

Barn at Stang Top  
Roughlee, Lancashire:  
Archaeological Building Recording



November 2006

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# Barn at Stang Top Roughlee, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording

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2: Site plan	8: Upper floor plan
3: Extract from OS 1848 map	9: Cross-section
4: Extract from OS 1893 map	10: Site plan with key to photos
5: Extract from OS 1912 map	11: Ground floor plan with key to photos
6: Extract from OS 1932 map	12: Upper floor plan with key to photos

### Photographs

## SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out for Alison Pickles in September 2006 at a barn at Stang Top, Roughlee, Lancashire (NGR: SD 835413), before the conversion of part of it to residential use. The barn stands next to a cottage, is stone-built and five bays long and probably dates to the early nineteenth century. The records made include floor plans, a section and photographs, as well as a written account.

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## **BARN AT STANG TOP, ROUGHLEE, LANCASHIRE:**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

#### **LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT**

<b>Photo</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	General view of Stang Top, from the south-west
2	The barn and cottage, from the south-west
3	Front elevation of the barn, from the south
4	Front elevation of the barn and cottage, from the south-west
5	Doorways and window to small shippon and stable, in front elevation
6	Inserted doorway to shippon in south elevation of barn
7	The barn, from the south-west
8	Rear elevation of the barn and cottage, from the north
10	Rear elevation of the barn, from the north-west
13	Interior of barn: north half, from the west
14	Secondary brick wall with hinged shutters, on west side of threshing bay
15	View of stable and small shippon, from above
18	Detail of stall in small shippon, from the north-east
22	Interior of stable, from the south-west
23	Interior of main shippon, from the north-east
26	Interior of main shippon, from the south
28	Roof truss in barn, from the north-east

A complete set of photographs forms part of the project archive (see Appendix 1)



## **BARN AT STANG TOP, ROUGHLEE, LANCASHIRE:**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a barn at Stang Top, Roughlee, Lancashire, carried out in September 2006. The work was commissioned by the owner Alison Pickles, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Pendle Borough Council for the conversion of part of the building to residential use.
- 1.2 The barn probably dates to the early nineteenth century date and was added to an existing cottage, which is of *circa* 1800. It contains a small stable and two shippens, as well as a threshing floor and hay lofts. Records made include a ground floor plan, a section drawing, photographs, and a written account.
- 1.3 The recording 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 Stang Top stands on the west side of Stang Top Road, in Barley-with-Wheatley Booth civil parish, about 1km north-west of Roughlee and 4km north-west of Nelson town centre, in Lancashire (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is a former small farmstead which comprises a single range of buildings, comprising a cottage at the east end and the barn running to the west (Figure 2); it ceased to be used for farming during the second half of the twentieth century.

#### **3 Planning background**

- 3.1 The barn is not listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning permission was granted by Pendle Borough Council on 4 September 2006 for the extension of the cottage into it (application no: 13/06/0492P), and condition no 2 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 Little is known of the history of Stang Top but Ordnance Survey maps appear to show that the barn and cottage have stood there since before 1844, when the survey for the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile map was carried out (Figure 3); at that time it was known as Stank Top. The OS 1:2500 maps of 1893, 1912 and 1932 (Figures 4 - 6) name it Stang Top, and show it as at present, albeit with a small detached building to the west, probably a privy, which has now been demolished.
- 4.3 The name Stang or Stank, which also appears in the nearby Stang Top Moor, may derive from the Old Norse word *stong*, meaning "pole" or "post", which often indicated a boundary mark.

## 5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place on 27 September 2006, and in accordance with the standard specification issued by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for agricultural buildings. It involved the production of floor plans and a cross-section drawing of the building, showing all significant archaeological detail, and employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage<sup>1</sup>. The plans are based on a survey by Jack Walsh.
- 5.2 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", and a selection are copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold. A small number of 35mm colour slides was also taken.

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<sup>1</sup> English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

## 6 Building description

### Exterior

- 6.1 The barn forms the larger, west part of the range (1,2), and measures 18.5m long and 10.2m wide, slightly wider than the adjoining cottage. It is built from local gritstone laid in irregular courses, with squared quoins and plain dressings, while the recently re-laid roof is of stone slate with stone ridge. At the right hand end the front elevation clearly butts up to and is later than the quoins of the cottage (3).
- 6.2 The openings in the front elevation reflect the divisions inside the barn which create a number of different areas. The large, central cart entrance with double timber lintel and quoined jambs leads into the threshing bay (4), and to the right of it is a pair of narrow doorways giving access to a small shippon and stable, the latter also with a tall, narrow window (5). To the left of the cart entrance is another doorway, in this case of secondary date, which appears to have replaced a window (6), as the disturbed masonry and redundant lintel indicate; this alteration arises from the re-orientation of the shippon in this end of the building. A small, now glazed, opening to the left of this doorway is probably a former ventilator.
- 6.3 The west gable has three ground floor openings, all windows now (7), but the two outer ones were formerly doorways which would originally have led into the passages running along the rear of stalls in the shippon. There is also a blocked forking hole at first floor level.
- 6.4 The barn's rear elevation (8) also shows signs of alteration. The doorway at the rear of the threshing bay is intact (9), as is the tall window to the right of it, but the smaller adjacent opening is clearly secondary and is a muck-hole no doubt put in when the west shippon was re-arranged. There is also a small window next to the north-west quoins matching that on the front elevation (10). The remains of a building at the foot of this wall are evidently of mid twentieth century date as no structure is shown here on the 1932 map, but the earlier maps show an L-shaped wall here, which probably enclosed a middenstead.

### Interior

- 6.5 The threshing bay in the centre of the barn has a good pitched stone floor (11,12) and is open to the roof, but has only a small amount of storage area adjacent in the north-east corner (13), as animal housing occupies approximately three fifths of the building on the ground floor to either side of the threshing floor, enclosed by a relatively modern brick wall on the west side (14), and by a thin

rubble wall and timber partition on the east side (15), the latter with a horizontal slot to allow feeding.

- 6.6 The small shippon in the east half of the building (16,17) has two stall dividers or boskins constructed from softwood (18,19) creating standings for six young beasts. The floor is mostly of stone flags and cobbles, but has been repaired with concrete. In the adjacent stable (20), which is closest to the cottage, the stone floor is largely intact and has a grooved drainage channel at the rear, and central gullies to each of the two stalls (21). The division between the stalls has been removed but its former position is clear (22), and there is a timber base to a manger or trough, as well as an iron hay rack fixed to the wall. A ceiling which serves as a hay loft runs over both shippon and stable.
- 6.7 The larger shippon in the west end of the building now has stalls facing outwards with a central muck passage, but originally the arrangement would have been at right angles to this, with a central feeding passage running east-west; this re-organisation may have been carried out in line with prevailing ideas concerning disease prevention, probably in the early twentieth century. The present arrangement is for sixteen cows in paired standings with softwood boskins (23-27), and at the south side there is access both to a feeding passage next to the west gable, and through the brick wall in the east side. Feeding of the animals in the east-facing standings would have been through the hinged, shuttered opening which runs along the top of the brick wall (14), and there is a trap door giving access to the hay loft overhead, over the west feeding passage.
- 6.8 The barn roof is of five bays, carried on four roof trusses constructed from square-sawn softwood with bolted king-posts and raking struts (28), and trenched purlins. This is a standard design for buildings of this type in the nineteenth century.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1 The barn at Stang Top was probably built in the early nineteenth century to provide a multi-purpose agricultural building for a small farmer, who was probably exploiting newly enclosed and improved moorland at a time of agricultural expansion and land hunger. The building is of relatively large size but incorporates stabling and cow housing under the main roof, rather than in outshots or lean-tos, and is of a plain design, lacking any porches or architectural embellishment, which suggests a relatively late date and a highly functional intention.

## Appendix 1: 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
- 35mm colour slides
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

### Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

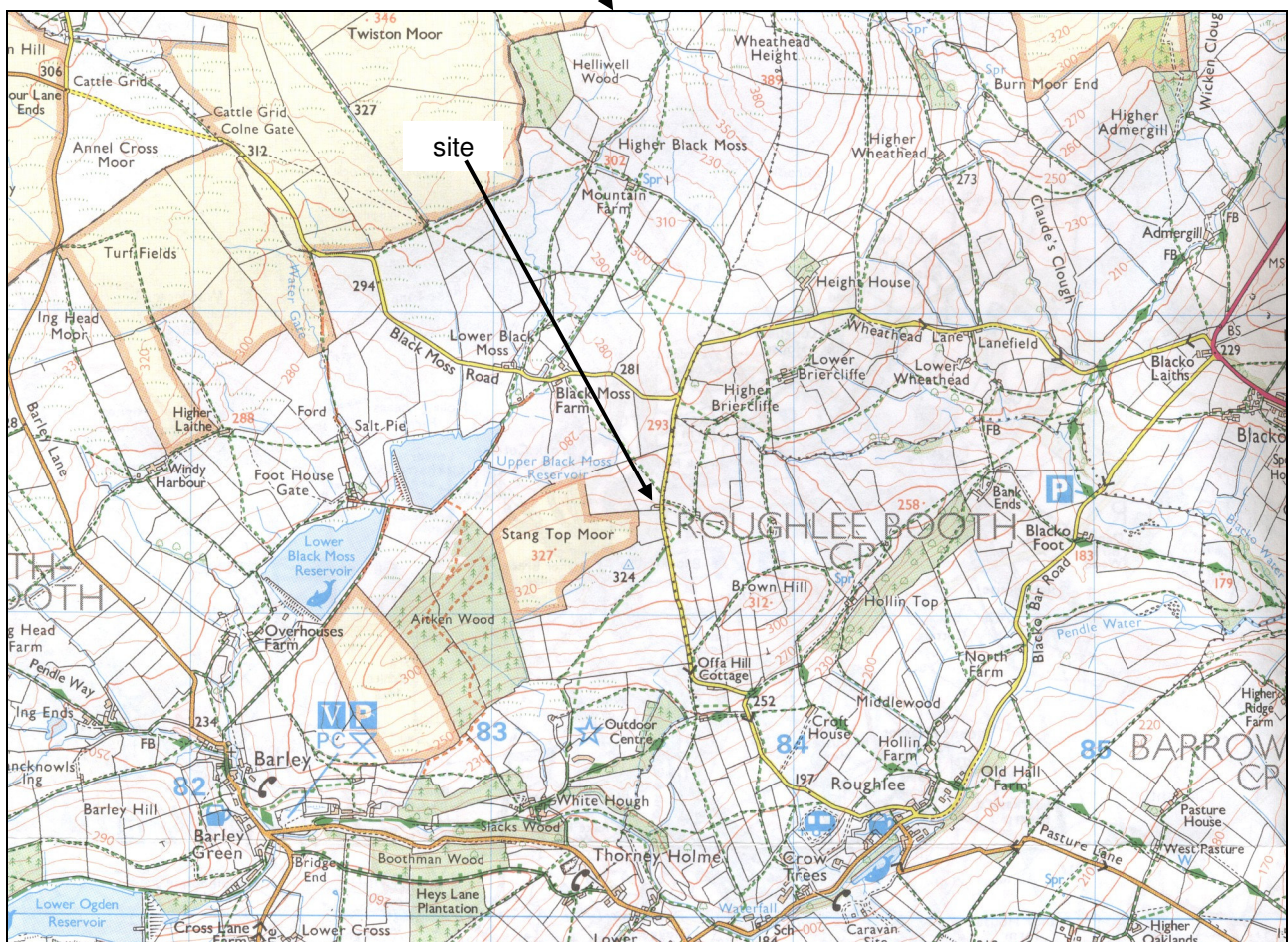
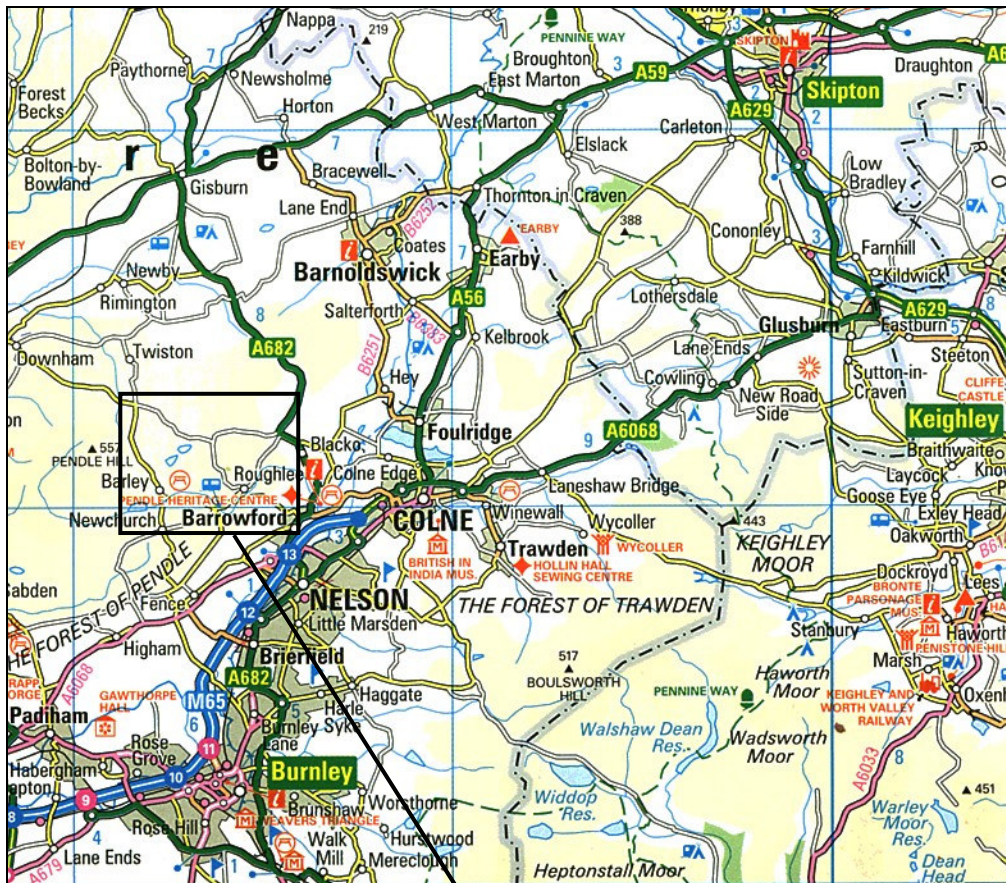
Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
2	1	1	The barn and cottage, from the south-west
22	1	3	Interior of stable, from the south-west
16	1	4	Interior of small shippon, from the south
19	1	5	Detail of boskin in small shippon, from the south-east
18	1	6	Detail of stall in small shippon, from the north-east
17	1	7	Interior of small shippon, from the north
13	1	9	Interior of barn: north half, from the west
15	1	10	View of stable and small shippon, from above
12	1	11	Detail of pitched stone threshing floor, from the west
	1	12	Same as 1/13
28	1	13	Roof truss in barn, from the north-east
14	1	15	Secondary brick wall with hinged shutters, on west side of threshing bay, from the south-east
11	1	16	Threshing bay, from the south
26	1	17	Interior of main shippon, from the south
25	1	18	Interior of main shippon, from the north-west
23	2	1	Interior of main shippon, from the north-east
24	2	2	Interior of main shippon, from the south-east
27	2	4	Detail of boskin in west side of main shippon, from the north
	2	5	Same as 2/4
21	2	6	Floor in stable, from the south-west
20	2	7	Interior of stable, from the north-east
10	2	8	Rear elevation of the barn, from the north-west
8	2	10	Rear elevation of the barn and cottage, from the north
9	2	11	Doorway and windows in rear elevation of barn, from the north
7	2	12	The barn, from the south-west
3	2	13	Front elevation of the barn, from the south
5	2	14	Doorways and window to small shippon and stable, in front elevation
4	2	16	Front elevation of the barn and cottage, from the south-west
6	2	17	Inserted doorway to shippon in south elevation of barn
1	2	18	General view of Stang Top, from the south-west

## **LIST OF COLOUR SLIDES**

### **Slide   Subject**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | The barn and cottage, from the south-west                    |
| 2 | Front elevation of the barn, from the south                  |
| 3 | Front elevation of the barn and cottage, from the south-west |
| 4 | The barn, from the south-west                                |
| 5 | Rear elevation of the barn and cottage, from the north       |
| 6 | Rear elevation of the barn, from the north-west              |





**Figure 1: Location maps**

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BARN

COTTAGE

STANG TOP ROAD

50m



BARN AT STANG TOP  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 835413):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 2:  
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:500

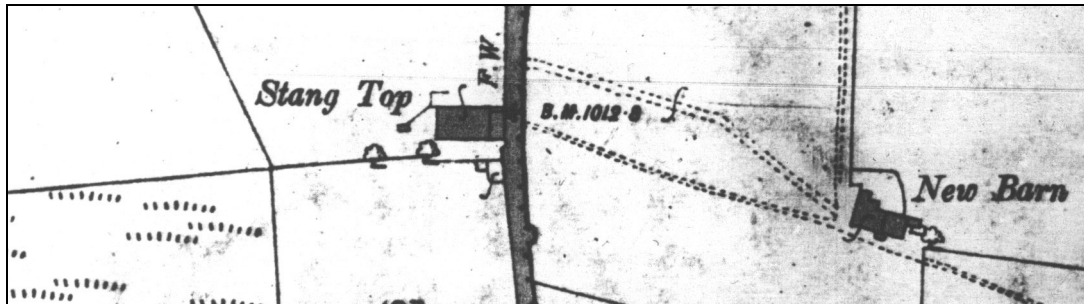
DATE OF SURVEY: SEPTEMBER 2006

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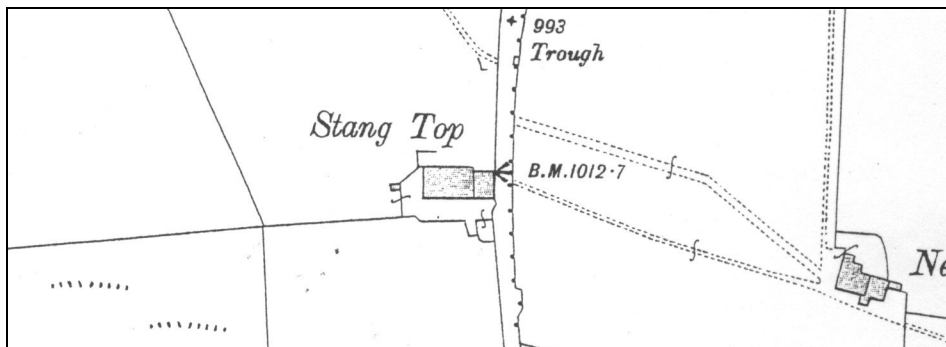




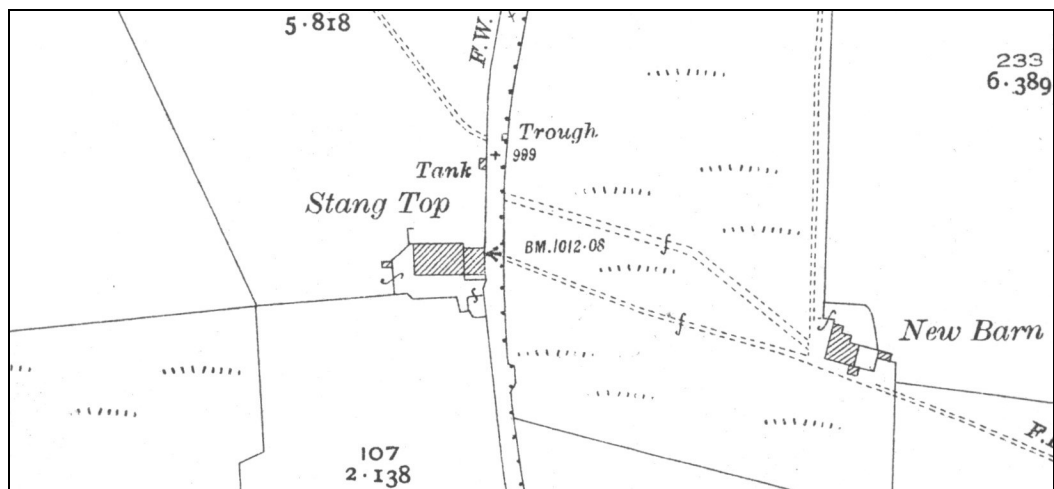
**Figure 3:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1848 6" to mile map (surveyed 1844)  
Sheet no: Lancashire, 48



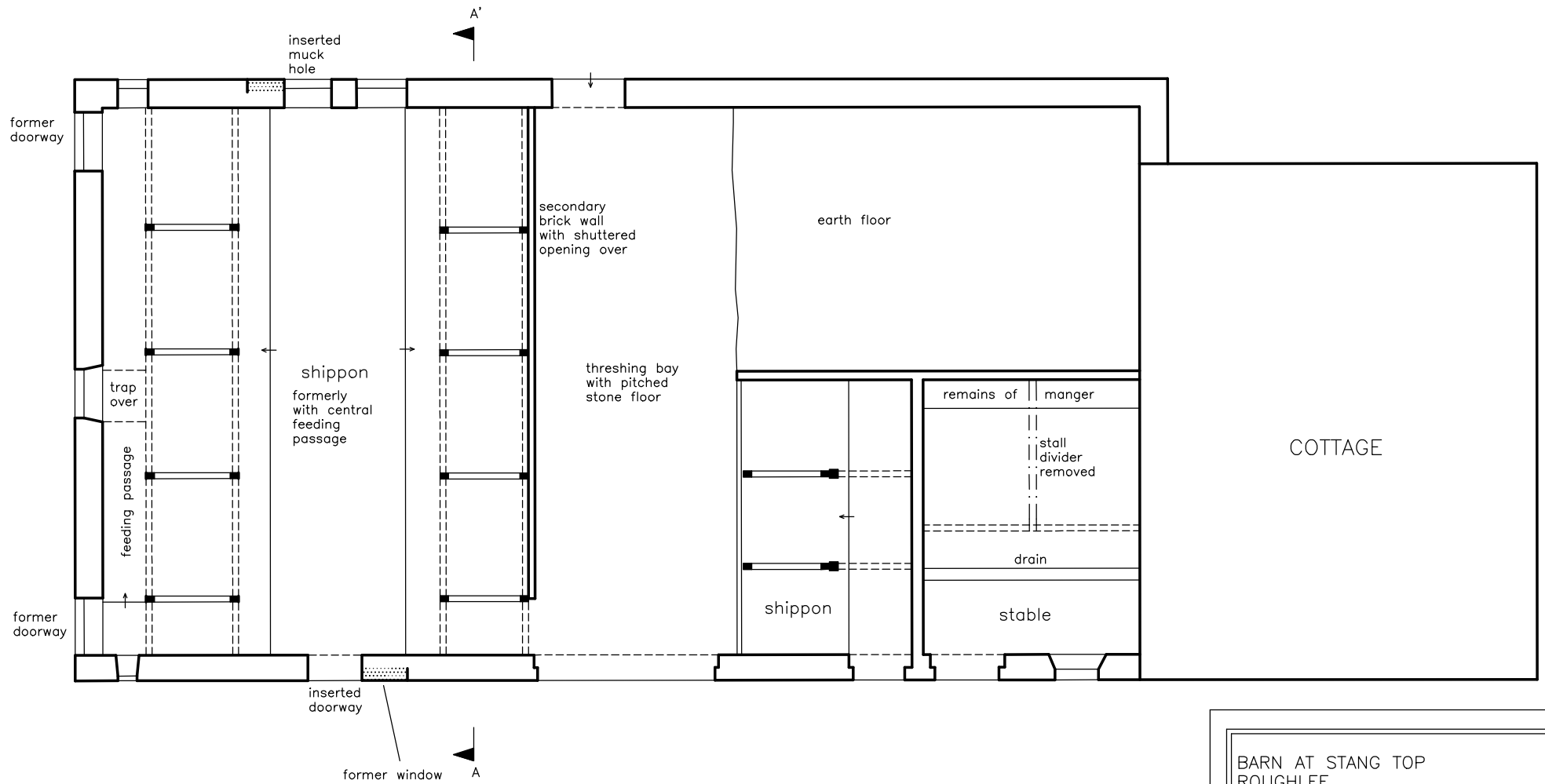
**Figure 4:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1893 1:2500 map (re-surveyed 1892)  
Sheet no: Lancashire, 48.14



**Figure 5:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1912 1:2500 map (revised 1910)  
Sheet no: Lancashire, 48.14

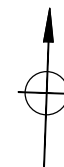


**Figure 6:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1932 1:2500 map (revised 1930)  
Sheet no: Lancashire, 48.14



 blocking or infill

10m



BARN AT STANG TOP  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 835413):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 7:  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: SEPTEMBER 2006

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A'

blocked  
forking  
door

roof truss

hay loft

roof truss

roof truss

roof truss

hay loft

COTTAGE

A

 blocking or infill

10m



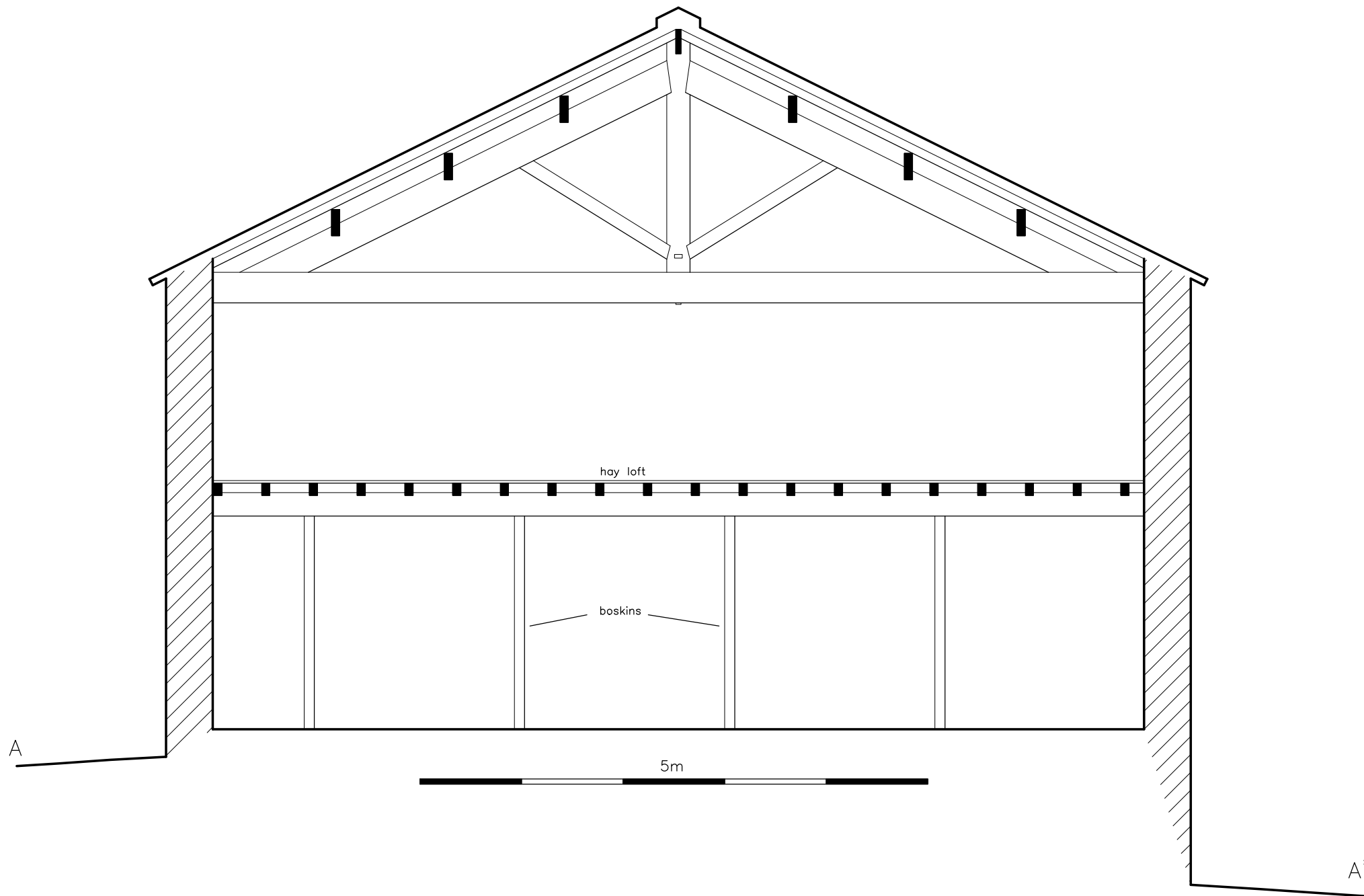
BARN AT STANG TOP  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 835413):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 8:  
UPPER FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100

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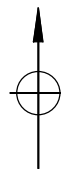
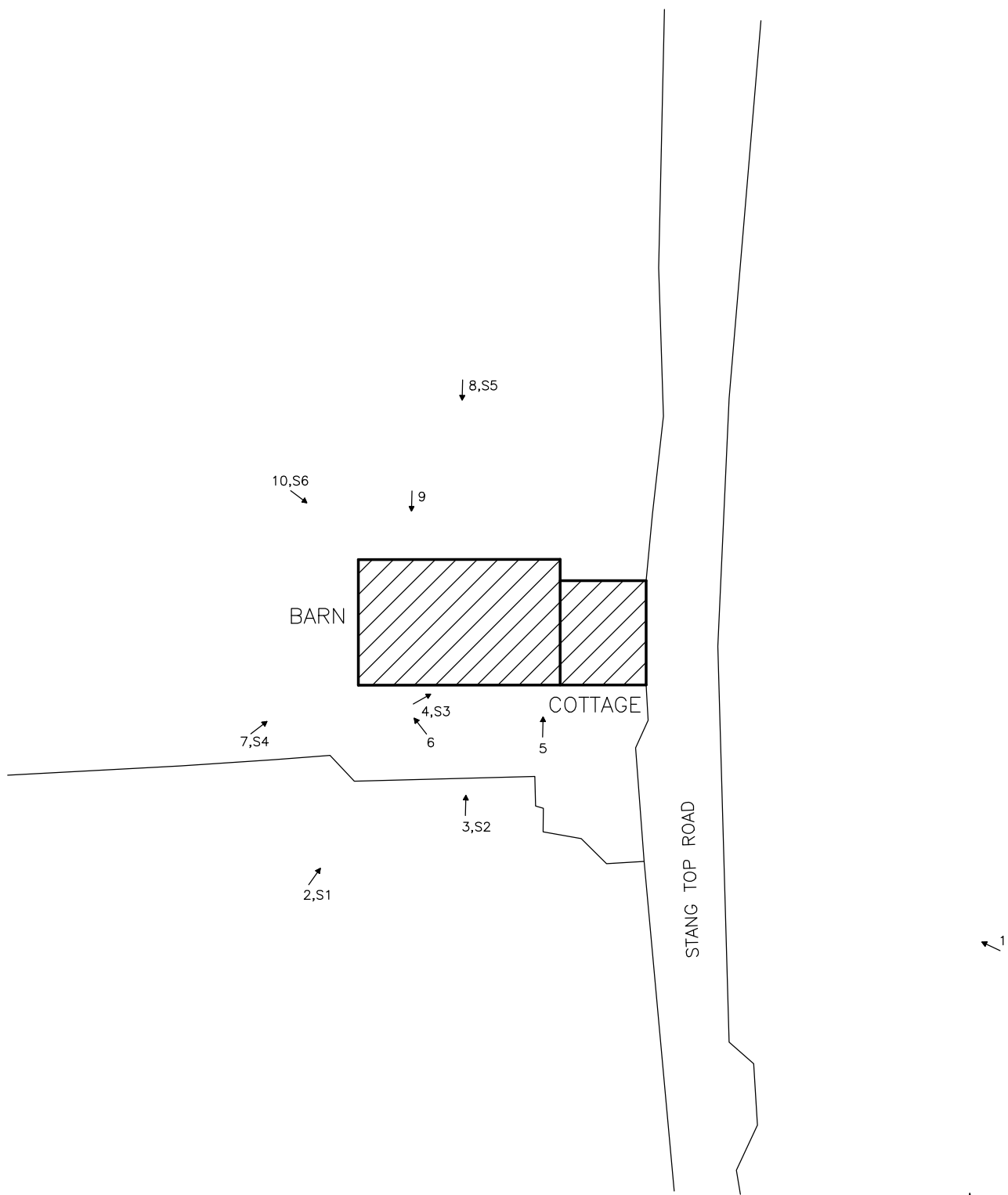
BARN AT STANG TOP  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 835413):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 9:  
CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1:50

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→ 1: photograph direction and number (black & white)  
 S1: colour slide

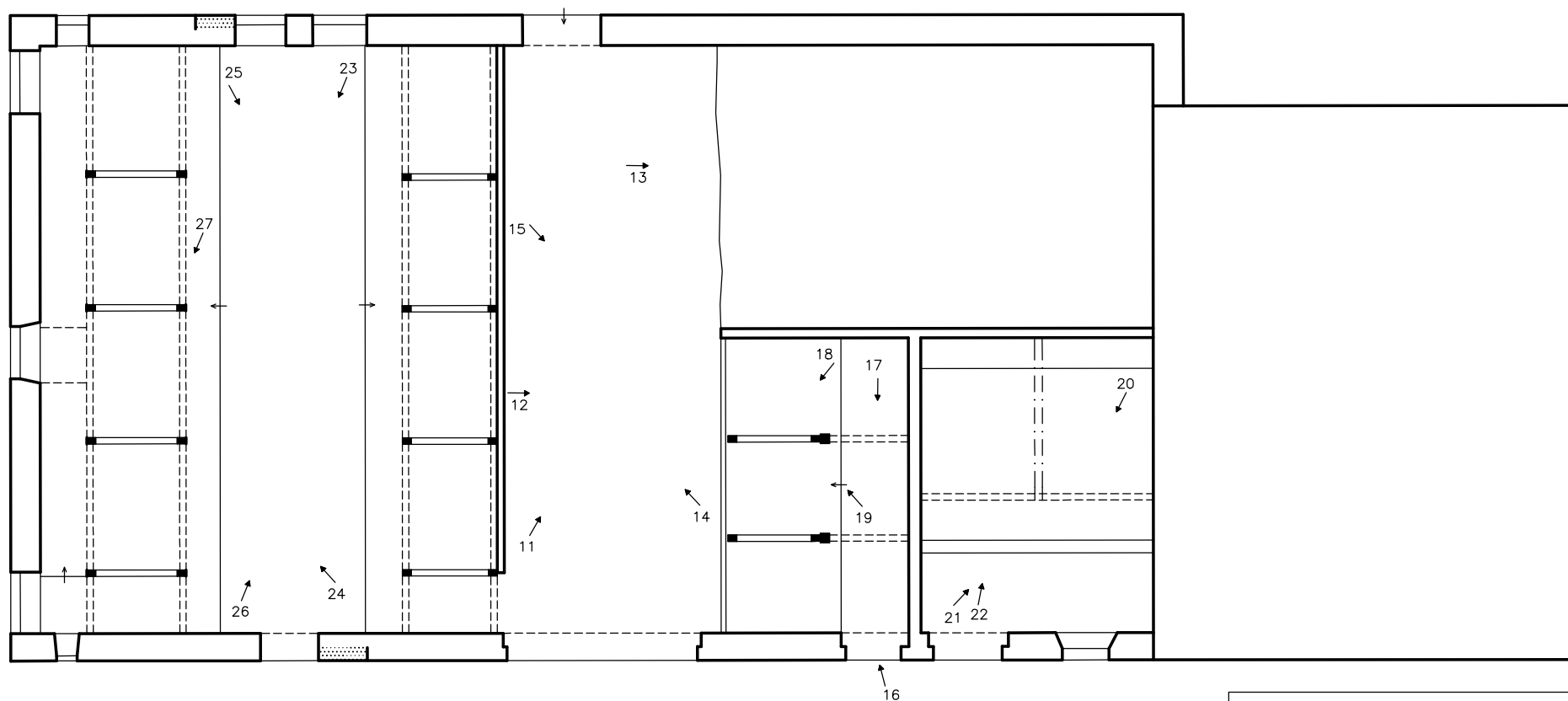
BARN AT STANG TOP  
 ROUGHLEE  
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 835413):  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 10:  
 SITE PLAN  
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:500

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BARN AT STANG TOP  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 835413):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 11:  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

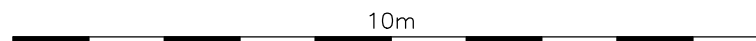
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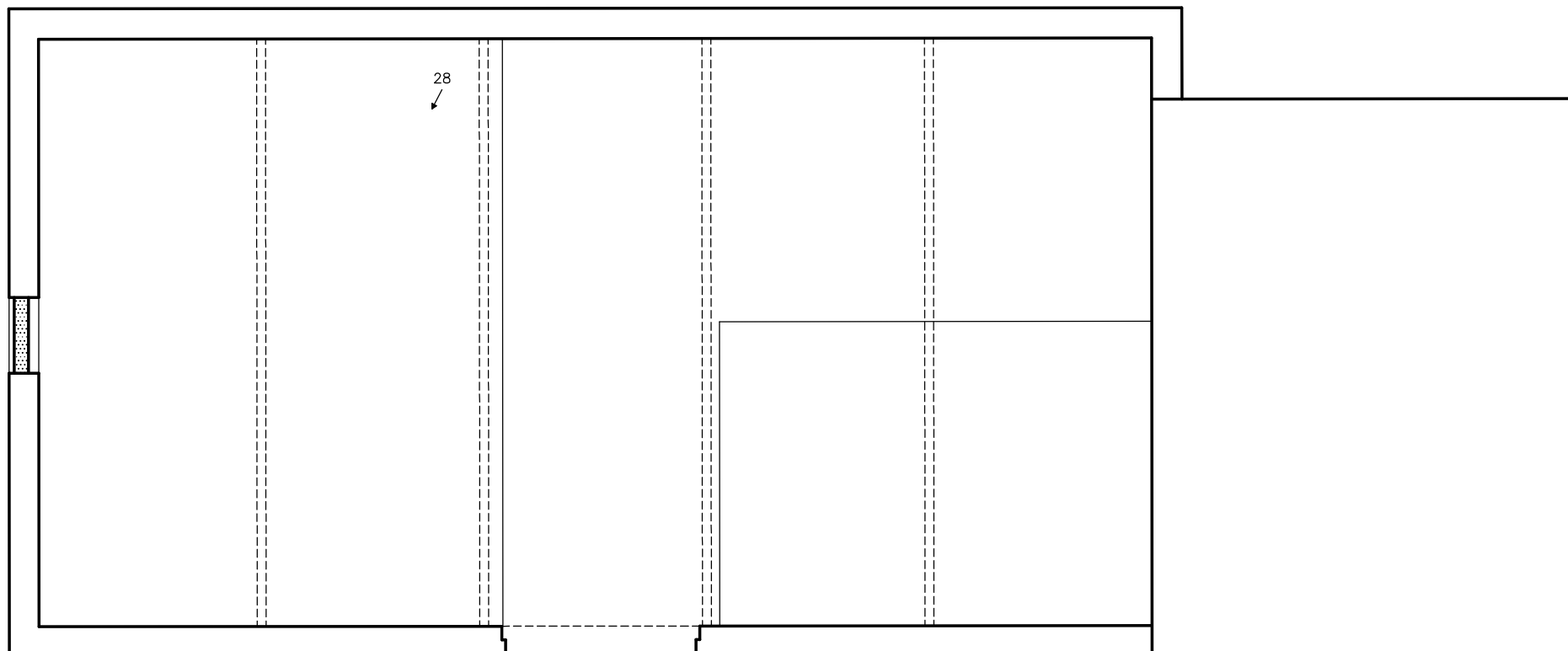
DATE OF SURVEY: SEPTEMBER 2006

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→ 1: photograph direction and number (black & white)  
S1: colour slide





BARN AT STANG TOP  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 835413):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 12:  
UPPER FLOOR PLAN  
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: SEPTEMBER 2006

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→ 1: photograph direction and number (black & white)  
S1: colour slide

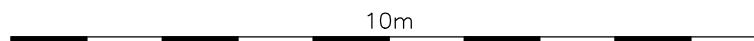




Photo 1: General view of Stang Top, from the south-west



Photo 2: The barn and cottage, from the south-west





Photo 3: Front elevation of the barn, from the south

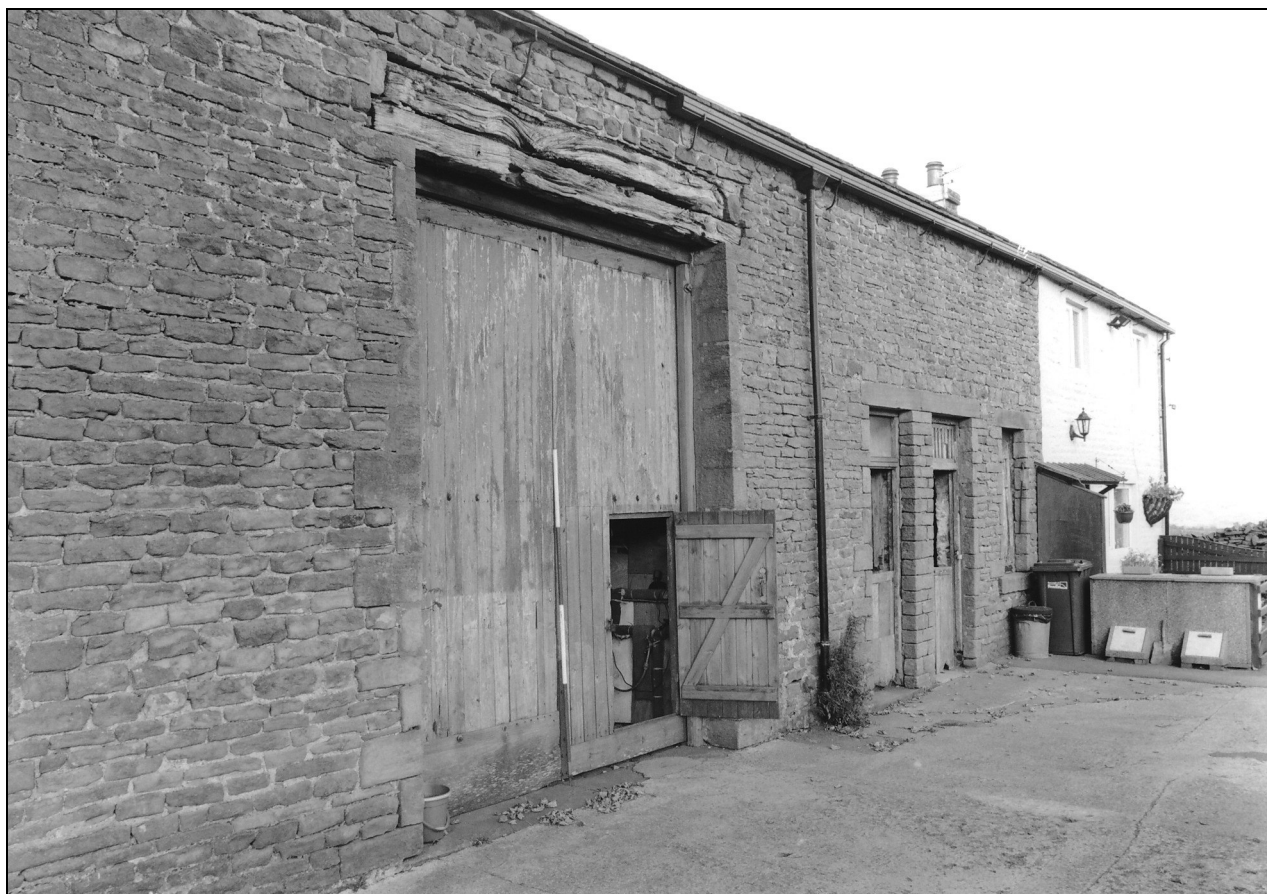


Photo 4: Front elevation of the barn and cottage, from the south-west



Photo 5: Doorways and window to small shippon and stable, in front elevation



Photo 6: Inserted doorway to shippon in south elevation of barn



Photo 7: The barn, from the south-west





Photo 8: Rear elevation of the barn and cottage, from the north



Photo 10: Rear elevation of the barn, from the north-west



Photo 13: Interior of barn: north half, from the west



Photo 14: Secondary brick wall with hinged shutters, on west side of threshing bay, from the south-east



Photo 15: View of stable and small shippon, from above



Photo 18: Detail of stall in small shippon, from the north-east





Photo 22: Interior of stable, from the south-west



Photo 23: Interior of main shippon, from the north-east



Photo 26: Interior of main shippon, from the south



Photo 28: Roof truss in barn, from the north-east