

Barn at Springside
Knotts, Bolton-by-Bowland, Lancashire:
Archaeological Building Recording



July 2007

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SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out for Mr & Mrs Stazicker in June 2007 at a barn at Springside, near Bolton-by-Bowland, Lancashire (NGR: SD 769532), before its conversion to residential and workshop use. The building is stone-built and probably of eighteenth or early nineteenth century date, and comprises a four bay barn with shippon at one end, with a second shippon at the opposite end having been removed. It has also been extended in two phases, to front and rear. The records made include a ground floor plan, a section drawing and photographs, as well as a written account.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT

Photo	Subject
1	The barn from the south-west
2	Entrance to porch, and south lean-to
4	View into porch, from the south
6	South elevation of south lean-to or outshut, from the west
8	East gable of barn
11	View of the barn, from the north-east
13	Detail of string courses in north side of barn, now within north lean-to, from the north-west
15	West gable of barn and rear lean-to or outshut
17	The range of outbuildings, from the north-west
18	Interior view of main entrance to barn, from the north-east
22	Interior of the barn, from the west, showing blocked doorway in east gable and evidence for former loft
26	Interior of the barn, from the east, showing shippon at west end
27	East side of shippon facing into barn, from the south-east
28	Interior of shippon at west end of barn, from the south
31	Detail of stalls and boskin in shippon, from the south-west
33	Roof truss at east end of barn, from the west
34	Interior of shippon in north outshot, from the west

A complete set of photographs forms part of the project archive (see Appendix)

BARN AT SPRINGSIDE, KNOTTS, BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND, LANCASHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a barn at Springside, near Bolton-by-Bowland, Lancashire, carried out in June 2007. The work was commissioned by the owners Mr & Mrs Stazicker, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Ribble Valley Borough Council for the conversion of the building to residential and workshop use.
- 1.2 The barn is thought to be of eighteenth or early nineteenth century date and is stone-built, four bays long and with a shippon at one end, but has been altered internally and externally, and has been extended to front and rear by the addition of lean-to structures. Records made include a floor plan, section drawing, photographs, and a written account.
- 1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the standard specification for the recording of agricultural buildings issued by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. This report will be submitted to the client, the planning authority, the County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record, while the project archive will be deposited at the Lancashire Record Office, Preston.

2 Location and current use

- 2.1 Springside (also known as Springside Farm) is a farmstead lying 4km north of Bolton-by-Bowland and 3km south of Tosside, in the area known as Knotts, at NGR SD 769532 and at an altitude of 235m above OD. It stands on the west side of an unclassified road known as Knotts Lane, and falls within Bolton-by-Bowland civil parish and the Forest of Bowland, an upland area characterised by dispersed farmsteads of similar character (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The farm appears no longer to be an agricultural holding. The farmhouse (recently refurbished) is probably of a similar date to the barn, and stands to its south-east, and there is a range of nineteenth century single storey buildings, originally of agricultural purpose, between the two (Figure 2). There has been some re-organisation of the access arrangements recently, associated with the anticipated conversion of the barn and subdivision of the property.
- 2.3 At the time of recording the barn was disused and appears not to have been used for farming for some time, although it has been re-roofed very recently.

3 Planning background

- 3.1 The barn is not listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning permission was granted by Ribble Valley Borough Council on 30 May 2007 for its conversion to use as a workshop and dwelling (application no: 3/2006/0356), and condition no 20 attached to the consent requires a detailed record of the building to be made before development, which this report is intended to be.

4 Historical background and architectural interest

- 4.1 Traditional farm buildings are of historic interest because they contribute to an understanding of the vernacular architecture and past farming systems of the region. As a group they are under threat due to redundancy and neglect, as well as their potential for conversion, and records of them can help provide an understanding of this diminishing and irreplaceable stock.
- 4.2 The Forest of Bowland was largely protected from settlement during the medieval period, but during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries encroachment on it became widespread and the dispersed pattern of individual farms, which is still evident today, was established.
- 4.3 Little is known of the history of Springside, but Ordnance Survey maps show that the barn, house, and outbuildings were present in the mid nineteenth century when the first edition 6" to the mile map was surveyed (1847; Figure 3), at which time it was known as Spring Side. The barn is shown with a more irregular outline than the present building, but the small scale of the map means no firm conclusions can be drawn from this depiction regarding subsequent changes to it. A later edition of this map (surveyed in 1892-3) shows the barn with its present outline (Figure 4), and the range of outbuildings to the south extended to its present length, as does the 1:2500 map of 1909 (Figure 5).

5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place on 7 June 2007, and in accordance with the standard specification issued by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for agricultural buildings.
- 5.2 It involved the production of a new ground floor plan and a cross-section drawing of the barn, showing all significant archaeological detail, and employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage¹.

¹ English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

- 5.3 A photographic record was also made, using a medium format camera with shift and other lenses, and black and white film for the sake of archival permanence. External and internal photographs were taken, in most cases using either a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations as a scale, and their locations are shown on copies of the site and floor plans. The photographs have been printed to a size of 7" x 5", with two at 10 x 8", and a selection are copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold.

6 Building description

Exterior

- 6.1 The barn faces south-south-east (hereafter south) and is built of local sandstone rubble laid in courses for the most part, with edge-laid quoins, plain dressings and no decorative features; its roof is now entirely of new blue slate with concrete copings, but was formerly stone slated (**1**). The south side has a projecting porch in the second bay from the left, formed by two projecting walls, of which the east one has been extended to form the west side of the later outshot or lean-to (**2,3**). The interior of the porch, which has the doors set on the main building line, and is spanned on the outer face by a modern softwood purlin, contains a recess in each of the side walls, which were probably lamp or keep-holes (**4**). To the left of the porch is a doorway to the shippon in the west end of the barn (**5**), with tie-stone jambs, and now rather low as a result of the raising of the external ground level. To the right of the porch the added outshot projects slightly; it is faced with similar sandstone rubble which is more poorly coursed than that of the main building. The doorway in its south side appears original, but the two adjacent windows are secondary (or enlarged), and relate to the later use of this room as a dairy, but it is likely that this was originally a stable (**6**).
- 6.2 Turning to the east elevation of the building (**7**), the gable of the original barn is readily distinguishable from the additions to front and rear (**8**). At ground floor level there is a central blocked doorway, in a rather unusual position for such an opening in a barn, and to the left of it is a breather, while higher up are various putlogs, and an owl hole with landing ledge. The outshot to the south has an inserted doorway and blocked window at ground floor level, and above an original entrance and window to a loft (**9**). To the north, the rear outshot is faced with random rubble, and incorporates a doorway and window (**10**). The rear wall of this structure is continuous with the yard wall which curves round to form a middenstead.
- 6.3 The rear of the building is formed by the rear wall of this later outshot, which is rather roughly built and contains three windows, all apparently enlarged to their present sizes, and two of them now blocked (**11,12**). Inside this outshot, the

rear of the barn itself is visible, where it contains a “winnowing” doorway with tie-stone jambs, and two string courses or drip bands (13,14), not present on any other elevations (although apparently hacked off from the west gable, which appears also to have had a coat of render removed (15)). The west side of the building has been altered in other ways: the three ground floor windows may be original, as may be the two irregularly spaced ventilators at first floor level, but the upper level doorway is clearly secondary. The owl hole at the apex has a ledge to match that in the east gable.

- 6.4 To the south of the barn stands a row of single storey outbuildings, also newly re-roofed and with modern doors for the most part (16,17), and a modern agricultural shed on their south side. These were not recorded other than by external photography.

Interior

- 6.5 Of the pair of large doors in the main entrance to the barn (18), the east one is probably original and bears incised graffiti including a geometric “flower”, as well as various initials, but no clear dates (19). To judge from the shape of the doors and the softwood lintel, this doorway originally had a stone arch. It would have opened onto a threshing bay which contains an arched winnowing doorway in the rear wall (20), which is unusual for the district, where openings of this size are generally spanned by stone or timber lintels, arches usually being confined to large doorways. The main space within the barn comprises this threshing bay and the two bays to the east, all now with concrete floor, modern steel cubicles and open to the roof (21), but there is evidence for an earlier arrangement at the east end. Here, the central doorway (also with arch) in the east gable (22), appears to have served a shippon, with six blocked sockets in the wall above no doubt evidence for a former loft, the length of which is not now apparent. Other features associated with this include a recess to the north of the doorway (23), a blocked doorway and window in the south side (24), and a blocked window or muck hole in the north-east corner (25). Whether this former shippon and hay loft were original is not clear, but it seems likely that they were created as an adaptation, given the presence of the other shippon at the west end.
- 6.6 The principal, surviving shippon in the west end of the barn is in a more characteristic position within the building, and at a slightly lower level than the threshing floor, from which it is separated by a low stone retaining wall and modern timber boards (26,27). It is entered from the south doorway, which opens into the *group* or manure channel in the floor, which has been laid with concrete (28-30). There are three boskins forming four pairs of stalls, the boskins having flagstone panels, and elbowed heel posts of softwood (30,31), apparently cut to shape rather than bent or made with naturally curving timber, as is usually the case with oak examples in the district, which suggests they are

replacements, as also implied by the fact that the head posts and joists to the loft overhead are of oak, and display more wear than the heel posts. The heel and head posts, as well as intermediate posts along the front of the shippon, support oak beams running east west, with broad boards over to form the hay loft.

- 6.7 The barn has three roof trusses, all of king-post form with bolted posts and of square-sawn softwood, and with staggered, trenched purlins (**33**). There is no clear evidence that these are replacements but it seems likely, given the use of oak in the shippon and hay loft, and the very regular form of the trusses, which suggests they are of nineteenth or even early twentieth century date.
- 6.8 The interior of the south outshot has rendered walls to all sides on the ground floor, and has no doubt been used as a dairy in the mid and late twentieth century; there are no historic features visible, but the shape and size of the structure suggests it may have been built as a stable. The loft overhead is not accessible.
- 6.9 The rear outshot forms a large shippon, and probably dates to the late nineteenth century (as shown on Figure 4). It has concrete boskins for fourteen head of cattle (**33**), but these replaced timber boskins in exactly the same positions, as can be deduced from mortices in the undersides of the half trusses. The floor is also of concrete, and a low breeze block wall separates the stalls from a feeding passage running along the rear wall of the barn.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The barn at Springside probably dates to the eighteenth or early nineteenth century and is a largely typical combination barn, with some unusual aspects. These include the arched doorways, and the presence of a second shippon, apparently inserted within the storage area or *mew*, in the east end. Otherwise, the presence of the lateral shippon in the west end, the threshing floor and storage space, are characteristic for the building form, of which this example is an interesting variation on a common type.

Appendix: Contents of the project archive

To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office, Preston
1 file, containing:

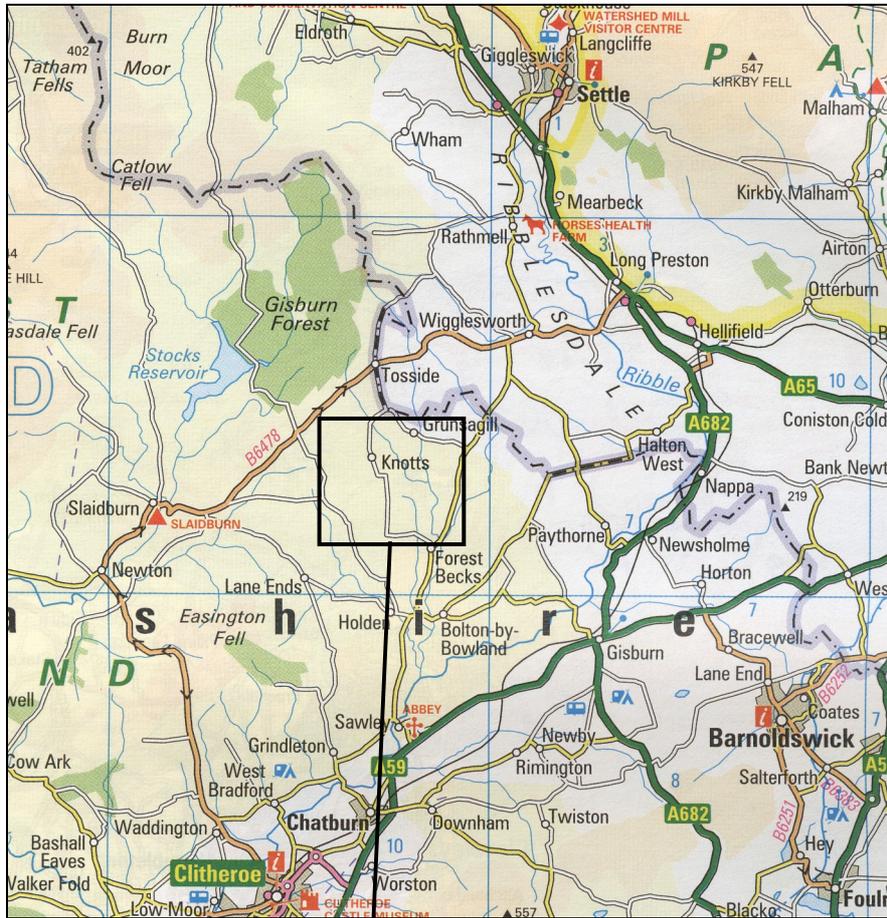
- a copy of the report text & figures
- full set of labelled photographs
- photographic negatives
- colour slides
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

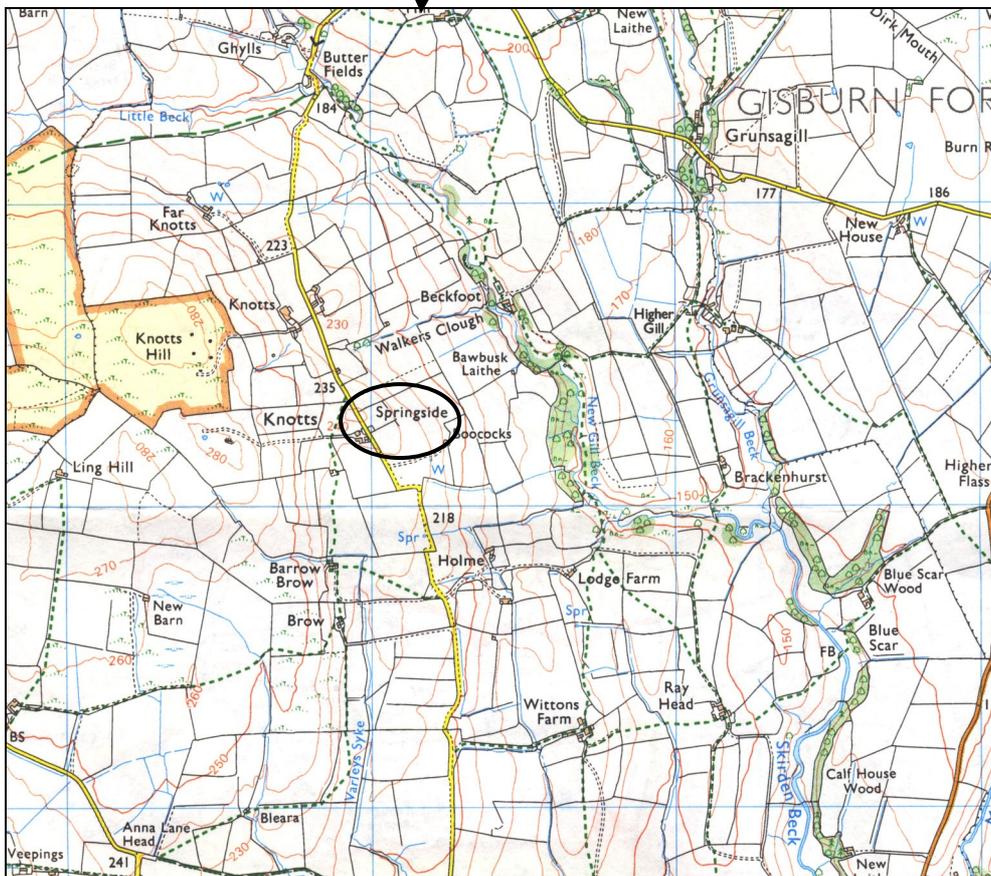
Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
1	1	1	The barn from the south-west
15	1	2	West gable of barn and rear lean-to or outshut
5	1	3	South elevation of barn, to west of porch with entrance to shippon
6	1	5	South elevation of south lean-to or outshut, from the west
3	1	6	View into porch, from the south-west
4	1	7	View into porch, from the south
2	1	8	Entrance to porch, and south lean-to
9	1	9	East gable of barn and side of south lean-to
8	1	11	East gable of barn
7	1	12	View of the barn, from the east
10	1	13	East side of north lean-to, from the south-east
11	1	14	View of the barn, from the north-east
12	1	15	North side of north lean-to or outshot, from the north-west
16	1	17	View of the barn and outbuilding range, from the north-west
17	1	18	The range of outbuildings, from the north-west
22	2	1	Interior of the barn, from the west, showing blocked doorway in east gable and evidence for former loft
33	2	2	Roof truss at east end of barn, from the west
24	2	4	Blocked doorway and beam sockets in south-east corner of barn
23	2	5	Blocked doorway in east gable of barn
25	2	6	Blocked muck hole or window in north-east corner of barn
21	2	7	Interior of the barn, from the south-east
26	2	8	Interior of the barn, from the east, showing shippon at west end
20	2	10	Detail of winnowing doorway in north side of barn, from the south
18	2	11	Interior view of main entrance to barn, from the north-east
27	2	12	East side of shippon facing into barn, from the south-east
19	2	13	Detail of graffiti on main door to barn
28	2	14	Interior of shippon at west end of barn, from the south
30	2	16	Interior of shippon at west end of barn, from the south-east
31	2	17	Detail of stalls and boskin in shippon, from the south-west
32	2	18	Detail of boskin in shippon, from the south-west
29	3	1	Interior of shippon at west end of barn, from the north
34	3	2	Interior of shippon in north outshot, from the west
14	3	3	Detail of winnowing doorway in north side of barn, from the north
13	3	5	Detail of string courses in north side of barn, now within north lean-to, from the north-west

Colour slides

- 1 The barn from the south-west
- 2 View of the barn, from the north-east
- 3 View of the barn and outbuilding range, from the north-west



1:200,000



1:25,000



Figure 1: Location maps

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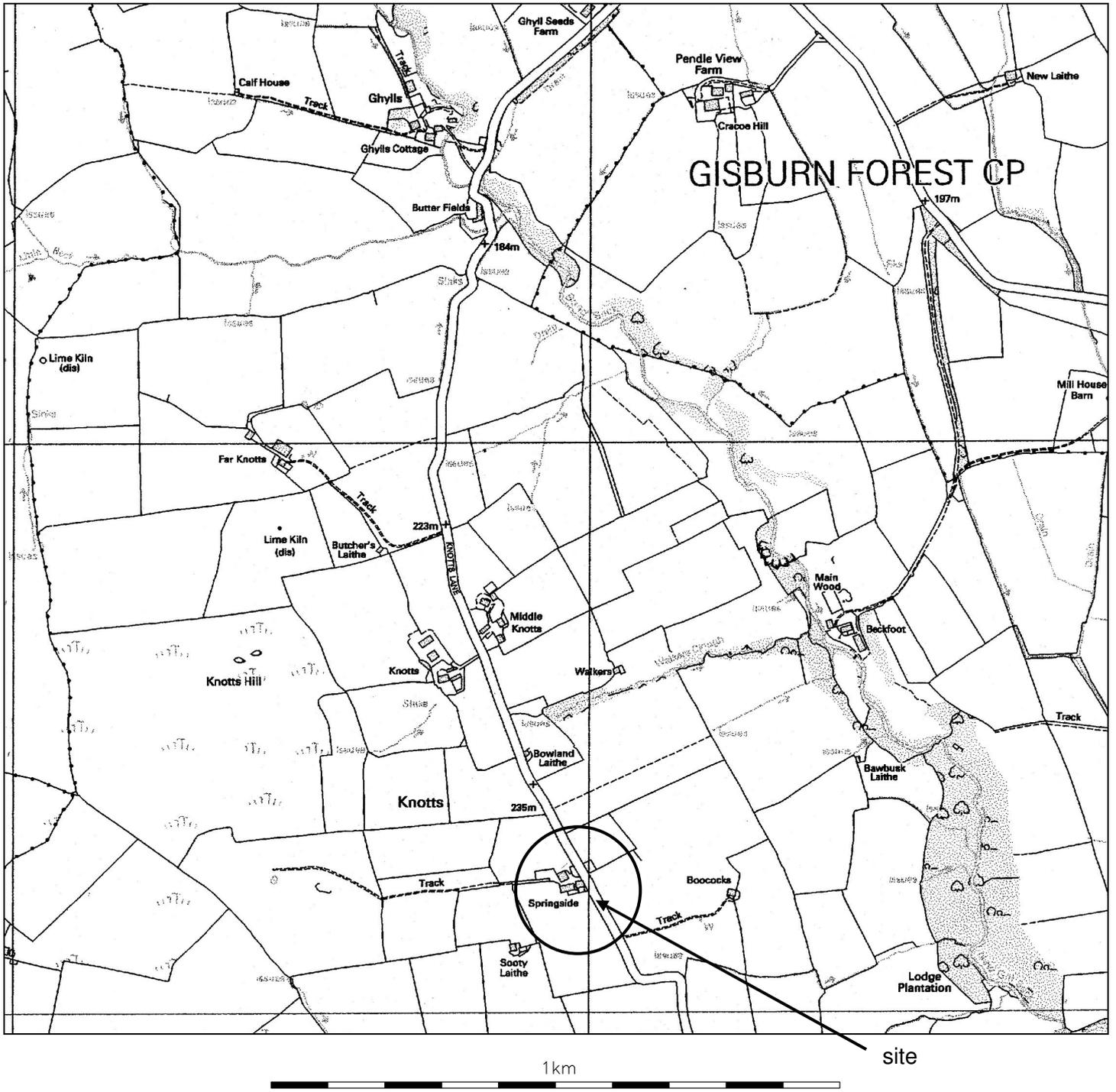
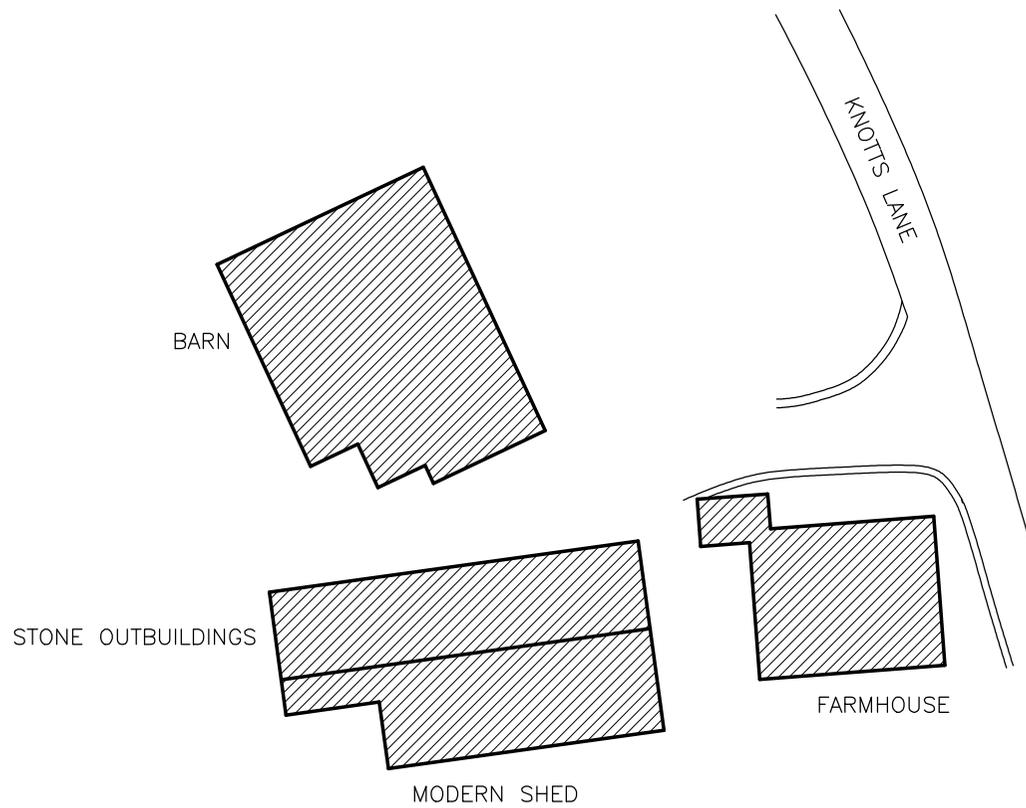


Figure 2: Detailed location map (1:10,000)

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STONE OUTBUILDINGS

BARN

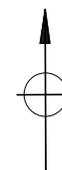
MODERN SHED

FARMHOUSE

KNOTTS LANE



50m



BARN AT SPRINGSIDE
KNOTTS
BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 769532):
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 3:
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:500

DATE OF SURVEY: JUNE 2007

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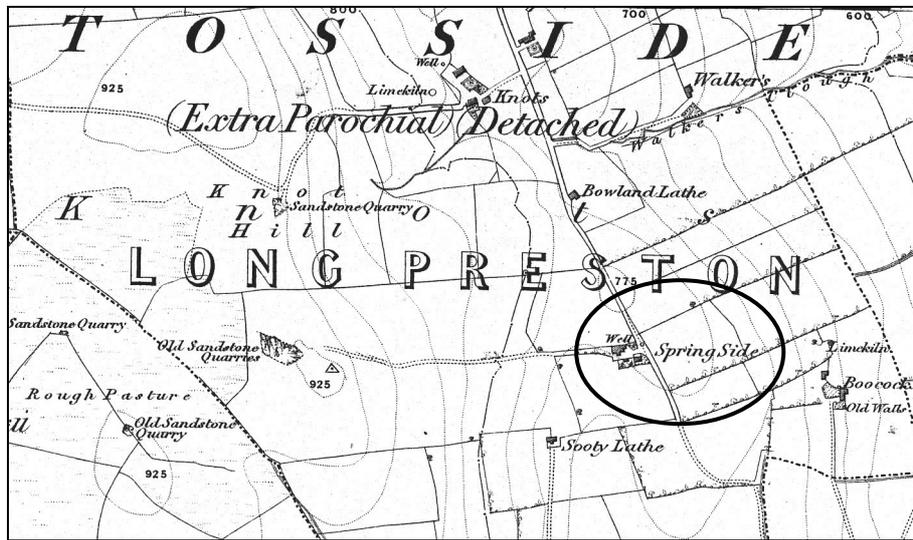


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 6" to mile map, surveyed 1847 (lower extract enlarged to 1:2500); published 1850. Sheet no: Yorkshire, 165



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 6" to mile map, revised 1892-3 (enlarged to 1:2500); published 1896. Sheet no: Yorkshire, 165

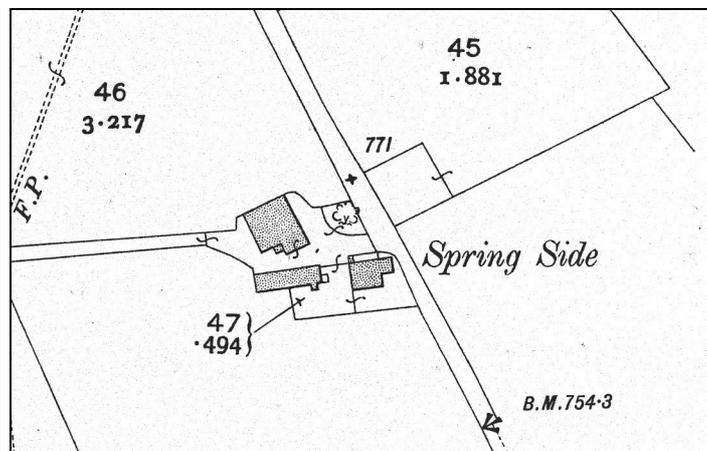
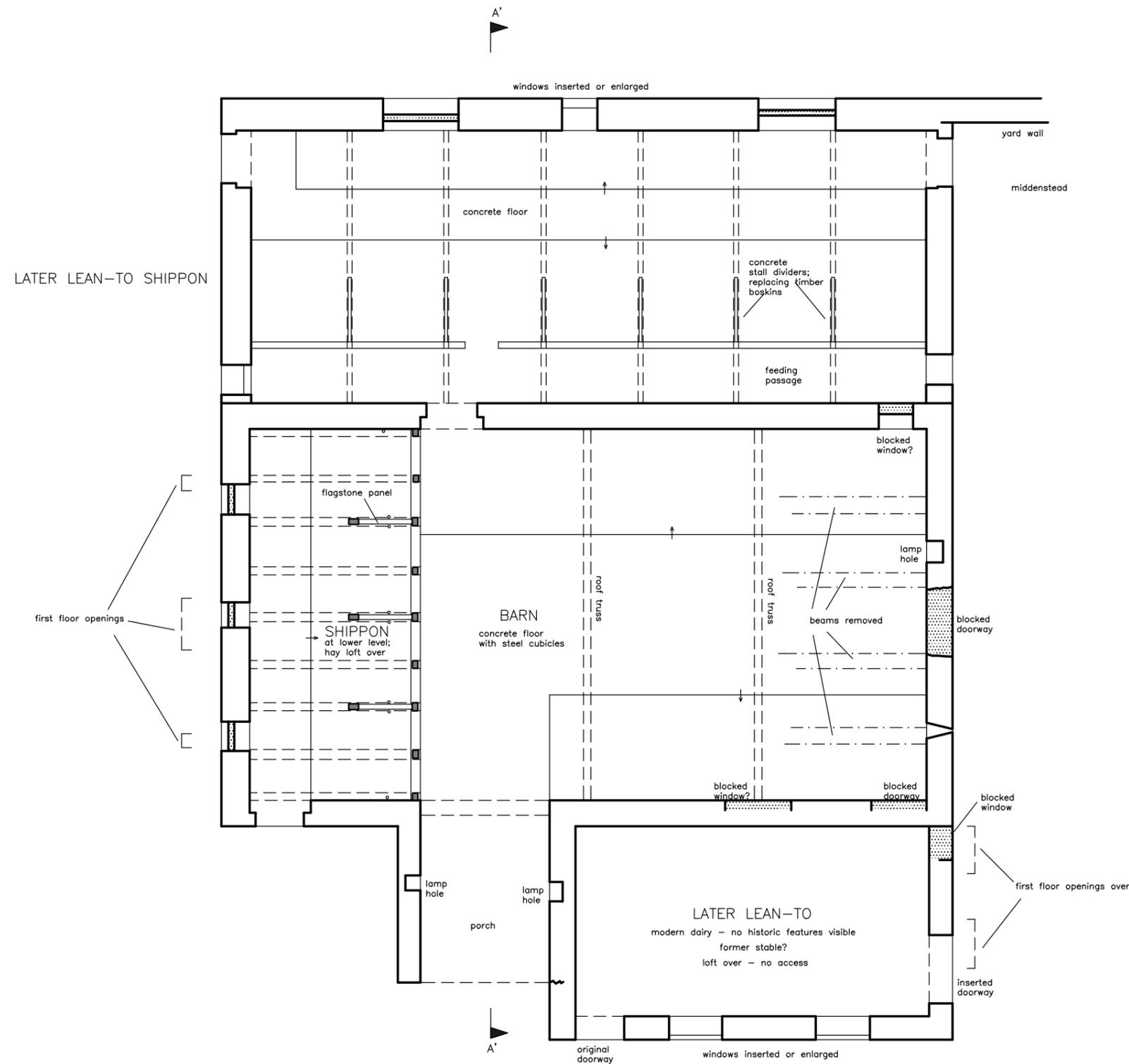


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, revised 1907; published 1909. Sheet no: Yorkshire, 165.4



BARN AT SPRINGSIDE
 KNOTTS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 769532);
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

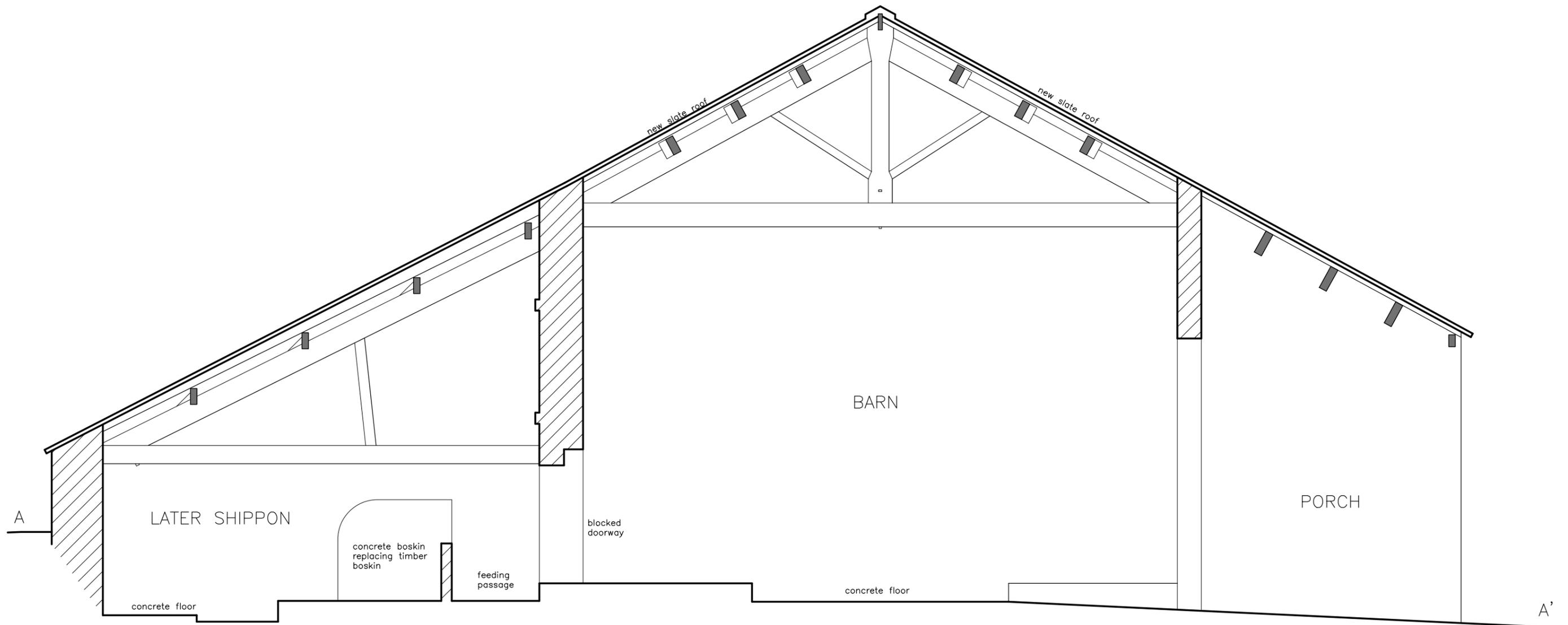
FIGURE 7:
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100

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 blocking or infill



10m



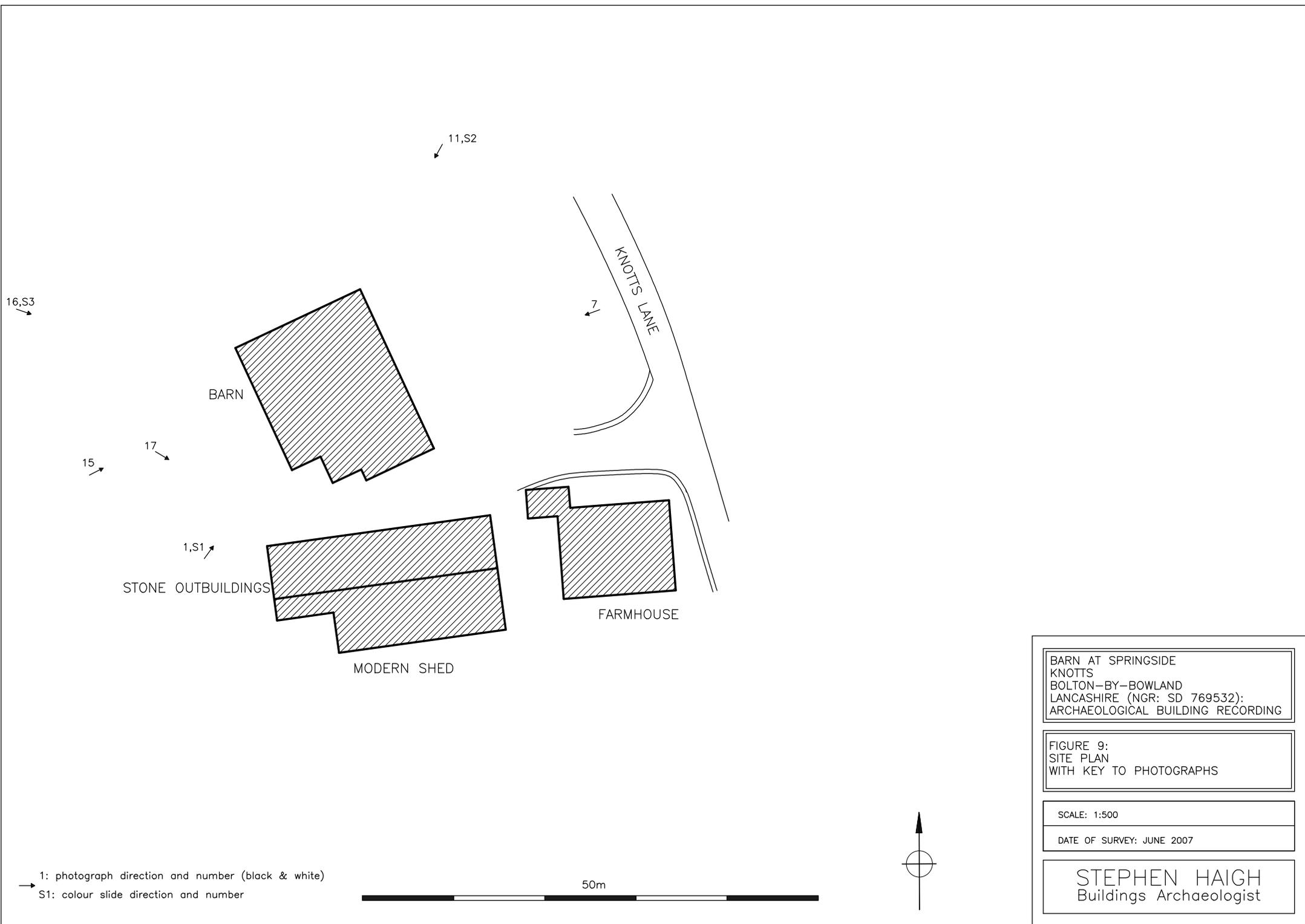
BARN AT SPRINGSIDE
 KNOTTS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 769532):
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 8:
 CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1:50

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BARN AT SPRINGSIDE
 KNOTTS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 769532):
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

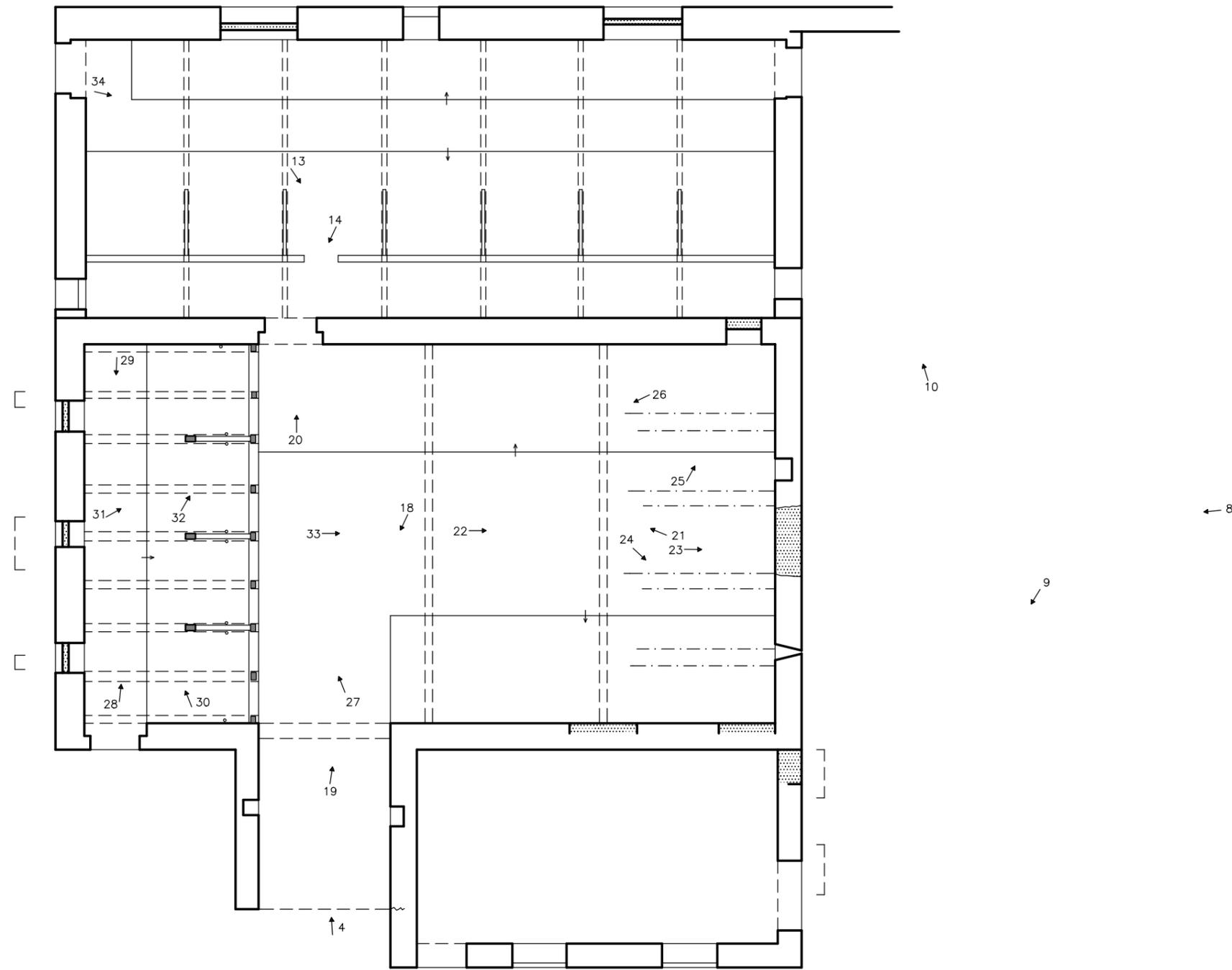
FIGURE 9:
 SITE PLAN
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:500

DATE OF SURVEY: JUNE 2007

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12 ↘



↑ 5

↗ 6

↗ 3

↑ 2

10m



→ 1: photograph direction and number (black & white)

BARN AT SPRINGSIDE
 KNOTTS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 769532):
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 10:
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: JUNE 2007

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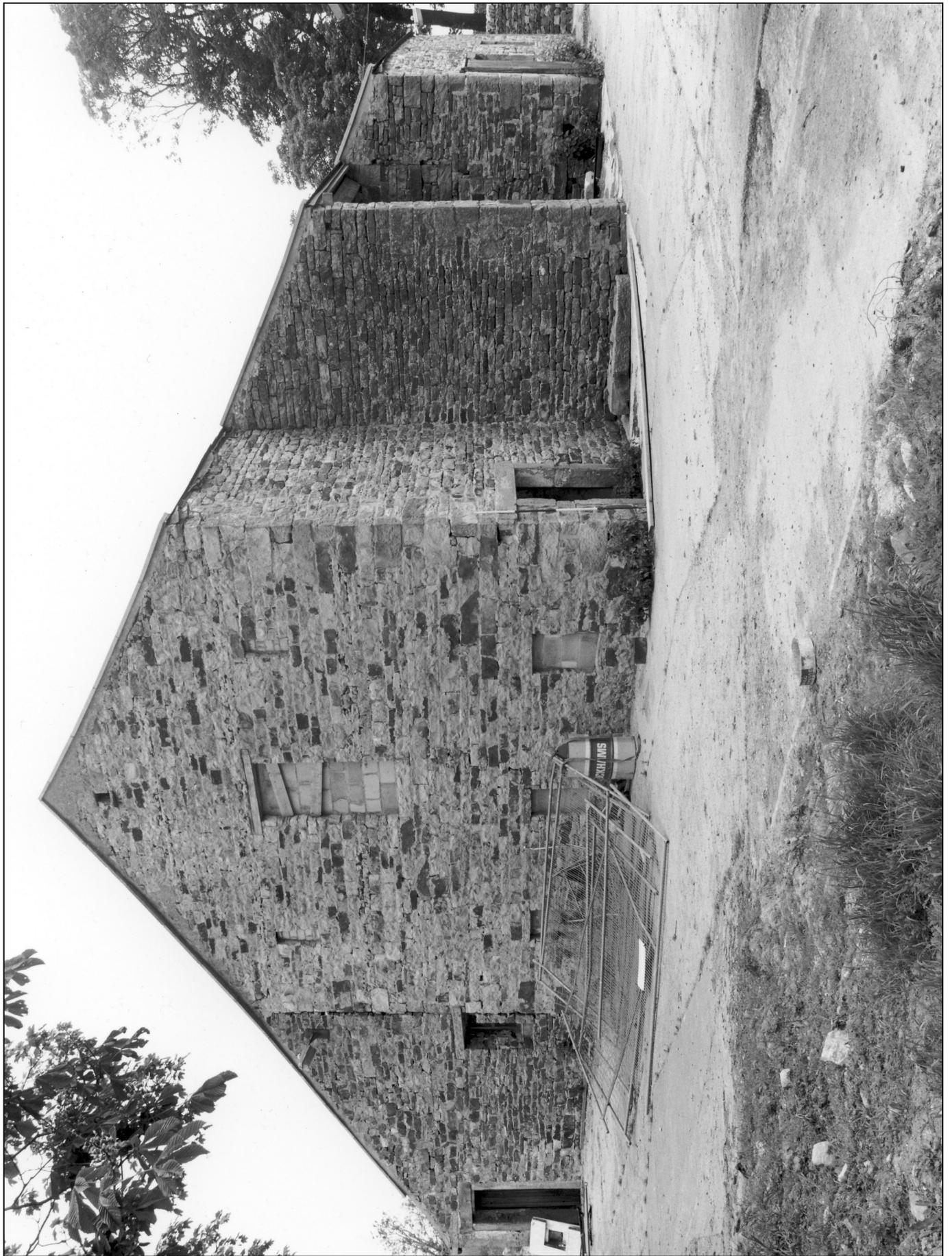


Photo 1: The barn from the south-west



Photo 2: Entrance to porch, and south lean-to

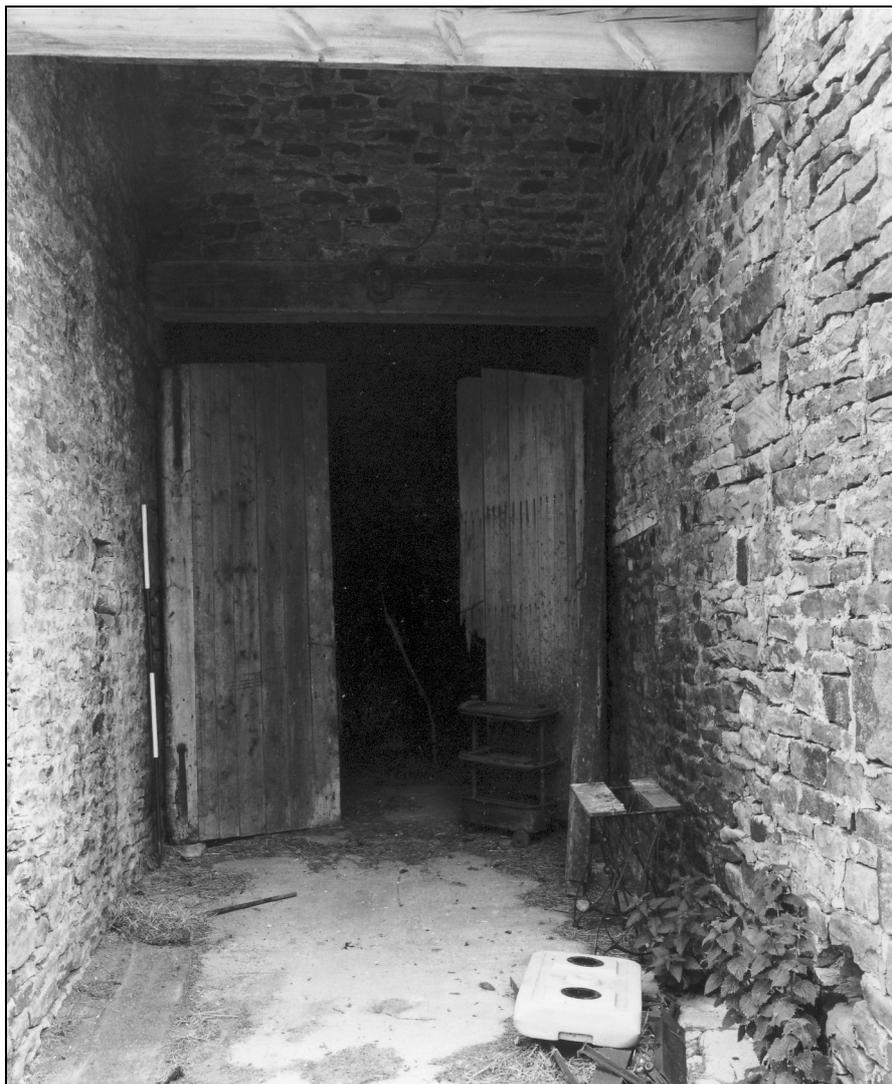


Photo 4: View into porch, from the south



Photo 6: South elevation of south lean-to or outshut, from the west



Photo 8: East gable of barn



Photo 11: View of the barn, from the north-east



Photo 13: Detail of string courses in north side of barn, now within north lean-to, from the north-west



Photo 15: West gable of barn and rear lean-to or outshut



Photo 17: The range of outbuildings, from the north-west

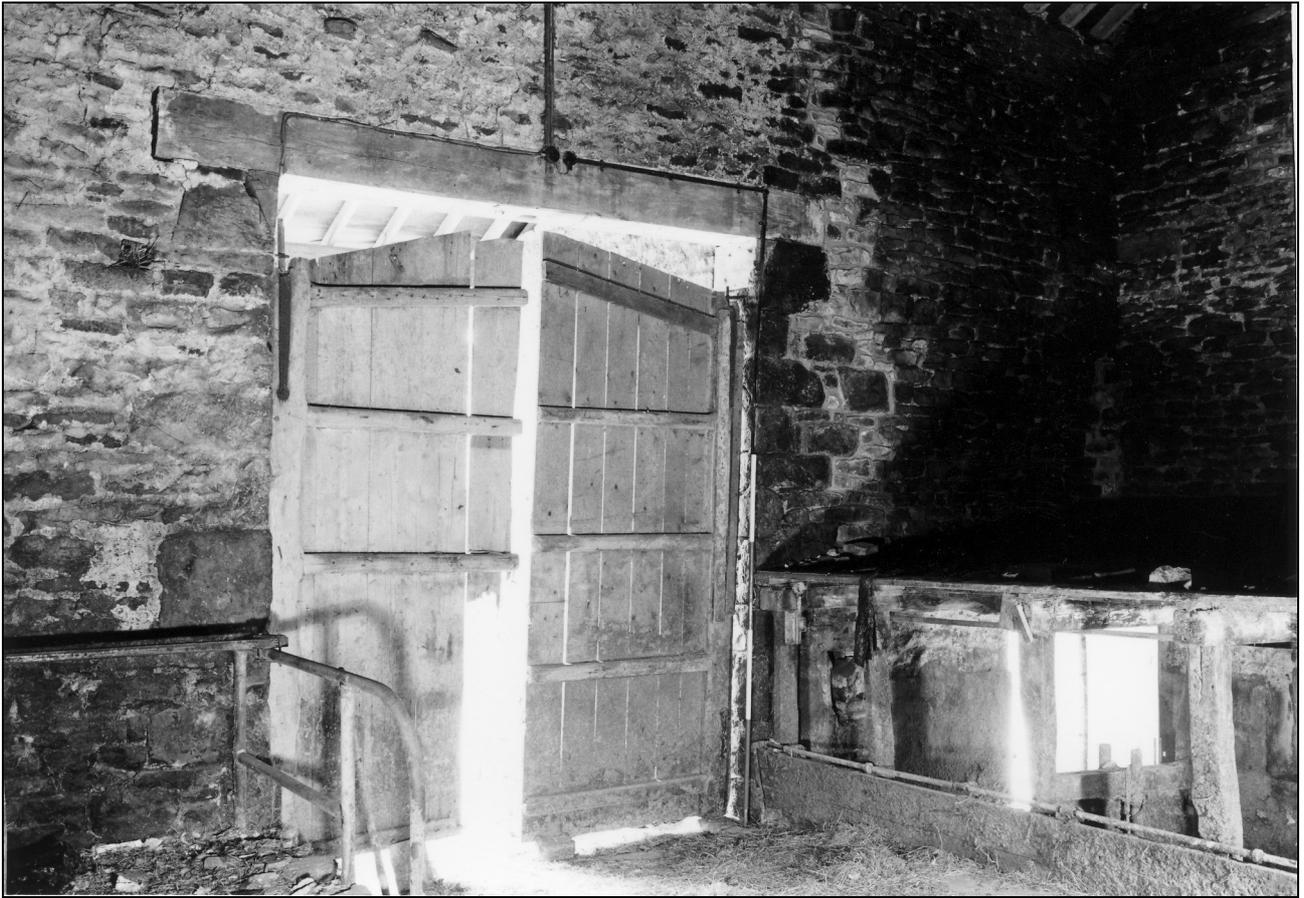


Photo 18: Interior view of main entrance to barn, from the north-east



Photo 22: Interior of the barn, from the west, showing blocked doorway in east gable and evidence for former loft



Photo 26: Interior of the barn, from the east, showing shippon at west end



Photo 27: East side of shippon facing into barn, from the south-east



Photo 28: Interior of shippon at west end of barn, from the south

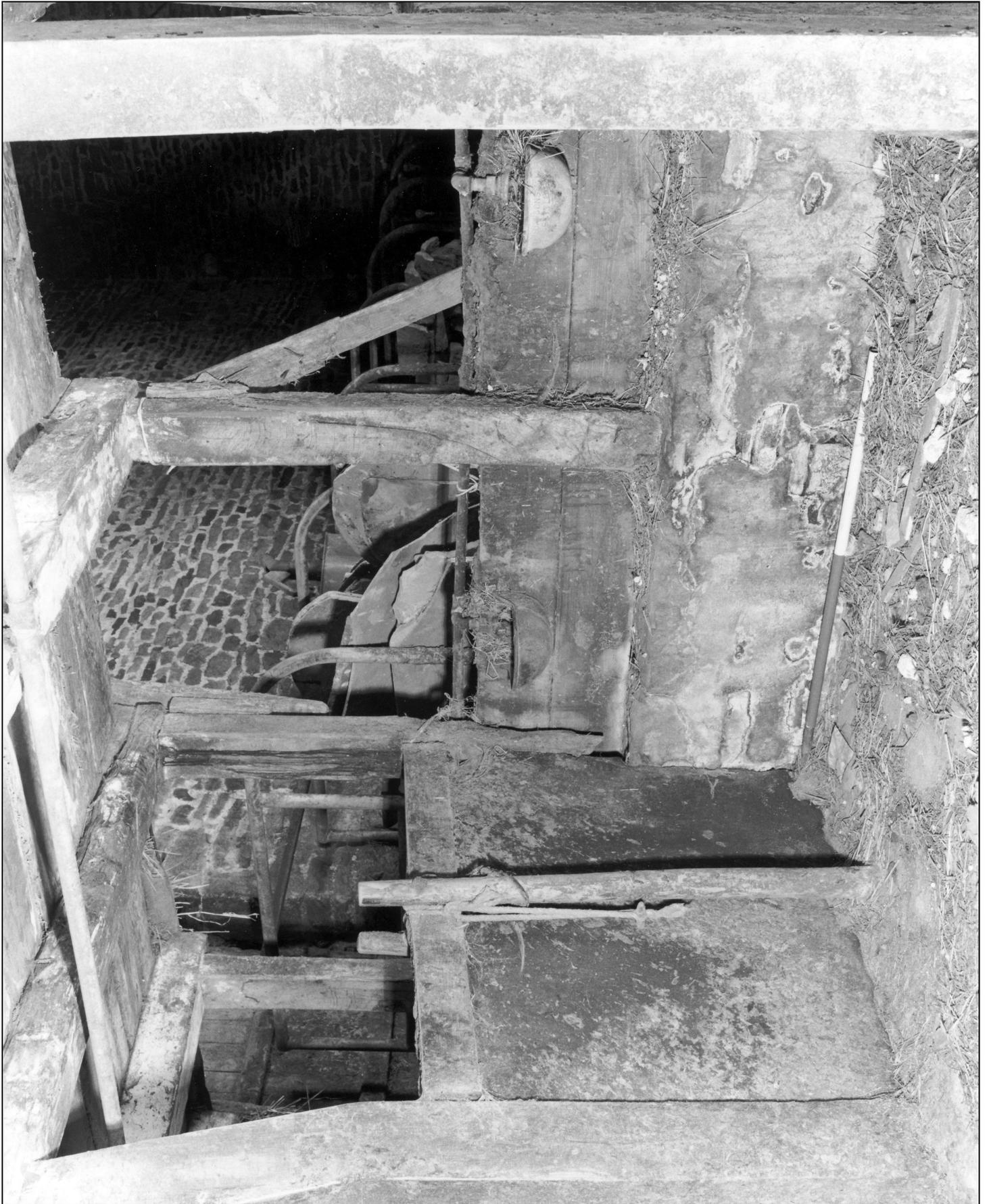


Photo 31: Detail of stalls and boskin in shippon, from the south-west



Photo 33: Roof truss at east end of barn, from the west



Photo 34: Interior of shippon in north outshot, from the west