

An Agricultural Barn at Grange Farm, Gedding, Suffolk



prepared for
Hartog Hutton Ltd

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Site Name:	Grange Farm, Drinkstone Rd, Gedding, IP30 0QE
Site Location:	TL 94458 57872
Local Planning Authority:	Mid Suffolk District Council
Planning Application No.:	2873/15 & 2800/15
HER Event No.:	ESF25652
HER Monument No.:	GDD 016
OASIS Reference No.:	richardh2-290407
Survey Date:	18 July 2017

1 Introduction

A programme of historic building recording and analysis of an agricultural barn at Grange Farm, Drinkstone Road, Gedding, Suffolk, was undertaken in July 2017 prior to the conversion of the building to two residential units (Figures 1). The survey was required by conditions placed on the planning permission and listed building consent for the conversion granted by Mid Suffolk District Council in August 2015 (Planning Refs: 2873/15 and 2800/15). The recording was undertaken to Historic England (2016) Level 2 historic building recording specifications, as stipulated by Dr Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

2 Historical and Cartographic Context

The village of Gedding lies in the Mid Suffolk district of Suffolk, in Thedwastre Hundred, approximately six miles south-east of Bury St Edmunds and a similar distance west of Stowmarket (Figure 1). Grange Farm, which includes the agricultural barn which forms the subject of this report, is situated to the north of Drinkstone Road, some 100m east of the T-junction formed by Felsham Road coming in from the north, Bury Road coming in from the south and Drinkstone Road itself coming in from the east (Figure 2). The farm is a western outlier of the settlement, which is strung out eastwards along Drinkstone Road, and the parish church of St Mary (SHER GDD 003) stands at the eastern end of the village. Gedding Hall, site of the medieval manor, lies to the north-east of the settlement, where an ornate 16th-century brick gatehouse still survives (SHER GDD 001).



Figure 1. The location of Gedding in Mid Suffolk.

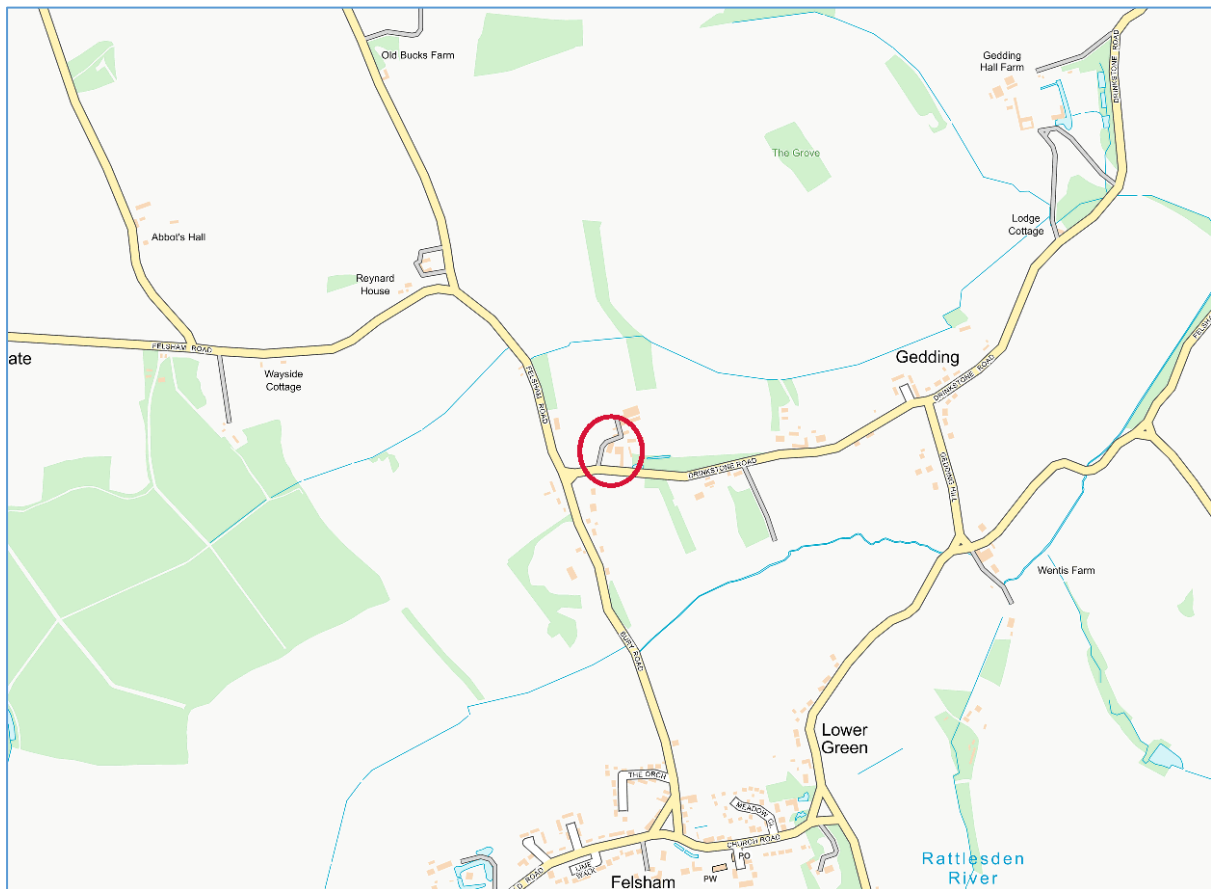


Figure 2. The location of Grange Farm. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2017.



Plate 1. A general view of Grange Farmhouse and associated yard, looking south.

Grange Farmhouse is a two-storey, three-cell building with a lobby entrance, thought to be of 17th-century origin, with 19th-century alterations and additions. The Farmhouse is listed at Grade II (National Heritage List Entry 1032595), and the surrounding complex of stable-blocks and barns are considered to be curtilage listed. The farmhouse and farm buildings have undergone several changes of ownership in recent years, and the barn which forms the subject of this report is now in separate ownership to the farmhouse itself.

The earliest cartographic depiction of Grange Farm is the Gedding tithe map of 1838, surveyed by W. Chandler, copies of which are held by the National Archives (TNA IR 30/33/177) and in the Bury St Edmunds branch of the Suffolk Record Office (SRO FL574/3/24) (Figure 3). The map shows the outline of a larger Grange Farmhouse fronting onto the main road, with a cluster of outbuildings and a yard lying to the north-east. The barn is shown as a long rectangle, with a small extension at the northern end of its eastern face, indicating that the building had already assumed its current shape and size by this date. The accompanying tithe apportionment records that the farmhouse, yard and surrounding buildings (Plot 74) were owned and occupied by Elizabeth Mudd, who also owned the adjacent Great Orchard (Plot 71), Little Orchard (Plot 72) and Garden (Plot 73). Elizabeth Mudd also had extensive landholdings throughout the parish, including Front Meadow to the south of the road (Plot 79).

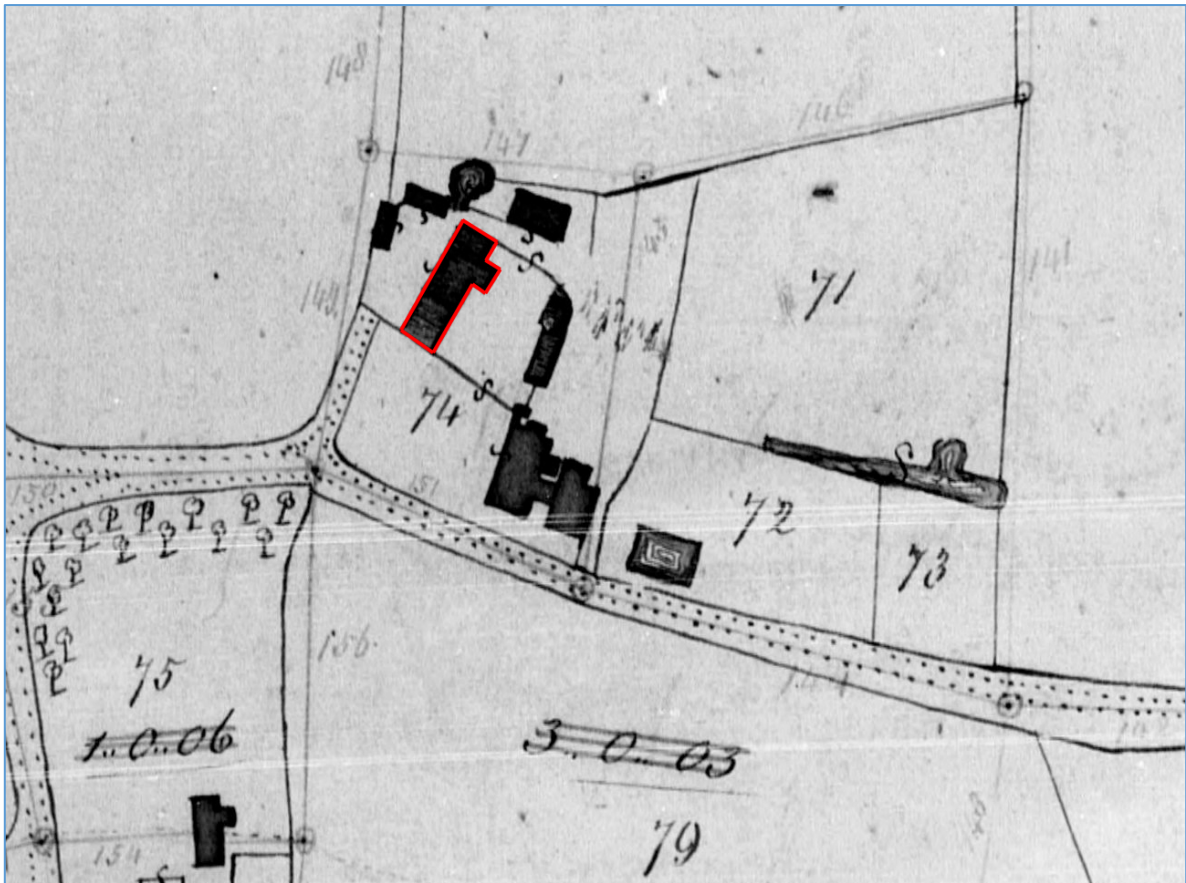


Figure 3. Extract from the 1838 Gedding tithe map showing the buildings of Grange Farm (TNA IR 30/33/177). The barn is outlined in red.

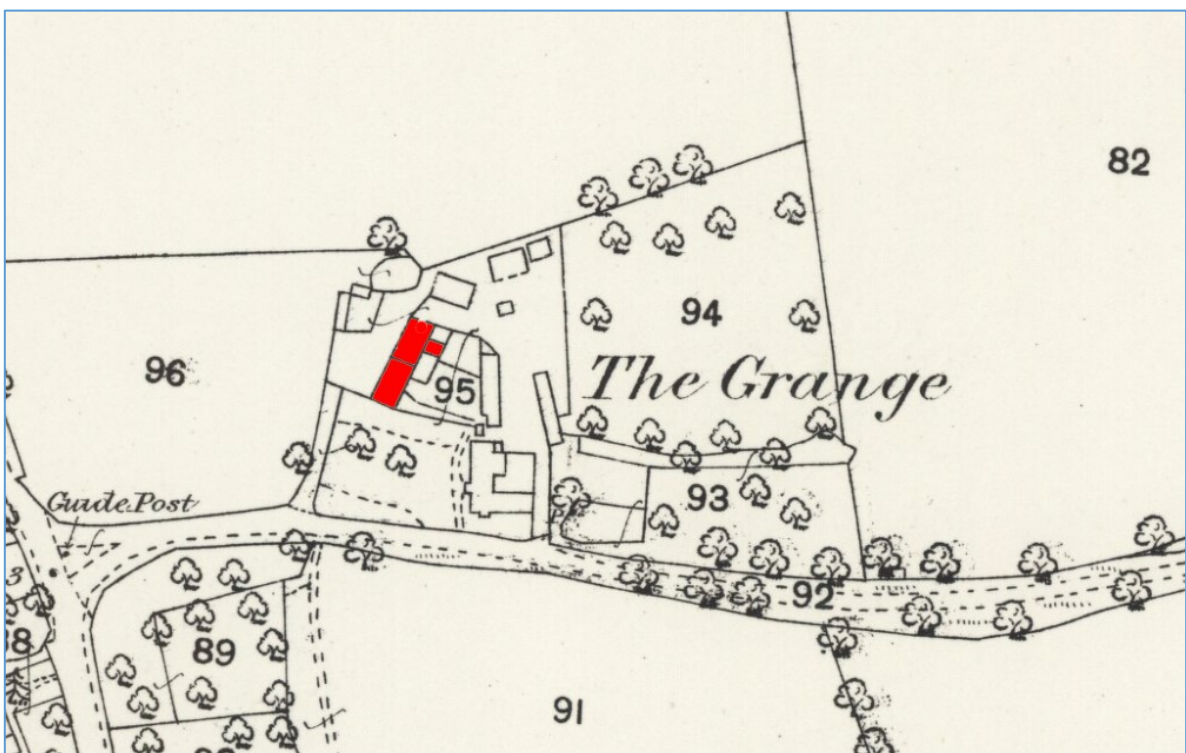


Figure 4. Extract from the 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (OS Suffolk LV.6). The barn is highlighted in red.

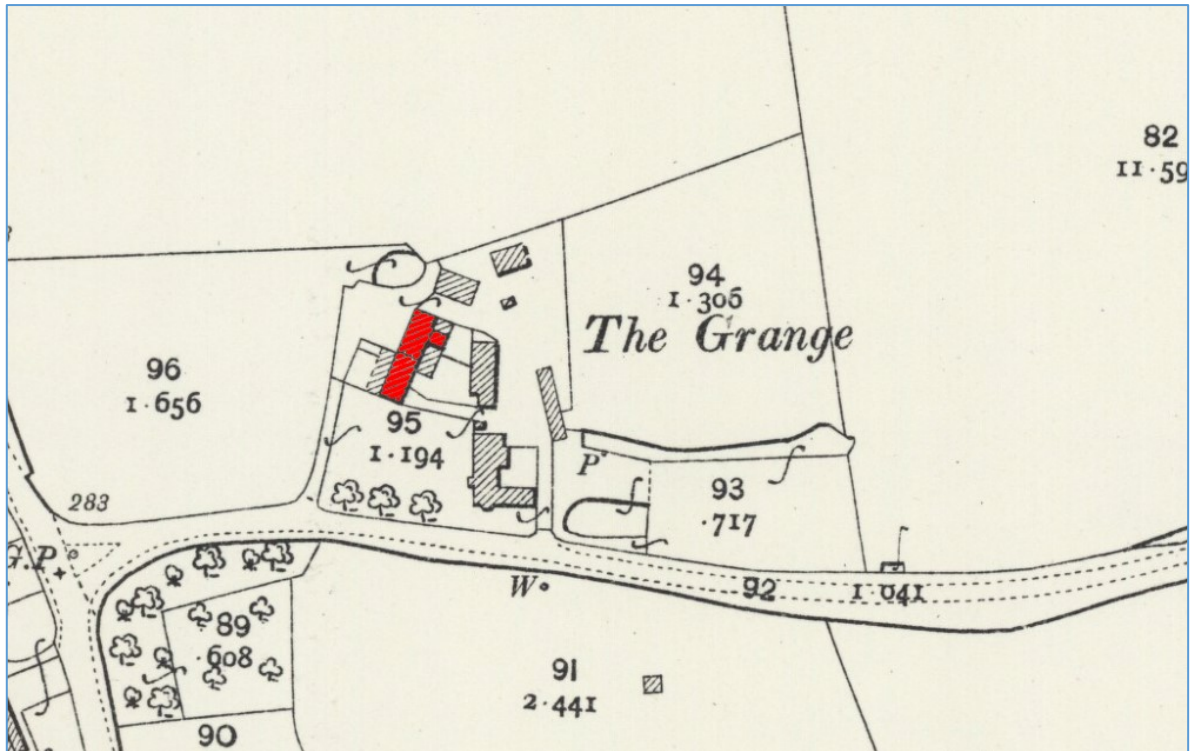


Figure 5. Extract from the 1904 Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (OS Suffolk LV.6). The barn is highlighted in red.

The Gedding sheet of the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (Suffolk LV.6), which was surveyed in 1884 and published in 1885, shows a reduction in the footprint of Grange Farmhouse, with the removal of the eastern range depicted on the tithe map (Figure 4). Several additional buildings, including what appears to be a range of stables, have been erected to the eastern and northern extents of the farmyard, while the area immediately surrounding the barn shows the addition of covered areas to the north and south of the barn's outshot extension. Interestingly, the map depicts the barn as comprising two abutting buildings of the same width, which is also indicted by the extant fabric of the barn, although it would seem that the buildings were more clearly differentiated in the late 19th century than they are now.

Little had changed by the time of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map, revised in 1903 and published in 1904 (Figure 5). The only visible changes were the removal of two of the smaller outbuildings to the north-west of the farmyard and the erection of an open-fronted lean-to extension at the southern end of the western side of the barn, which is again shown as a linked pair of buildings at this stage.



Plate 2. An aerial photograph of Grange Farm in 2007 © Google Earth

More recent views of the farmyard are captured in aerial photographs published on Google Earth. The most recent image dates from 2007 (Plate 2) and shows the farmyard buildings much as they are now, although the central area of the farmyard to the north of the farmhouse is now given over to a large expanse of gravel driveway instead of grass. The barn's south-western lean-to extension is depicted with a metal roof, which has subsequently been removed, although its superstructure still survives and is due to be demolished as part of the process of conversion to domestic use. The area immediately to the east of the barn is shown with a large covering roof, which abuts the neighbouring stable block and forms an open-sided covered yard. This is still extant, but is also due to be removed as part of the conversion process.

3 Survey Results

3.1 Methodology

This programme of historic building recording and analysis was conducted in accordance with the specifications set out by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings*, which describes a Level 2 survey thus:

Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but it will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will normally not be comprehensive and may be tailored to the scope of a wider project. (Historic England 2016, 26)

The exteriors and interiors of the agricultural barn were studied, described and photographed on 18 July 2017 using a Canon EOS 450 D 12.2 MP DSLR camera fitted with an 10–18mm lens. Images were taken in .RAW format and converted to .tiff for archiving purposes. The position and direction of the photographs taken has been marked on the existing plans and elevations of the barn, which were originally prepared in support of the two planning applications (Figure 6). A CD containing high-resolution digital copies of the photographs reproduced here is included with this report.

3.2 The Barns

The barn which form the subject of this survey stands on an area of flat, even ground, is oriented just off north–south and measures 26m long by 7m wide (Figure 6). To the south, the barn is bounded by the garden of Grange Farmhouse, and the line of the gable has been integrated into the garden wall. To the west and north the barn and its western extension are bounded by a gravelled access track leading from Drinkstone Road into the farmyard (Plate 3). On the opposite side of the track to the north is a large pond. To the east, the barn faces into an enclosed yard, which is partially covered by a large metal roof, and is bounded to the east by the rear of the neighbouring stable-block (Plate 1).

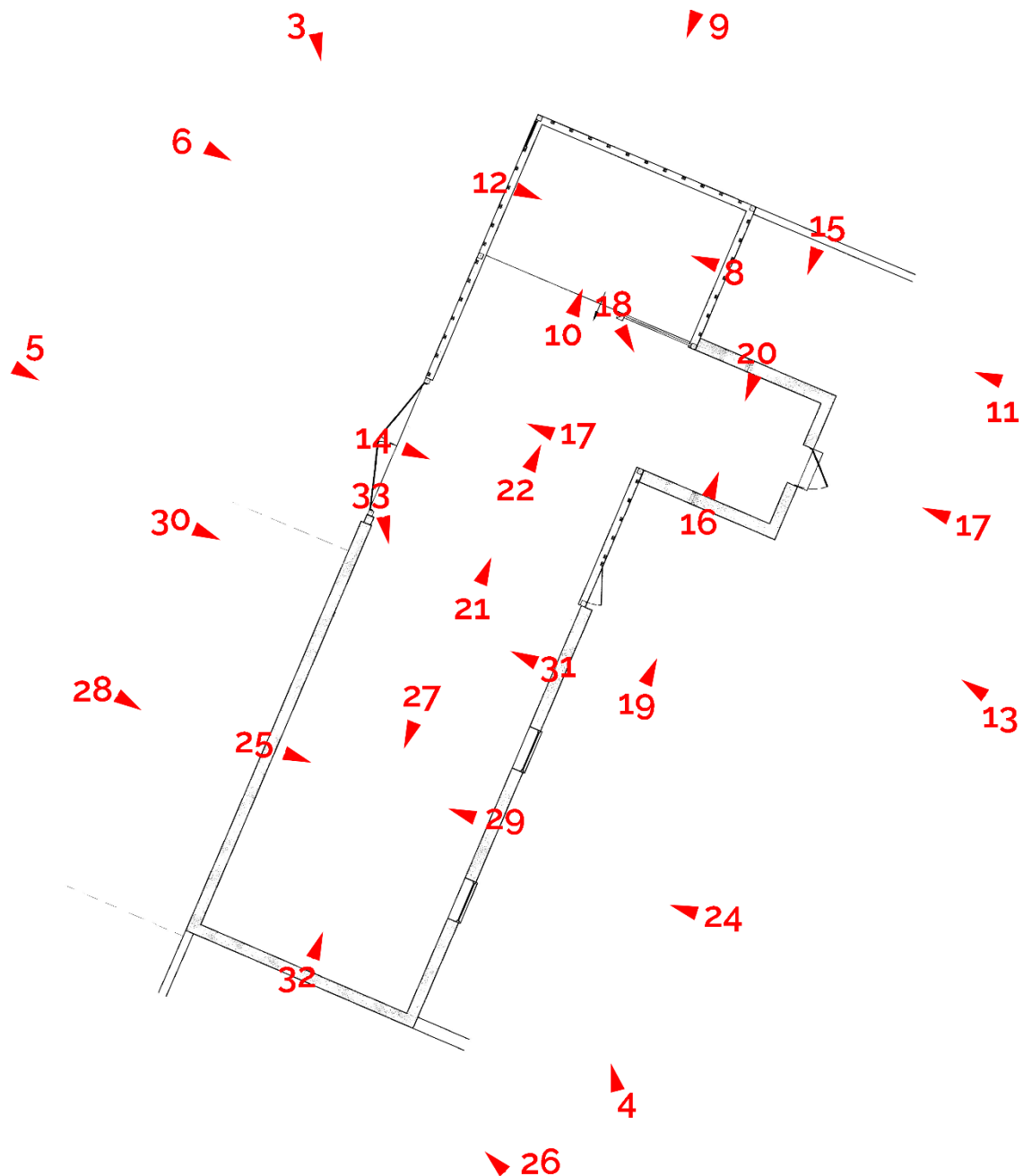


Figure 6. Floorplan indicating the locations and direction of the numbered photographs reproduced in this report at 1:200.

Although now a single building, the barn comprises two adjoining barns of roughly similar proportions, built at different times, but now knocked-through and housed under one duo-pitch roof of clay pantiles (Plates 1, 3 and 4). This arrangement was depicted on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps, when the buildings were presumably more clearly defined and perhaps still retained their individual roofs. This report considers the barn as a single structure, but where necessary for the purposes of description the northernmost timber-framed barn is referred to as 'Barn 1', while the southernmost brick barn is referred to as 'Barn 2'.



Plate 3. General view of the barn from the north-west, showing the weatherboarded northern end (Barn 1) and the brick-built southern end of the structure (Barn 2).



Plate 4. General view of the barn from the south-east, showing the brick-built southern end of the building (Barn 2) with the weatherboarding and brick-and-flint outshot extension of Barn 1 beyond.

3.2.1 Barn 1

The western elevation of the barn clearly illustrates the structural history of the building: its northern half comprises black softwood weatherboarding mounted on a timber-frame and supported on a red-brick plinth (Barn 1), while its southern half is entirely of red-brick construction (Barn 2) (Plate 5).

Western Elevation: Focussing on the western elevation of Barn 1 (Plate 6), the elevation is divided into three bays, with the northernmost bay consisting of a short plinth of $9 \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inch red-bricks laid in a rough Flemish bond on which stands a panel of black weatherboarding to an eaves height of 4.5m. There is a small three-light window at the northern end of the elevation, close to the north-western corner of the building.

From the outside, the central bay of Barn 1's western elevation is clearly differentiated by a full-height butt joint between the weatherboarding of the central and northern thirds, and by a marked difference in the construction and height of its plinth. In stark contrast to the red brick, the central plinth is built from concrete breeze blocks to a height of 1.2m, with the rest of the elevation comprising more recent weatherboarding to the full eaves height.

To the south, the final bay of the elevation comprises a full-height pair of modern outwardly-hinged double doors of vertical planking, which are framed to the south by a short length of 1.2m high red-brick plinth topped by a narrow strip of weatherboarding which looks to be akin to that of the northern third.

When the western elevation of Barn 1 is viewed from the inside it is immediately apparent that the breeze blocks are filling the former location of a large western doorway, which would have spanned an entire bay of the timber-framed barn and would have measured 3.6m wide and 4m high (Plate 7). The vertical timber studs mounted above the breeze blocks are clearly relatively modern insertions, as is the weatherboarding itself. Likewise, the large double doors to the south are also clearly a relatively modern insertion into the southernmost bay of the original timber-framed structure and their creation has removed all trace of any original timber studwork which may have survived in this area. The substantial frame of the door is made from rolled steel joists affixed to barn's surviving box frames.



Plate 5. General view of the western elevation of the barn, showing the clear division between the construction of Barn 1 and Barn 2 and the single pantiled roof of the building.



Plate 6. Barn 1's western elevation, showing the blocked-up location of the former western doorway and its modern replacement.



Plate 7. Interior view of the Barn 1's western elevation, showing the blocked-up location of the former western doorway and its modern replacement.



Plate 8. Interior view of the northern bay of Barn 1's western elevation, showing the remaining panel of studwork.

As a consequence of the blocking and creation of the doors, the only surviving panel of timber studwork in this elevation is to be found in the northern bay of the barn, where the upper half of the studwork remains exposed above a screen of horizontal planking. The panel comprises seven vertical studs, of which only the central stud appears to be original, with two diagonal timber braces which converge behind the planking. The northernmost stud has been cut to accommodate the frame of the small three-light window, which is situated above a large trough built against the inside of the plinth and it is presumed that the two features were inserted at the same time.



Plate 9. The northern elevation of Barn 1, showing the exposed footings of the brick plinth.

Northern Elevation: The northern elevation of Barn 1 now forms the northern gable of the combined barn (Plate 9) and it comprises a 0.5m high brick plinth laid in rough Flemish bond below black-painted softwood weatherboarding to roof height. Due to a slight lowering of the surrounding ground level, three courses of gault-brick footings of the plinth are exposed, with red-brick being used for the rest of the plinth. The western and eastern plinths do not appear to be particularly well keyed into the northern plinth, and butt joints are in evidence at both ends of the elevation, suggesting that this stretch of plinth may be a later infill or replacement of an earlier incarnation.



Plate 10. Interior view of Barn 1's northern elevation, showing the remaining panel of timber studwork.

The interior of the northern elevation (Plate 10) reveals that, although the weatherboarding is comparatively recent, much of the surviving timber studwork below the wall plate is likely to be original, or at least an early replacement. A substantial timber cill beam is laid across the top of the brick plinth, into which 17 studs are mounted. These are braced by a pair of diagonal timbers which span the outside bottom corners to the centre of the wall plate, and an additional two downward diagonal timbers which mirror those on the western and eastern elevations. To the west, some of the plank screening continues above the trough, but the rest of the studwork is exposed, with its lower 0.75m being protected by roughly infilled panels of 9 x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 4 inch brickwork.

Above the wall plate, the 11 vertical studs of the gable are much more regularly cut and set (although some of the timbers appear to have been reused), suggesting that the original roof of the barn has been removed and rebuilt, presumably at the same time the two barns were knocked-through to create a single structure.

Eastern Elevation: The eastern elevation of Barn 1 has again been heavily altered over time, but despite this several elements of the original timber framing still survive. Like the western elevation, the eastern elevation is divided into three bays, with the northern and southern bays comprising timber studwork mirroring that on the opposing wall, and the central bay featuring a later brick-and-flint outshot extension under an asbestos sheeting roof (Plate 11).

The lower half of the exterior of the northern bay is currently obscured by a large pile of demolition rubble, which has been heaped into the angle between the outshot extension, the barn and the adjacent farmyard wall (Plate 11). Despite this, it is possible to see that the lower portion of the elevation, to a height of approximately 1.5m, is constructed from breeze blocks, with relatively new weatherboarding above up to eaves level (Plate 11). It was not possible to ascertain whether or not the brick plinth is exposed on this face or hidden behind the blockwork.

The interior face of the northern bay closely resembles that of its opposing wall and the northern gable, and again comprises a short height of red-brick plinth supporting a substantial cill beam, into which seven vertical studs are set (Plate 12). Only the central stud appears to be original, the others being much straighter and more neatly cut, and two diagonal timber braces span the gap from the edges of the frame to the central stud. The northernmost stud has been repaired and a new length of timber has been spliced into it, bringing this stud in front of the diagonal brace. As with the northern elevation, the gaps between the studs have been infilled with rough 9 x 2 ¾ x 4 inch red brickwork to a height of approximately 0.75m. Between the southernmost stud and the frame this brickwork has been continued up to a height of approximately 2m to completely fill the space beneath the diagonal brace. This brickwork forms the western edge of the northern wall of the outshot extension, which fills the adjacent bay.

The arrangement of the southern bay of Barn 1's eastern elevation is much the same, and from the outside the brick plinth is again visible, emerging from behind a rough coat of protective render (Plate 13). Above the plinth, the wall is weatherboarded to eaves height, with a small, square, outward-opening hatch set 1.5m above the ground at its southernmost end.



Plate 11. Barn 1's eastern elevation, showing the heaped-up demolition rubble in front of the northern bay.



Plate 12. Interior view of the northern bay of Barn 1's eastern elevation, showing the remaining panel of studwork.



Plate 13. The southern bay of Barn 1's eastern elevation, showing the outward-opening hatch.



Plate 14. Interior view of the southern bay of Barn 1's eastern elevation, showing the remaining panel of studwork.

The interior face of the southernmost bay closely resembles that of the northernmost bay and presumably reflects the panel of timber framing lost to the creation of the new double doors on the western elevation (Plate 14). Here, the red brick plinth is partially protected by a coat of render, which is falling away, and the relationship between the cill beam, the principal posts and the studs can be clearly viewed as there is no wooden screening or brick infilling to obscure the details. Again there are seven studs, with a pair of diagonal braces converging on the central stud, and the southernmost stud has been cut through to accommodate the small, square hatch which opens outwards into the yard.

The central bay of the eastern elevation is now occupied by a brick-and-flint outshot extension with weatherboarded gables under an asbestos-sheet roof (Plates 15, 17 and 19). This is clearly a much later addition to the structure and the map evidence suggests that it had been erected by 1838, although it has been much altered since. The central bay would have originally housed an opposing door similar to the blocked example on the western elevation, so that carts could drive into one door and out of the other, and it is possible that there was once an earlier timber-framed porch, although there is no surviving evidence for one.

Although partially obscured by demolition rubble, the northern wall of the extension is of brick-and-flint, with brick quoins and a weatherboarded gable. A brick-edged doorway is set into the centre of the wall, although this has subsequently been closed up with breeze blocks (Plate 15). The interior face of this wall is of brick to the height of the blocked door, with flint pebbles laid in rough courses above (Plate 16). To the west of the door there are traces of an additional blocked low-level opening, and the former electrical fusebox is also mounted on this wall. This construction is mirrored in the southern wall of the extension, which has the same configuration of brick and flint, but no doorway (Plates 19 and 20). The eastern wall of the extension is clearly a much more recent replacement in modern brick and has been keyed into the quoins of the side walls (Plates 17 and 18). There is a wooden door topped with a transparent corrugated plastic sheet above and the internal timberwork suggests that this is contemporary with the re-roofing of the extension. A channel of bricks laid on edge is set into the floor of the extension, and this is presumed to be contemporary with the side walls.



Plate 15. The northern elevation of the outshot extension, showing the blocked doorway.



Plate 16. Interior view of the northern elevation of the outshot extension, showing the blocked doorway.



Plate 17. The eastern elevation of the outshot extension.



Plate 18. Interior view of the outshot extension, showing the brickwork set into the floor.



Plate 19. The southern elevation of the outshot extension.



Plate 20. Interior view of the southern elevation of the outshot extension.

Interior Structure: The barn is constructed from four box frames creating a three-bay threshing barn, which originally had opposing doorways in its central bay. Each of its four frames comprises a pair of principal posts mounted on the cill beams supporting a timber tie beam spanning the full width of the barn (Plates 21 and 23). The corner joints of each truss are held by L-shaped wooden haunches, each carved from a single piece of wood and nailed to the frame. In many places, these joints have been augmented by the introduction of knee braces in modern timber (Plates 21, 22 and 23). The structures of these four frames survive well, although in places their lower extremities have been truncated or replaced by later alterations. The roof of Barn 1 is of queen post construction, although the timbers and materials indicate that it is likely to be of 19th- or early 20th-century construction, with later retiling, and presumably replaced an earlier roof.

The floor of the central and southern bays and the extension is of concrete, while the northernmost bay has a lower floor of bare earth and is partially screened off from the rest of the barn by planking (Plate 23). This and the brickwork infill suggest that this end of the barn was used as an animal pen until comparatively recently.



Plate 21. Interior view of Barn 1, looking north from beneath the southernmost frame of the barn.



Plate 22. Close-up view of the carved haunch joint at the eastern intersection of the central and southern bays..



Plate 23. Interior view of Barn 1, looking north from beneath the second southernmost frame of the barn.

3.2.2 Barn 2

Comprising the southern half of what is now a single barn, Barn 2 is constructed from red-brick, with a flint-and-brick southern elevation, and a duo-pitch pantiled roof which covers it and Barn 1 in a single run. The historical map evidence indicates that Barn 2 had been constructed by the time of the 1838 tithe map, and this and the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps clearly indicate Barns 1 and 2 as being separate buildings. It is presumed that the two buildings were more clearly differentiated then than they are now, perhaps by their having two different roof structures, with these being subsequently homogenised in the course of the 19th or early 20th centuries.

Conjunction with Barn 1: Barn 2 was clearly built against the then extant southern elevation of Barn 1, which has subsequently been dismantled in order to create a single space. Examination of the brickwork at the conjunctions of the northern ends of Barn 2's elevations shows no trace of there ever having been a northern brick gable to Barn 2, with both walls butting flush against the southern extremities of Barn 1's timber framing. This is most clear on the eastern elevation, where this join survives intact and can clearly be seen in the interior (Plate 14). The join is less clear, but still discernible, on the western side of the building, where the later insertion of a new pair of large double doors has somewhat obscured and disrupted the structural relationship between the two elements (Plate 7).

Eastern Elevation: The eastern elevation of Barn 2 butts against the weatherboarding of the southern bay of Barn 1 and is constructed of 9 x 4 x 2 ½ inch red bricks laid in an English bond with a plinth course approximately 1m above the ground (Plate 24). There are two doorways with brick arches in this elevation, presumably former stable doors, and both doorways have subsequently been closed up, with brick in the case of the northernmost doorway and breeze blocks in the case of the southernmost doorway, suggestive of the blocking up having occurred at different times. This blocking has been partially cleared as part of the preliminary works for the conversion of the building (Plate 25). The thresholds of both doors are level with the internal floor of the barn, but now open some distance above the ground level of the yard outside, suggesting that the surface at the southern end of the of the yard has been lowered since the barn was built.



Plate 24. Barn 2's eastern elevation, showing the two partially blocked doorways and the junction with Barn 1..



Plate 25. Interior view of Barn 2's eastern elevation, showing the two partially blocked doorways.



Plate 26. Barn 2's southern elevation, showing the close planting which prevents a straight-on photograph.



Plate 27. Interior view of Barn 2's southern elevation, showing the extent of the protective render.



Plate 28. Barn 2's western elevation, showing the reopened southern doorway.



Plate 29. Interior view of Barn 2's western elevation, showing the reopened southern doorway and partially unblocked northern doorway.



Plate 30. Barn 2's western elevation, central section, showing the partially unblocked northern doorway and associated blocked window.



Plate 31. Interior view of Barn 2's western elevation, central section, showing the partially unblocked northern doorway and associated blocked window.

Southern Elevation: The southern elevation of Barn 2, which also forms the southern elevation of the modern combined barn, is of flint-and-brick construction with brick quoins and a weatherboarded gable. This elevation has also been incorporated into the boundary wall of the garden of Grange Farmhouse to the south-east and is closely planted with trees, making it very difficult to view the wall in its entirety except from an extreme angle (Plate 26). The interior face of the southern elevation comprises flints laid in rough courses, interspersed with brick levelling courses, to the height of the timber wall plate (Plate 27). The bottom 1.5m of the wall is protected by a coat of grey render, as are the southern ends of the eastern and western elevations (Plates 25 and 29), indicating that this end of the barn was actively used for keeping animals until comparatively recent times.

Western Elevation: The western elevation of Barn 2 mirrors the eastern elevation, and is constructed of red brick laid in an English bond with a plinth course (Plates 28 and 30). There is another pair of brick-arched stable doors, both aligned with their eastern counterparts, and their thresholds enter the small yard to the west of the barn at an appropriate walking height. The southernmost door was blocked with a mix of bricks and breeze blocks, but has been recently opened up again as part of the preparations for building works, while the northernmost door was bricked up completely and has only been partially reopened (Plate 29). To the north of the doors is a long low opening, presumably a former window, which has also been bricked up (Plate 31). The protective render discussed above continues along the internal face of this elevation beyond the northern doorway, and there is a wall scar between the two doors indicative of the space having been sub-divided to create stalls (Plate 29). This scar corresponds with similar scars of the concrete floor of the barn, which suggest that this enclosure extended into the centre of the space and then ran southwards to the southern elevation.

Roof: The roof of Barn 2 is supported on timber wall plates which lie along the longitudinal walls and a series of four evenly-spaced timber tie beams which span the width of the building (Plate 32). As discussed above, the rafters and roof covering now form a single run along the full length of the building, although this is unlikely to have always been the case, and it seems likely that Barns 1 and 2 had different roofs in the past.



Plate 32. Interior view of Barn 2, looking north, showing the tie beams and raised platforms in the roof space.



Plate 33. Detail of the silo-related pipework and funnelling still present in the roof space of Barn 2.

There is clear evidence for Barn 2's roof-space having had a functional use in the past in the form of suspended platforms which have been created via the insertion of additional ties beams and lateral planking, along with the creation of handrails and, in one instance, a planking wall complete with doorway (Plate 32). An indication of the function of these features is given by the presence of branching stretches of circular metal pipework running through the roof-space, at least one of which feeds into a metal funnel which presumably relates to the former position of a feed silo on the concrete floor below (Plate 33).

4 Conclusion

The agricultural barn at Grange Farm in Gedding is an unusual structure, in that it is effectively two adjacent barns, constructed at different times, which have subsequently been joined together and covered under a single roof. The older of the two barns, referred to here as Barn 1, is a traditional timber-framed three-bay threshing barn which would have originally featured a pair of opposing doors and possibly a timber-framed porch. Grange Farmhouse itself is thought to have a 17th-century construction date, and a 17th- or early 18th-century construction date for the timber-framed barn is plausible.

The timber frame sits upon a red brick plinth, which survives, at least in part, on all three exposed sides of the building; all traces of the southern wall of the original barn have been removed. The lateral frames which form the bays survive intact, with carved haunches reinforcing the joints, although the original roof structure has long since been replaced with that we see today. Behind the weatherboarding, the studwork of the timber framing also survives well on the eastern and northern elevations and the northern bay of the western elevation. The original eastern entrance has been supplanted by the early 19th-century brick-and-flint extension, and the opposing doorway has been blocked up in comparatively recent times and replaced with a pair of steel-framed double doors which have removed the studwork on the western elevation of the southern bay.

Barn 2 is built of red brick laid in an English bond, with a flint-and-brick southern elevation. The building was deliberately constructed against Barn 1, mirroring its dimensions and utilising the southern wall of Barn 1 to form its northern end. The barn was certainly extant by the time of the Gedding tithe map in 1838, and this and the use of English bond indicate a likely construction date in the late 18th or early 19th centuries. The two pairs of doorways in the eastern and western elevations suggest that Barn 2 was originally constructed as a stable block, a function which it apparently continued to perform for quite some time.

The 19th-century historical maps depict the barns as two separate buildings, which externally to all intents and purposes they are, but at some point in the buildings' history the decision was taken to remove the timber-framed wall which divided

the two structures and unify them under a single roof. From the nature of the roof which the buildings now share, it seems likely that this happened in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, although the roof has been relined and retiled since that time. The building shows many signs of having been used and adapted throughout the 20th century, with electricity having been introduced, silos being installed and livestock being housed in the building.

This pair of conjoined barns are very much a reflection of the changing agricultural practices which have affected the Suffolk landscape during the last 300 years, and as circumstances have changed, so too has the building. No longer serving a useful agricultural purpose, the buildings are now due to be divided once again and converted into two residential units, ready to begin the next phase of their histories.

5 References

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7 About the Author

Dr Richard Hoggett is a freelance heritage consultant with over 20 years' experience in the academic, commercial and local authority heritage sectors. Between 2013–16 he was a Senior Archaeological Officer for Suffolk County Council, in which capacity he assessed the heritage implications of planning applications pertaining to listed and historic buildings, and provided specialist advice to Local Planning Authorities, developers and landowners. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Further details and example of his work can be found at www.richard-hoggett.co.uk.