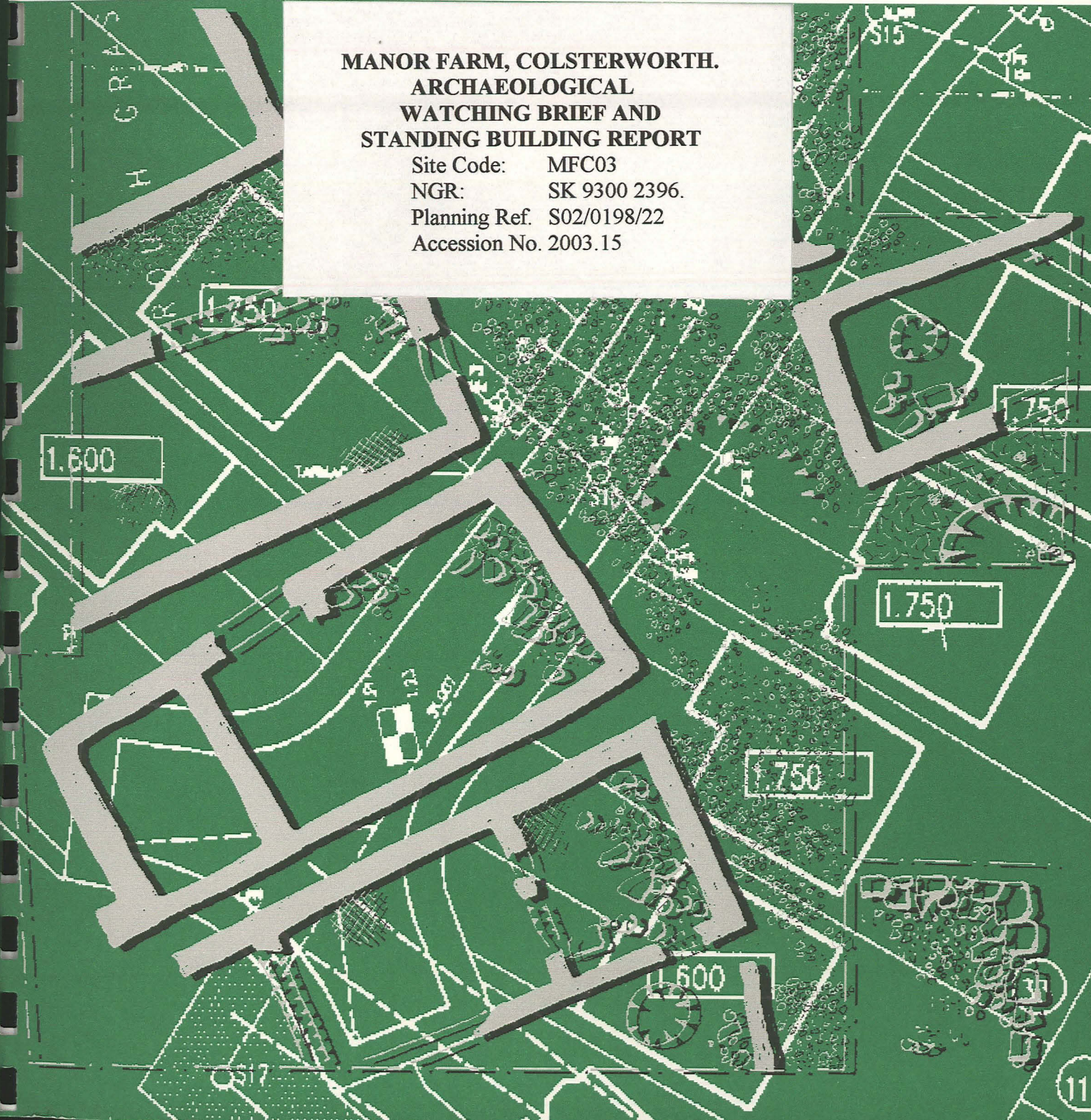


PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

MANOR FARM, COLSTERWORTH. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AND STANDING BUILDING REPORT

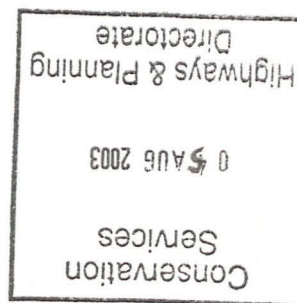
Site Code: MFC03
NGR: SK 9300 2396.
Planning Ref. S02/0198/22
Accession No. 2003.15



EVENTS LI 4318 LI4319

SOURCE LI 8883 LI 8884

PRN 36469 POST-MEDIEVAL - MODERN



**MANOR FARM, COLSTERWORTH.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF AND
STANDING BUILDING REPORT**

Site Code: MFC03
NGR: SK 9300 2396.
Planning Ref. S02/0198/22
Accession No. 2003.15

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August 2003

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Summary

- *Prior to demolition works that preceded the construction of five residential properties at Manor Farm, High Street, Colsterworth, a program of building recording took place, and an archaeological recording brief was then undertaken during preliminary construction works.*
- *The standing building record confirmed that the surveyed range represented the out-buildings associated with a mixed agriculture farm. Stylistically (and based on a date-stone on the farm building) the structures can be dated to the mid 19th century: comprising a two-storey barn, open sheds, and other ancillary structures.*
- *The watching brief did not expose any significant archaeological deposits, possibly because much of the site had been truncated during the construction of the 19th century barn.*

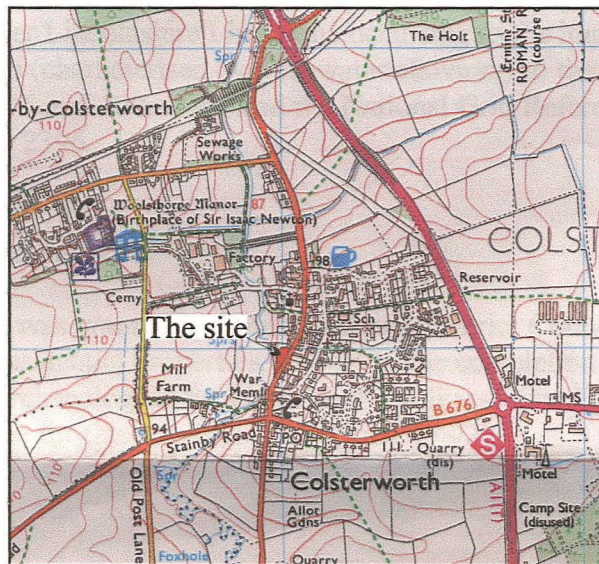


Fig. 1 : Map section showing site location in red. Scale 1:25,000

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1.0 Introduction and historical background

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Mansion Court Properties to undertake a standing building survey and an archaeological watching brief in advance of, and during, the construction of five residential properties at Manor Farm, High Street, Colsterworth. This was to fulfil the objectives of an agreed archaeological scheme of work, based on the recommendations of the Assistant Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council.

The broad approach complies with the recommendations of *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, Dept. of Environment (1990); *Management of Archaeological Projects*, EH (1991); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*, IFA (1999) and the LCC document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*, 1998.

2.0 Site location and description

Colsterworth is in the administrative district of South Kesteven, approximately 12km south of Grantham. The settlement lies over a solid geology of Upper Lincolnshire Limestone, with Lower Lincolnshire Limestone occurring to the immediate east, and the Witham floodplain (characterised by freshwater alluvium) to the west. The site elevation is between 96 and 100m OD, and the National Grid Reference for the centre of the site is SK 9300 2396.

3.0 Planning background

Full planning consent was granted by South Kesteven District Council for the construction of five residential properties, subject to the completion of a standing building survey and archaeological watching brief on all associated ground works. The planning reference for this development is S02/0198/22.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The earliest recorded settlement at Colsterworth is a 1.5 hectare 'D' shaped enclosure, within which lie a series of circular buildings (recorded by excavation). This form is typical of the later Iron Age, although pottery from the site dates to the 1st century AD (May, 1976). There is some evidence for Romano-British iron working in the area; comprising a box-shaped structure, which may represent a potter's attempt at iron smelting, (Whitwell, 1992).

The place name Colsterworth is translated as 'the charcoal burners' enclosure', (Cameron, 1998). At the time of the Domesday Book of 1086, land at Colsterworth was held by the Archbishop of York, and by a Thane of the Queen's. The listing in the Domesday Book, and the presence of Late Saxon architectural features in the parish church of St John the Baptist, indicate a late Saxon origin for the settlement: there are several finds from the village dating to the Saxon period, including two carved stones and two swords.

To the west of the development site lie a series of cropmarks. These have been interpreted as representing robbed-out buildings, a sunken way, and a possible fishpond. Previous research has suggested the presence of a priory in the area, although this has not been clarified.

Colsterworth straddles the 'Great North Road' and so continued to be a viable settlement through the medieval and post-medieval periods.

5.0 Methodology

The author undertook the standing building survey, and this involved photographing all building elevations, as well as preparing detailed written descriptions and measured sketches. It was impossible to take photographs of the interior of Room 2 due to the difficulty of focusing in poor lighting.

During the watching brief phase of investigation, all groundworks were monitored with a view to identifying archaeological features and deposits. A series of scale drawings of section and plan surfaces were prepared, and deposits were described on pro-forma context recording sheets. A photographic record was maintained throughout this phase of the construction process.

The archaeological programme took place over five days: the building survey on the 16th and 17th of January 2003, and the watching brief on the 30th June and 3-4th July 2003.

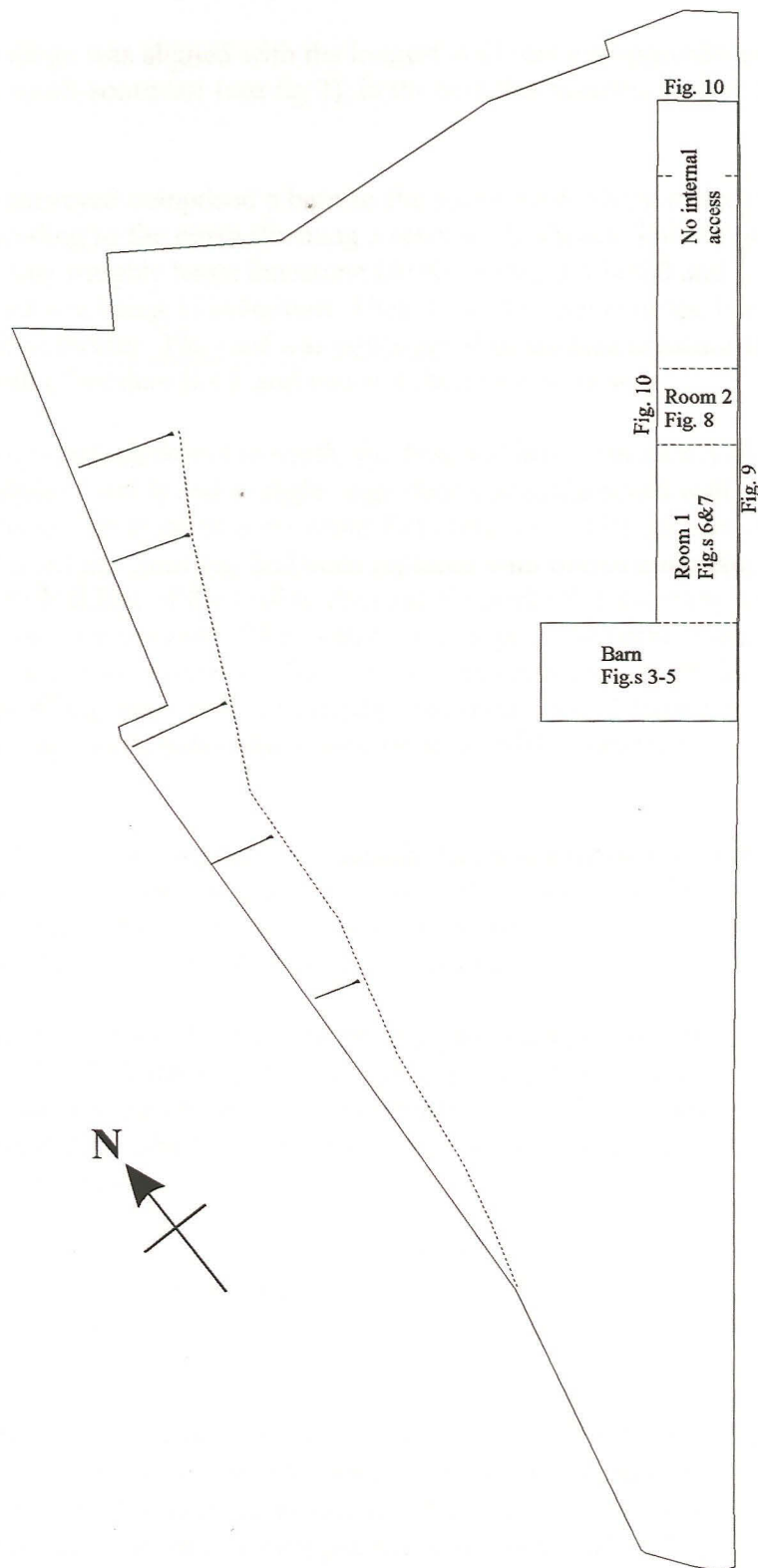


Fig. 2 : Plan showing buildings recorded during survey, 1:500. For greater detail see figs. 3-10.

6.0 The standing building survey results

The building range was aligned with the longest wall running approximately north-northwest to south-southeast (see fig 2): in the text this assumes a north to south alignment.

The building surveyed comprised a barn to the south, with a long range of smaller buildings extending to the north (forming a reversed L-shape). This range was of one build, comprising roughly hewn limestone blocks between 60x180 and 140x410mm, with the typical size being 110x260mm. They were in rough courses, bonded with light yellow lime mortar. The roof was constructed of modern pressure-treated timber on a dwarf wall of modern brick and was not therefore recorded.

The barn. Approaching from the south, the first building comprises a large two-storey rectangular barn. It had a single large doorway in the south wall, approached by an earth causeway, revetted by a dry stone limestone wall. The original (presumably timber) lintel from this doorway had been replaced with one of concrete, necessitating considerable re-building of the wall to the east. Opposite this doorway was a second smaller doorway; subsequently filled with breezeblocks. The timber lintel for this doorway survived. On its southern face was a carpenter's mark comprising two parallel 'V' profile gouges. It was flanked by two peg holes (23mm diameter), and still retaining pegs. This timber had clearly been re-used, probably from an earlier building.

This arrangement of opposing doors is usually characteristic of a threshing barn: once the harvested ears of grain had been threshed on the stone floor, the opposite doors were used to create a through-breeze, which removed the chaff, leaving the grain on the floor of the barn; a process known as winnowing.

In the west wall was a smaller door, situated approximately 1.3m above ground level. This was probably for loading and unloading wagons. It had a modern concrete doorstep and lintel; the scars of which completely surrounded the doorway, making it impossible to establish whether or not this was a completely new feature or one that replaced an original opening.

A door was present in the north-east corner of the barn, and this too had a concrete lintel with a scar from its insertion along the western side. This was a secondary opening, as a scar was observed along the eastern edge where the wall was knocked through.

Three cupboards were set into the walls of the barn; those on the north wall being defined by bricks with timber "lintels", one on the south constructed entirely with large flat limestones. The cupboards had been lined with cement at some time after being built. Four splay windows were present; two in each of the long walls. The form of these windows was designed to minimise heat loss through the un-glazed openings, while at the same time allowing light to enter the interior at the widest possible angle. The windows had timber lintels to the interior and limestone to the exterior (all but the south eastern had been blocked with modern concrete).

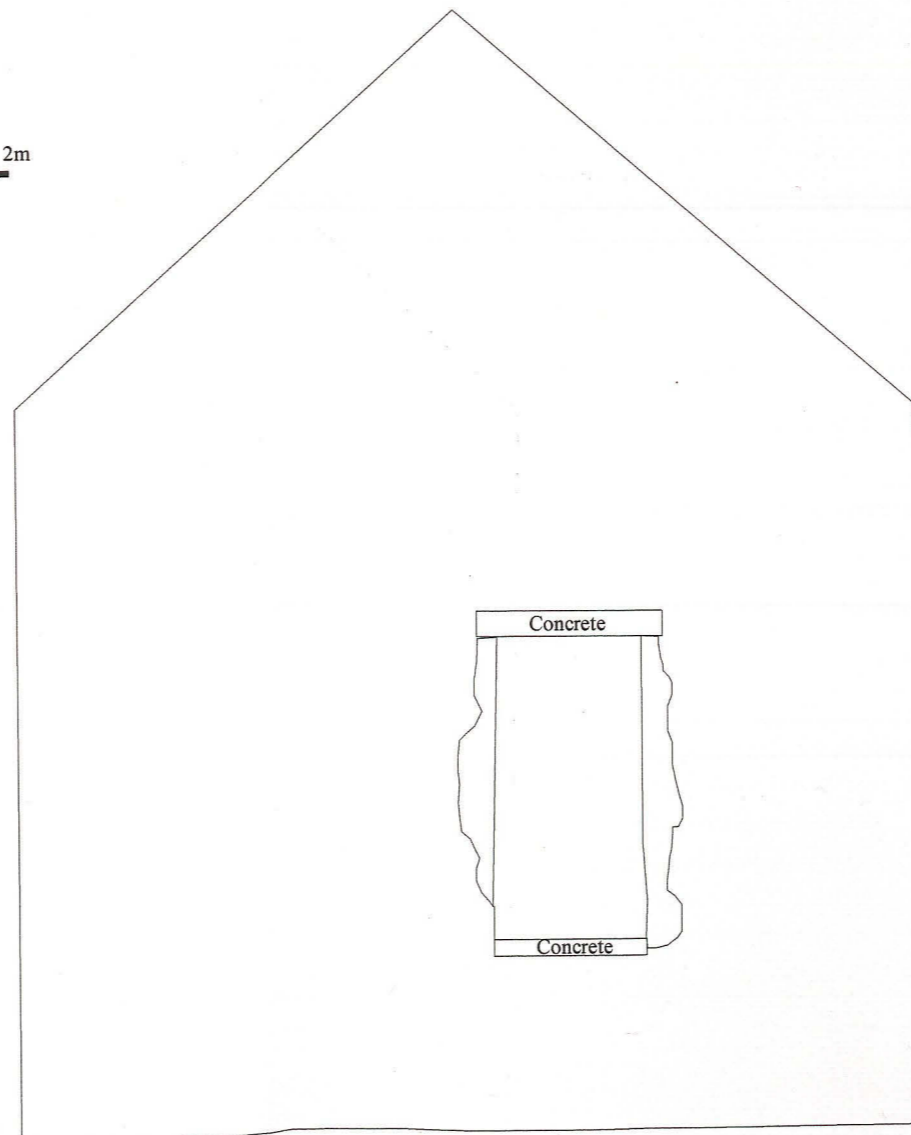
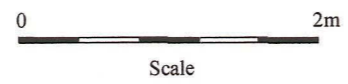
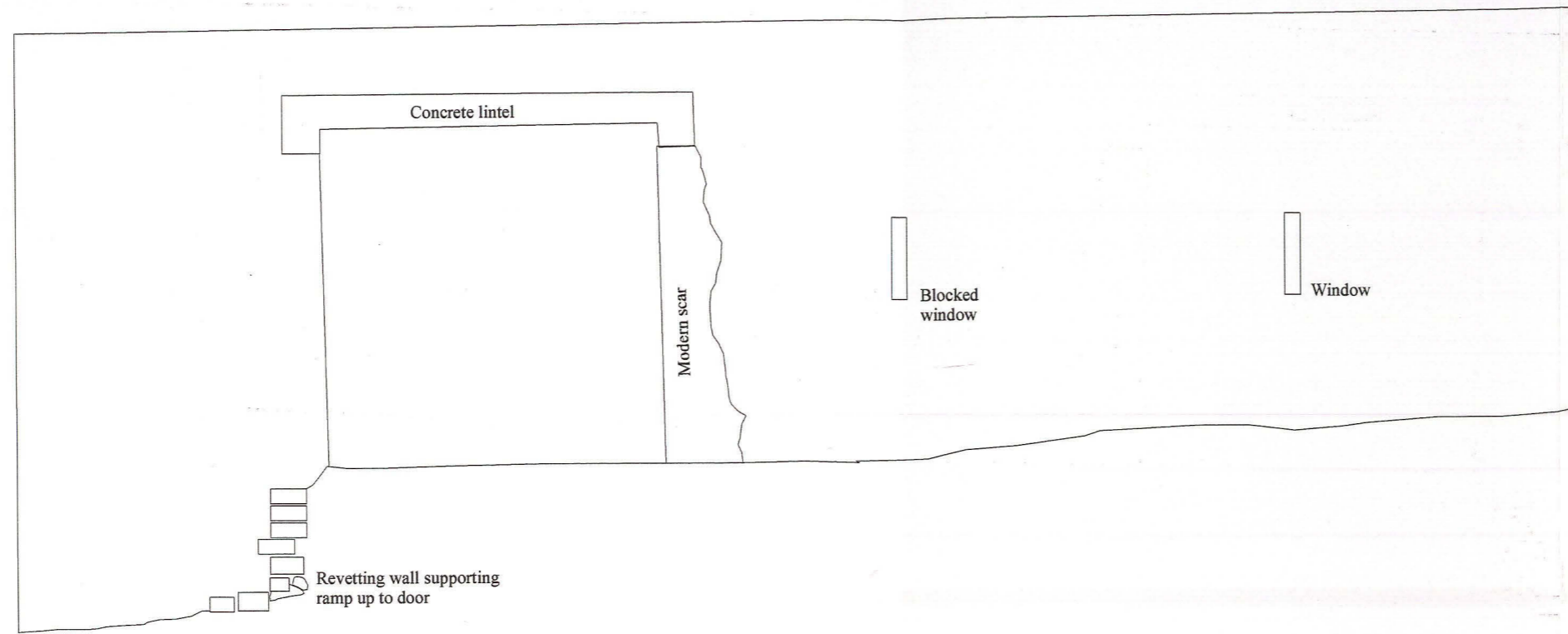


Fig. 3 : South and west elevations of barn, both at 1:50.

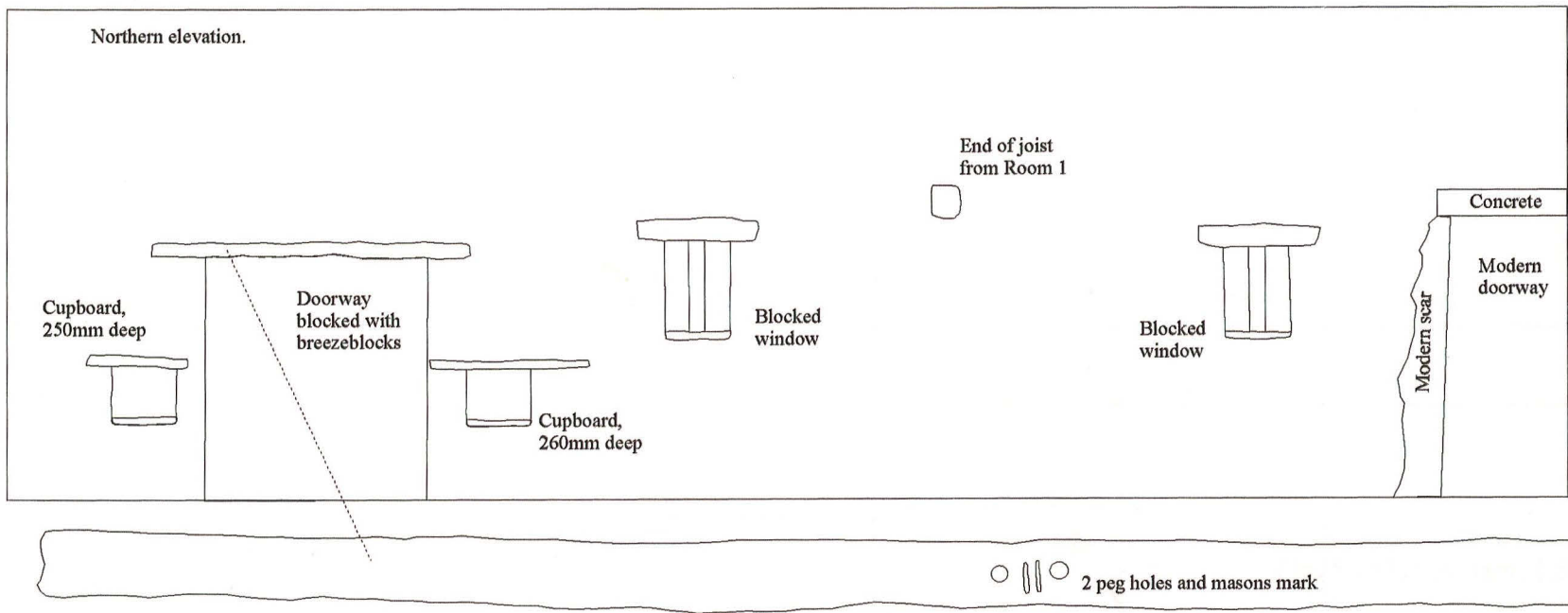
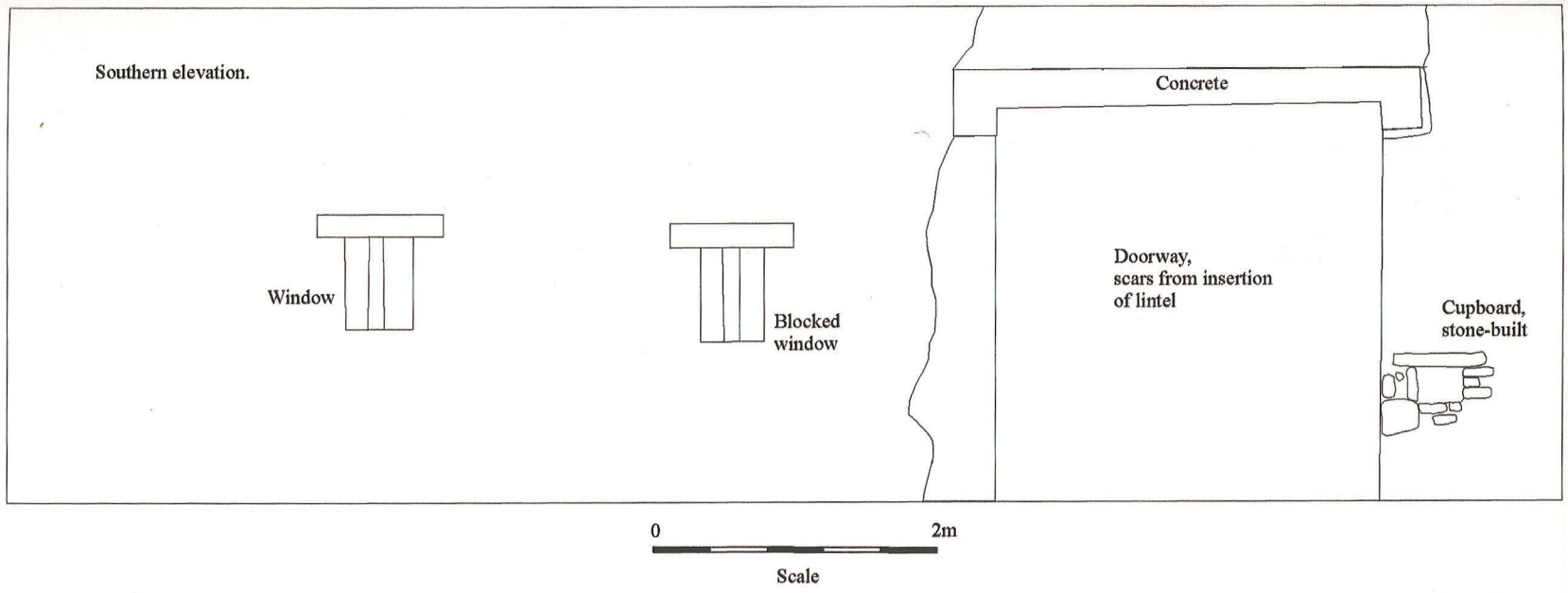


Fig. 4 : Internal elevations from barn plus detail of reused timber lintel from above northern door. Elevations at 1:50, timber at 1:10.

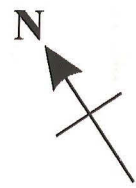
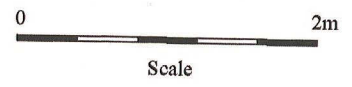
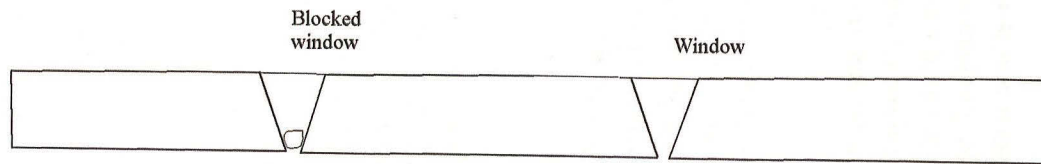
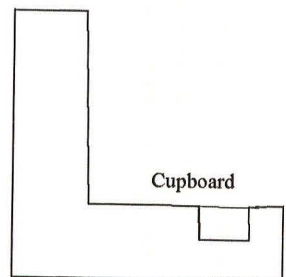
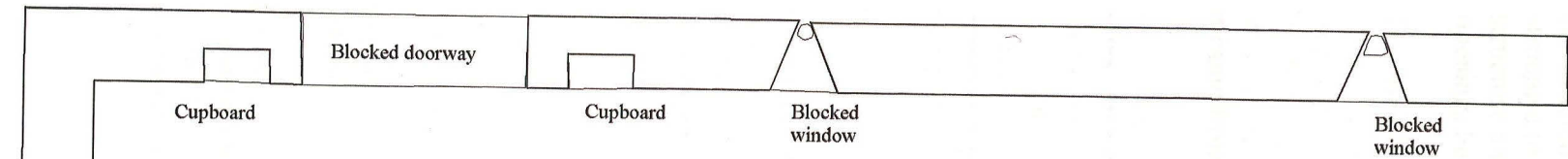


Fig. 5 : Plan of barn, 1:50.

When the survey was carried out the barn contained a large electrical heater used for drying grain (stored in a silo directly to the north).

Room 1. To the immediate north of the barn was a large two-storey room, designated Room 1. The lower part of the western wall to this room was made up of four pillars, constructed using bull-nose bricks instead of the limestone used in the rest of the structure to give smooth rounded corners. This would have protected both the structure and the livestock and wagons that would have rubbed against it. The openings between these pillars were later filled using brick walls.

The room had formerly been divided into an upper and lower chamber; four beams ran east to west from the top of the pillars to the opposite wall. These beams each had twelve mortices, which would have held north south joists supporting a floor. One of the beams had an additional set of 12 mortices, demonstrating its secondary use. It also had decorative beading carved into its two lower corners, which may indicate that it came from a domestic source.

Four windows were present in the upper storey of this room, two in each of the long sides. Those in the west wall were glazed with nine small glass panes, while those in the east were closed with wooden slats. The upper portions of the walls, above floor level (indicated by the beams) were rendered, and this may indicate that the upper storey was originally for accommodation. However, the use of slatted windows is a common feature of granaries, which along with its elevated position away from moisture may indicate that this was the real function of this upper space. A doorway opened into Room 2 in the northeast corner, and scars on the eastern wall indicate that this was a secondary opening.

Room 2. The final room that was surveyed (designated Room 2) also had its western wall open, supported by a pillar of bull-nose bricks. These openings were later blocked when a brick wall was inserted to the north; to the south a doorway and wall with a window. The room did not extend to the full height of the building. A timber floor set on beams and rafters (similar to those described for Room 1) divided an upper and lower storey, and a modern staircase had been inserted through this floor in the northwest corner of the room. An iron pillar was added some time after initial construction to provide extra support for the floor above the room. No windows or other features were present as part of the original ground floor layout, however a small wooden hatch was observed in the exterior eastern wall, which would have opened to the upper storey.

Rooms to the north of Room 2. Due to access restrictions, rooms further north could only be observed from the outside of the structure.

To the north of Room 2 on the western side of the building was a door of two segments, the upper and lower portions capable of opening independently. Opposite this doorway on the eastern side of the building was a large sliding door. The former was clearly a stable door, with the latter presumably opening to the same space.

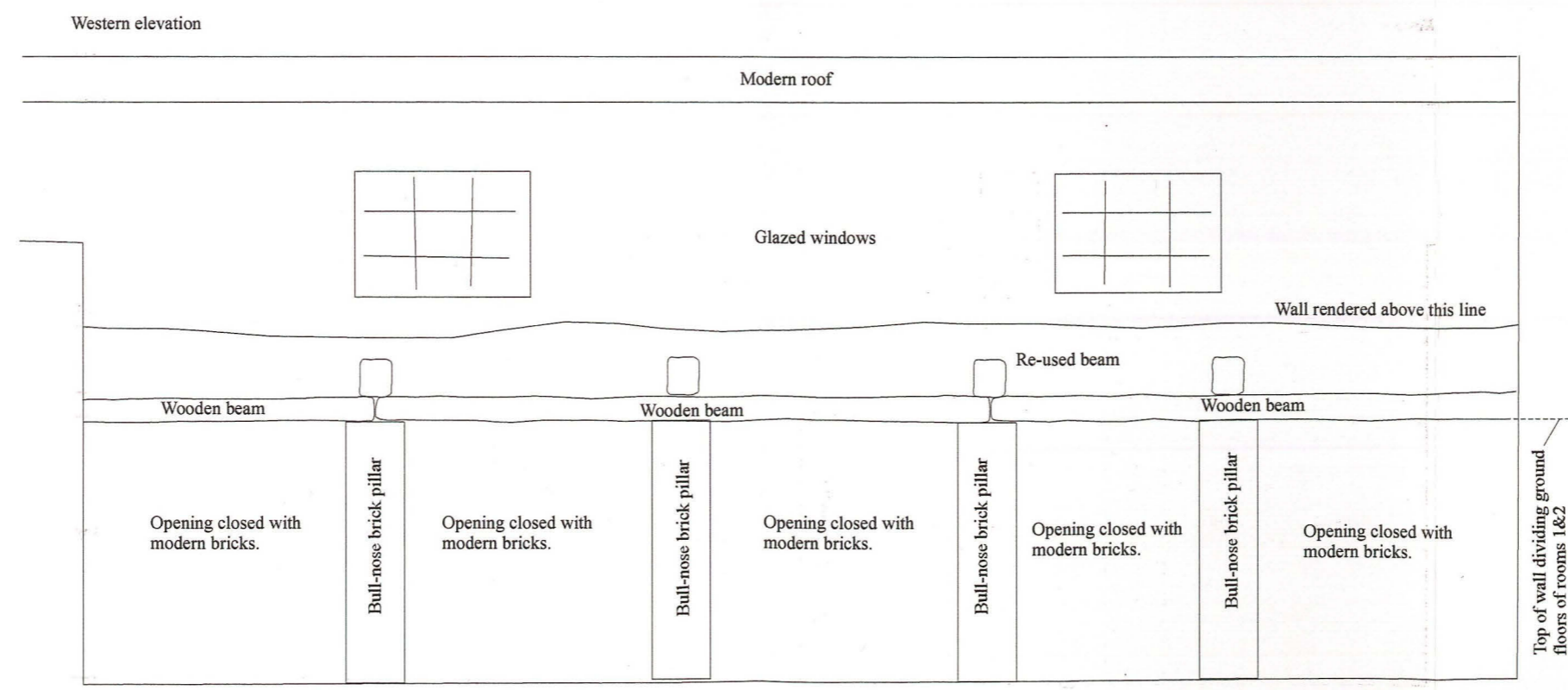
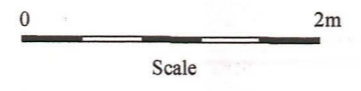
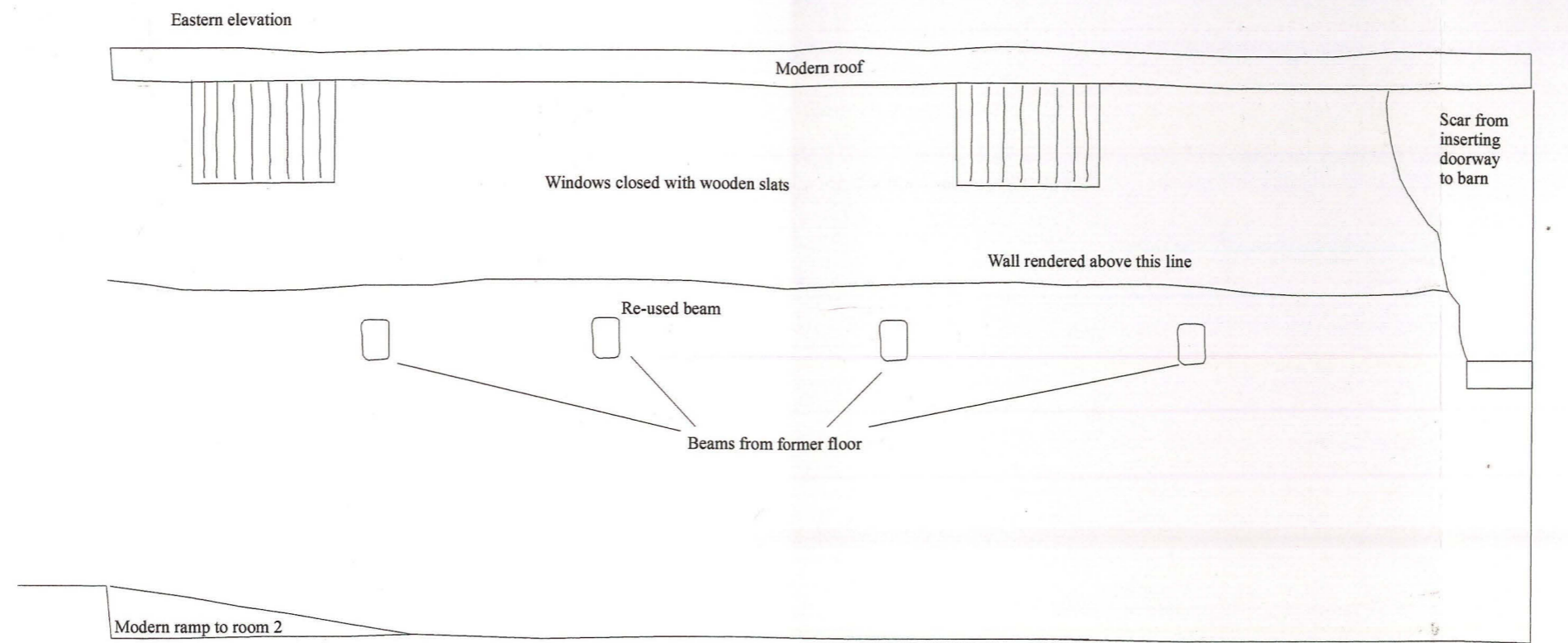


Fig. 6 : East and west elevations of Room 1, both at 1:50

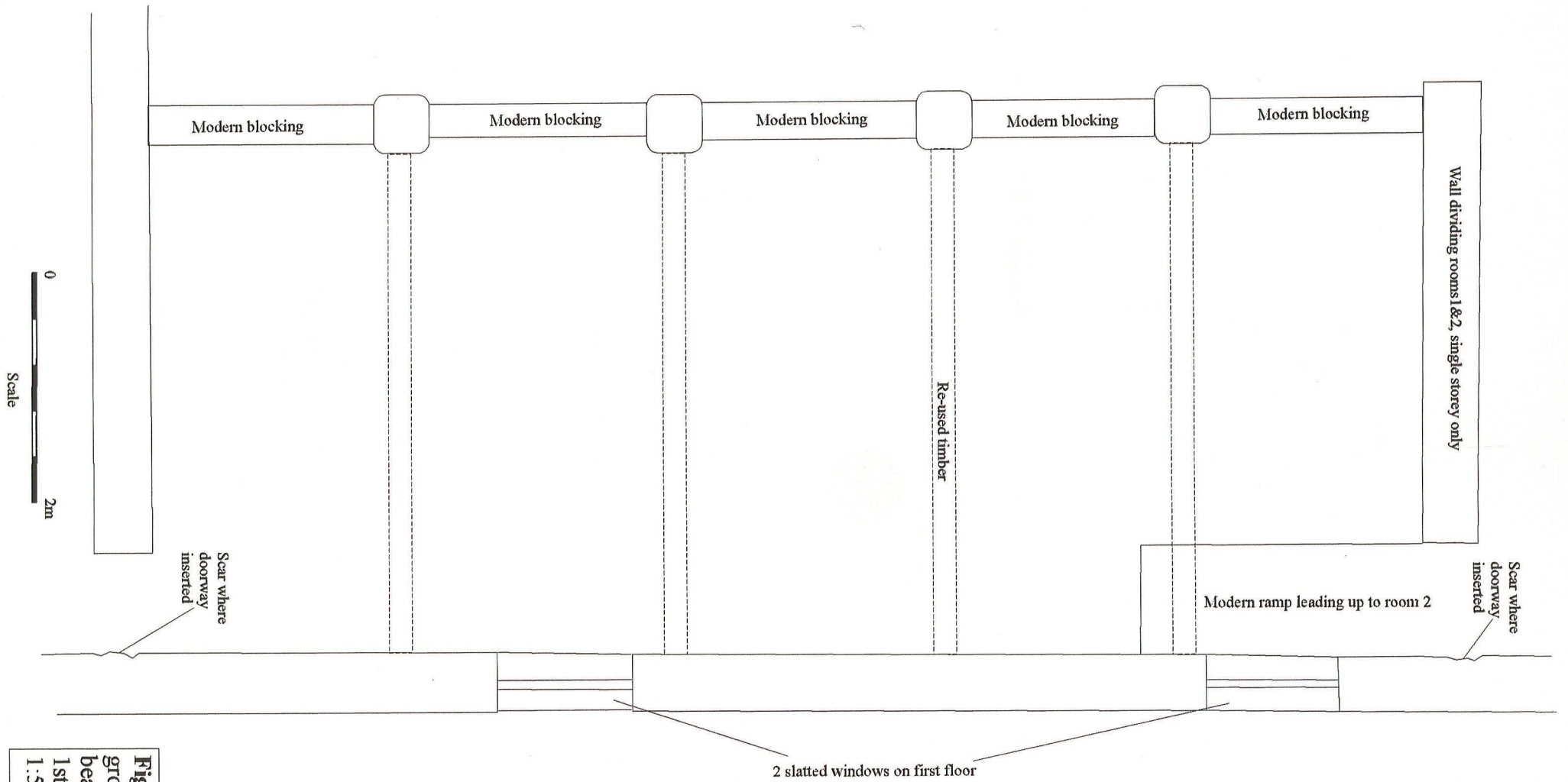


Fig. 7 : Plan of room 1 ground floor, also shows beams and windows in 1st floor eastern wall.
1:50

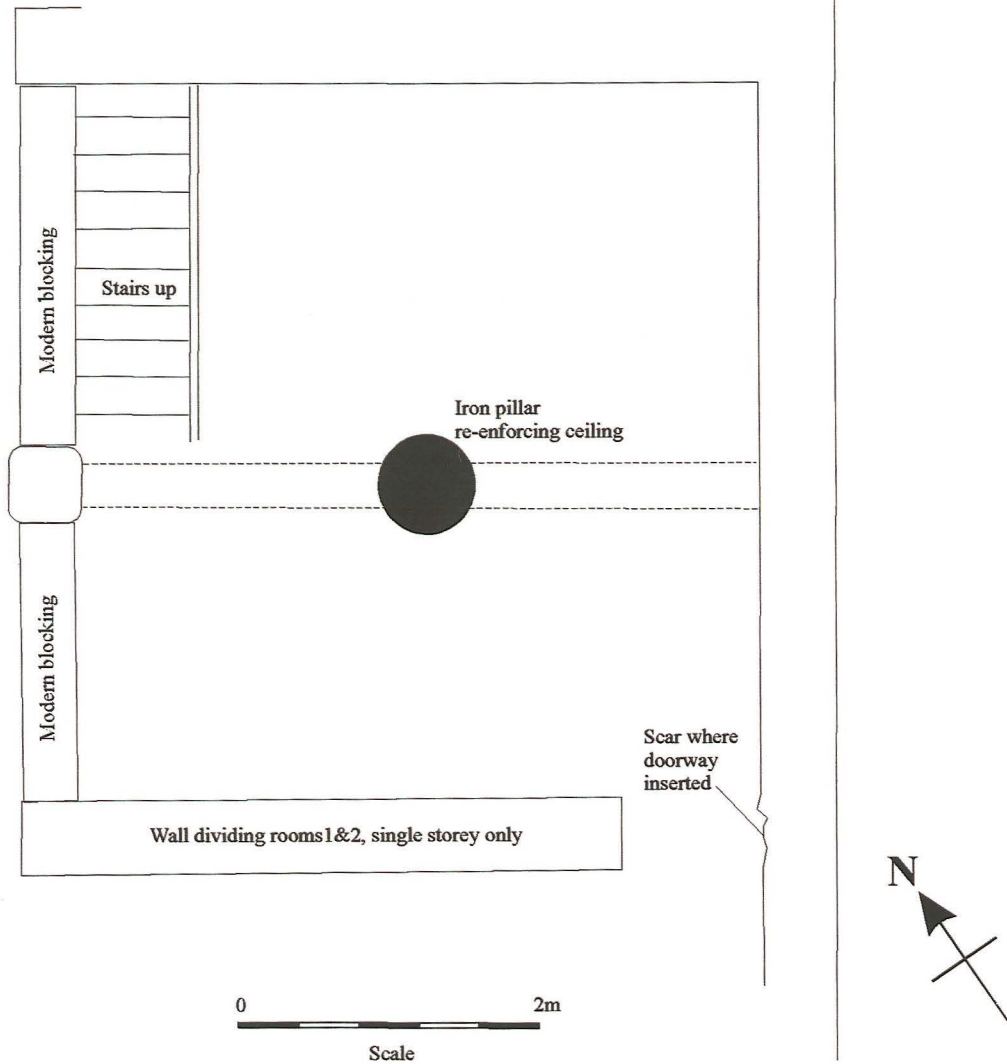


Fig. 8 : Plan of Room 2 ground floor, also shows beam. 1:50

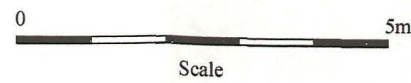
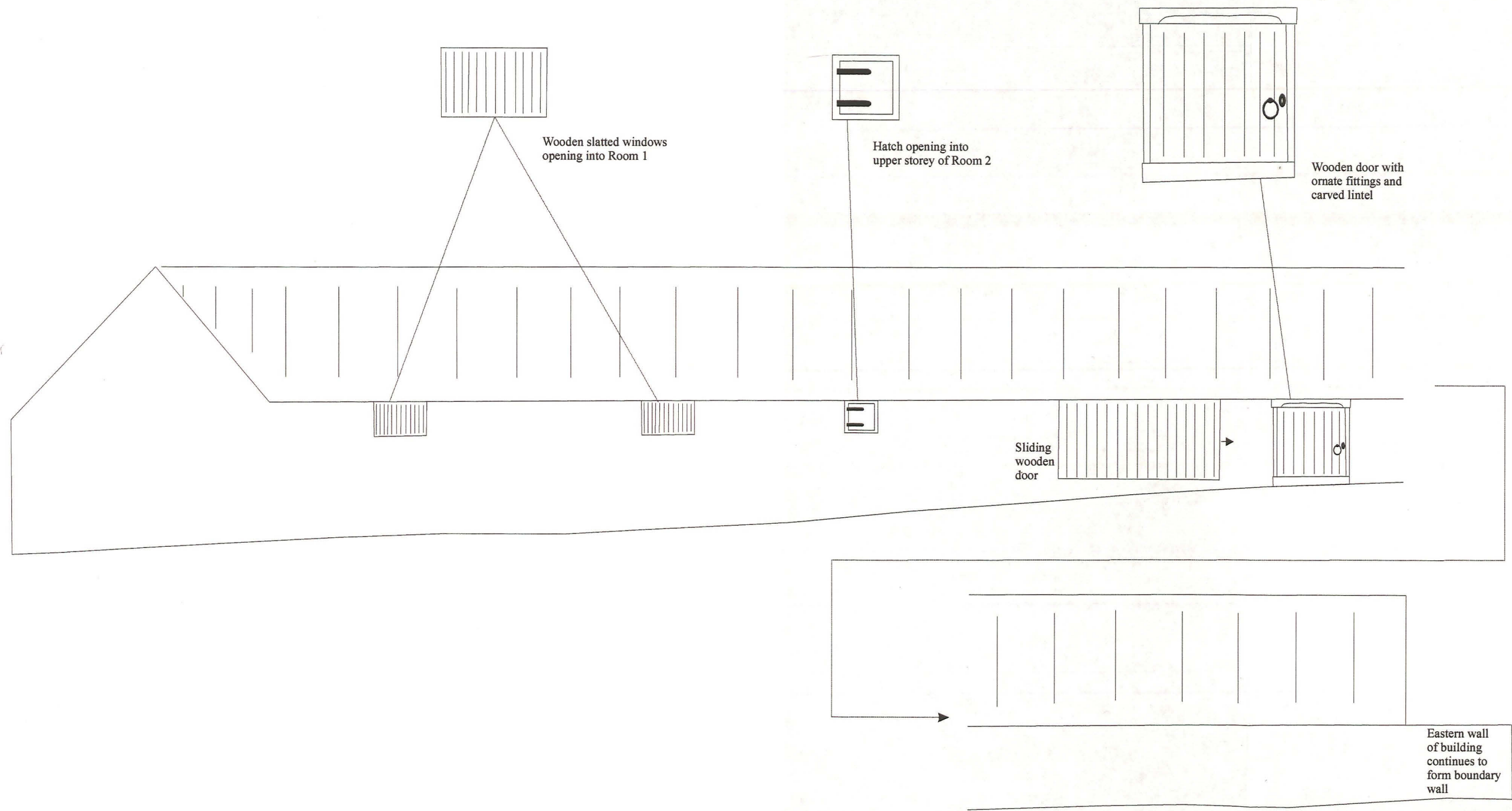


Fig. 9 : Eastern elevation.
Main drawing at 1:100,
detail of architectural
features at 1:50

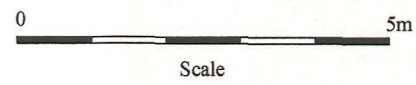
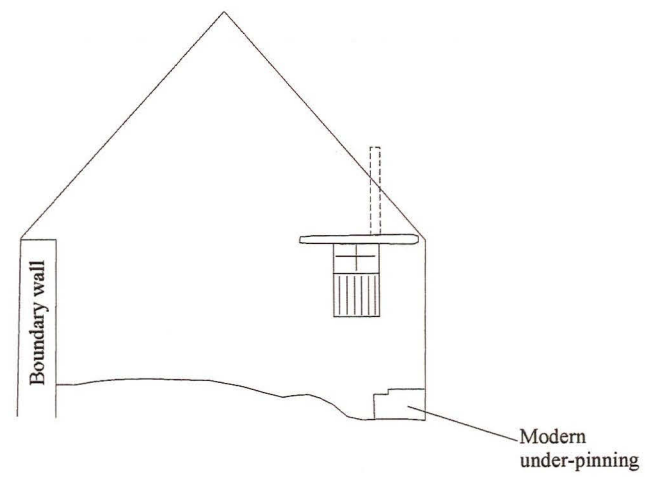
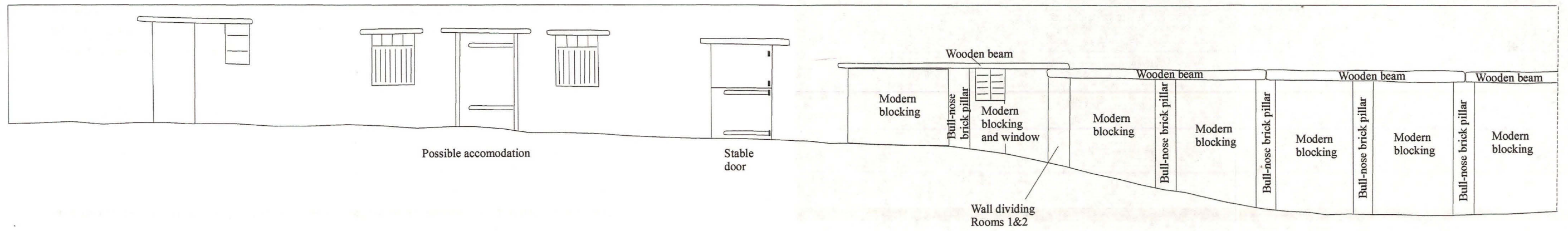


Fig. 10 : Western and northern elevations, both at 1:100.

To the north of this on the eastern side of the building was a wooden door with an ornate handle and lock-plate and a carved stone lintel. Opposite this on the western side was a wooden door flanked by two partially glazed windows. The decorative nature of the eastern doorway and the presence of glazing in some of the windows may indicate that this room was designed for habitation.

The northernmost room of the building had a single doorway and a small glazed window. Prior to demolition, it was in use as a workshop by the occupant of the adjoining farmhouse, and this may have been its original function: it could equally have served as accommodation for stock, or as a store.

7.0 Watching brief results

Deposits removed during excavations for the new build foundation trenches varied across the site: in the northernmost areas (under the main block) the uppermost deposit was (001), dirty clayey sand containing rubble, deriving from the demolished buildings. Beneath this was (002), consisting of dirty white weathered limestone natural. This in turn sealed (003) a slightly orange/brown clayey layer containing occasional limestone gravel. This overlay (004), the limestone bedrock.

Towards the south of the foundation footprint, the sequence changed slightly. The uppermost deposit (005) comprised dark brown coarse sand, under which was (006), an identical material, which retained its original yellow/orange colour. Both contexts were interpreted as bedding deposits from the brick floor of the demolished building; the former having been stained by post-depositional processes.

The above layers overlay the weathered limestone (002), which rested over the bedrock; the clay layer (003) having lensed out.

To the south of the larger buildings, the new foundation trenches were no longer within the footprint of the former farm structures. Here, a modern topsoil (007) was directly over weathered limestone natural (002). The topsoil deposit was also observed in the southernmost foundation where it sealed (008), a mixed layer of redeposited limestone and clay containing occasional fragments of brick and tile. Beneath this was (009), mid grey sandy clay containing frequent limestone, charcoal, brick and tile fragments. Victorian pottery was observed within this context but was not retained.

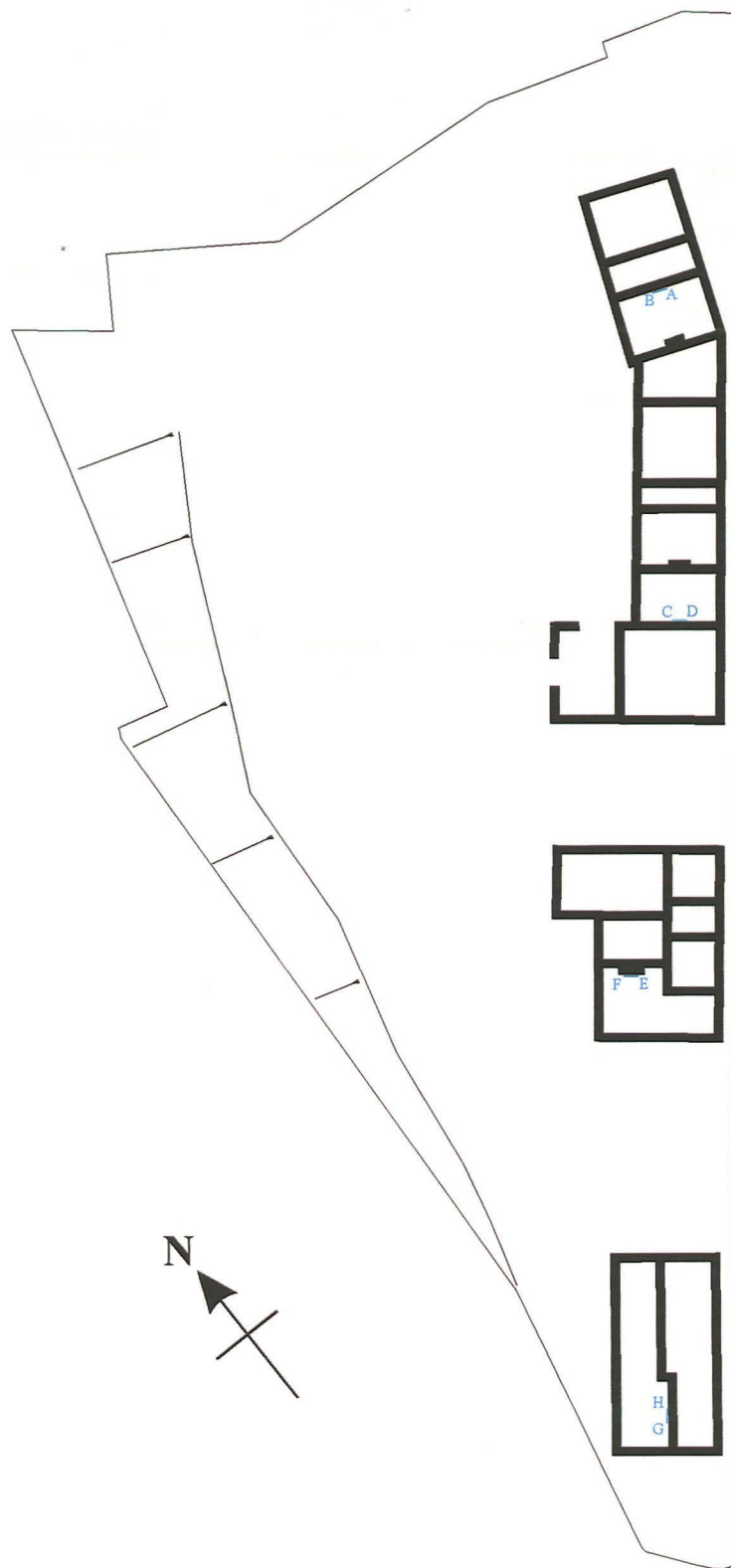


Fig. 11 : Plan showing foundation trenches and locations of drawn sections in blue.
1:500

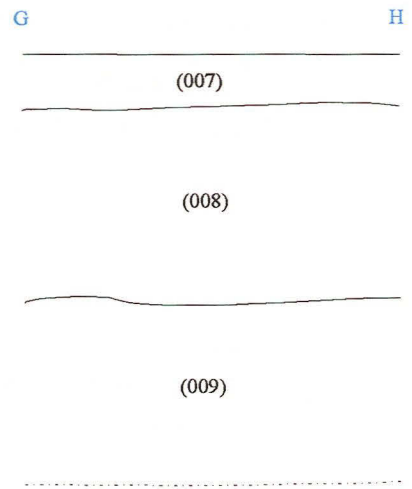
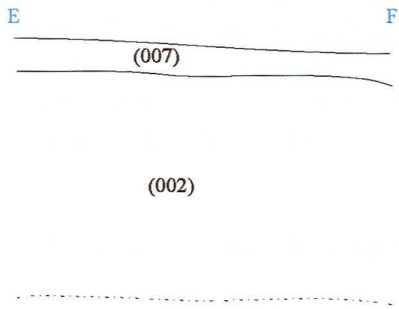
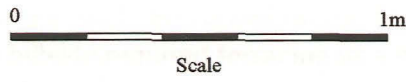
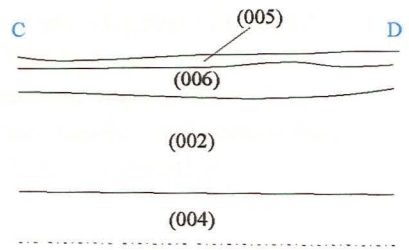
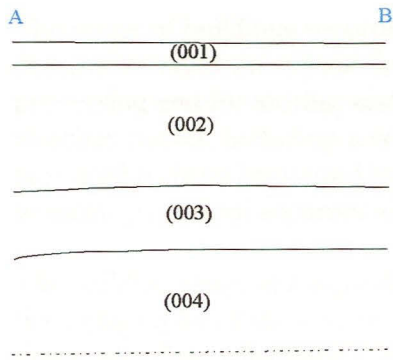


Fig. 12 : Sections recorded during the watching brief on the new building foundation trenches. All at 1:20.

8.0 Discussion and conclusions

The range of buildings recorded as part of the initial phase of investigation included designs intended for typical farm use: including a barn that had been used both for processing and for storing arable produce. Extending northwards was a series of attached rooms, including a wagon or similar open sided shed, stables and rooms that appeared to have been used mainly for domestic purposes. There were other workshops, animal accommodation or storage buildings.

The building range is a typical mid 19th century Lincolnshire farm complex, where the topography of the area may have influenced the construction of a single long range, at a time when land previously used for sheep grazing was given over to mixed farming (Beastall, 1978). The provisional mid 19th century date is supported by an 1853 date-stone on the farmhouse to the north. The buildings remained in use until relatively recent times (evidenced by a modern steel grain silo and drying equipment).

The use of stone in this structure could be viewed as slightly anachronistic, although it should be noted that at the hillside required terracing as a prelude to construction, and a considerable quantity of building stone would therefore have been readily available.

The only below-ground archaeological activity observed was of Victorian date, associated with the construction of the farm buildings themselves. For the majority of the site, this comprised terracing of the slope to provide a level construction platform. Towards the very south of the site, the ground level had been artificially raised; presumably, also to create level usable land, utilising some of the spoil created by terracing to the north.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed for the standing building survey allowed an expedient and thorough record of the structures to be made: an appropriate survey for a building of this age and type. A series of scale drawings in both plan and elevation were prepared, supplemented with written descriptions. Internal access was only available to the southern three rooms.

The ground works were continuously monitored as part of an archaeological watching brief. This allowed all of the deposits disturbed to be examined and recorded in section. There was also an opportunity to undertake limited hand excavation for the recovery of finds. This allowed a reasonably complete understanding of the deposits to be gained.

10.0 Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Mansion Court Properties for commissioning this company, and the ground workers for their co-operation during the course of the watching brief. Thanks are also due to Rob Hirst for providing drawings, and to Rachel Gardner for assisting with farming terminology.

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12.0 Site archive

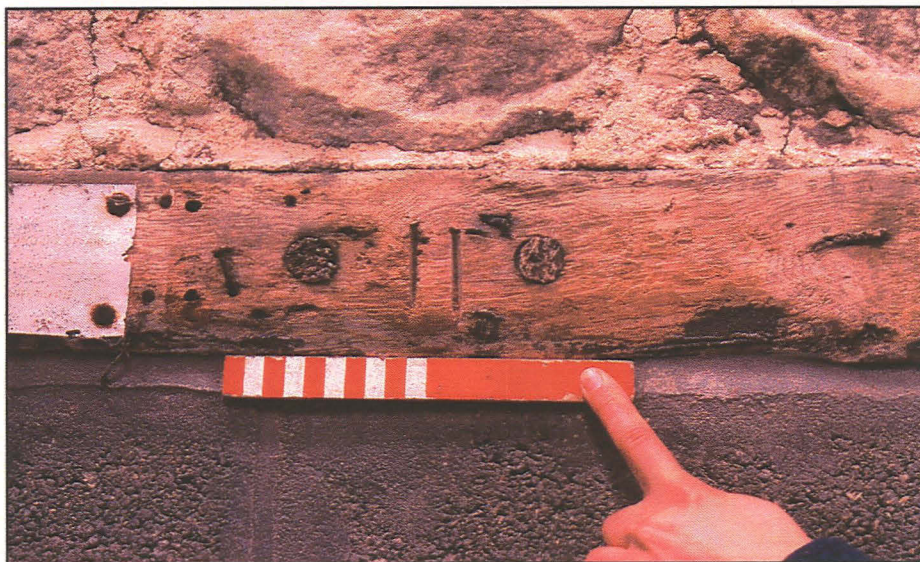
An archive consisting of written, drawn, photographic and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County museum within six months of the completion of this report.

Access can be gained quoting the L.C.C. Museum accession number 2003.15.

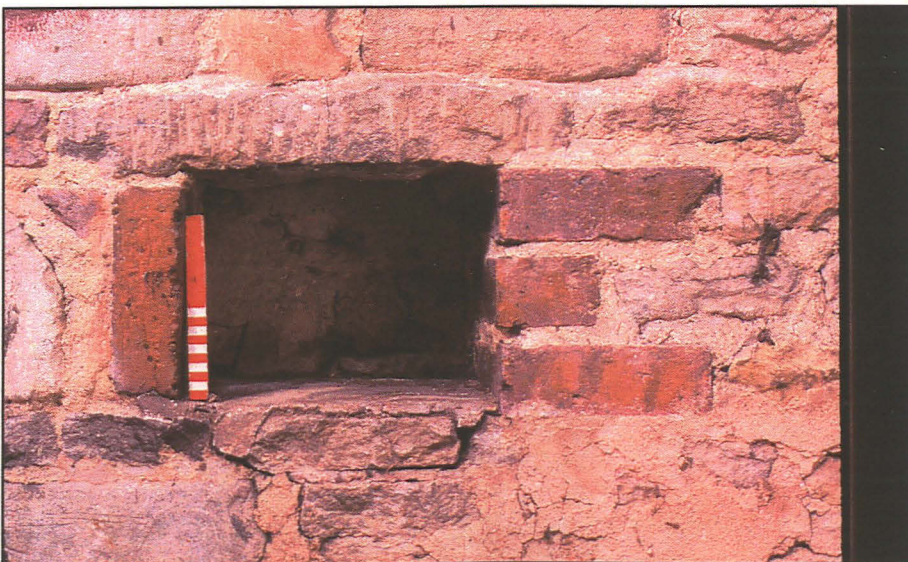
Appendix 1. Colour plates.



Pl. 1 Southern elevation of barn. Note revetted path leading up to double doors. Looking north.



Pl. 2 Carpenters mark from lintel over northern (blocked) door of barn. (Scale 20cm) Looking north.



Pl. 3 Brick and stone built cupboard in northern wall of barn. (Scale 20cm) Looking north.



Pl. 4 Stone and timber built cupboard from north wall of barn.
(Scale 20cm)
Looking north.



Pl. 5 South eastern 'splay' window from barn. This was the only unblocked example.
Looking south.



Pl. 6 Western wall of wagon shed, showing openings and later blocking walls.
Looking north west.



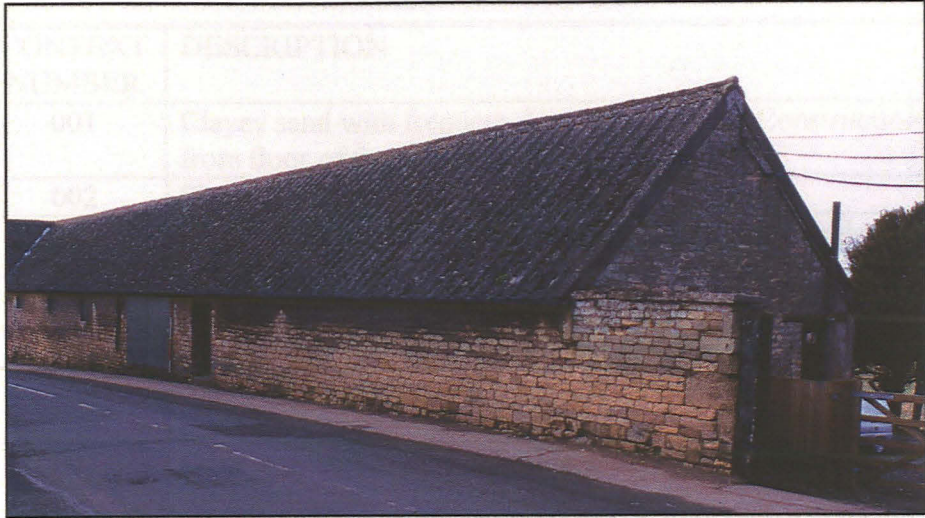
Pl. 7 Re-used beam from ceiling of Room 1. Note smaller un-used mortices, and beading on lower corners. Looking north east



Pl. 8 Ornate door in eastern wall of structure. The decorative nature suggests this may have been for domestic use. Looking west.



Pl. 9 Northern end of western elevation. None of these interiors could be examined. Looking east.



Pl. 10 Eastern side of structure; note wall continued to form property boundary. Looking south west.

Appendix 2. Context summary

CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	Clayey sand with frequent demolition rubble. Construction deposit from floor of former building, Victorian date.
002	Weathered limestone, top of natural material.
003	Slightly orange mid-brown clay, occ. limestone pebbles, this is a natural material.
004	Limestone bedrock.
005	Very dark brown coarse sand, bedding layer from floor of Room 1.
006	Yellow/orange coarse sand, un-stained bedding material from floor of Room 1.
007	Dark greyish/brown sandy clay. Contains frequent demolition material, modern topsoil.
008	Made ground, re-deposited limestone and clay, occ. brick.
009	Made ground, re-deposited limestone and sandy clay with occ. brick, tile and charcoal.