HERITAGE STATEMENT





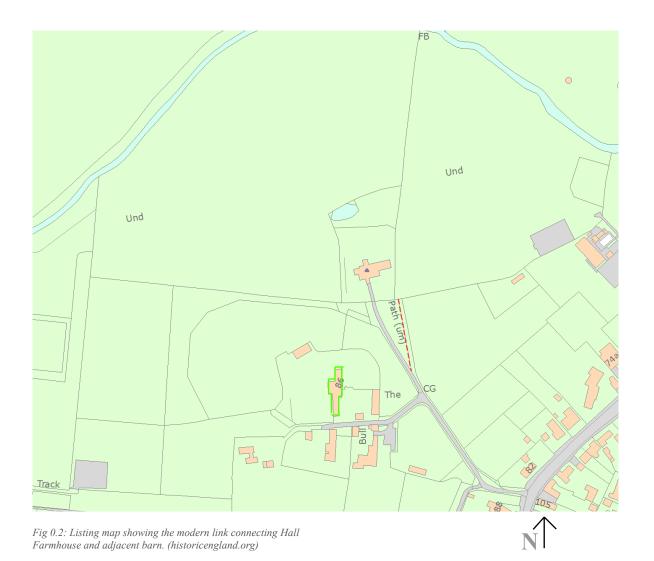
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Photovoltaic Installation to Hall Farmhouse 86 High Street Great Abington Cambridgeshire CB21 6AE

20.433.1 - 498 C

May 2023

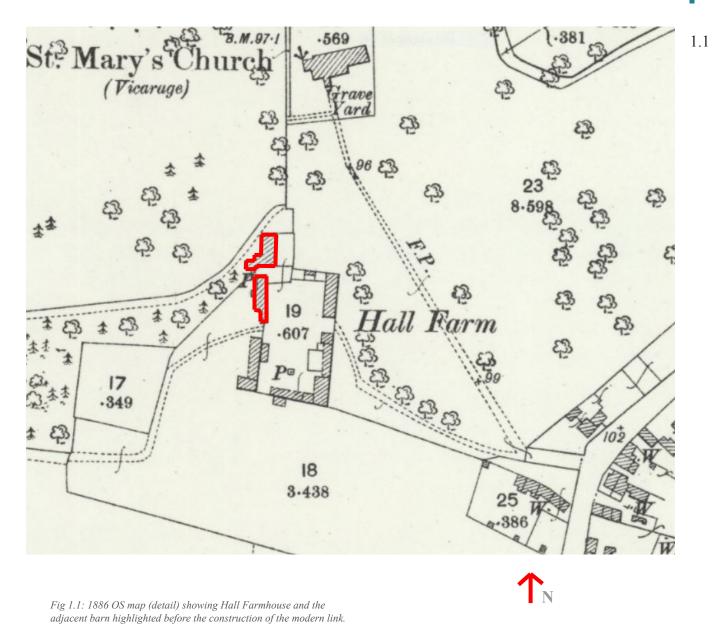
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Rev A: 22/03/22 Draft issue Rev B: 28/03/22 Rev C: Updated PV Issue

BACKGROUND



HISTORIC ASSET Historic England Listing NGR: TL5319348560 Name: Hall Farmhouse, 86 High St, Great Abington Grade: II Date first listed: 30 Sept 1985

Listing Description: "House, formerly a farmhouse. Early C16 with late C17 and C20 alterations. Timber-framed and plastered; plain tiled roof, tall rectangular planned red brick ridge stack. Two storeys with attic and cellar, a surviving part of a larger building (map 1687), that extended further to southwest. Main entrance in modern flat roofed extension to left hand; three first floor and three ground floor C20 casement windows. Interior: Exposed, substantial timber-frame of four bays divided by a closed truss with a truss to the south-west framed originally beside a chimney stack. Stop-chamfered ceiling beams, four-light first floor window with moulded mullions (qv Abington Pottery and Linton Guildhall). Late C17 inserted stack, partitions and cellar. Late C17 staircase door."

The listed does not mention the barn.

AC Architects Cambridge Ltd. 21.433.01-498: Heritage Statement, Photovoltaic Installation to Hall Farmhouse, 86 High St, Great Abington, Cambridgeshire.

BACKGROUND



Fig 1.2: .plan of the 6 elements to the current site; 1.The farmhouse. 2. Converted barn. 3. Link 5. Garage 6. Pool house



Fig 1.3: Image of the converted stables (red barn) and the garage



Fig 1.5: Image of the pool house



Fig 1.4: view of West elevation showing the hierarchy of house, barn and link and the simple forms, volumes and material palette of the house and barn

- 1.2 HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT See Appendix A for historical record of the property as prepared by 5th studio in June 2021. This record includes photographs documenting significant historic fabric along with a copy of the notes of the meeting with the County Historic Buildings Advisor in October 1979 ahead of the conversion works and prior to the building being listed.
- 1.3 Development in the 20C

At the beginning of 1980 works were carried out to create a large family dwelling. The farmhouse with its attached lean-to outbuilding was connected to the adjacent brick barn [Fig 1.1] by the construction of a single storey flat roofed link and the barn was converted into habitable accommodation. No significant alterations have been made since 1980 and the house remains a family dwelling.

1.4 The Outbuildings

The outbuildings consist of a modern two bay garage [Fig 1.4] and a modern pool house [Fig 1.5] in the rear garden of Hall Farmhouse.

1.5 Energy efficiency

As part of the 1980 conversion glass fibre insulation was included between the studs of the Farmhouse and insulation was fitted within the upgraded barn walls. The loose laid glass fibre insulation within the loft spaces has been increased over the years. There is no insulation within the ground floors. Windows are double glazed

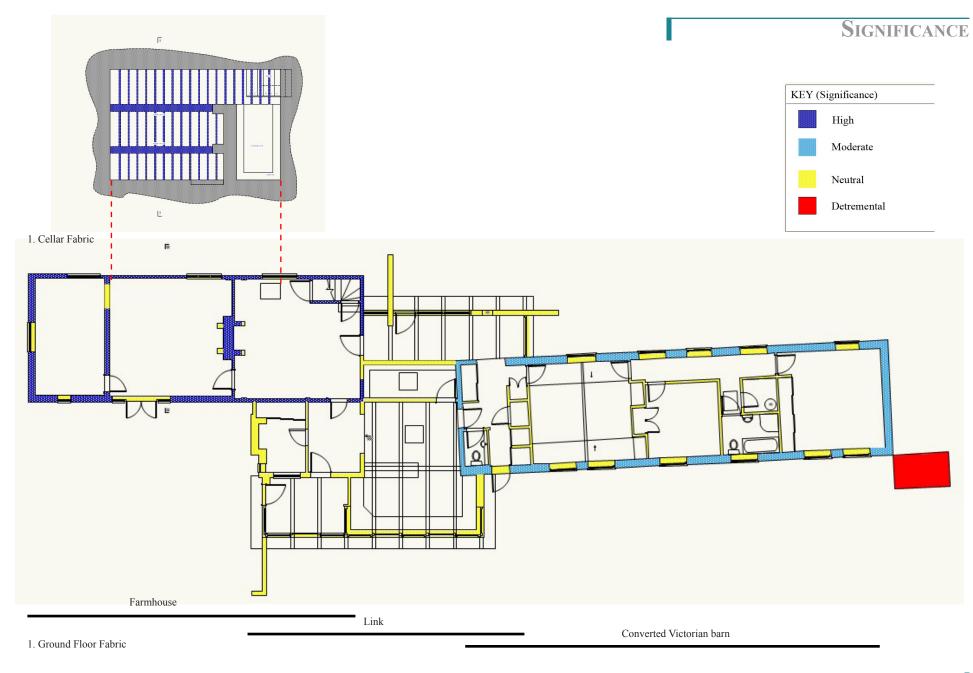


Fig. 2.0 Analysis of the significance of the historic fabric

SIGNIFICANCE



PROPOSAL



Fig 3.1 View of the barn from the south west from the private garden.



Fig 3.2 View of the barn from the south east showing limited views of the farmhouse due to the walnut tree.

softwood and are reaching the end of their lives. This means the level of insulation is well below modern standards. The heating and hot water system is fuelled by oil which is stored in an oil tank at the southern end of the barn.

- 3.0 PROPOSALS
- 3.1 RENEWABLE ENERGY

The permitted PV array on the barn will be increased to cover both slopes of the roof up to the intersection with the link roof. A distance of 7.5m will be retained between the Farm House gable and the start of the PV array.

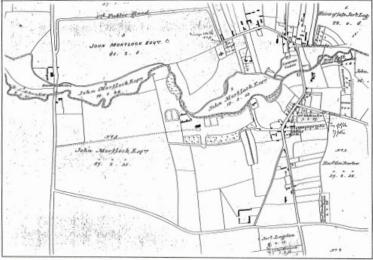
AFFECT ON THE HISTORIC FABRIC

TABLE OF AFFECTED	FABRIC				
FEATURE & LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	SIGNIFICANCE	PROPOSED WORKS	IMPACT	JUSTIFICATION OR MITIGATION
BARN - EXTERNAL					
Roof	Modern clay pantile roof covering. Part of the 1980's conversion & extension works	Neutral	Fit PV panel array to both east and west roof slopes, see drawings	No loss of heritage fabric. Completely reversible. See Design & Access Statement for further information	Part of the works to improved the sustainability and energy efficiency of the property.

TIMELINE

C11th	Records from 1042-1066 show that this formed part of the Chilford Hundred in the possession of Wiuuin (Ulwin) with a house on the site of Abington Hall	This timeline and the following analysis of the extant built fabric of Hall Farmhouse suggest a continuity of use, construction and materials from its earliest form until the late C20th rebuilding
1086	The Domesday Book records 'Abintone: Picot from the king; Count Alan; Aubrey de Vere and Firmatus from him'	
C11th- C17th	The estate passed into the ownership of the Earls of Oxford until 1600 when it was sold variously to Lord Compton (1610), John Bennet (1660) Mr Western (1675). N.B. It is thought that the timber frame of Hall Farmhouse dates back to the late C17th	
C18th	Abington Hall and estate remains with the Western family until 1775 when Mr Pearson bought it - selling it again to Mr Mortlock in 1779. The Mortlock family had been yeoman farmers in the Whittlesford and Pampisford, but by the end of the C18th had become wool traders and bankers. The estate is recorded as including 'sundry eligible freehold farms, lands and tenements comprising in the whole about 2,000 acres now let at the rent of £1,017 per annum.'	
1801- 1803	The Mortlock family enlarged the estate through the Enclosures Acts.	
1929	Mortlock family sell entire estate at Auction At this point the Hall Farm house is described as 'The Picturesque Farm House of brick, lath and plaster construction with tiled roof'	
1979	The house and barn were bought by the current owners at auction in 1979. The description in the sales particulars are much as as in the Mortlock sale of 1929 except that they refer to 'Victorian brick and flint extensions'	

GREAT ABINGTON AND THE SITE



Map of Great Abington relating to Enclosures Act 1801-03: John Mortlock

Though often listed as a single entity, Great and Little Abington have since early medieval times been two parishes divided by the River Granta and remain so.

The southernmost of the two, Great Abington, covers 1,588 acres (6.43 km2) and is bounded to the south by the county border with Essex, to the west by a branch of the lckneild Way (now the A11), and to the east by the parish of Hildersham.

The village history dates back to the Bronze Age, some 4000 years ago. The Saxons gave the village its name, originally called "estate named after Abba", and the village was listed as Abintone in the Doomsday Book. The 'Great' and 'Little' prefixes came later: the Latin magna is observed from 1218 and the Modern English 'great' from 1523.

In the decades before the Second World War the Land Settlement Association created a site to the south of Great Abington consisting of over sixty houses and plots of land for unemployed miners mainly from the former shipyards of Tyneside and coalfields of Yorkshire and Durham. Hall Farm House, as its name implies, was one of the 5 farms in Great and Little Abington that were tied to Abington Hall (part of the Manor of the Earls of Oxford).

Until the enclosures of the early C19th, the houses of these farms might normally have been located along the High Street. In this context, the anomaly of the House appearing to be free-standing is explained by aerial photographical evidence that appear to show that there was historically a second main street to the village - running south from the church and that the Farm House would have occupied a site on the cross roads south of the church and linked back to the current High Street.

HISTORICAL RECORD SCANS



above right - Particulars for the sale of the Abington Hall and estate. 6 November 1929 above left - Hall Farmhouse is Lot 13

HISTORICAL RECORD SCANS



above - Plan of the relevant part of the estate showing the Farmhouse as part of a wider group of agricultural buildings (highlighted in red)

HISTORICAL RECORD SCANS

	- 3 -	
PARTICULARS OF SALE		
Lot 1 HALL FARM 6	REAT ABINGTON	·
constructed of part br under a part tiled roc Although offering good is limited to three bo	Non the 17th century and is substantially rick heavy timber frame, lath and plaster of with Victorian brick and flint extensions. I ground floor accommodation the first floor derooms, but is capable of being extended if dottion, which is on two floors, is as followst	BALL FARM, GREAT ABINOTON, CAMEBIDGE Notes of a meeting held on 29th October 1979 with Mr Black, the County Historic Buildings Advisor, and Mrs Newman - South Cambridgeshire District Council Historic Buildings Representative
GROUND FLOOR		1. Listing
ENTRANCE HALL	1310" x 515" with double radiator, GPO telephone, door giving access to stairs to first floor.	Wr Black confirmed that the DoE was surveying their list of historic buildings and that this farmhouse would be a Grade II listed building. Consequently, Historic Buildings Consent would be required but the plans
DINING ROOM	1717" x 1219" with open brick fireplace, brick hearth, 2 wall light points, meter cupboard, 1 double 1 single radiator.	and documents doposited for Planning Approval would cover this. His Department would, however, like to be informed of any changes to the proposals.
BRANTING ROOM	Heavy timbered ceiling. Trap door to CELLAR. 1917" into bay x 1840" with open brick	2. DPC and damp-proofing
MANANG ROOM	fireplace, casement door, double radiator, two fluorescent lights, heavy timbered ceiling, four wall light points, door to	Methods of damp proofing were discussed and it seemed that a thorough investigation of the sole plate and brick plinth would determine the best course of action.
STUDY	$1710^{9} \times 1010^{2}$ with copperad fan convector, tiled floor.	3. Structural frame
KITCHEN	1316" x 1016" containing single drainer sink with cupboards under, ample worktop space, two wall units, fluorescent light, plumbing for washing machine, fireplace recess com- taining Wilson Wallflame 90,000 btu oll fired boiler. Small cupboard to one side,	From observation of the frame, the building appeared to date from around 1600 (a date was visible on the pargetting to the east elevation of 1633 The bracing of the main posts had in all instances been removed and their function was now probably being performed by the study of the dividing bays. As far as structural soundness was concerned, the building appeared to b
REAR HALL	tiled floor giving access to with quarry tiled floor, fitted cupboards, door to cloakroon with high flush WC.	safe and although there was evidence to suggest movement in the structur joints of post and beam, this could be halted by strapping.
PANTRY	10'10" x 6'9" with fitted shelving and brick floor.	 <u>Windows</u> Should the client want to remove the lead glazing cames it was suggested
ON THE FIRST FLOOR	All the first floor rooms are heavily timbered	that glazing hars could be inserted in the larger windows on the east elevation which would be more sympathetic than clear glass.
LANDING	with radiator giving access to	The small window to the end bedroom on the west elevation was original
BEDROOM (1)	17'6" x 13'0", double radiator, two suppoards.	and should be retained in its entirety.
BATHROOM	with lobby area giving access to airing cupboard with lagged hot water cylinder fitter with immersion and shelves. The bathroom contains washbasin, low flush WC, fitted pa-	The steel window on the east elevation should be replaced with timber if possible. Frames which needed replacement should be timber.
	panelled bath with shower attachment and heated towel rail.	Moulding around the staircase window should be retained.
BEDROOM (2)	1316" x 913" with radiator, washbasin.	The bay window on the west elevation was a recent addition and its insertion had meant the omission of a storey post. It was thought that
BEDROOM (3)	$17^{\rm s}7^{\rm s}$ x $10^{\rm s}6^{\rm s}$ with beamed walls and ceiling, washbasin.	a steel beam had been inserted under the timber and that this had been concealed so forming the existing bulkhead.
OUTSIDE	on the southern side there is a general OUTBUILDING measuring overall internally 15'5" x 15'4" with side door. Adjacent	Differing window sizes should be retained. 5. Roof
	Continued	Inspection to be made at a later date.



CURRENT SETTING

The current setting of Hall Farm House is as part of a group of once-rural buildings around a central yard space. Originally probably all part of the one farm, the various buildings has now passed into a number of separate ownerships - split by the East-West branch of the lane.



Notes on Heritage Significance

Within this split site the Farm House, with the converted barn, stable-block and garage form a discrete grouping around a yard that is all under one ownership and so, by consistency of treatment and management is evocative of the coherence of the original farm yard setting and, on this basis, as well as the retained isolation of this group of buildings between the High Street and the Church, has some heritage significance in terms of townscape and the history of the landscape enclosures.

- aerial view of whole farm grouping, split by the access lane with the Farnhouse, Barn, Link, Stable Block and Garage north of the lane and forming a coherent grouping around the Farm court
- below aerial view of the current location of the Farm - treestanding in open land between Abington Hell and the village of Great Abington. It is thought that a second village street used to run south from the church and that the Farm House would have occupied a site on the cross roads south of the church and a side road linking back to the current High Street.



ELEMENTS OF THE SITE

There are six elements to the current site:

- 1. The House
- 2. Converted Barn
- 3. Link
- 4. Converted Stable Block
- 5. Garage
- 6. Swimming Pool

With the exception of the Stable Block (4), which lies outside the current study, these are considered separately below in terms of their history, extant fabric and construction together with the potential impact on the historic significance and values of proposed measures to reduce the energy consumption and carbon emissions



HALL FARMHOUSE

Generally

On 29 October 1979, the current owners' architects met the County Historic Buildings Adviser and the Historic Buildings representative from South Cambs. They were advised that the house would be listed Grade II (this did indeed happen but not until 1985 - by which time the proposed works had been completed) and described the scope of acceptable works.

The records of this advice are set out below but, to paraphrase:

- the small leaded light window at the west end (first floor) should be retained in its entirely but that otherwise glazing bars should be designed into the larger pane, softwood windows proposed, in order to make these more sympathetic to the lead glazing cames to be removed
- The rain-deflectors (shedding rails) should be retained
- The rendering could well be original and there were visible traces of the pargetting with a zigzag motif, divided into bays. As this was all in poor condition, the removal of this in its entirety and replacement with a modern render coat on expanded metal lathe (eml) seemed prudent.
- Insulation should be installed behind them eml
- The blackened internal timbers could be cleaned by sand-blasting. The frame should not be exposed externally

Generally

The house was extensively refurbished and renovated in the 1980s. This work predated the listing by some 5 years - and while it did carefully conserve the form and simple materiality of the house together with some external features: the shedding board features to the gable ends and two leaded light casements at the North end over farm office, almost all of the earlier external construction and cladding has been removed and most of the externally visible construction including the Portland cement rendered walls, and double-glazed softwood windows, etc date from this period. The construction of the link block at the same time, included the construction of an unsightly flue to the west elevation.

Notes on Heritage Significance and potential impacts

These notes suggest that although the house was not then listed, there were clear priorities in terms of conservation concerns, with an emphasis on retention of the timber frame – exposed internally - and of the few external features of note or significance (shedding boards and leaded light windows),

The heritage significance of the building exterior lies predominantly in its simple form and materiality along with the gable features and retained leaded-light windows



above view of West elevation showing the hierarchy of house, barn and link and the simple forms,volumes and material palette of the house and barn below view of East elevation



Walls

Internally, the exposed timber frame has been almost completely retained, sand-blasted and treated.

It is clear that the refurbishment work to the exterior walls included (note from architects drawing)

'hack off render Insulate between studs with fibreglass and re-render on building paper on eml 2 coats Sandtex paint Vapour barrier, plasterboard and skim to inside face'

The use of Portland cement render is now regarded as unsympathetic to historic buildings. This hard and inflexible cladding was thought, as recently as the 1980s, to be the ideal finish to all sorts of historic solid and timber framed walls because it was thought to be waterproof and impervious to vapour.

Subsequent evidence has proved that this material is completely inappropriate for use on historic buildings as, lacking flexibility, the render cracks, admitting water into the construction which cannot then escape -leading to the risk of build up of interstitial moisture and the creation of conditions for mould to develop in the wall construction (through spore germination or mycelium growth).

This is particularly the case where OPC render is used on, inherently flexible, timber-framed buildings, which can be extremely susceptible to decay induced by the build-up of interstitial moisture and this may have been exacerbated by the installation of fibreglass insulation between the timber frame elements and the use of a vapour barrier with the plasterboard internal finish.

Anecdotally, the timber frame was completely cleared of all infill and repaired and treated at this time. The work seems to have been carried out to a high standard and the walls appear to be sound and dry, there is little evidence of rot or timber decay, and the slenderness of the new infill construction has allowed the historic timber frame to be exposed on the inside.

Notes on Heritage Significance and potential impacts

In order to retain the visibility of this timber frame, any upgrading of the thermal performance of the walls should probably involve increasing the thickness of the walls to the outside, over-cloaking the framing with, preferably vapour-open, insulation externally before re-rendering in lime-render on lath. This work would involve re-setting the shedding boards to the gables and agreement on the details of a deeper reveal to the two retained historic leadedlight casement windows.

Internally the vapour barrier and plasterboard should be replaced, ideally with an air-tight membrane and lime plaster on lath. This would enhance the historic character of the rooms

The impressive expose timber structure includes some notable examples of timber frame jointing and for this as well as tor its age and condition is considered to have high heritage significance only vitiated by the C20th installation of panel heating radiators and exposed copper distribution pipework. In addition, the flatness of the external render and the hollowness and planarity of the internal plasterboard mitigate the historic character of both the house exterior and its internal spaces.











top views of exposed historic timber frame to Hallway and Sitting Room. The latter also showing the tlatness and character of the C20th wall finishes middle left details of notable timber framing joint.

centre/right views of framing to old farm office and to first floor corridor

below views of framing to south bedroom with retained leaded-light windows, and other bedrooms with limited or no exposed framing

HALL FARMHOUSE - cont

Windows

The windows are an array of variously sized, plain, red-stained, sw windows with double-glazing. These have decayed and distorted and the draught or weather seals no longer function. These require replacement, as a matter of maintenance and repair with new double-or triple-glazed casement lights with high-performance draught and weather seals. The historic leaded lights should be retained

Roof

The roof construction - above the irregular level of the exposed internal roof structure - appears to have been straightened during the refurbishment works the planes of the clay tiled roof and line of the ridge certainly belie the C16th origins of the house.

Ground Floor

Much of the ground floor construction is raised above a cellar with wide boards on Victorian joists, with a solid concrete slab to farm office, probably uninsulated.

Fireplaces

The fireplaces of the house are of various ages and re a significant source of uncontrolled ventilation.

Open fires were a key part of the environmental system of historic houses, heating the surfaces and occupants by radiation and drawing air in through sub-floor voids and other rooms to ventilate these and so managing issues of moisture, stuffiness, etc

As it is not proposed to return to open fire heating, the use of these flues within an installation of mechanical ventilation system with heat recovery (MVHR) would be a way of integrating sustainable ventilation into the rooms and delivering a contemporary holistic system to the benefit and comfort of both the occupants and the building fabric.

Notes on Heritage Significance and potential impacts

As long as the variety of size and shape of window is retained (see 1979 Planning Advice) and any new windows maintain the frame dimensions and sightlines of the existing windows, replacement of the windows with new thermally broken frames and double or triple glazing can probably be undertaken without any compromise - or real change - to the appearance and heritage significance of the house exterior.

The historic leaded-light windows should be retained but could have secondary glazing installed to the inside of the bedrooms.

Although the historic timber framing up to ceiling level is significant, the new C20th roof has little character or significance beyond the simplicity of its form and materials, and that this will not be affected by any proposal to increase the insulation or air-tightness of the roof build up.

The character of the 1980s roof suggests that a proposal to add a roof-integrated photovoltaic array into the west-facing roof slope - invisible from any publicly-accessible land - would not represent a diminution of the significance or character of this elevation.

Increasing the thermal performance and air-tightness of the floor - replacing the solid slab with an insulated slab and by creating an airtight line to the underside of the raised floor joists and insulating the joist depth. These works would have little effect on the heritage significance of the building

This work could enhance the current state of the fireplaces and chimneys by restoring their role within a holistic view of the environmental control of the building and the comfort of its occupants and fabric.





top views of the East elevation showing variation in window shapes and sizes within C20th flat cement render walls and new roof structure

above left view of South elevation showing the leaded-light window and shedding boards retained/reinstated within the C20th reconstruction

above right view of West elevation showing the leaded-light window aretained/reinstated within the C20th reconstruction

BARN

Generally

The Barn - now linked to the house by the 1980s construction - is not listed.

Walls

The white-painted fair-faced brick walls have been tidied up during the refurbishment works and have lost any rustic character.

Windows

The dark-grey stained, double-glazed sw windows are in need of replacement with higher performance glazing and weather and draught seals. This could probably be done

Roof

The pantile roof is of 1980s construction, and as abstractly planar as the house roof. .

Floor and Internal Walls

The barn has a solid concrete floor - which may be uninsulated, together with an array of internal partition walls of blockwork, which all date from the 1980s refurbishment work.

Notes on Heritage Significance and potential impacts

The simplicity of its form and materials are a part of the group character of the 'farm yard' and these characteristics should be retained.

The simplicity of the window openings and dark grey engineering brick cills create a simplicity of form which, importantly, maintains the subsidiarity of this building in relation to the house.

Replacement of the windows with new thermally broken frames and double or triple glazing can probably be undertaken on a like-for-like basis in terms of proportion and framing without affecting the appearance or character of the building.

A proposal to add a roof-integrated photovoltaic array into the west-facing roof slope, which is invisible from any publicly accessible land, would not represent a diminution of the character of this elevation

Replacement of the existing slabwith an insulated slab with underfloor heating, would not compromise the character of the interiors. Similarly the 1980s blockwork walls and could be replanned/relocated without detriment to the buildings character.







- top left views of the West elevation of the Barn at junction with the link building
- top right the barn from the farm court
- above the barn can be seen to form a 'servant' building to the house, addressing the vegetable garden and providing a setting for the oil tank
- below the late C20th interiors retain little of the former agricultural character of a barn



LINK

Generally

The link block designed and consented in 1979 by Cambridge Architects, is not listed. The current building meets the original and new brief for the house in terms of spatial provision (particularly of storage provision) but has significant failings in terms of structural, fabric, environmental and thermal performance.

- The 'layered' detailing has created a very draughty construction with lots of linking shadow gaps/leaks to internal and external soffit boards.
- Structural cracks to brickwork walls over drain connection and all way down flue
- The polymeric membrane roof is at the end of its life
- Large d/g panes in windows have distorted the sw frames and the louvre-lights between cantilever joist ends add to the poor air-tightness
- Mainly quarry-tiled floor on uninsulated slab with vinyl to kitchen.
- A lack of shading to west facing windows to Kitchen - creates significant over-heating problem
- Conversely, the design of the conservatory

 an extension to kitchen space does not admit enough sunlight for this to work for plant propagation.

These failings could be addressed either on an itemby-item rectification within the existing form or by the entire replacement of the existing construction with a new, better detailed and performing link block. The latter would be very difficult to achieve within the particularities of the existing aesthetic. The former would require planning consent and now, in the context of the listing, a listed building consent. Whether the existing link is repaired or replaced, the subsidiarity of this element to both the barn and, more significantly, the house, should be retained together with a modest scale and comparative simplicity of form and materiality that is congruent with the setting and adjacent fabric.



above - view of Link block from West - successfully forming a tertiary element with in the overall grouping, subsidiary to both the Barn and with that, in turn, to the House

ally Notes on Heritage Significance and potential impacts





above	view within hall of link block showing large glazing areas and exposed timbers of the roof construction
top right	the roof timbers continue through the elevation forming 'cold-bridges''
midale right	the kitchen with louvred vents between the joist ends and distorted and decayed large opening lights
below left to right	operating significant and a straight of the second straight of the second straight of the construction. Single ply roofing with uv-degraded polycarbonate furrer roofights



GARAGE

Generally

This simple, utilitarian, building is not listed and is the smallest in the ensemble around the farm 'yard'. The simple gable-roofed form has partitled slopes facing north and south and a blank wall facing directly onto the lane.

Notes on Heritage Significance and potential impacts

The addition of a photovoltaic array into the southfacing root slope of this relatively unimportant building element - albeit one that is visible from the lane - should not compromise the character of the farm 'yard' or the setting of the Farm House itself







SWIMMING POOL

Generally

This pavilion - constructed in the early 2000s - is visually separated from the Farm House by dense planting belt at the end of the garden and forms part of the occupation of the field behind the site rahter than of the setting of the listed Hall Farmhouse although it does not address this landscape either.

The building has a flat vented metal deck, insulated roof and glazed walls looking, indirectly, towards the house and solid walls to all other elevations.

Notes on Heritage Significance and potential impacts

This pavilion does not form part of the setting of the listed building

This building is of little heritage significance and could provide a setting for tool-mounted PVs and a home for an energy-centre for the whole house linking the various elements of renewable generation provision (pvs to house, barn and garage and ground source boreholes to field behind)





SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCES

Evidential

A study of the site, largely through the written evidence and local archives, suggests the presence of a building on this site since the C17th.

The extant C17th timber frame structure of the house reinforces this dating for the current form of the house - though this and the retained leaded-light windows - are the only elements of fabric that have survived probably many iterations of maintenance, repair and alteration and then the wholesale reconstruction of the 1980s.

In terms of the simplicity of form, materiality and its setting within a grouping of secondary agricultural buildings around a farm 'yard' the form and development of Hall Farmhouse represents that of a typical historic rural farm building in this part of the County.

It is this evidence and survival of a simple tradition that comprises the major component of the Evidential Significance of Hall Farmhouse.

Aesthetic

The house does not represent any significant aesthetic quality beyond the ensemble effect of its setting, the simplicity of its form and materiality and the exposed C17th timber framing.

Historical

Illustrative

Hall Farm House provides an illustration of an entirely typical rural farmhouse in south east rural Cambridgeshire. It's longevity in its current form owes something to its listing but probably more to the fact that it was tied to the Abington Hall estate and not sold off separately until the early C20th.

From this point, the evolution of the house into a private dwelling - no longer tied to agriculture illustrates not only the changes in farming practice and the depopulation of agricultural landscape but also the history of development around Cambridge, the effect of the Green Belt in creating pressure to domesticate all buildings to housing to support the late C20th growth of the city.

The extant timber framing is illustrative of C17th rural builing atthough - because of the relative profile of this as a tied farm - of probably better quality than might typically be expected. Because of the wholesale rebuilding of the rest of the current building fabric in the 1980s, there is little evidence of the iterative alterations, extensions, and repairs that normally characterise homes of this age and, apart again from the timber frame the house has a largely contemporary and neutral character.

Associative

As the timeline shows, the house has been continuously occupied and developed since the C17th but it is probably only the period during which the farm formed part of the Abington Hall estate under (pre-civil war) the Earls of Oxford that is of any associative significance.



Communal

Over-Arching

The Farm House, it's ancillary buildings (even if no longer under one ownership) and its site clearly are of some significance within the village and to the history of Great Abington. The position of the Farm between the Hall and High Street is evocative of a pre-enclosure form of village development.

The idea that the village may have had another street - parallel to the High St - is intriguing although it is not clear why this would have been abandoned and the form and orientation of the Farm House does not add to this conjecture. Although evaluated above against the conventional criteria and range of significances identified in the Historic England 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance, study of the form, fabric and evolution of Hall Farm House suggests that the most important aspect of its heritage significance, lies in the simplicity of its form and materials and the survival of the C17th timber framing.

The almost complete reconstruction of the house around the retained timber framing, the refurbishment of the Barn and contemporary construction of the Link building in the 1980s, has removed any other evidence or patina of age or the cumulative impacts of iterative alteration, repair and maintenance.

If the timber frame and other historic elements along with the simplicity of form and materials are clearly safeguarded, it should be possible for the house to go through another period of retrofit without compromising its historic significance.