

BINGHAM'S MELCOMBE

NR DORCHESTER | DORSET





'A beautifully situated small country estate.'



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Dorchester 11 miles • Sherborne 16 miles (Waterloo 2¹/₄ hours) • Shaftesbury 17 miles • Bournemouth Airport 28 miles • Blandford Forum 11 miles
(All distances and times are approximate)

A beautifully situated small country estate with an impressive Grade I listed manor house, a Dower house and two cottages, surrounded by outstanding historic gardens.

SUMMARY OF ACCOMMODATION

- Bingham's Melcombe:** Reception hall • Drawing room • Sitting room • Dining room • Kitchen/breakfast room • Gallery/museum
Games room • 9 bedrooms • 6 bathrooms
- The Dower House:** Hall • Kitchen • 3 reception rooms • 4 bedrooms • Bathroom (currently used as offices) • Coach house building
- No. 1 & 2 Garden Cottages:** 3 bedrooms • 1-2 bathrooms • Living room • Kitchen
- Outbuildings:** Thatched stable building • Garage block with workshops over • Old Sunday School House • Listed Dovecote
Greenhouses and potting sheds
- Gardens and Grounds:** Walled kitchen garden • Tennis court • Historic topiaried gardens • Farmland • Parkland • River frontage
- In all about 112.20 acres (45.4 hectares)**
- Lot 2 (Available by separate negotiation):** Peck Mills - A 3/4 bedroom former mill house with approximately 3.95 acres



Viewing by appointment only.

These particulars are intended only as a guide and must not be relied upon as statements of fact. Your attention is drawn to the Important Notice on the last page of the brochure.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Bingham's Melcombe Manor House, located in the parish of Melcombe Horsey, has a rich history dating back to the medieval period.

The property takes its name from Robert Bingham, who acquired it in the 13th century through marriage with Lucy, the daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Turberville. The house remained in the Bingham family's possession for over six hundred years until 1895.

One of its most notable owners was Sir Francis Bingham, a prominent politician during the Tudor era and a Member of Parliament in the court of Queen Elizabeth I. His political influence allowed him to further develop and enhance the property.

The manor is constructed around an irregular courtyard and features various architectural styles from different periods. The Gatehouse, which serves as the entrance to the courtyard, is thought to have been built in the early 14th century, and it remains one of the earliest complete surviving parts of the house.

Throughout the years, various wings and ranges were added to the manor, resulting in an informal and picturesque grouping of buildings. The oriel in the Hall, with its elaborate Renaissance Italianate style, is considered a remarkable architectural feature, attributed to a regional group of mason-sculptors.

In the mid-20th century, the gardens of Bingham's Melcombe were restored by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, a renowned landscape architect whose contribution to landscape design was highly regarded.

Despite the occasional confusion in names and references to neighbouring settlements, Bingham's Melcombe has maintained its historical significance and remains an outstanding example of a medieval manor house with later architectural additions. The property has been in the same family ownership for over 40 years.



SITUATION

Bingham Melcombe occupies its own hamlet, the only other building in the cluster of dwellings being the Church, one mile from the slightly larger village of Melcombe Bingham. The estate is surrounded by open farmland which forms an impressive backdrop on all sides.

The A354 is 6 miles to the south giving access to the A31 and A35 and Sherborne is 16 miles to the north with trains to Waterloo in 2.25 hours. Bournemouth Airport is a 45 minute drive.

For immediate needs, there is a good convenience store in Ansty (1 mile) while more comprehensive amenities can be found in Blandford, Dorchester or Sherborne.

The area offers a good selection of Prep Schools, such as Hanford, Bryanston Prep, formerly Knighton House, Sandroyd and Sherborne with Public Schools, Bryanston, Canford, Milton Abbey and Sherborne boys and girls also close by.



‘The estate is surrounded by open farmland which forms an impressive backdrop on all sides.’

BINGHAM'S MELCOMBE

The house has been in the same family for two generations and is a warm, welcoming family home with enormous charm and historical pedigree. It is undoubtedly one of Dorset's finest, undiscovered and untouched treasures.

The house is approached over a dramatic entrance drive through the remarkable 14th Century Gate House, which serves as an entrance to the courtyard, and is one of the earliest complete surviving parts of

the house. The reception hall, believed to be medieval, was extensively remodelled in the 18th century with the addition of an oriel and an arda stone stair. The interiors also boast a mix of 17th and 18th Century panelling, elaborate chimney pieces and original fireplaces. Notably, the dining room features a mid 18th Century chimneypiece with Adam and Eve figures and the east wing contains an early 18th Century marble chimneypiece.



GROUND FLOOR

From the grand reception hall, which enjoys access to a small walled garden of its own, there is a lovely panelled drawing room, and stairs lead up to the games room on the first floor. A beautiful, light sitting room with high ceilings has doors out to the west lawn. A garden hall has stone spiral steps to the first floor. A cloistered corridor leads to the dining room and adjacent kitchen/ breakfast room.

FIRST FLOOR

In the main part of the house there are 5 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms (all ensuite), the fifth being a single bedroom with a WC and wash basin across the landing.

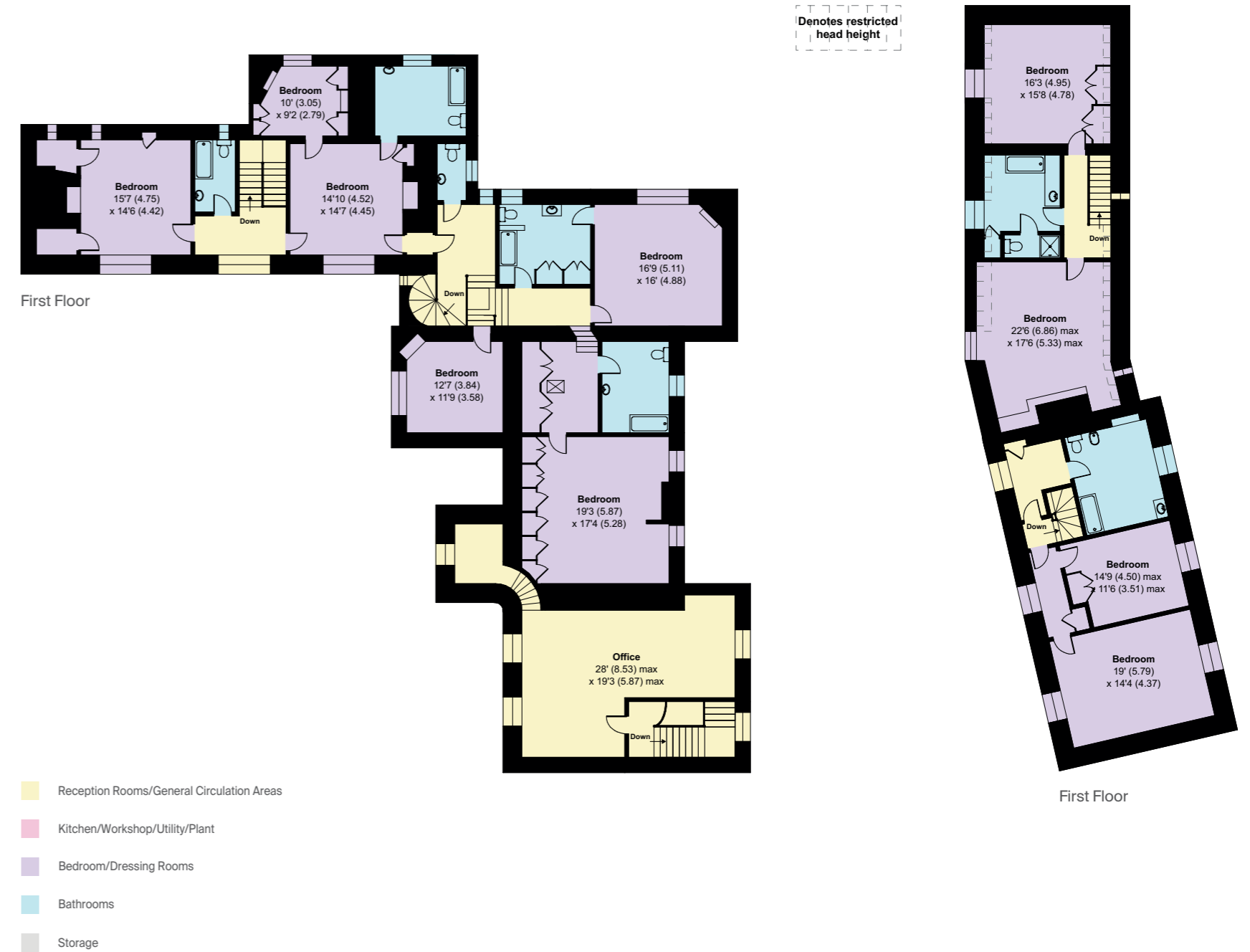
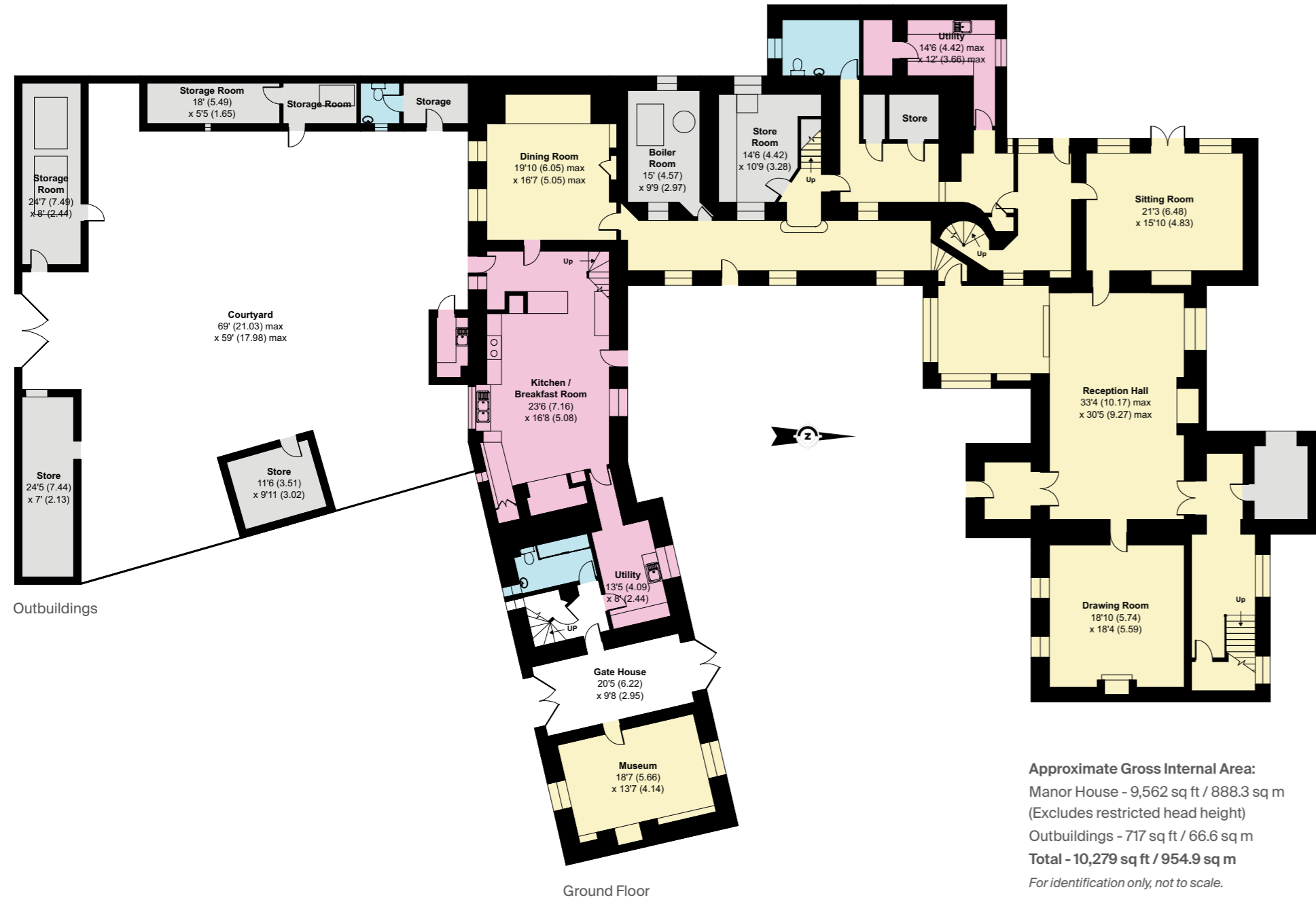
In the south wing, and approached through the Gate House by two separate staircases, are 4 further bedrooms and 2 further bathrooms.







MANOR HOUSE FLOOR PLAN



OUTBUILDINGS

To the south is a courtyard with a range of stores, and to the east of the Church is The Old School Room, a traditional single-storey building.

STABLE BLOCK

To the east is a substantial thatched 17th century Grade II listed stable building with tack room, 2 loose boxes, stores and loft.

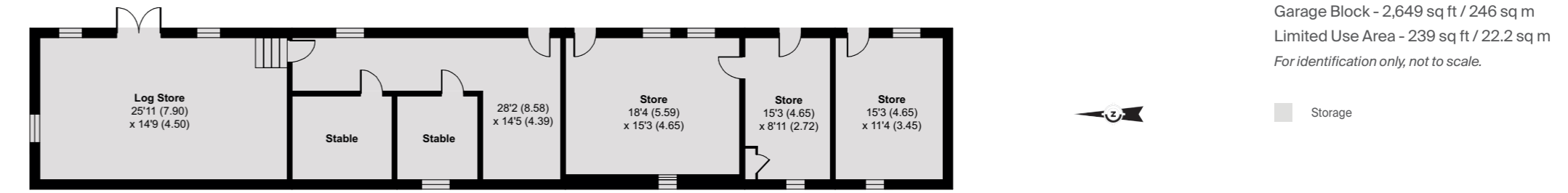
GARAGE BLOCK

Between the Stable Block and Dower House is a large red brick garage building with 2 open fronted stores, garaging for up to 8 cars and a workshop and storage above.

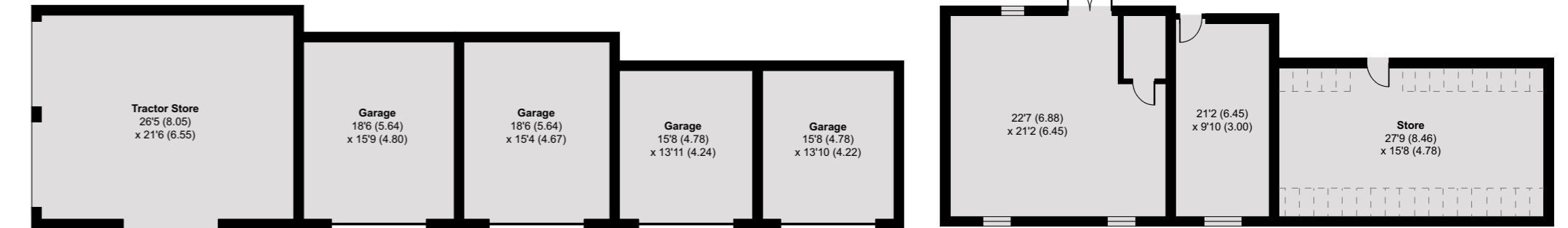


Stable Block

OUTBUILDINGS FLOOR PLAN



Stable Block



Garage Block
Ground Floor

Garage Block
First Floor



The Old School Room



Garage Block

GARDENS AND GROUNDS

The gardens are largely attributed, in their present form, to Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, who laid them out after the Second World War for Lord Southborough. They are mostly laid out to the north and west of the house, with further areas of informal pleasure grounds in the valley of the Devil's Brook to the east. The formal gardens are laid out in a series of terraces, the lowest terrace comprising the kitchen garden, bordered by neat gravelled paths, and with 2 greenhouses and a potting shed.

The middle lawn, also accessed by a stone flagged terrace by the west front, is the Bowling Green, a level rectangular lawn bordered to the north by a huge mature yew hedge and a mid 18th century Grade II listed brick wall which also encloses the

south and west side of the kitchen garden. The upper terrace is divided into discrete garden areas with a summer house, tennis court and Grade II listed, 17th century dovecote. To the north of the house is a charming knot garden and a romantic summer house within a high stone wall.

A broad grass walk beyond the west garden wall leads to a lime avenue underplanted with rhododendrons to reach a mid 18th century Grade II listed stone bridge which crosses the Devil's Brook. Nearby is a cascade with a small stone mill (listed Grade II). The floor of the nearby valley is laid out with formal water gardens comprising three pools linked by a narrow channel and planted with specimen trees to a 20th century scheme by Brenda Colvin.









*‘Surrounded by historic gardens,
parkland and open farmland.’*



PARKLAND AND FARMLAND

The park lies to the north and south of the manor, interspersed by mature parkland trees. Open farmland stretches to the

west, all the land being actively farmed and grazed on a licence to a local farmer.

THE DOWER HOUSE

Approached over the main drive, and set in over 2 acres of gardens overlooking the Devil's Brook, the Grade II listed Dower House, formally the Old Rectory for the Church next door, is a wonderful house in its own right. Of stone and flint under a tile roof with stone mullion windows and leaded lights, the house comprises on the ground

floor 3 reception rooms, a cloakroom WC, kitchen and boiler room; on the first floor 3 bedrooms and the second floor a further bedroom, bathroom and attic storage. The Dower House is currently used as office and will require modernisation to be returned to a private residence.

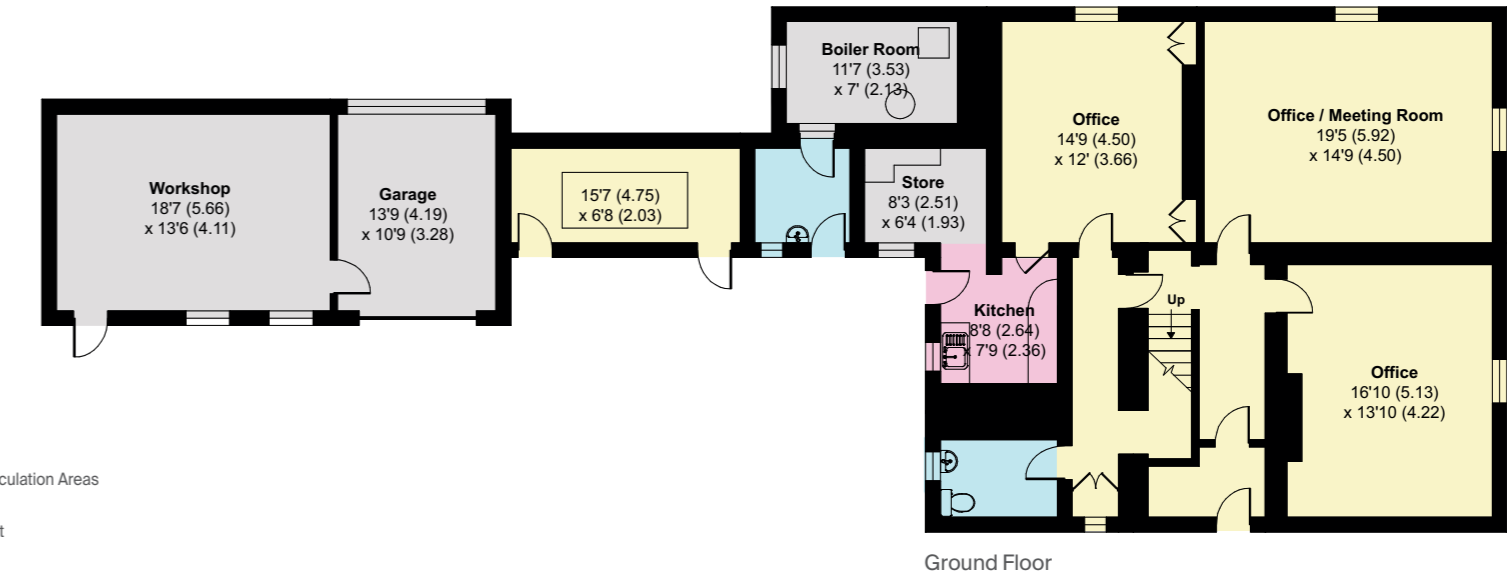
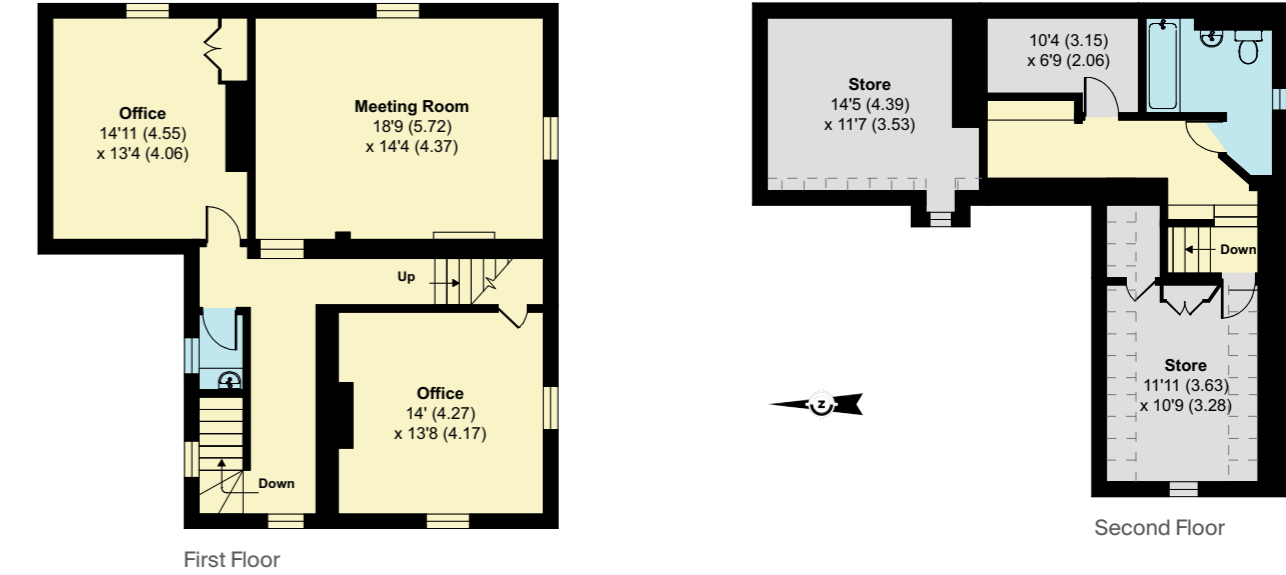
Linked to the house are outbuildings and a charming Coach House with garage bay and former stables, and provide enormous potential for incorporation into the ground floor living area subject to the usual planning and listed consents.





THE DOWER HOUSE FLOOR PLAN

Approximate Gross Internal Area:
 The Dower House (including Garage/Workshop) -
 3,445 sq ft / 320 sq m
For identification only, not to scale.



- Reception Rooms/General Circulation Areas
- Kitchen/Workshop/Utility/Plant
- Bedroom/Dressing Rooms
- Bathrooms
- Storage

NO'S 1 AND 2 GARDEN COTTAGES

With access over the farm drive to the west are a pair of semi-detached cottages of rendered construction under slate.

No 1 comprises 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, living room and a small dining room.

No 2 comprises 3 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, dining room and utility room.



LOT 2 ~ PECK MILLS

To the north of the estate and accessed from a lane to the east is an attractive 3/4 bedroom former mill house set within its own pretty gardens of approximately 3.95 acres.



GENERAL REMARKS AND STIPULATIONS

TENURE AND POSSESSION:

The Manor, Peck Mills and The Dower House are offered with vacant possession on completion.

Depending on the date of completion, the farmland is sold with vacant possession. Tenant right may be chargeable in addition, or holdover agreed until after harvest.

No 1 Garden Cottage: Vacant upon completion.

No 2 Garden Cottage: Occupied under a service occupancy agreement.

SERVICES

- Water is by private borehole serving the whole estate, but can be switched over to the mains if required.
- Electricity is mains
- Internet is fibre to the premises by Wessex Internet.
- Sewerage is private.
- Oil central heating to The Manor which has been relatively newly installed.

PLANNING

Bingham's Melcombe is Grade I listed.

The Dower House, Gate piers, dovecote, old mill, garden walls are listed Grade II.

The Park is listed Grade II* on the parks and gardens register due to its scientific interest.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dorset Council

www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

WAYLEAVES, EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

The estate is sold subject to all such rights of way and easements which may exist. A public footpath runs broadly east to west through the estate. A right of way to the Church exists over the main drive, together with associated parking rights. Access to the church is permitted for church services and for anyone visiting graves by car during the day.

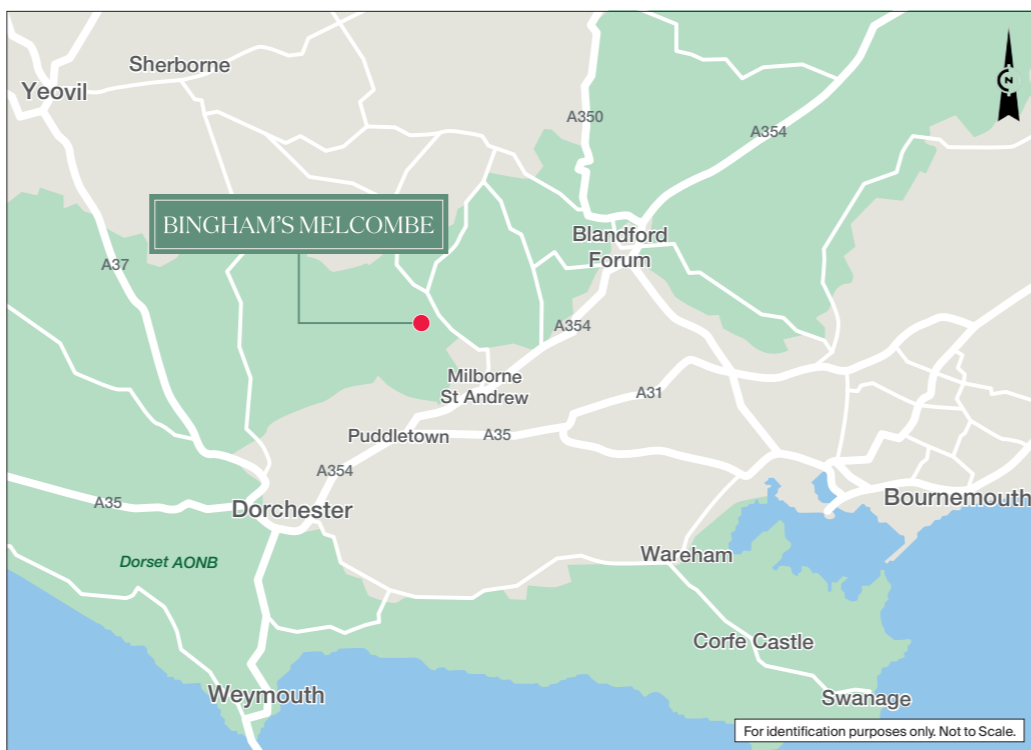
FIXTURES AND FITTINGS

Only those mentioned in the sales particulars are included within the sale. All other items such as rugs, curtains, light fittings and garden ornaments, together with garden machinery and estate equipment are specifically excluded but some may be made available by separate negotiations.

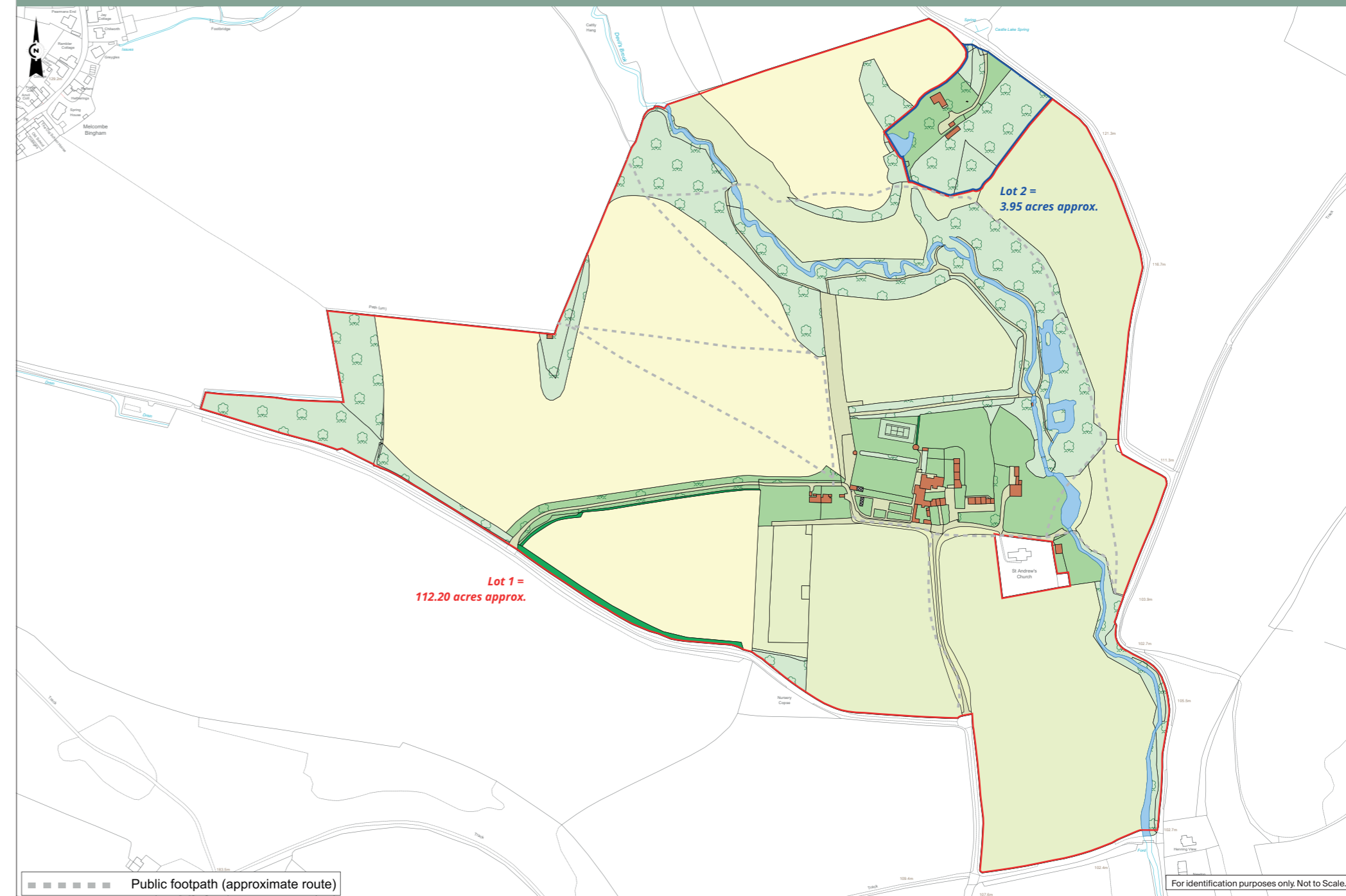
DIRECTIONS

What3Words: ///zones.emptyed.sofas

From the A31, take the A35 at Bere Regis and at the junction with the A354 on the outskirts of Puddletown, take the slip road signed to Milbourne St Andrew crossing back over the A35. Take the first left and after 200m, the first right into Long Lane. Follow signs to Dewlish and proceed through the village. After about 4 km the entrance gates are on the right.



ESTATE PLAN





Viewing strictly by appointment only. Please contact the selling agents:

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