 1980's the building has little significance other than remnant footprints of an earlier prosperity before the site was bought and gradually run down through neglect. The Summer House was made from contemporary machined timbers, plasterboard and some reclaimed materials.



Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Adrian Parker, the current owner, for engaging me to record the building and to Andrew Stevenson for recommending me and providing the architect's plan.

Bibliography

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Appendix 1 – Listing of the House



Date: 04 Aug 2002 Reference: IOE01/08282/16 Rights: Copyright IoE Mr Darren Mckenna.

Entry Name: Ancells in the Hole **Listing Date:** 21 December 1967
Last Amended: 19 March 1986 **Grade:** II **Source:** Historic England **Source ID:** 1308418
English Heritage Legacy ID: 115566 **County:** Essex **Civil Parish:** Shalford
TL 72 NW SHALFORD BRAINTREE ROAD (east side)
3/47 Ancells in the Hole (formerly listed as Ancel 21.12.67 Hole) - II

Wrongly shown on OS map as Tan Office Farm. House. C16, altered in C18/C19 and C20. Timber framed, plastered, roofed with handmade red clay tiles and slate. 2-bay main range facing NE, mid-C16. 3-bay crosswing at left end, extending to rear, and internal stack at the junction, c.1570. Small extension to rear of right bay of main range, C18, and C19 extension with slate roof between this and crosswing. Single-storey lean-to extension with slate roof at W corner. 2 storeys, cellar and attic. 3-window range of C20 casements, with small feature gables above 2 upper windows. 6-panel door with top panels glazed and bottom panels boarded, early C19. The main stack has a quatre-foiled recess in moulded brick at the base, and rebuilt grouped diagonal shafts. In the left return wall, on the upper storey there are 2 unglazed windows converted for glazing in the period 1570-90, features of exceptional historical interest. Jowled posts, heavy studding. Curved tension bracing trenched inside studs, exposed in crosswing. Unglazed windows with shutter grooves and mortices for diamond mullions in both builds, in the crosswing adapted for the early glazed windows described above. Chamfered axial beams, with step stops in the main range, lamb's tongue stops and notch stops in the crosswing. 2 large wood-burning hearths on the ground floor, and early C17 hearth with depressed brick arch on the first floor of the main range. Crownpost roof with axial braces in main range, clasped purlin roof with arched wind-bracing in crosswing.

Wall painting on plaster and studs of left ground floor room of main range depicting woman in Elizabethan costume, probably Queen Elizabeth I. Reported wall painting in room above, panelled over in C20. RCHM 35. Listing NGR: TL7327728074.

BJHC note on the comment about Tan Office map reference. The 1777 Chapman and Andre Map of Essex and the 1805 OS map has the site as Ancels-hole (hole being the old name for valley). The 1846 Tithe Map for Shalford names the site as Tan Office Farm and is listed as such in the Tithe Award. White's Directories of Essex for 1848 and 1863 both have Tan Office. All the editions of the OS have the site as Tan Office except for the 1954 edition which has Ancells in the Hole. By 1969 it was back to Tan Office Farm.



The House from the NE.

(35). *Tan Office*, house, nearly 1 m. S.E. of the church, was built late in the 16th century, on an L-shaped plan with the wings extending towards the N. and W. There are 18th-century and modern additions on the W., making the plan roughly rectangular. On the E. front are three gables and the central chimney-stack has a quatrefoiled panel at the base, and clustered diagonal shafts.

'Shalford', in *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex, Volume 1, North West* (London, 1916), pp. 260-266. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/essex/vol1/pp260-266> [accessed 30 March 2021].