

Barn at Lower Croft House  
Jinny Lane, Roughlee, Lancashire:  
Archaeological Building Recording



February 2006

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### Photographs

## SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out in January 2006 at a barn at Lower Croft House near Roughlee (NGR: SD 83233983), for Mr & Mrs James, before the conversion of the building to residential use. The barn is a very small stone-built two bay structure, probably of the eighteenth century, and extended on two sides by a brick-built shippon in the early twentieth century. The records made include floor plans, a section and photographs, as well as a written account.

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## **BARN AT LOWER CROFT HOUSE, JINNY LANE, ROUGHLEE, LANCASHIRE:**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

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

| <b>Photo</b> | <b>Subject</b> |
|--------------|----------------|
|--------------|----------------|

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | View of the farm from the south-east                                  |
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| 26 | Detail of stall divider in added shippon, from the west               |

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

# **BARN AT LOWER CROFT HOUSE, JINNY LANE, ROUGHLEE, LANCASHIRE:**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a barn at Lower Croft House near Roughlee, Lancashire, carried out in January 2006. The work was commissioned by the owners, Mr and Mrs James, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Pendle Borough Council, for the conversion of the barn to residential use.
- 1.2 The barn is small and adjoins the farmhouse. It is stone-built and probably dates to the eighteenth century, but was extended on two sides by a brick-built shippon in the early twentieth century. Records made include floor plans, a section drawing and photographs, as well as a written account.
- 1.3 The recording was carried out in accordance with a method statement agreed with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. This report will be deposited with the client, the planning authority, the County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record. The project archive will be deposited at the Lancashire Record Office.

### **2 Location and current use**

- 2.1 Lower Croft House or Lower Croft House Farm is an outlying farmstead in an upland area of dispersed settlement, lying between the town of Nelson and Pendle Hill (Figure 1). It falls within the civil parish of Roughlee Booth, but stands approximately mid-way between the villages of Roughlee, Newchurch and Barley, at NGR SD 83233983 and at an altitude of 210m. It is reached from Jinny Lane by a rough track (Figure 2).
- 2.2 There are a number of buildings at the farmstead, the core of which consists of a linear range, containing the farmhouse with adjoining cottage at the north-east end and the barn at the south-west end. To the west and north of these is a varied collection of farm buildings of various sizes and dates, although none are believed to pre-date 1910.
- 2.3 The barn is presently used as stabling and for housing chickens.

### **3 Planning background**

- 3.1 None of the buildings at the site are listed as being of special architectural or historic interest, and planning permission was granted by Pendle Borough



Council on 21 October 2005 (application no: 13/05/0810P) for the extension of the farmhouse into the barn. One of the conditions attached to the consent requires that a detailed record of the building be made before development, and this report is intended to fulfil this condition.

## **4 Historical background and architectural interest**

- 4.1 The history of Lower Croft House is not known, but architectural features suggest that the house and barn date from the early or mid eighteenth century. The first edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile map, published in 1848 (Figure 3), shows the site named as "Lower Croft", with a linear building corresponding to the present house and barn range, although the small scale of the map means the precise extent of the building cannot be ascertained.
- 4.2 The OS 1:2500 map of 1893 (Figure 4) shows the farm in more detail: here the barn occupies the south-west end of the main range, and in 1912 the situation is unchanged (Figure 5). However the 1931 edition shows the building enlarged, as well as a number of new buildings to the west and north, the depiction of which suggests that some of them are pig sties.
- 4.3 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 to housing, and records of them can help provide an understanding of this diminishing and irreplaceable stock.

## **5 Recording methodology**

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording was undertaken on 19 January 2006, in accordance with a method statement agreed with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. It involved the production of ground and first floor plans of the building and a section drawing, showing all significant archaeological detail, and employing conventions based on those specified by RCHME (1996)<sup>1</sup>. The floor plans are based on a survey by ADM Design, and have been checked for general accuracy, with extra detail added.
- 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

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<sup>1</sup> RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification*

printed to a size of 7" x 5", and are copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold.

## **6 Description of the barn and shippon**

- 6.1 The main farm range faces south-east **(1)** and has a collection of twentieth century buildings to the north-west, of various forms although none appear to be of particular interest **(2,3)**. The farmhouse is fronted with coursed squared sandstone, and has plain, square-faced window jambs and shaped stone gutter brackets at the eaves **(4)**. The barn appears to have been added to the house, although there is no straight joint other than that formed by the jamb of the former cart entrance; it is built from poorer quality rubble, and has plain stone gutter brackets **(5)**. The lack of a straight joint suggests that there was some rebuilding of masonry at the corner of the house when the barn was added. This is also the case at the left end of the barn, where some keying in of later masonry has taken place above the pair of doorways, on the addition of the otherwise brick-built shippon **(6)**. The roof to the front elevation is of stone slates for its full length however, indicating that it has been re-slatted.
- 6.2 The openings in the front elevation of the barn include the former cart entrance with shallow segmental arch of roughly tooled voussoirs, now largely infilled but incorporating a pair of windows **(7)**. To the left is an original pedestrian doorway with thin sandstone lintel, giving access into the barn, and a second doorway with concrete lintel within the later part of the building, which uses the barn's quoins as its jamb. This leads into a loose box in the corner of the building.
- 6.3 The south-west end of the building is all rendered brickwork apart from the stone quoins to the front elevation **(8)**. The left door leads into the rear shippon, and the central doorway flanked by windows into a small room, perhaps built as a dairy, but its walls completely lined with modern materials.
- 6.4 The rear of the shippon, which is L-shaped in plan, is also of rendered brickwork, with large windows and a doorway at the left end **(9,10)**. The guttering is carried on shaped bricks, and the roof to both barn and shippon is of blue slate, with a slight change in pitch between the two parts. Within the shippon, the rear elevation and south-west gable of the barn remain largely unaltered **(11)**; there is a rear doorway opposite the blocked cart entrance, and a smaller doorway at the corner, now blocked **(12)**, while a large first floor opening in the south-west gable of the barn is clearly an inserted or enlarged doorway **(13)**.
- 6.5 The interior of the barn is remarkably small, measuring only 6.6m by 4.9m, and forms a single room on two floors. It has been altered; originally it is likely to have contained a shippon or stable in the south-west side, with standings for

perhaps three or four cows or horses, facing north-east; there is very little original evidence for this however. The loft over now extends throughout this area but originally was probably confined to the south-west end, as it cuts across the cart entrance in the front elevation (14,15). The timber steps are associated with this later loft (16). Within the south-west end features suggestive of a shippon are confined to the lamp-hole in the wall and the opposing doorways to front and rear (17,18), but there are also some rather primitive harness pegs in the wall which suggest use as a stable. On the first floor level a blocked forking hole is not evident externally, indicating rebuilding in the front elevation, probably recent (19).

- 6.6 There is a single roof truss to the barn: it has a tie-beam of pitch pine but the other components are local hardwood, some of them re-used, probably from a cruck framed building. The principal rafters are halved and pegged at the apex with a modern ridge board; the purlins are mostly of oak and one has clear signs of previous usage (21,22). There are two slender raking struts, with a third added to the north-west side (23,24).
- 6.7 The interior of the shippon, built between 1910 and 1929, is laid out in characteristic fashion with a single row of stalls facing onto a feeding passage (25). The floor is of concrete with brick standings to the stalls, which accommodated thirteen animals in pairs, with a single stall at the south-west end. Only two of the stall divisions remain in place, and these are of softwood construction (26,27). The shippon roof is of lean-to design with a planked underside. It extends over the additional bay created beyond the south-west gable of the barn, where there is a small loft (28).

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1 The barn is an unusually small example of its type and suggests only limited farming took place at Lower Croft, thereby suggesting the occupants of the house also made their living by other means, and the most likely source of income is textile production, probably hand-loom weaving. The district contained a number of early mills, including the nearby Thorneyholme Mill to the north-east (Figure 3), perhaps a spinning mill which provided the raw materials for domestic cloth production. As well as being of small size, the original barn is very plainly built and has no embellishment, also suggesting that farming here was a low-key affair at least until the early twentieth century when the shippon was added, which allowed a much larger number of cows to be kept at the farm, probably for dairy production.

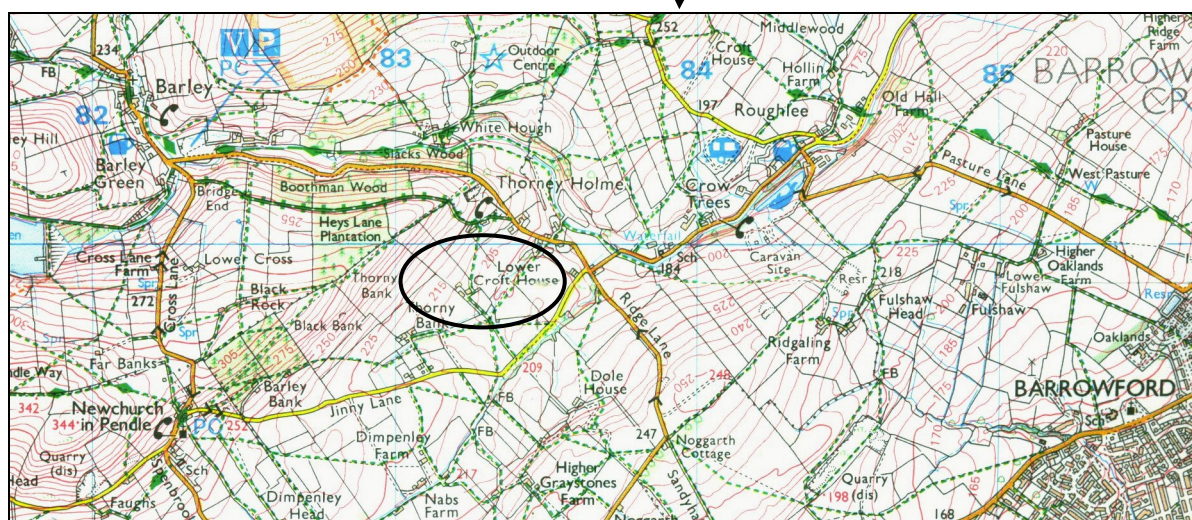
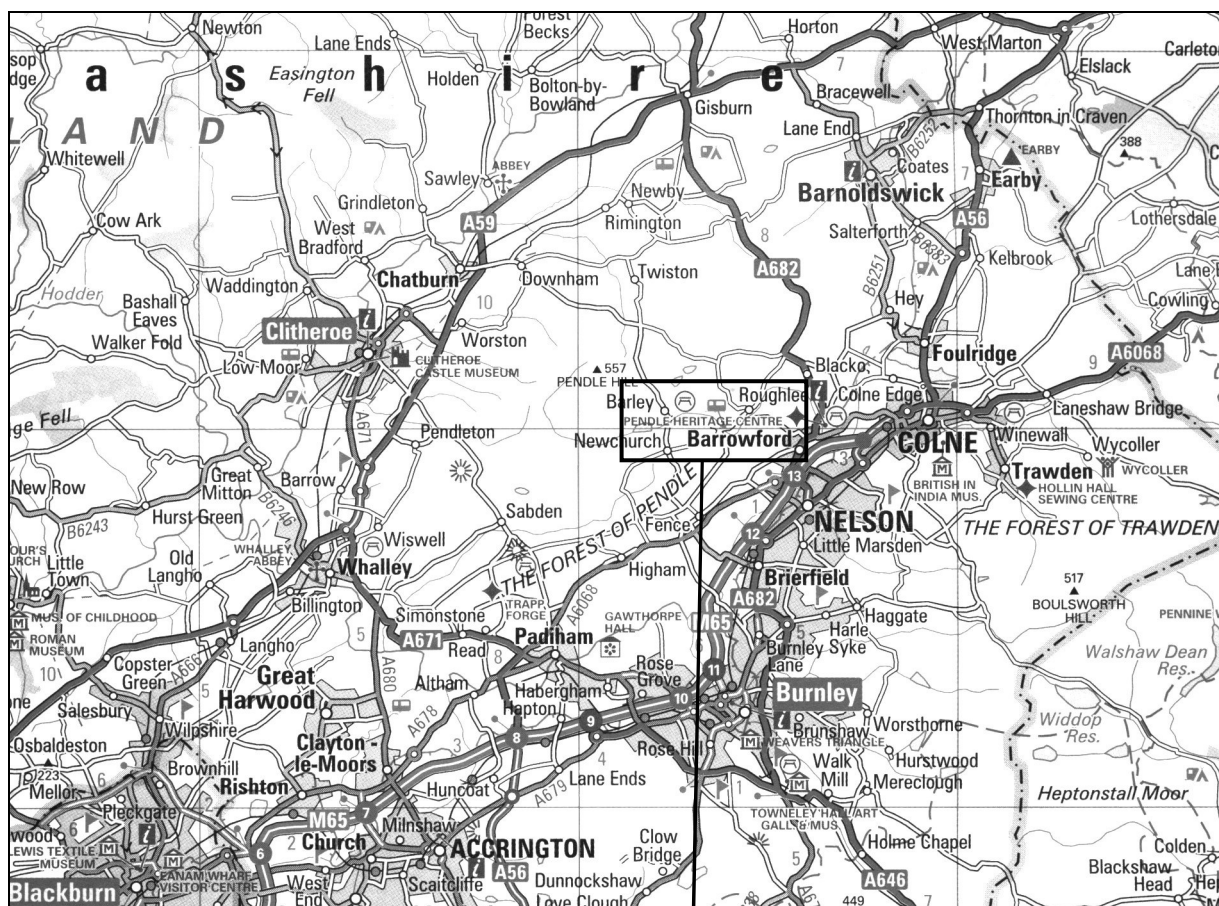
## Appendix 1: Contents of the project archive

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
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

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

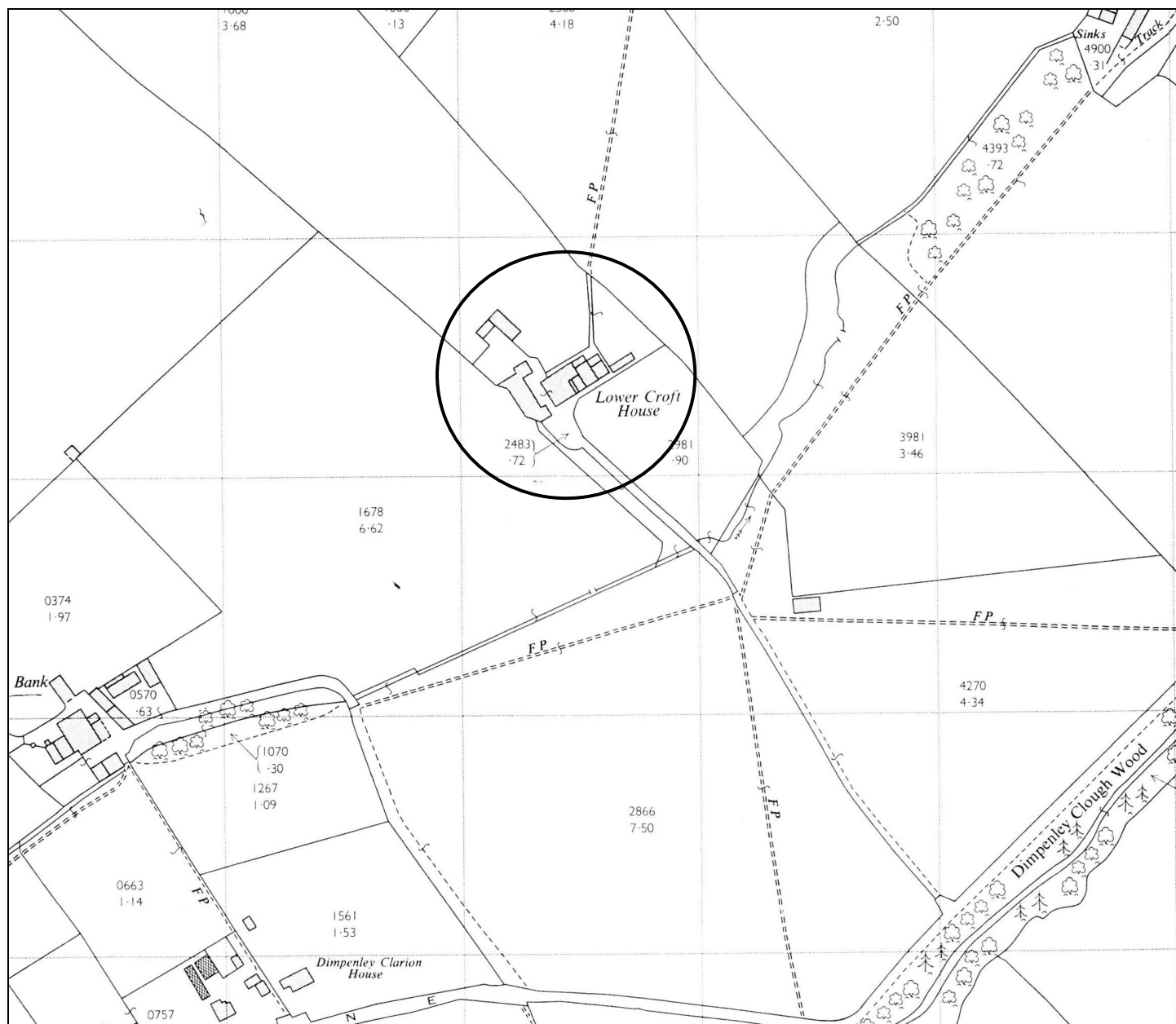
| Photo | Subject   | Film | Frame |
|-------|---|------|-------|
| 5     | Front elevation of the barn, from the south-east  | 1    | 1     |
| 7     | Blocked doorway to barn in front elevation, from the south-east                         | 1    | 2     |
| 1     | View of the farm from the south-east  | 1    | 4     |
| 4     | Front elevation of house and barn, from the east  | 1    | 5     |
| 3     | Modern buildings to rear of farmhouse range, from the east                              | 1    | 6     |
| 11    | Interior of added shippon, from the north-east  | 1    | 7     |
| 25    | Interior of added shippon, from the south-west  | 1    | 8     |
| 27    | Detail of brick floor to cattle standings in added shippon, from the east               | 1    | 10    |
| 12    | Detail of blocked doorway in rear elevation of barn, from the north                     | 1    | 11    |
| 26    | Detail of stall divider in added shippon, from the west                                 | 1    | 12    |
| 28    | View up to loft in added shippon, to west of barn                                       | 1    | 13    |
| 14    | Ground floor of barn, from the west   | 1    | 14    |
| 17    | Ground floor of barn, from the north  | 1    | 15    |
|       | Same as 1/18  | 1    | 17    |
| 18    | Ground floor of barn, from the east, showing former stable or shippon with harness pegs | 1    | 18    |
| 16    | Rear doorway from barn to added shippon, from the south-east                            | 2    | 1     |
| 15    | Top of blocked doorway in front of barn, from the north                                 | 2    | 2     |
| 19    | Hay loft in barn, from the north  | 2    | 3     |
| 20    | Hay loft in barn, from the east   | 2    | 5     |
| 21    | Roof truss in barn, from the south-west   | 2    | 6     |
| 22    | Roof truss in barn, from the south-west   | 2    | 7     |
| 24    | Detail of purlin and north end of roof truss in barn, from the east                     | 2    | 8     |
| 13    | Hay loft in added shippon to west of barn, from the north                               | 2    | 10    |
| 23    | Centre of roof truss in barn, from the north-east                                       | 2    | 11    |
|       | Unexposed   | 2    | 12    |
| 10    | Rear of barn and shippon, from the north-west   | 2    | 13    |
| 2     | View of the farm from the north   | 2    | 14    |
| 9     | Rear elevation of added shippon, from the west  | 2    | 15    |
| 8     | South-west elevation of added shippon, from the west                                    | 2    | 17    |
| 6     | The barn and added shippon, from the south  | 2    | 18    |



**Figure 1: Location maps**

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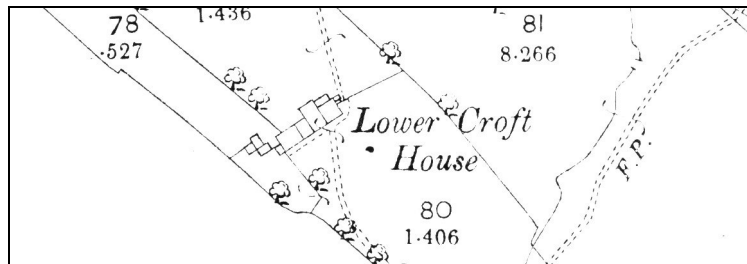


**Figure 2: Detailed location map**  
1:2500

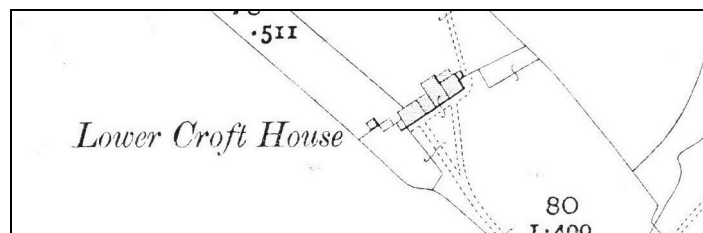
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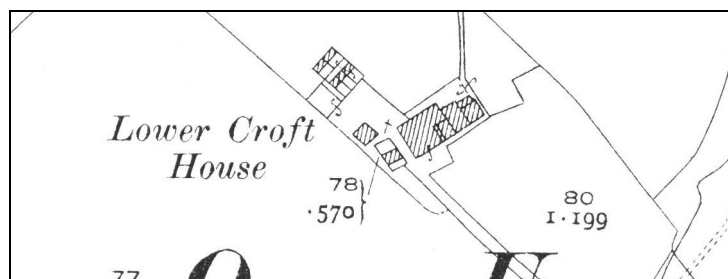
**Figure 3:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1848 6" to mile map (enlarged)  
 Surveyed 1844  
 Sheet no: Lancashire, 56



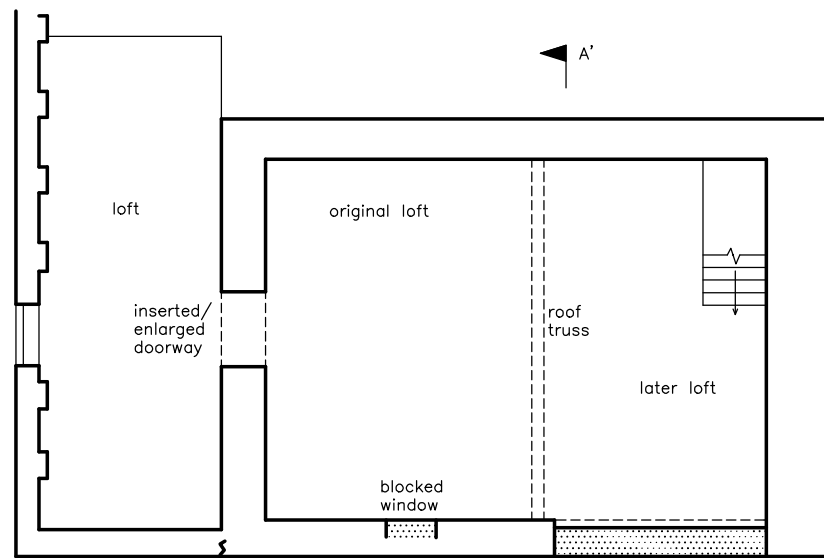
**Figure 4:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1893 1:2500 map  
 Surveyed 1891  
 Sheet no: Lancashire, 56.2



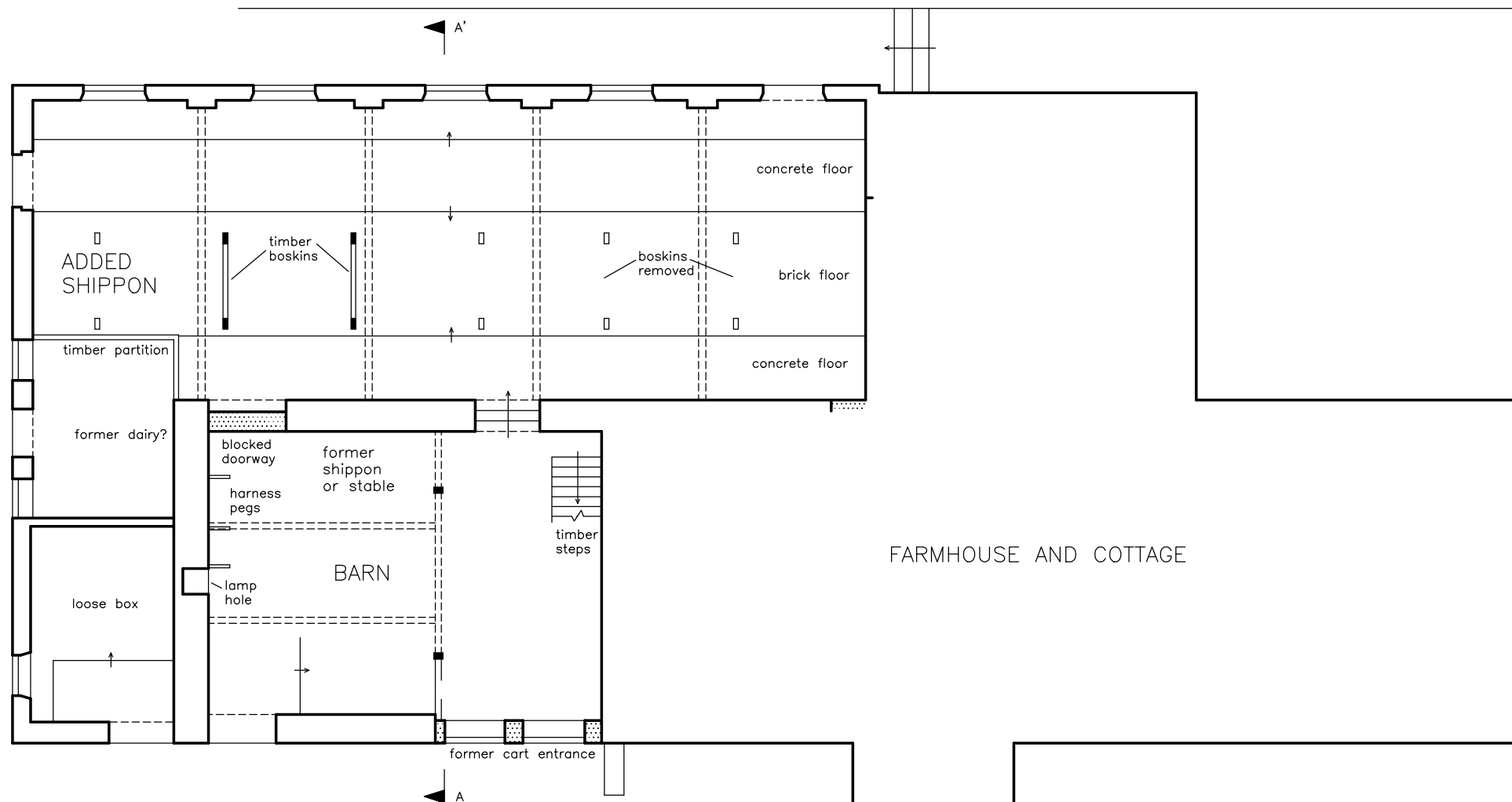
**Figure 5:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1912 1:2500 map  
 Revised 1910  
 Sheet no: Lancashire, 56.2



**Figure 6:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1931 1:2500 map  
 Revised 1929  
 Sheet no: Lancashire, 56.2



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

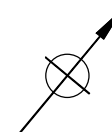


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

KEY

blocking or infill

10m



BASED ON ORIGINAL SURVEY BY ADM DESIGN

BARN AT LOWER CROFT HOUSE  
JINNY LANE  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

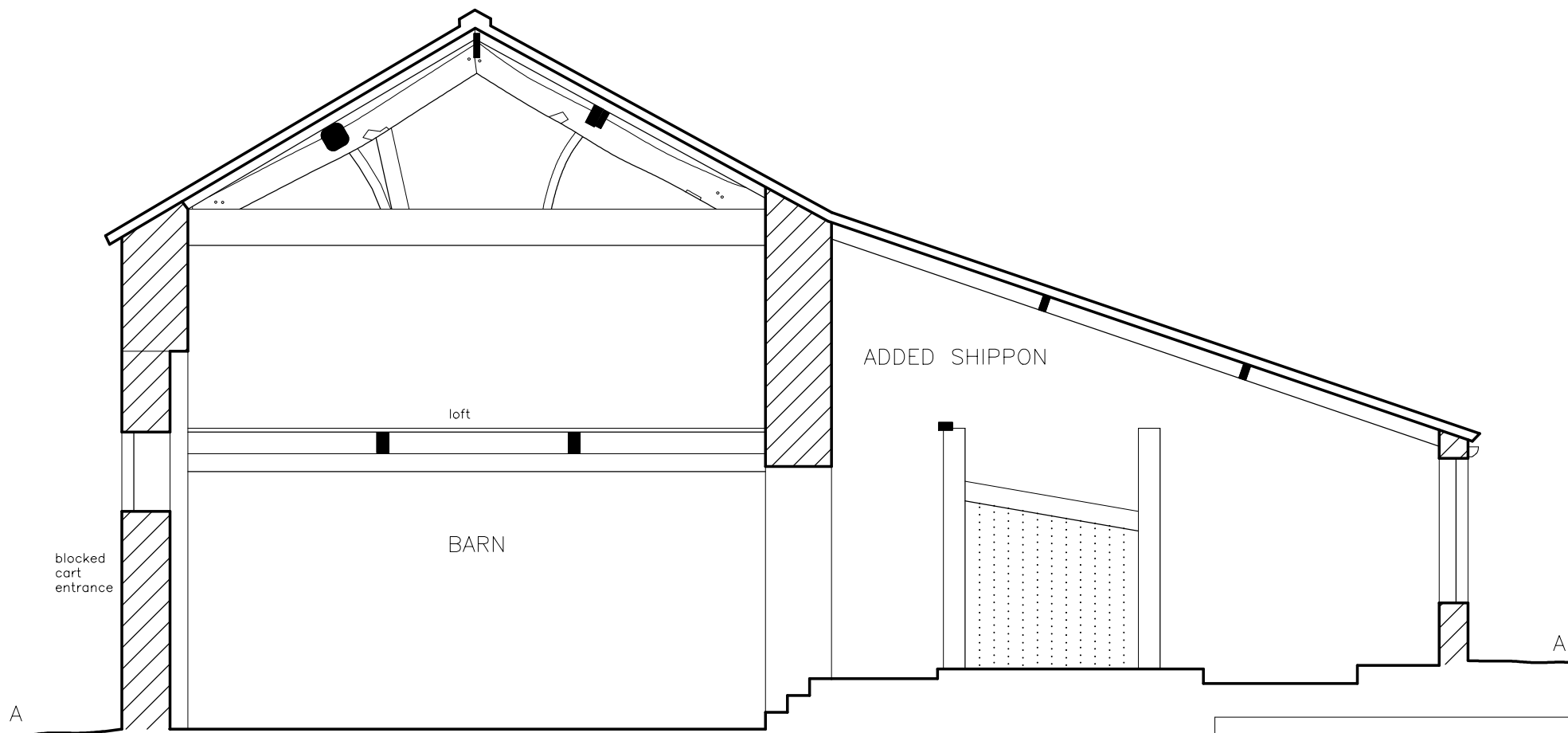
FIGURE 7:  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: JANUARY 2006

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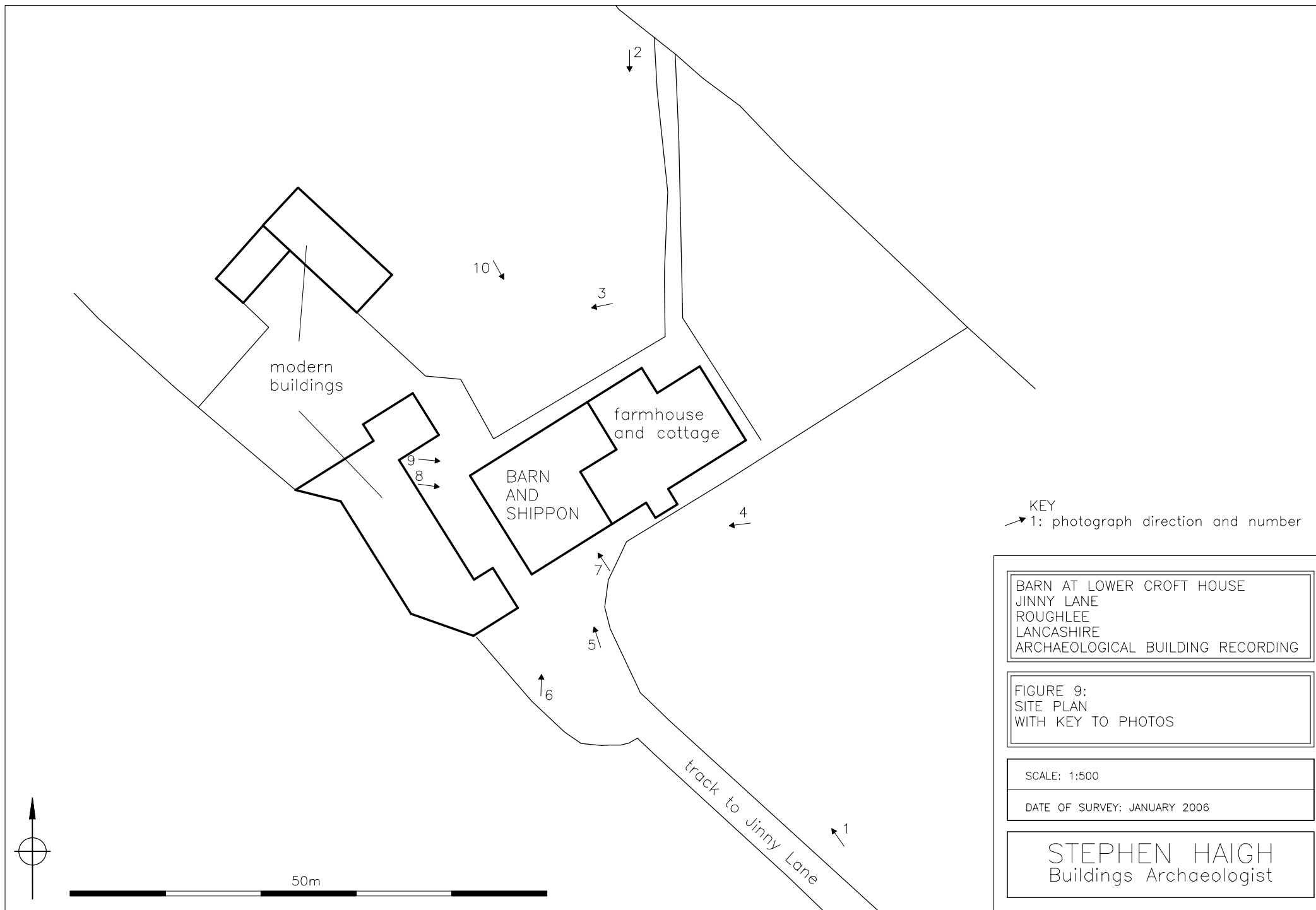
BARN AT LOWER CROFT HOUSE  
JINNY LANE  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

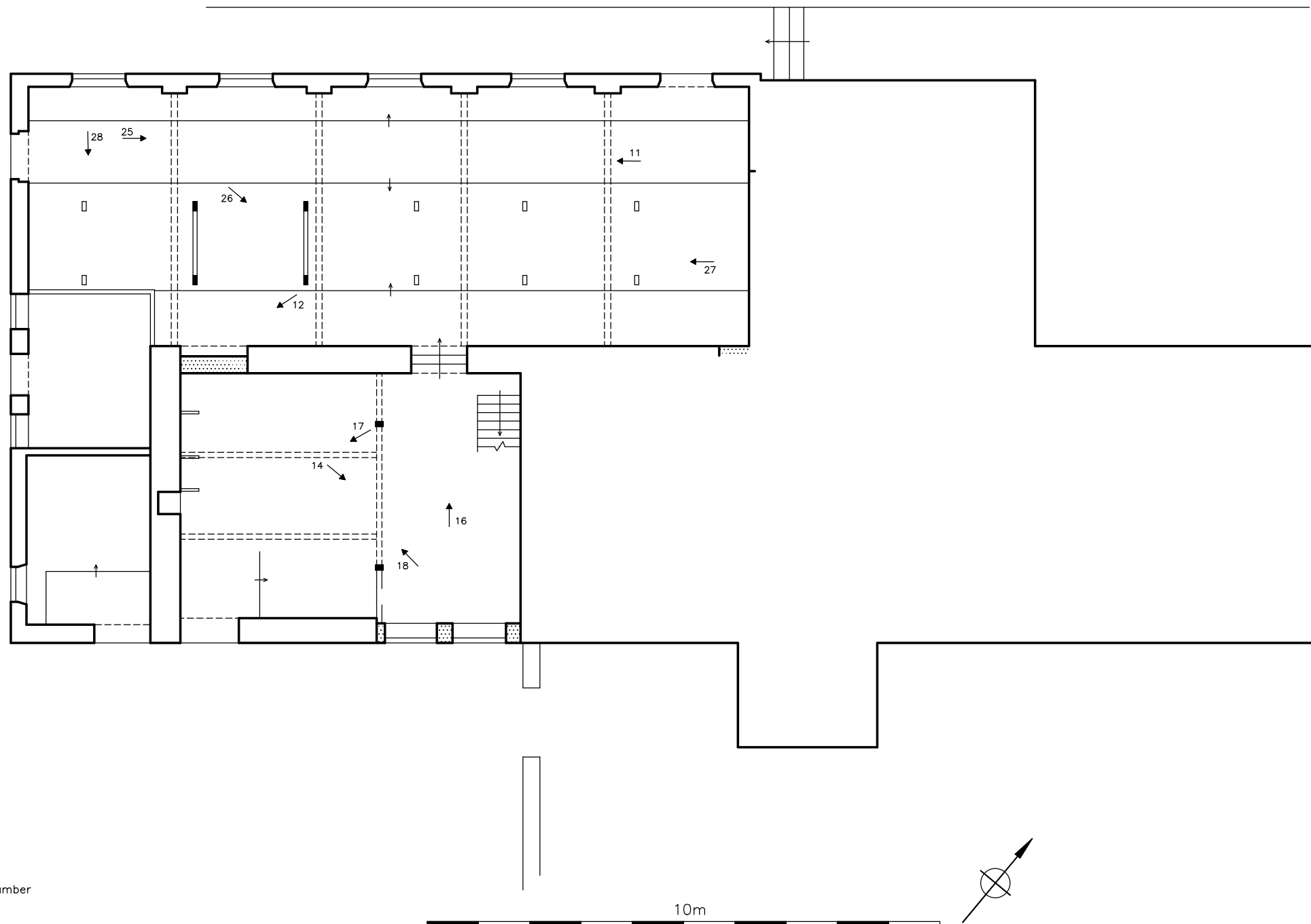
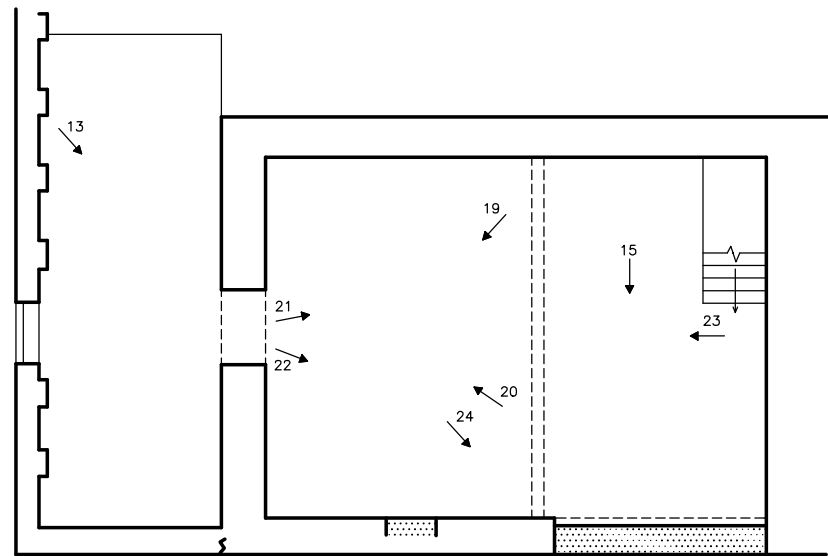
FIGURE 8:  
CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1:50


DATE OF SURVEY: JANUARY 2006


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KEY

 blocking or infill

 18 photograph number

BARN AT LOWER CROFT HOUSE  
JINNY LANE  
ROUGHLEE  
LANCASHIRE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 10:  
FLOOR PLANS  
WITH KEY TO PHOTOS

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: JANUARY 2006

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Photo 1: View of the farm from the south-east



Photo 2: View of the farm from the north

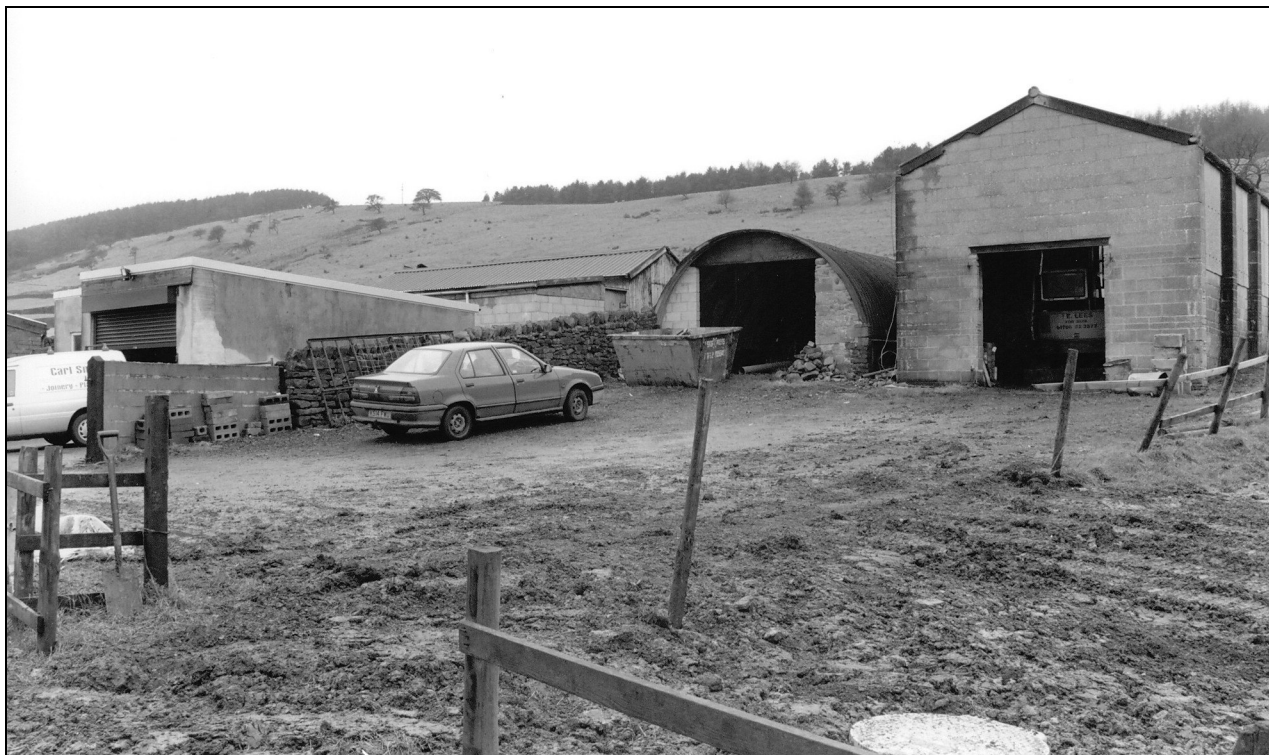


Photo 3: Modern buildings to rear of farmhouse range, from the east



Photo 4: Front elevation of house and barn, from the east



Photo 5: Front elevation of the barn, from the south-east



Photo 6: The barn and added shippon, from the south





Photo 7: Blocked doorway to barn in front elevation, from the south-east



Photo 8: South-west elevation of added shippon, from the west



Photo 9: Rear elevation of added shippon, from the west



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





Photo 11: Interior of added shippon, from the north-east

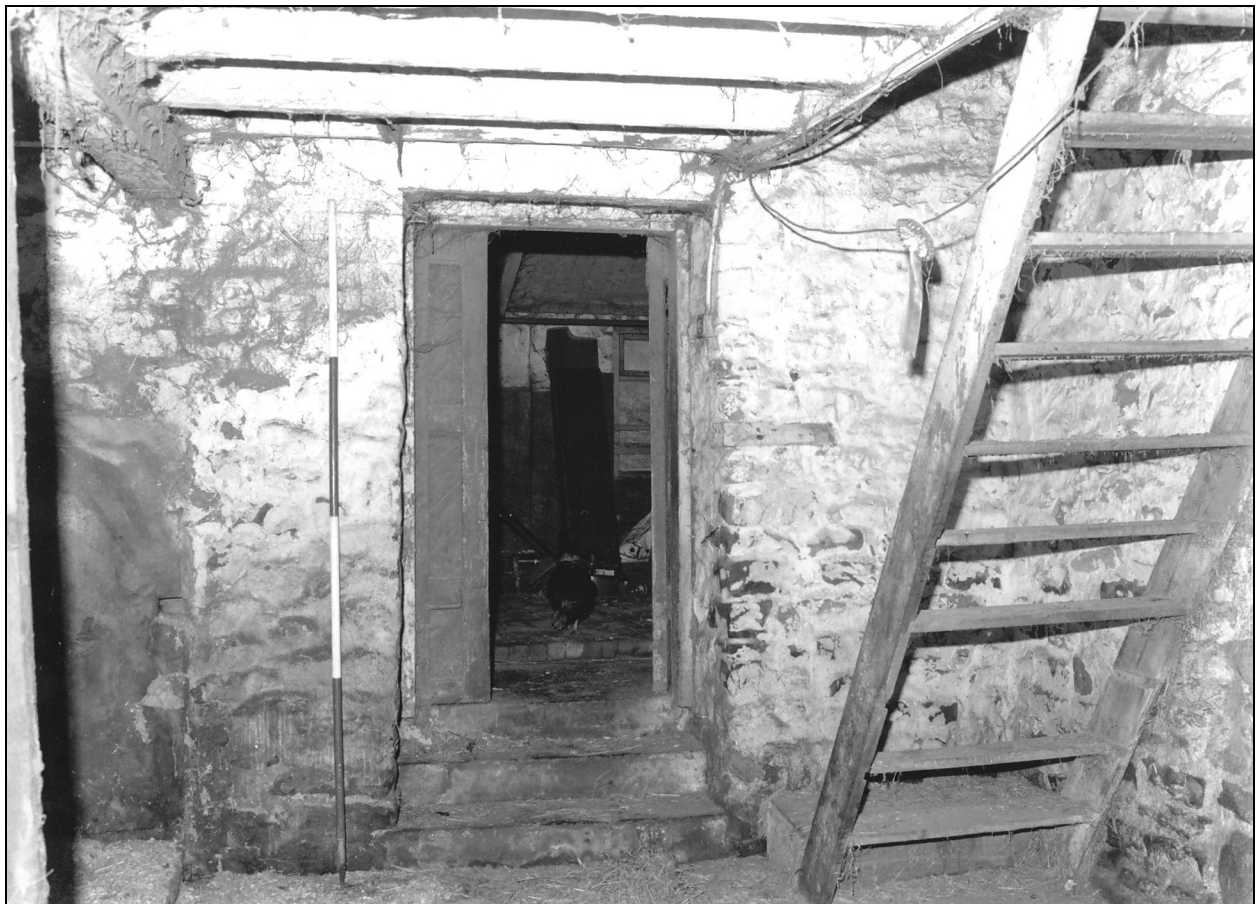


Photo 16: Rear doorway from barn to added shippon, from the south-east



Photo 17: Ground floor of barn, from the north

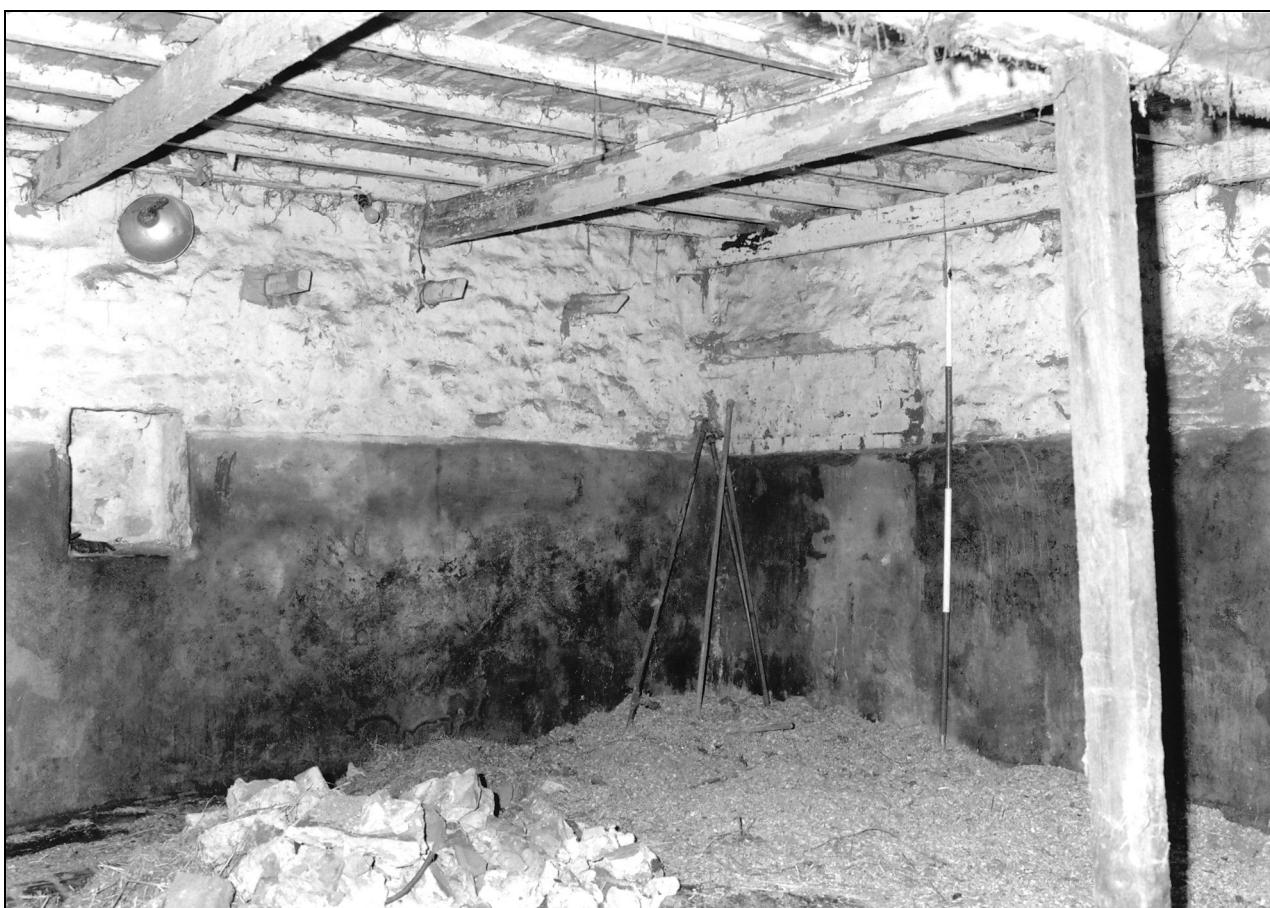


Photo 18: Ground floor of barn, from the east, showing former stable or shippon with harness pegs





Photo 19: Hay loft in barn, from the north



Photo 21: Roof truss in barn, from the south-west



Photo 23: Centre of roof truss in barn, from the north-east



Photo 24: Detail of purlin and north end of roof truss in barn, from the east





Photo 25: Interior of added shippon, from the south-west



Photo 26: Detail of stall divider in added shippon, from the west