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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Blacksmith's Yard, Station Rd,
Timberland, Lincs.
Archaeological Recording
Planning Application No.: N/67/16666/03
NGR: TF120 584
Site Code: TABY 04
LCNCC Accn No.: 2004.110**

Report

for

Mr S. M. Edgar

**LAS Report No. 758
June 2004**

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Summary

A photographic survey and description of farm buildings at Blacksmith's Yard has established that the majority of the buildings were of 19th century date with 20th century alterations. The exception was the stone threshing barn which is probably late 18th – early 19th century in date and may be contemporary with Anwick House to its east. The blacksmith's shop still retained its brick furnace

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr and Mrs S. M. Edgar to undertake a building survey at the above site in accordance with the requirements of Planning Consent granted by N. Kesteven District Council and the general requirements of the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council as set out in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998).

Site Location and Description

Timberland is a small village in the Witham valley 15km north east of Sleaford. The buildings at the north end of the village formed part of a large farm complex belonging to the adjacent Anwick House to the east, and are located on the south side of Station Road (Figs 1 and 2). They have been sold as a separate lot for redevelopment.

Historical Background

Anwick House is a large brick late 18th century three-storey house with a contemporary range of brick farm outbuildings to its north (Pls 1 and 2). It is built with characteristic narrow, over-fired bricks quite unlike any found in the farmyard to the west. To the west of Anwick House lies the 18th century stone barn which may also be contemporary with Anwick House and forms the core of a later group of outbuildings which are probably late 19th-early 20th century in date (Pl. 3).

To its south is a late 19th century open-sided cattle shelter. Along the western boundary is a 19th century single-storey range comprising a cart shed, a blacksmith's workshop and a row of cow houses, which may have been converted for use by pigs. The blacksmith's workshop, which is the only structure partially constructed in timber is even later than the other buildings along the western boundary. The latest of all the outbuildings is a large tractor shed (Building 8) which lies to the north of the stone barn and is post WWII in date.

Planning Background

N. Kesteven District Council has granted permission for the conversion of a group of barns and a cart shed to provide residential accommodation, subject to a programme of building recording as a condition of the planning consent.

Scope of Work

The aim of the survey was to record the existing fabric of the building prior to alterations, and comprised

- Photographic record of internal and external elevations + detail photographs of any architectural features fixtures and fittings.
- Annotation of drawings supplied by the client to show building breaks, coursing and bonding discrepancies and any other evidence of chronological changes to the building

The planning application relates only to the stone barn and the open barn to its rear (referred to as buildings 6 and 7 in the survey). The remaining buildings to the west will be the subject of a later application. However, the brief set on February 25th 2004 refers to all the buildings in the complex and a record of them all was made, which should cover the requirements for any future planning application.

The Building Survey

Recording of buildings was conducted by N. Field and M. Clark on May 11th 2004. Plans and elevations of the building were supplied by Mr Marshall (TMA Survey and Design) which were used for annotation on site, but were not used in the final report. An examination of the external elevations and interior of the buildings was carried out. There was little of architectural interest in Buildings 1-5 so no plans and elevations are presented in the report.

Description

The buildings were numbered for ease of reference in the survey.

Buildings 1 and 2 Cart Shed

Dimensions L. 17.55m W 6.55m H 4.92m. Each bay 2.99m centre to centre

This is actually a single 7-bayed structure comprising a 19th century cart shed constructed in brick with a pantiled roof and hipped gables. It is orientated N-S with an open east side facing the farm yard (Pl. 4) supported by plain cast-iron columns (Pl. 5).

There are header courses every 3-4 courses with mixed headers and stretchers in the remaining courses. The bricks measure 225 x 110 x 75mm and are yellow-pink in colour with no frog and sharp edges. They are bonded in a sandy,gritty light beige mortar. Bullnose bricks have been used to finish the open northeast corner of the structure (Pl. 6). There are

internal brick pilasters, rectangular in cross-section, measuring 120mm x 345mm, along the west wall, which mark the bay divisions (Pl. 7). The floor is crushed chalk.

The roof timbers are machine-sawn, and of single clasped purlin construction, with lapped, nailed joints (Pls 7 and 8). The purlin is 1.93m from the eaves. There is a collar nailed at the apex and a narrow ridge plate. The rafters are 0.30m (1ft) apart and are 55-60mm x 80mm in cross-section. The principals of slightly larger scantling being 80 x 95mm in cross-section. Iron ties are strapped to the wall plate (Pl. 9).

'Building 2' comprises the southern 3 bays which have been partitioned off with breeze blocks to provide a secure store. The door is reused and probably of 1930s date. The southernmost bay is clad in corrugated iron and the floors in these bays are of concrete (Pl. 10).

Building 3 Blacksmith's shop (Fig. 3)

Internal length 8.64m, Width 4.64m Height 4.18m

This is infill between Buildings 4 and 2. The rear wall is brick (Pl. 11) and the front of the building is timber infill (Pl. 12). The south gable is built on top of the end of Building 4 and the north gable butts Building 1. The pantiled roof is constructed in the same style as Building 1 with nailed, lapped joints. Rafters are 0.38m (15") apart and measure 50 x 110mm in cross-section.

The three-bayed structure contains a work bench and forge (Pl. 13) in the northernmost bay which is constructed in bricks with a shallow frog which measure 230x 110 x 75mm. There is an electric blower at the rear of the furnace inscribed 'The Mota Fan', manufactured by Alldays & Onions Ltd, Birmingham (Pl. 14). A pipe runs from the hopper and protrudes 0.20m into the firebed beneath the oversailed chimney which originally would have had a cowl on it (Pl. 15). The rake out beneath the firebed contains several broken tools and iron rods and a shovel used in the forge was found outside in the yard (Pl.16).

A hole in the ground to the south of the furnace marks the former position of the anvil, which was set on a large tree stump. A zinc metal strip nailed around the tree stump formed a crude tool holder (Pl. 17). There is a third bench at the south end of the shed (Pl.18).

Buildings 4 and 5 Former Cow House Internal length 21.68m , width 3.75m

This was originally a single eight-bayed single storey structure which was divided into two almost equal parts of four bays each. This is most clearly seen on the rear elevation which is continuous brickwork (Pl. 19). Coursing is 3-4 header courses to 1 footer course. The red bricks measure 225-230 x 110 x 70mm. A square ventilation hole with a metal grille is present at eaves height on the west side, in the centre of each of the eight bays. Originally used for cattle the building appears to have been converted to use for pigs in the 20th century.

Building 4 (Internal length 9.42m)

The east wall was probably originally open and has been infilled with brick beneath the eaves plate, possibly in the early 20th century. These measure 220 x 105 x 75mm. Four low openings, measuring 1.30 x 0.95m, were incorporated into this wall, probably hatches for feeding pigs. These were subsequently converted to windows, except in the second bay where an entrance was inserted to eaves height (Pl. 20). The roof has gone but trusses and eaves plates with cast iron ties are still in situ (Pls 21 and 22). The central bay divisions have been removed but their positions are marked by post holes in the concrete floor. On the west side of the building the bay divisions are marked by three brick pilasters with chamfered edges (Pl. 23). The NE and SE corners, are also chamfered to match the pilasters on the west wall (Pls 24 and 25).

Building 5 (Internal length 9.91m)

The east wall is later infill, as Building 4, with four more feeding hatches for pigs. These have been converted to windows, which have been blocked in the two central bays, with the original door surviving in the southernmost bay (Pl.26). Two of the internal wood partition posts remain in situ. There is a modern concrete floor.

There is a door near the northeast end of the building with a simple lintel over. The brick pilaster at the SE corner of the building is chamfered. At the NE corner (the junction with Building 4 there is a pilaster which is chamfered on both sides showing that this was a central division of the structure.

There is an opening in the south bay west wall and the north bay west wall. There is a vent in the north gable at eaves plate level. The roof is clasped purlin construction the same as Building 1 with machine sawn timbers, nailed, lapped joints. The rafters are 0.35m apart. There is a roof collar and ridge plates (Pls 27 and 28). The covering is pantile with vents along the ridge, every third ridge tile being raised (Pls 19 and 20).

Building 6 Cattle shelter

This building is constructed in red brick which is the same as the southern boundary wall that abuts Building 5 to the west (Pl. 29). This confirms that building 6 is later than both Buildings 4 and 5. The shed is a three-bay construction, open on the north side in a newly created yard which lies between it and the stone barn (Building 7) to the north. The walls to the west and east are all in the same brick with concrete posts and cast iron pintles for single gates, which have been removed (Pls 30 and 31). The bricks measure 230 x 105 75mm with a dished frog. Coursing is 3,4 and 5 rows of stretchers to 1 header row (Pl. 32).

The open side is supported on cast iron stanchions similar, but not the same as those in Building 1 (Pl. 33). Their bases are clad in concrete. Internal brick pilasters, rectangular in

cross-section, measuring 460mm x 120mm mark the bay divisions. There is a brick plinth, 0.75m high, along the full length of the back wall of the shed, with a wooden feeding trough above. There are 6 iron rings attached to the trough (2 to each bay) for tethering animals (Pl. 34). In the westernmost bay is a brick arch at the base of the plinth (Pl. 35), probably a drain running into the ditch at the back (Pl. 36) .

The clasped purlin, pantiled roof is of similar construction to that in Building 1, with machine sawn timbers and nailed, lapped joints (Pl. 37). There is a collar and roof collar. Horizontal boarding underlies the pantiles on the south side of the roof. The trusses are joined to the eaves plates with cast iron ties (Pl. 38). The roof has 5 bays which do not coincide with the brick bay divisions, nor indeed the 4 bays as defined by the 3 cast iron stanchions.

Building 7 Stone Barn (Figs 4-7)

The rectangular stone barn is orientated west-east and lies to the north of Building 6 and east of the remaining buildings in the complex (Pl. 39). Originally it had central opposing entrances on the long axes, which were open to eaves height, below wooden lintels (Fig. 4; Pls 40 and 42). The entrance on the south wall has been blocked with brick in two stages, firstly with brick similar to that used in Building 6, leaving a smaller entrance in the corner. This has subsequently been blocked with the same type of bricks used on the east walls of Buildings 4 and 5 (Pl. 40). A lean-to outbuilding formerly rested against the east gable but has been removed , a stone horse trough is still in the corner (Pl. 41).

The original north wall entrance has a single blocking using a mixture of bricks from various sources (Fig. 5). There is an internal chamfered base, presumably to strengthen the blocking. A new metal sliding door has been inserted to the west of the blocked entrance (Pl. 42).

There is brick detailing along the eaves, comprising 3 courses. The uppermost course oversails the lower course flush with alternating headers in the middle course which project to give a dentil pattern (Pl. 43).

Vents at eaves level are present on the north and south wall, on the north and south side one on each side of the central entrance (2 on each wall). There is a row of lower vents, 2 to either side of the entrance (4 on each wall). There are 2 vents on each gable end, a little higher than on the long walls. There is an opening in the west gable above the vents (which is an inserted window, later blocked) (Fig. 7).

The stonework has been whitewashed internally. And is rough-coursed of varying heights. The floor is concrete. Five posts project out from internal face of the south wall, west of the entrance, which may have formed a ledge or storage level for the grain (Pl. 44). There are further timbers east of the entrance but nothing equivalent on the north side. The roof

clasped purlin is pantiled. The king post trusses, with diagonal struts are pegged and properly jointed (Pl. 45).

It is assumed that there would have been a loft on either side of the entrance for the storage of grain. Chains are still wrapped round all the roof trusses which are number I II and III from west to east (Pl. 46).

Building 8 Tractor shed

This breeze block shed to the north of the stone barn has a corrugated asbestos roof and a large sliding door on its north side (Pl. 42). It was not surveyed.

Discussion

Building 7, the stone threshing barn was clearly the earliest building in the complex. It is not clear why it should have been built in stone when all the surrounding buildings are in brick and other buildings of high status in the village are of brick. Anwick House to its east is probably of a similar date and forms part of a quadrangle of with outbuildings in matching brickwork. Whether this complex replaced an earlier stone built complex is not possible to determine, without undertaking some documentary research, which lies beyond the scope of this survey.

The southern boundary to the plot is a large ditch which has been partially filled in and extends eastwards towards the walled garden probably an old kitchen garden belonging to Anwick House. There are a number of large drains in this village so it is not immediately clear if the ditch was of any great antiquity.

The outbuildings have been adapted to a number of uses, and there appears to have been a shift from cattle to pigs, as evidenced in the alterations to Buildings 4/5. In sequence the earliest of the outbuildings was the stone barn, building 7, followed by Buildings 4/5 and Building 1/2 then Building 6 and Building 3. The blacksmith's workshop could be as late as 20th century in construction.

Naomi Field
June 22nd 2004

Acknowledgements

Drawings were kindly supplied by Tim Marshall, Building Survey and Design. The site survey drawings (Figs 3-7) are by Mick Clark and the photographs were taken by Naomi Field.

Contents of Site Archive

Digital survey of Buildings 6 and 7 (TMA Survey and Design)

Site notes and sketch drawings + annotated plans

Correspondence

Photographs LAS film no. 04/70 negs. 1-20

Film no 04/75 negs. 1-37

THE FIGURES

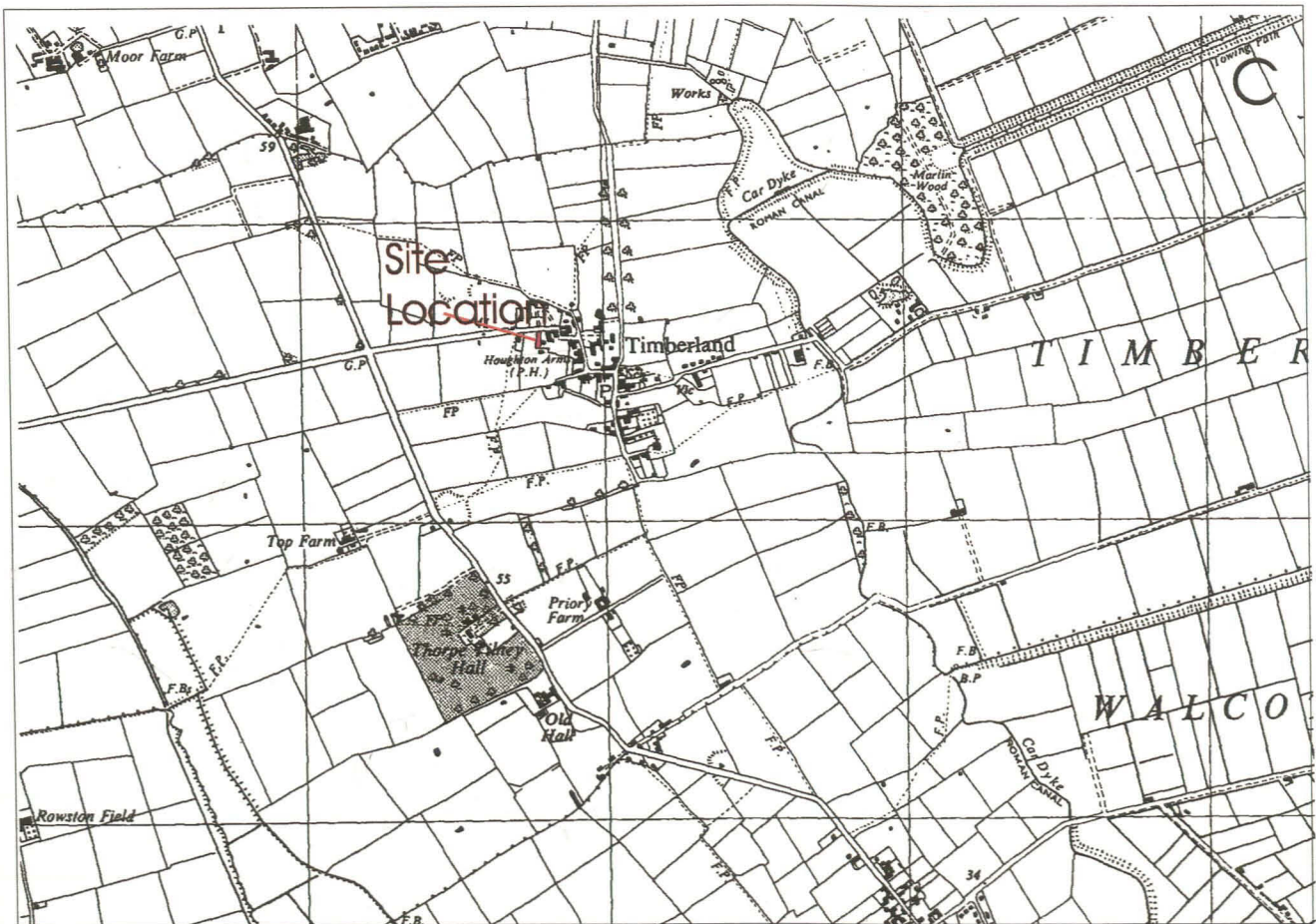
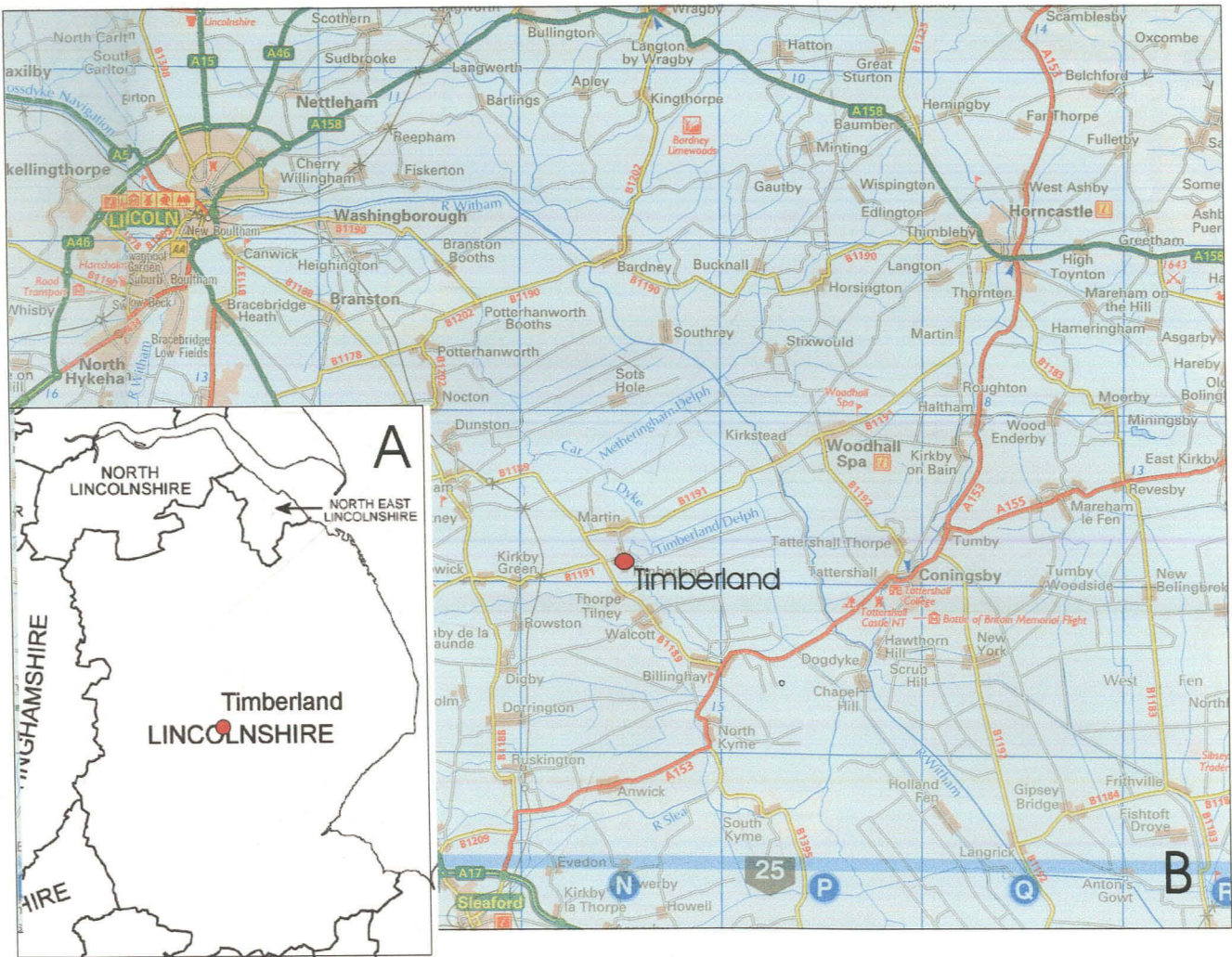
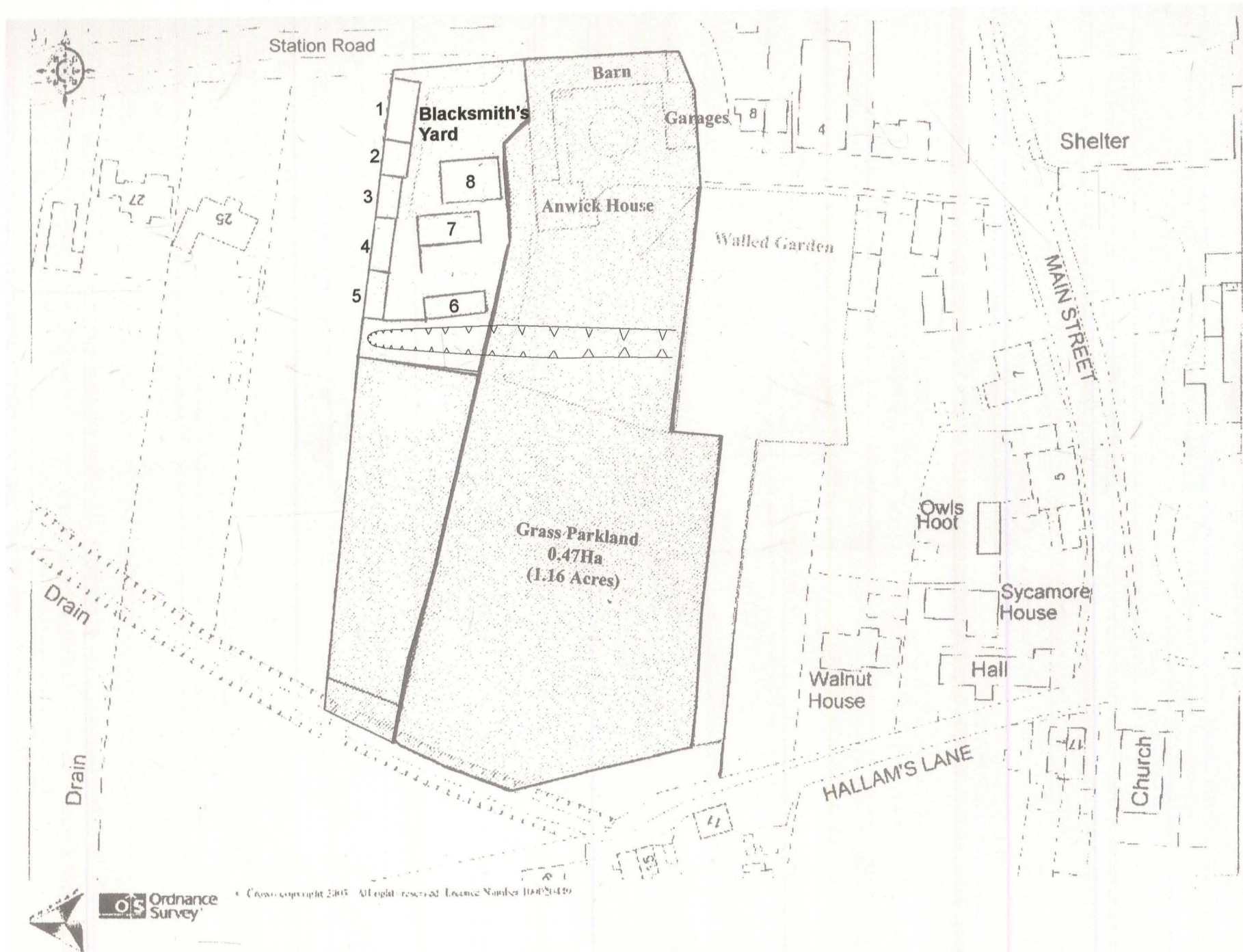
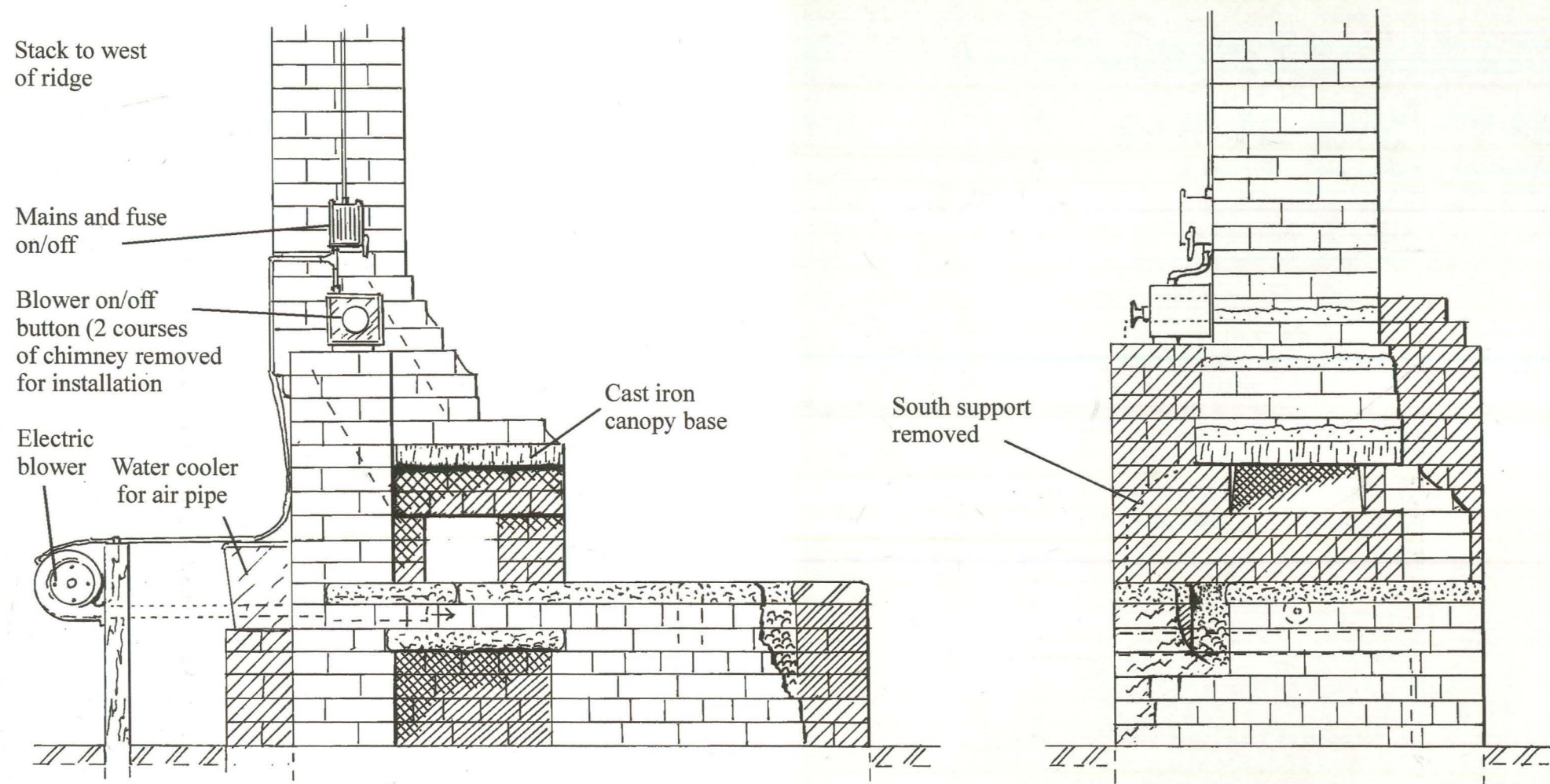


Fig. 1 Timberland, Lincs. Site location. C Based on the O.S. 1:25,000 survey map of 1955, reproduced with the permission of HMSO © Crown copyright, LAS licence no. AL 100002165.



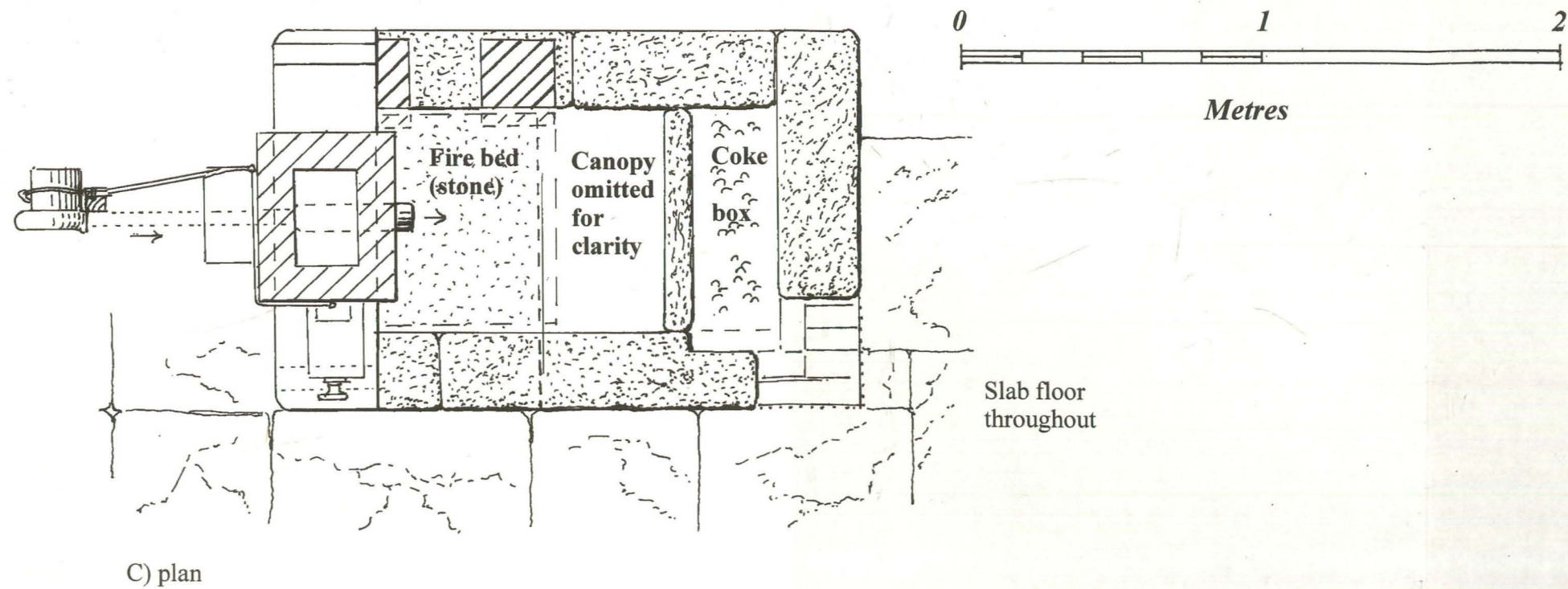
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Fig. 2 Blacksmith's Timberland, Lincs. Location of Buildings 1-8. Based on the O.S. 1:1,250 survey map supplied by the client, reproduced with the permission of HMSO © Crown copyright, LAS licence no. AL 10002165.



A) South elevation

B) East elevation



C) plan

Fig. 3 Blacksmith's Yard, Timberland, The Forge . Scale 1:20. M. Clark

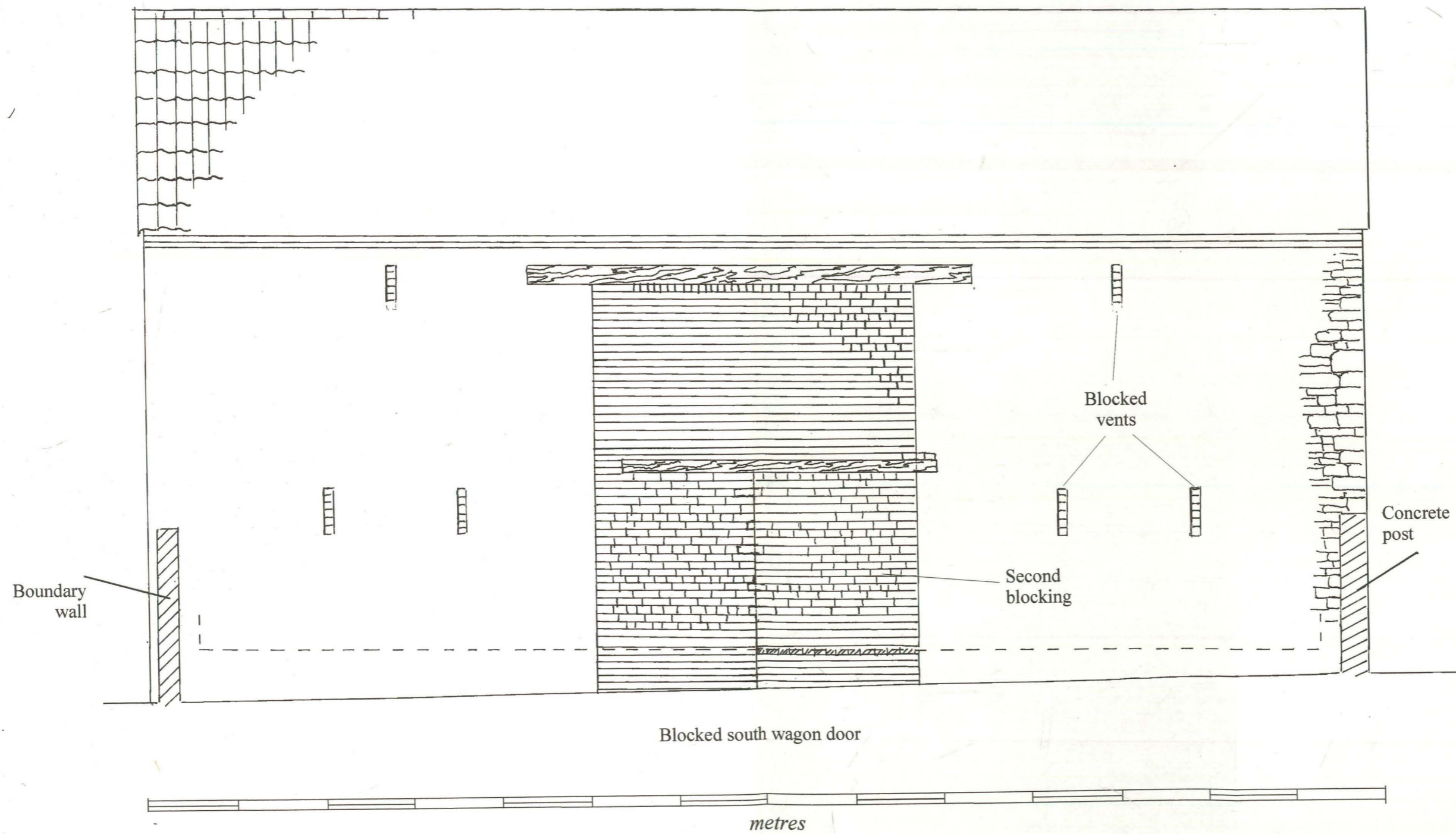


Fig. 4 Building 7. Stone barn south elevation (M. Clark).

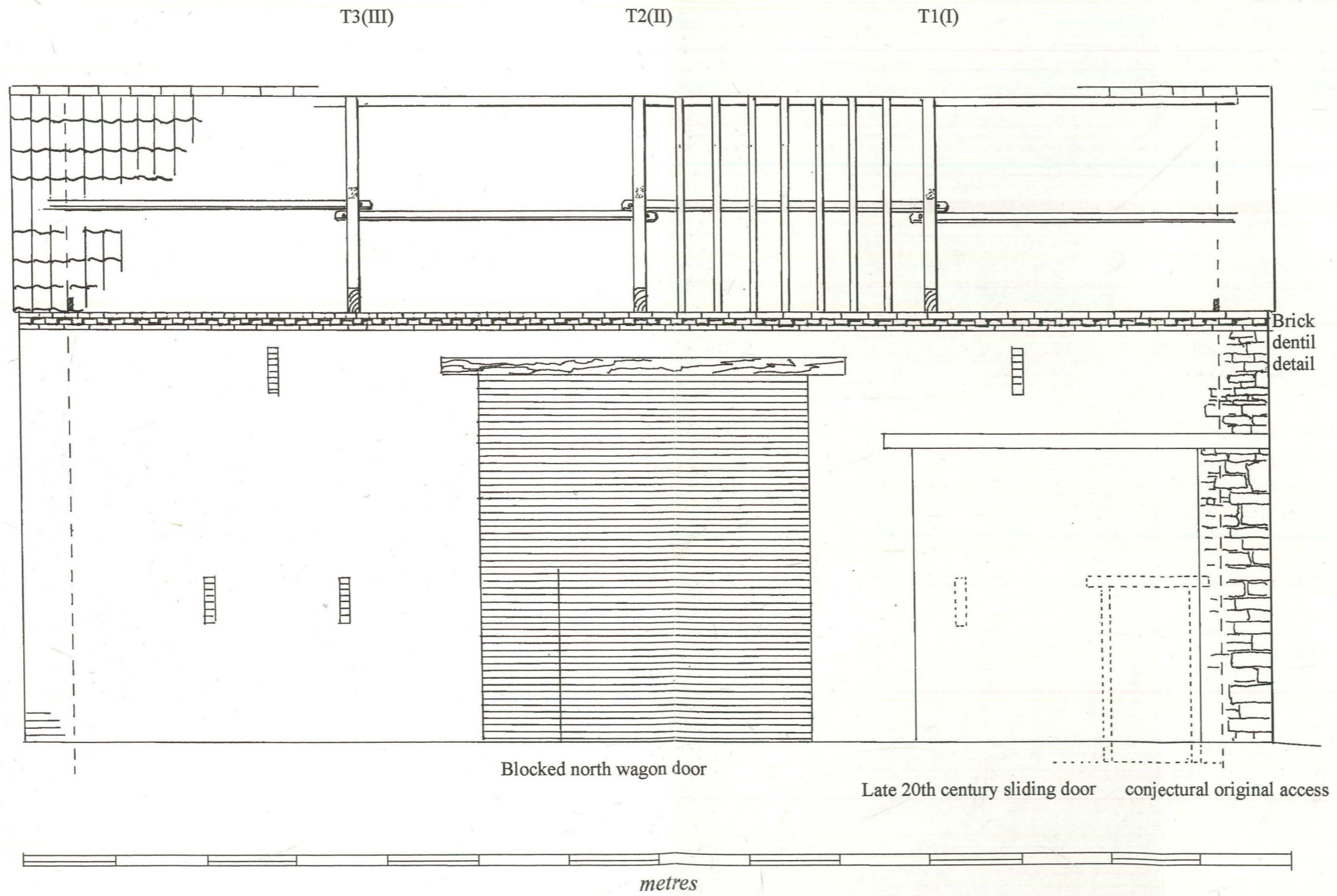


Fig. 5 Stone Barn. North elevation(M. Clark)

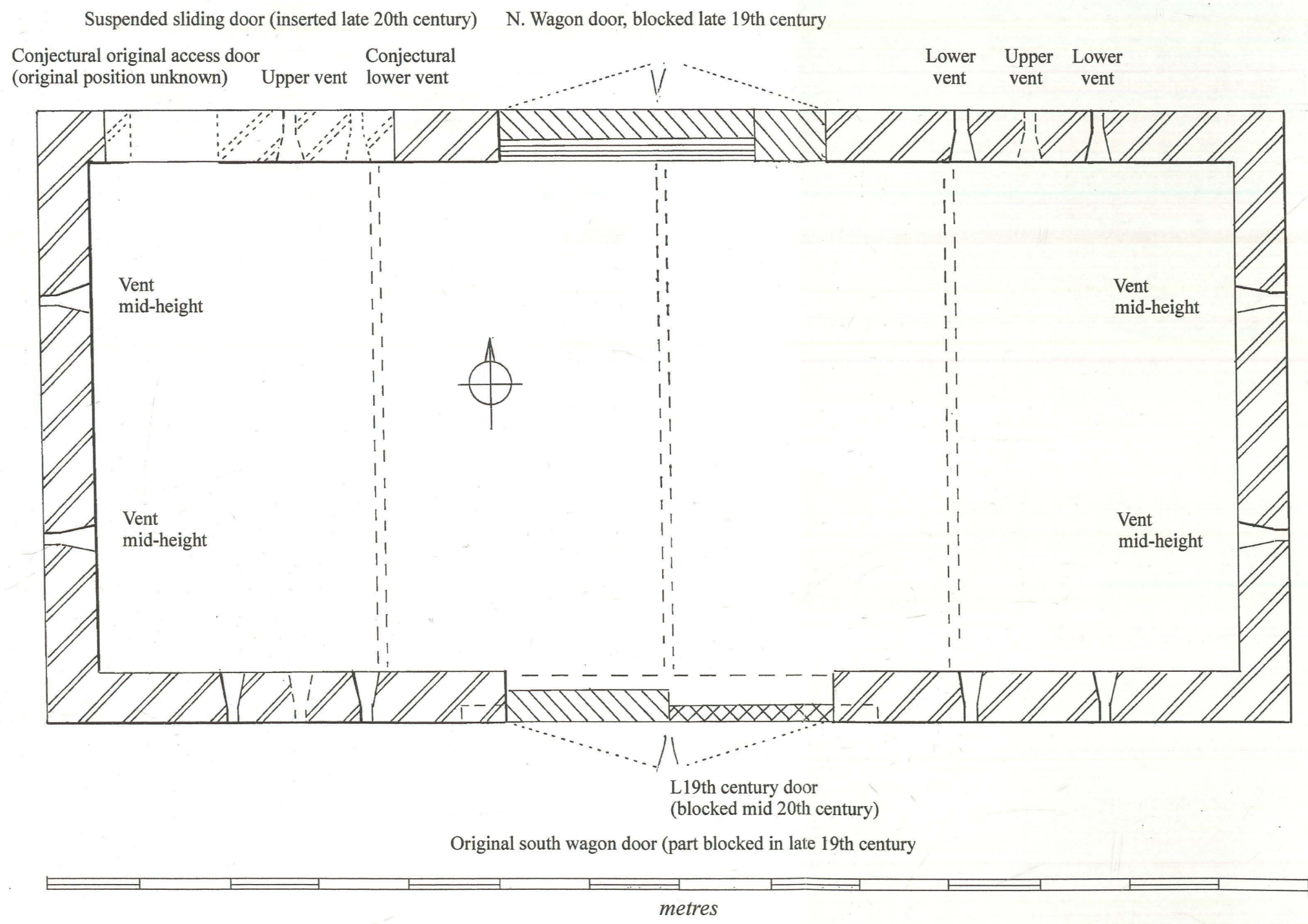


Fig. 6 Stone Barn plan (M. Clark).

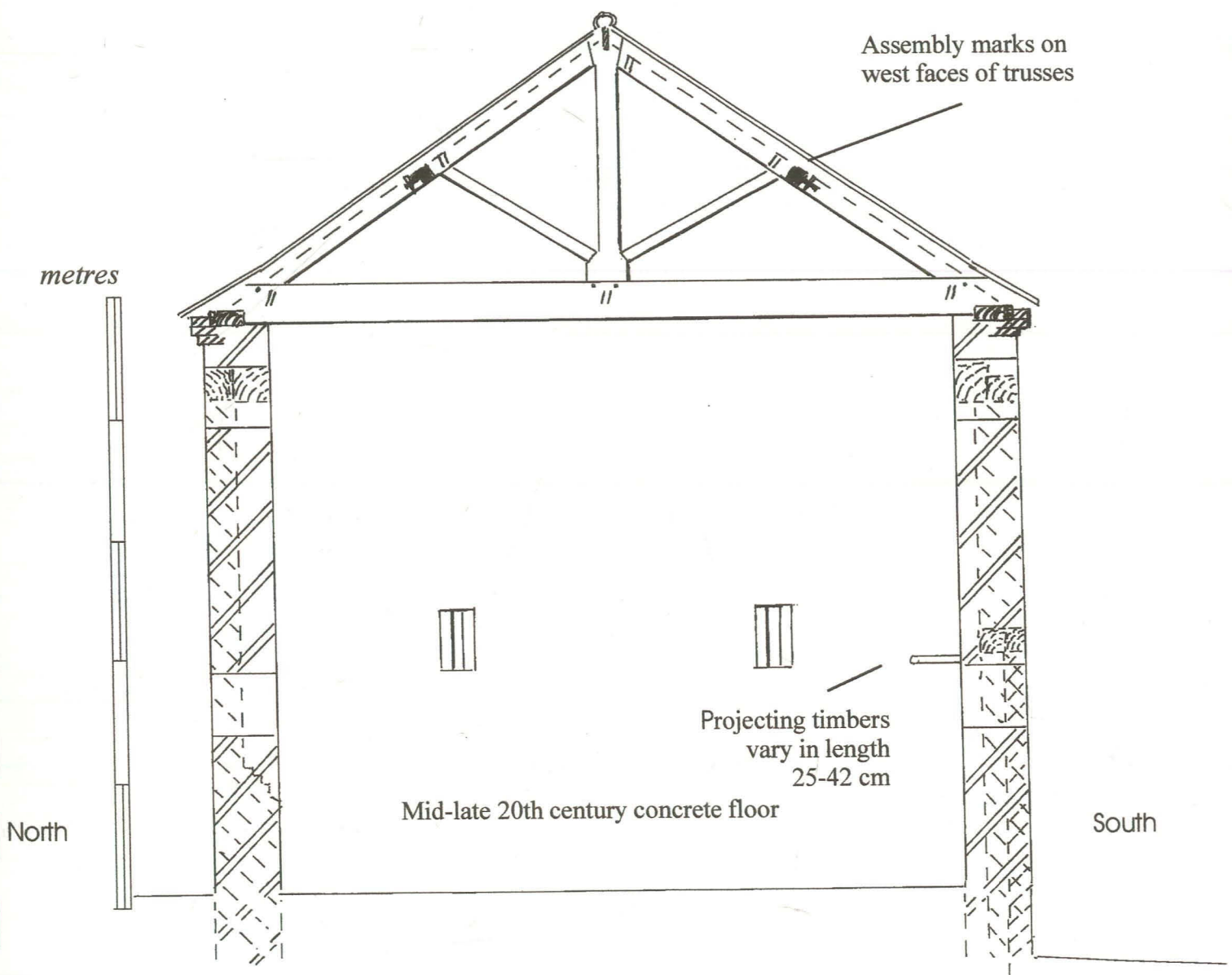


Fig. 7 Threshing barn cross-section

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Anwick House, Timberland, east of Blacksmith's Yard.



Pl. 2 Outbuildings to the rear of Anwick House facing Blacksmith's Yard.



Pl. 3 General view of Blacksmith's Yard looking south-west.



Pl. 4 Cart shed, Buildings 1 and 2 on west side of Blacksmith's Yard



Pl. 5 Detail of cast iron column, Building 1.



Pl. 6 North east corner of Building 1.



Pl. 7 Building 1 interior, showing internal pilasters on west wall, and roof structure, looking south.



Pl. 8 Building 1, hipped gable and roof structure



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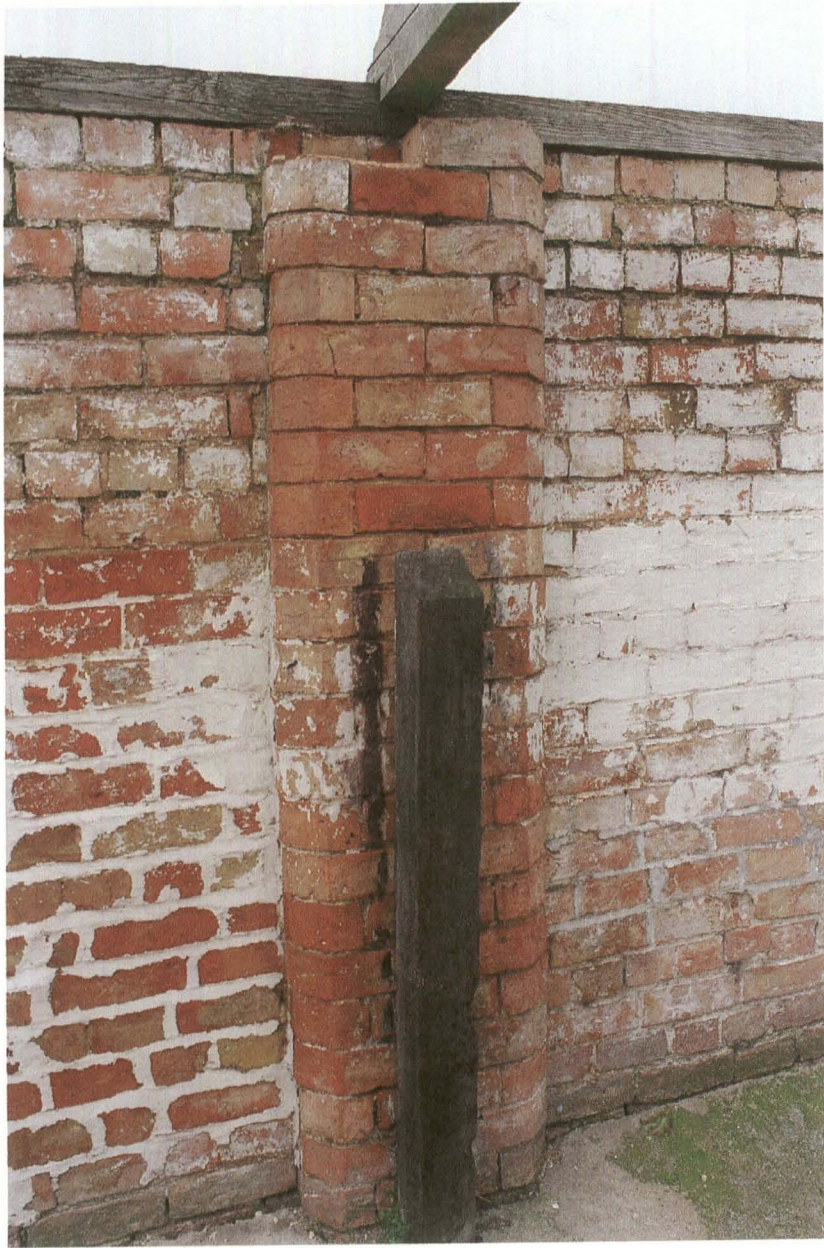
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Pl. 21 Building 4 interior looking north, showing concrete floor and base of trusses strapped to eaves plate.



Pl. 22 Building 4 interior looking south.



Pl. 23 Building 4. Example of chamfered pilaster supporting west wall.



Pl. 24 Building 4. Chamfered pilaster at south east corner.



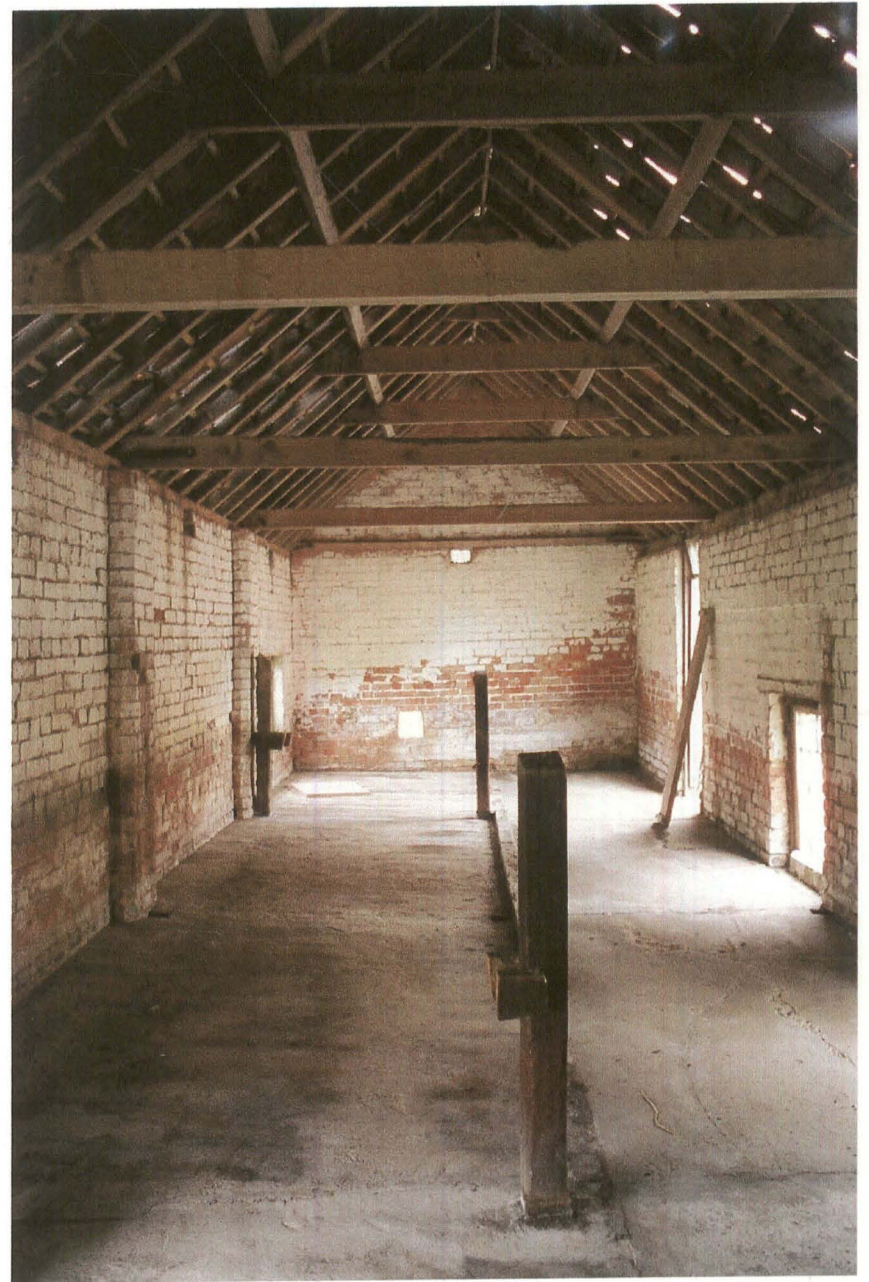
Pl. 26 Building 5 . Feeding hatch at south end, with original door.



Pl. 25 Building 4. Chamfered pilaster at north east corner.



Pl. 27 Building 5 Interior looking south.



Pl. 28 Building 5 Interior looking north.



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Pl. 30 Building 6, north and west elevations, looking south east.



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