Witham Archaeology

A Report to Brown and Buttrick Chartered Architects on behalf of Messrs RJ and AE Godfrey

April 2012

SEARBY TOP FARM, SEARBY WOLD LANE, SEARBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

Historic Building Recording

by R Trimble

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SEARBY TOP FARM, SEARBY WOLD LANE, SEARBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: SSTF12
The Collection Accession No.: LCNCC 2012.55
Planning Application No.: West Lindsey District Council Ref. 123988
NGR: TA 08820 07232

Historic Building Recording

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Colour plates

Illustrations

SEARBY TOP FARM, SEARBY WOLD LANE, SEARBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

This report describes the results of a programme of historic building recording undertaken by Witham Archaeology at Searby Top Farm, Searby Wold Lane, Searby, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by Brown and Buttrick Architects on behalf of Messrs RJ and AE Godfrey, in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by West Lindsey District Council.

A survey of documentary material established that the earliest farm buildings on the site, comprising a barn/granary and possibly cattle shelters, originated in the second quarter of the 19th century. It appears that the farm was a remote unit attached to Manor Farm in Searby. It is likely that manure from the cattle yards at Searby Wold allowed intensified farming in a remote part of the holding.

Analysis of the surviving buildings revealed a courtyard layout with the original barn/granary to the northeast and fragments of an early shelter shed and loose boxes to the northwest. The range containing the shelter sheds was later extended to the southwest (probably around the mid 19th century) to include a cartshed/implement store and stables. A fragment of the cartshed survives. Stables constructed in the first quarter of the 20th century survive at the southern corner of the courtyard and a large modern shed abuts the southwest side of the barn/granary.

The barn/granary is now open to the roof, but formerly included a first floor, which extended throughout the majority of the structure northwest of a pair of opposing doors at the southeast end of the building. There are indications that the granary component might originally have been contained in a smaller loft located at the northwest end of the building.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a programme of historic building recording undertaken by Witham Archaeology at Searby Top Farm, Searby Wold Lane, Searby, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by Brown and Buttrick Architects on behalf of Messrs RJ and AE Godfrey, in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by West Lindsey District Council. Fieldwork was carried out on 26th March 2012.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Fig. 1)

The village of Searby in the parish of Searby cum Owmby and the administrative district of West Lindsey lies approximately 20km east of Scunthorpe and 20km west of Grimsby. Searby Top Farm is located to the northeast of the village, on the southeast side of Searby Wold Lane, at NGR TA 08820 07232.

Searby Top Farm is situated in undulating topography on geology of the Welton Chalk Formation (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Aims and objectives for the project were set out by Witham Archaeology in a specification dated 23rd March 2012. These are to:

- produce an archive record of the farm buildings prior to any alterations or

demolition which might be required as part of their conversion to domestic use.

- gather sufficient documentary evidence to allow an interpretation of the relationship of the buildings to the local landscape and a consideration of their local, regional and national significance.
- produce a project archive and report for deposition with the 'The Collection' museum in Lincoln.
- provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork was carried out to a standard consistent with Level 2 as specified by English Heritage in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* 2006, and in accordance with recommendations by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.

The photographic record includes views of the farm complex in its setting, exterior views on all sides of each of the buildings, and interior views showing the main space together with any architectural detail.

The primary archive record in monochrome was compiled with a 35mm SLR camera fitted with a 28-90mm lens. Publication photographs were taken with a digital camera using the TIFF file format. An index to the images has been compiled on Witham Archaeology pro forma registers.

All buildings were examined for evidence of structural alteration and development over time.

A full set of plan and elevation drawings was provided by Brown and Buttrick Architects for use in field recording and for illustration purposes in this report.

Further to the above, a search was made at the Lincolnshire Archives Office, for topographical material relevant to the chronological development of the farm at Searby Top.

For the purposes of this report buildings are numbered in accordance with designations made on drawings by Brown and Buttrick Architects. Building No. 4, a modern Dutch barn located to the northeast of the complex, had been demolished prior to the archaeological survey.

5.0 RESULTS OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

A farm at Searby Top is not indicated on the Ordnance Survey one inch to one mile map of 1824, Bryant's map of 1825 (see Fig. 3) or Greenwood and Co.'s map (see Fig. 4) published in 1830 (surveyed 1827-8).

A plan for a four-bay shed at Searby Wold (see Fig. 6), dated September 1850, was located in records of the Dixon Estate, held by Lincolnshire Archives (LAO 3-Dixon 4/3/6, Sketch for a Beast Shed at Searby Wold). Measuring 32 by 16 foot, the structure appears to correlate with a shed seen on later maps (see below), abutting the southeast end of the barn and facing into the adjacent yard. Accordingly, the drawing indicates that the wall to the left of view was to be formed by an existing structure.

A second drawing (3-Dixon 4/3/9-10, Plans for Buildings at Searby Wold), in similar style to the beast house drawing, with annotations in the same hand, contains a design for new stables and an implement shed alongside Wold Lane (see Fig. 5), as well as plans for the cottages which stand to the southwest of the farm. The proposed farm structures correlate with an L-shaped arrangement shown on later maps at the western corner of the complex. The plan shows two units in the southwest range, both with opposing doors, a corner unit with a single door to the southeast, a four-bay implement store in the northwest range (see below) and a further unit to the northeast with a single door facing into the yard. Annotations on the drawing specify that the stable door should be 3ft 9 inches wide and placed 18 inches from the end wall, the type of timber to be used in each stable, the requirement for candle settings and air holes at the end of each (crib?).

The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps of 1877 and 1907 (see Fig. 7) depict an E-shaped layout with the yards open to the southeast. The same arrangement is depicted on a plan (see Fig. 8) accompanying sale particulars published for an auction in 1907 of the Dixon family's estate in Searby (LAO 1-Dixon/22/7/17/5, Sale Particulars for the Searby Estate). Listed as Lot 2 with 280 acres arable land, the buildings at Searby had up until that time been attached to Manor Farm (located in the village), which was then tenanted by a Mr Coates. The particulars do not include a detailed description of the buildings.

A comprehensive description of the farm buildings at Searby Top is contained in annotations made for valuation purposes on a copy of the 1907 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map held by the Lincolnshire Archives Office. The buildings are listed in the table below (map refs. correspond to Fig. 7).

Map Ref.	*Descriptions*
D	Implement shed
E	Straw barn with granary over; 4-bay shed
F	6-bay shed and yard
G	Two 5-bay sheds
H	Two boxes, stable for four, cow stable for three, 4-bay implement shed
J	Stables for ten; gear house (new) 19' x 55'

The stables and gear house (J) are a recent addition and post date the maps of 1907.

In 1923, the farm (tenanted by Henry Lowish) was again presented for auction (LAO 1-Dixon/20/1/53, sale particulars for Searby Top and Low Farms, Searby), following the death of the owner, George Smith. There is no surviving plan but the sale particulars relate that the farm buildings:

Chiefly built of Brick and Tiled, comprise 10-stall Horse Stable, 4-stall Horse Stable, 4-stall Cow Stable, 4-bay Wagon Shed, 2 Loose Boxes, Cake House, Chaff House, Barn with Granary over, 3 Crews with Shelter Sheds.

The description is largely consistent with information contained on the valuation map. It is not clear where the cake and chaff houses were located but a position in the area of the barn seems likely.

The *c.* 1850 stable is not shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:10 000 map of 1956 (see Fig. 9) and must have been demolished at some point after 1923. The Dutch barn (recently demolished – see above) had been added to the northeast. The large store or cow shed (since converted to stables) now abutting the barn and granary appears on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of 1970 (not reproduced) and the 4-bay shed of 1850 has been demolished. The

shelter sheds (G) are still present on the Ordnance Survey 1: 10 000 map of 1973.

An identical layout is evident on the OS 1:10 000 map of 1973.

In summary, the documentary record indicates that the farm originated during the second quarter of the 19th century, presumably with the construction of the barn and granary (E). The 6-bay shelter shed (F) might have been constructed at the same time or shortly after, followed in the middle of the century by the 4-bay shed (also E) and probably the cart shed/implement store and stables. It is not clear when the pair of shelter sheds (G) dividing the yards were constructed but a similar *c*. mid 19th century date seems highly likely. New stables (J) were constructed during the period 1907 to 1923 and the earlier stable building (part of H) was demolished between 1923 and 1956. A Dutch barn was added in the same period. The 4-bay shed (part of E) was demolished in the period 1956 and 1970, probably as a consequence of the construction of the large shed which adjoins the barn. The shelter sheds (G) survived at least until 1973, but have since been demolished (perhaps to improve access to the modern shed).

Plate 1: General view of Searby Top Farm

6.0 DESCRIPTION

6.1 Building 1 (see Figs. 10, 12 and 13)

Building 1, in red brick with a pantile roof, lies at the southern corner of the courtyard complex. Internally, the building comprises two units placed either side of a smaller room (now an office). The layout suggests stables either side of a tack room, in line with documentary evidence (see above) indicating the building as a stable for 10 with gear house.

Two doorways placed centrally in the front elevation (*Plate 2*) give access to each of the two main areas of the building. There are modern windows at mid height in each of the units and a smaller window in the central area.

A large doorway occupies the southwest facing elevation to the level of the gable (*Plate 4*). A plank door survives on one side; the other is boarded.

The rear of the building (*Plate 3*) is plain except for ventilation holes at just below eaves level.

Documentary evidence (see above) suggests that the building formerly abutted an earlier shelter shed. Traces of whitewash (applied to the interior of the shelter shed) and evidence of rebuilding at the east corner (following demolition of the earlier structures) provide corroboration of this. A blocked in doorway is visible to right of view in the northeast elevation (*Plate 3*).

Internally, the northeast side of the building (*Plates 5, 6 and 7*) retains some traditional elements including the brick plinth for a manger (the manger has been removed) running along the rear wall, a brick floor and drainage channel running centrally along the long axis of the building. There is a blocked in doorway in the internal wall, which together with the blocked in external door provided access along the cleaning passage, to the centrally positioned tack room. There are three iron tethering rings in the base for the manger but no evidence of stall divisions has survived. There is a hay rack on the rear wall.

Internally, the unit to the southwest (*Plates 8 and 9*) has been subject to considerable alteration. It has a concrete floor and centrally positioned drainage channel aligned with the long axis of the building.

The area to the rear of the unit has been divided into two stalls by a concrete block wall and the large opening to the southwest has been partially infilled by another concrete block wall. A door in the internal wall gives access to the central space, which appears most recently to have been used as an office (*Plate 10*). The door aligns with the two doors in the northeast unit and originally would probably have provided a continuous route along cleaning passages on both sides of the tack room. It seems likely that the southwest unit was converted to use as a store before being refitted as stable in more recent times. There is a ceramic sink in the western corner of the latter area.

The original timber roof structure comprises trusses with collar beams, purlins, rafters and sub-purlins to carry the pantile covering.

Plate 2: Building 1, front elevation, looking southeast

Plate 3: Building 1, looking south

Plate 4: Building1, southwest facing elevation

Plate 5: Interior of Building 1, northeast side

Plate 6: Interior of Building 1, northeast side

Plate 7: Interior of Building 1, northeast side

Plate 8: Interior of |Building 1, southwest side

Plate 9: Interior of Building 1: southwest side

Plate 10: Interior of Building 1, office/ former tack room?

6.2 Building 2 (see Figs. 10, 12 and 13)

Building 2 forms the northwest side of the courtyard. The walls are composite brick, stone and concrete representing various periods of construction. The roof is modern, comprising asbestos cement sheets over an iron framework.

Ends of stone walls relating to a 19th century shelter shed and loose box(es) are visible in the southeast facing elevation of Building 2 (*Plate 11*), along with part of the rear wall (in brick) of a slightly later cartshed/implement store (see Fig. 12). The fronts of the shelter shed and the probable loose box contain modern brick infill, to form stables, while much of cartshed/implement store (southwest end) has been rebuilt in modern concrete blocks. The stable doors are modern (identical to those in Building 3), comprising planks below and iron above.

The area between the stables and the cartshed – latterly used as an office (fronted with modern brickwork, a window and an iron door) – might, originally, have been a second loose box, constructed at the same time as the adjacent cartshed.

The northwest facing elevation of Building 2 (*Plates 15, 16 and 17*) includes the rear wall of the 19th century shelter shed and loose box, in stone with brick detail at the corners and eaves, the rear wall of the office (further loose box?) in stone to match, and the cartshed to the southwest. The cartshed is in 4-bays formed by iron uprights and trusses supporting the asbestos sheet roof covering (see *Plate 18*). The height of the 19th century structure has been raised with concrete blocks to match the height of the rebuilt part of the cartshed. The northeast end of Building 2 has been rebuilt using concrete blocks.

Internally, the spaces within the building are plain, containing no surviving evidence of feeding or stalling arrangements (*Plates 12, 13 and 14*). A brick buttress or pillar against the rear wall of the larger space to the northeast may be an addition, possibly occasioned by alterations to the roofing structure. The dividing wall between the shed and the loose box is carried up to the roof in recent brickwork, but the space would, it appears, have originally been open. The end wall of the cattle accommodation block (now dividing the office and the smaller stable) is gabled in stone to the roof (see *Plate 12*, left of view). The gable has been heightened in brick.

Plate 11: Building 2: southeast facing elevation

Plate 12: Building 2 – interior of loose box?

Plate 13: Building 2: Interior of former shelter shed

Plate 14: Building 2: Interior of former shelter shed

Plate 15: Building 2, northwest facing elevation

Plate 16: Building 2: surviving fragment of original shelter shed

Plate 17: Building 2, rear of shelter sheds

Plate 18: Building 2, interior of cartshed, looking northeast

6.3 Building 3 (see Figs. 11 and 12)

Building 3 (*Plate 19*) is a large modern shed, built against the southwest side of the barn/granary (Building 5). Built in concrete blocks with timber slats above, it incorporates, on its northwest side, part of the rear wall of a shelter shed, standing to a height of 1.88m and extending over a distance of *c*. 9m (see *Plate 16*) to the point where it has been demolished and finished in brick.

The remainder of the structure comprises concrete blocks below with vertical timber slats above. Metal trusses support the roof of asbestos cement sheets and access is provided by large metal doors in the southwest facing elevation (also doors to a store at the southeast end of the building).

Internally, concrete partitions with railings above divide the structure into 15 individual stable units, each with a plank door and metal rails above (*Plates 20, 21 and 22*). The units are arranged along the long walls either side of a broad passage. All openings from the barn/granary are blocked at ground floor level.

Although most recently fitted as a stable, the structure probably originated as a cowshed or general purpose store.

Plate 19: Building 3: southwest facing elevation

Plate 20: Building 3 interior, looking southeast

Plate 21: Building 3 interior, looking northwest

Plate 22: Building 3, single stable

6.4 Building 5 (see Figs. 11, 12 and 13)

Building 5 is a combined barn and granary with internal dimensions of 23m long by 6.45m wide. The walls are in limestone, with detail in brick at the corners, at eaves level, and around all of the openings: doors, windows/vents and ventilation slots or breathers. The roof is hipped and covered with modern asbestos sheets.

Northeast facing elevation (main elevation)
The northeast facing elevation (*Plate 23*) has three original door openings at ground floor level, all with arches detailed in brick. The largest (situated at the northwest end of the elevation) has a sliding metal door. The other doorways – one placed immediately adjacent to the main door, the other located at the southeast end of the elevation – are identical in size and appearance, except for brick infill reducing the width of the middle doorway. Both openings contain hinged metal doors.

Two identical openings at first floor level on the northwest side of the elevation (*Plate 24*) may be interpreted as vents to an overhead granary. The openings are glazed in their upper extents (three light windows in timber frames) with planked doors beneath (one replaced by board). The doors open outwards from the base of the opening.

Towards the centre of the elevation, a large area of recent brickwork indicates the position of an original door to the first floor (*Plate 25*). Detailing around the opening is less regular (particularly on the southeast side) than that seen elsewhere in the building, which raises the possibility that the door represents a modification to the original structure. More convincingly, a threshold or step at the base of the feature appears to indicate the position of a narrower opening - later enlarged to the southeast. There is a small opening in the brick infill, containing a planked door or shutter.

A large, arched, bricked in opening at first storey level near the southeast end of the building may be interpreted as a pitching door (*Plate 26*). The brickwork incorporates a small opening comparable to the one in the adjacent door.
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There are seven ventilation slots or breathers (some blocked) in the main elevation – five at ground floor level and two at first floor level. A small blocked opening was noted near the southwest end of the elevation. The function of the feature has not been determined.

For internal views of the features described above see *Plates 32 to 38*.

Southeast facing elevation
The only feature evident in the southeast facing elevation is a flat-sided opening at the lower right corner (*Plate 27;* for interior see *Plate 39*). The opening, with a brick and concrete surround, is probably a late insertion and has been infilled with brick. The feature would probably have accommodated the drive shaft for an engine sited outside the barn (see below).

Southwest facing elevation (rear of building)
The barn and granary is abutted at ground floor level on its southwest side, by a modern shed (Building 3), preventing a simultaneous view of the entire elevation. Inspection within the shed, revealed three original doorways at ground floor level, opposing the doors in the front elevation. The furthest doorway to the southeast (see *Plate 22*) contained an infill of concrete blocks – probably done as part of the late conversion to stables (see below), the other openings appear to have been bricked up at an earlier date (possibly during use as a grain store). A blocked in 'window' is visible at ground floor level, towards the centre of the elevation. The feature, with a stone sill and none of the decorative detail associated with the original openings, is probably a later modification.

Viewed from outside, two small openings are visible at first floor level at the northeast end of the building (see *Plate 27*), corresponding to openings in the main elevation (see above). Both are blocked in with horizontal slats. A larger opening towards the centre of the elevation, with a plank door, would probably have functioned to supply fodder or straw to the adjacent cattle yards. Two ventilation slots or breathers are visible at first floor level.

For views of the interiors of features in the southeast elevation see *Plates 40 to 47*.

Northwest facing elevation (adjacent to Wold Lane)
The northwest facing elevation is abutted at ground floor level by the modern fertiliser store. It is plain.

Interior
Modern concrete flooring extends throughout the interior of the barn/granary, while all flooring at

first floor level has been removed (for general views, see *Plates 29 and 30*).

Two opposing pairs of brick-built plinths are located against the long walls of the building. The first pair is situated near the north-eastern end of the building, immediately southwest of the opposing doors (the plinth on the side adjacent to the main door is substantially rebuilt), the second pair further to the southwest. One of the latter has been removed, its former position indicated only by a scar (*Plate 42*) in the fabric of the southwest wall. The plinths may have acted as supports for the first floor.

Only one of the first floor support beams (located to the southeast of the middle pair of doors) remains in place (*Plates 29 and 30*). Another (*Plate 47*) survives in truncated form within a modern concrete platform constructed against the northeast wall (see below) and the position of a third (situated at approximate midpoint between the other beams) may be surmised from sockets visible in the masonry of the barn. Ridges of plaster occur at first floor level (allowing for joists and floorboards) in the area defined by the beams (*Plates 35 and 41*). The ridges, which are sharply defined at their lower extents (presumably shaped by the floor), probably result from plastering over the floorboards. Plaster floors are a common feature in traditional granaries, designed to prevent the loss of grain through cracks between the floorboards. Remnants of vertical timbers on the southeast face of the second roof truss from the southeast indicate the position of a wooden partition wall at the end of the second storey.

Evidence for flooring at the northeast end of the building is less clearcut than in the central section. The remnants of joists and a floor are visible in the end wall (*Plate 31*), set at a higher level than flooring in the central area. Set at a lower level in the northeast wall (extending over the main door) are further possible remains of a floor, while upright skims of plaster (extending approximately from the level of the latter floor remnant) indicating possible partitions, are visible on both long walls in this area.

It would appear from the evidence available that the upper floor extended to within *c.* 6m of the southwest end wall and that the southwestern part of the structure had always been open to the roof.

Roof Structure and use as a grainstore

The roof comprises seven kingpost type trusses (*Plates 48 and 49*), with purlins carrying the roof covering of asbestos cement sheets.

Struts on the southwest sides of the trusses have been modified to receive a wooden walkaway (see *Plate 48*) extending along the long axis of the building. The walkway - reached via a platform (see *Plate 47*) constructed in concrete blocks and ladders placed against the northeast wall of the building – provided access to grain drying and storage equipment which was installed during the late 20th century (since removed). An indentation in the concrete floor at the southeast end of the building would probably have held a receptor for the grain.

Plate 23: Northeast facing elevation of the barn and granary

Plate 24: Northeast facing elevation – main door and granary

Plate 25: Building 5 - door to 1st floor

Plate 26: Building 5 – pitching door

Plate 27: Buildings 3 and 5, southeast facing elevation

Plate 28: Building 5, northwest facing elevation

Plate 29: Interior of Building 5, looking northwest

Plate 30: Interior of Building 5, looking southeast

Plate 31: Building 5, northwest end with 'floor' remains

Plate 32: Building 5, main door (interior)

Plate 33: Vent to granary?

Plate 34: Middle door in NE side of Building 5

Plate 35: Building 5 - plaster on interior of northeast wall

Plate 36: Interior of door to first floor granary

Plate 37: Remains of beam

Plate 38: Door at SE end of Building 5

Plate 39: Opening at base of SE wall

Plate 40: Opposing door at SE end of Building 5

Plate 41: Building 5 - plaster on interior of southwest wall

Plate 42: Buttress?

Plate 43: Window in SW wall

Plate 44: Upper window in southwest wall

Plate 45: Surviving beam and plaster on southwest wall

Plate 46: Middle door, SW side

Plate 47: Door opposing main door

Plate 48: Building 5 - roof structure and modern walkway – looking NW

Plate 49: Building 5 – example of truss, looking northwest

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The results of documentary research and analysis of the standing structures both indicate that the buildings at Searby Top Farm farm originated in second quarter of the 19th century. By the middle of the century it would appear that the complex had assumed the layout depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1877, comprising the combined barn/granary on the northeast side of a courtyard arrangement of cattle yards and associated, open shelter sheds. A cartshed/implement store and stables lay at the western corner of the complex.

From information contained in sale particulars of 1907 it seems highly likely that the unit was established as a satellite component of a village based farm (Manor Farm, Searby). Remote 'barn and yard' units became increasingly common during the 19th century as intensified farming methods stimulated an increasing need to maintain fertility in areas remote from the primary farmstead. Remote units performed the function of 'manure factories' receiving straw from the fields, to be distributed in the cattle yards and shelters, where it was mixed with manure before being collected and returned to the fields, thereby obviating the need to transport straw and manure between the primary farm and outlying fields. (Harvey 1984, 138). Remote units were often overseen by a stockman operating from the main farmstead (Harvey, ibid), and this may have been the case at Searby Top prior to construction of nearby cottages in approximately mid century.

The layout of the complex conforms to established practice of the 19th century, with the barn as the highest building providing shelter to the north and cattle yards and shelters to the south where the animals could benefit from extra warmth from the sun, thereby reducing weight loss during periods of cold weather.

The type of barn/granary combination seen at Searby Top Farm became increasingly common during the 19th century as the use of steam powered portable threshing machines removed the need for the traditional threshing barn with its characteristic large, opposing doors either side of a threshing floor and areas for storage of the unthreshed crop.

At Searby Top Farm, the area serving as a granary might originally have been restricted to a loft at the northwest end of the building. The area is devoid of ventilation slots or breathers (these occur at regular intervals in the rest of the building) but does contain pairs of vent/windows in each of the long walls. Grain had to be kept well ventilated but dry and granaries were usually fitted with some combination of window and vent (Barnwell and Giles 1997, p. 53). There would have been no external access to the granary and access would probably have been provided from the adjacent doors via a ladder (no longer extant). The remainder of the building would appear to have served as a straw barn, as suggested by the presence of a pitching door high in the wall (used in unloading from a cart) and ventilation slots or breathers in the walls. A similar example of a straw barn combined with a loft granary was identified at Crow Lane Farm, Great Hale, during a survey of South Lincolnshire farmsteads (Barnwell and Giles 1997, p. 50).

It is clear that prior to the installation of a grain drier in the late 20th century, the first floor extended through the majority of the building, with only a small area at the southeast end open to the roof. Access to this space was through an external door (probably widened during its period of use) on the northeast side of the building – probably reached by wooden steps. Farmsteads surveyed as part the South Lincolnshire survey included Moat Farm in Newton and Haceby, where the barn was fully two-storeyed (Barnwell and Giles 1997, p. 50).

Increasingly in the 19th century barns came to house a variety of functions connected with fodder storage and preparation. This may have been the case at Searby Top Farm (chaff and oilcake stores are mentioned in the sale particulars of 1923 but it is unclear where these were situated). The blocked in opening at the base of the southeast wall would probably have accommodated the drive shaft of an external engine used to drive a chaff cutter or similar machinery. The window openings in the southwest side of the barn would probably have been used to distribute straw and fodder to the adjacent cattle yards and sheds.

The shelter sheds on the northwest side of the yards probably represent the earliest phase of cattle housing and were clearly in place when the cartshed and stables were constructed in the middle of the 19th century. The sheds have been adapted to use as horse stables and there is little sign of internal detail. Documentary evidence suggests that

further cattle shelters (all since demolished) were in place by mid century, including a 6-bay shed abutting the southeast side of the barn.

A small room (now an office) adjacent to the early shelter shed (later stables) could have been a loose box mentioned in the early 20th century sources, given its location in close proximity to the cattle yards.

The adjacent cart shed/ implement store appears to have been added in mid century, together with a stable block. Built in brick, the original building survives in truncated form, having been rebuilt in concrete blocks at the southwest end. The adjacent stables have been completely demolished. In line with 19th century prescriptions concerning the preservation of wooden carts and implements from excessive damaging sunlight, the cart shed faces northwest, which also provided easy access to Searby Wold Lane.

The large (multi-purpose?) shed adjacent to the barn was constructed in the second half of the 20th century and grain drying/ storage equipment was installed in the barn, probably leading to the removal of the first floor and the blocking up of many of the original openings. The barn has since lain derelict while the other surviving buildings, including the modern shed, were converted to stables. All of the buildings now lie derelict except for the large shed, which houses some agricultural machinery.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr Tim Piggott of Brown and Buttrick Architects for assistance in providing base drawings for illustration of the report, also Mr A Godfrey for arranging access to the site. Thanks are also due to Alexandra Thornton of the Historic Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council and staff at the Lincolnshire Archives Office for assistance in locating relevant information

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: SSTF12

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: West Lindsey District Council Ref.: 123988

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TA 08820 07232

CIVIL PARISH: Searby cum Owmby

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 26th March 2012

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Historic Building Recording

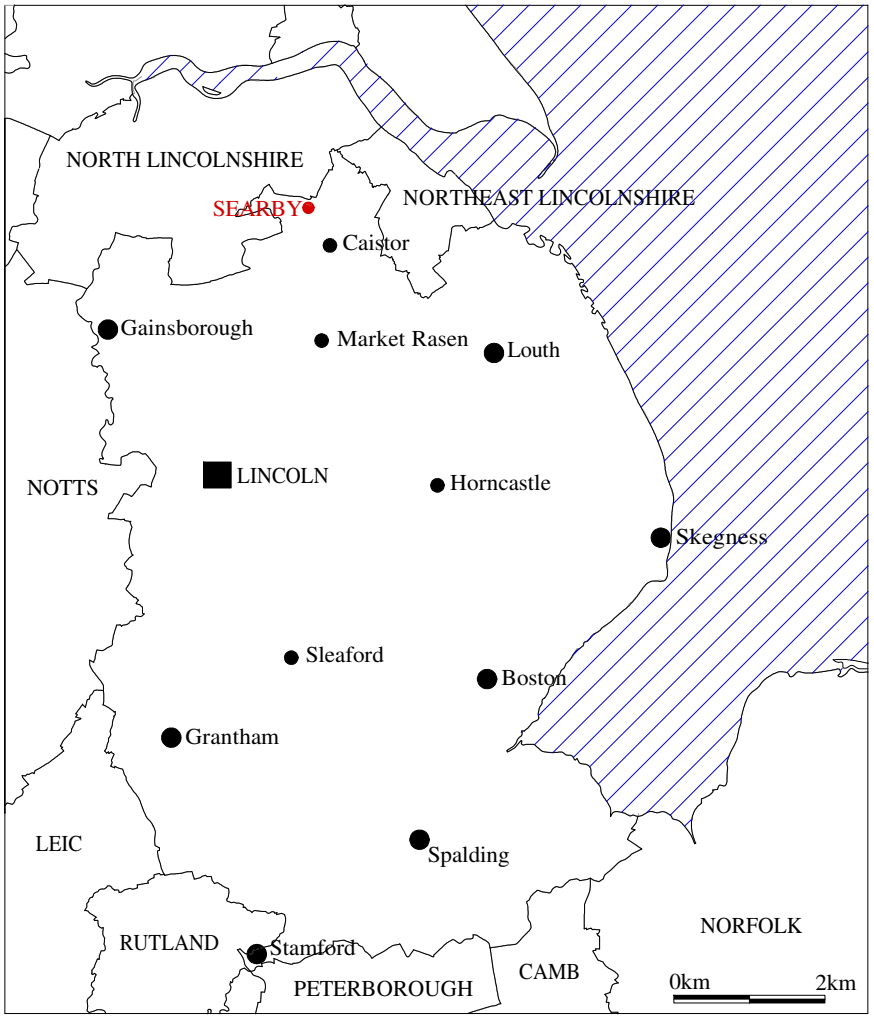
UNDERTAKEN FOR: Brown and Buttrick Architects

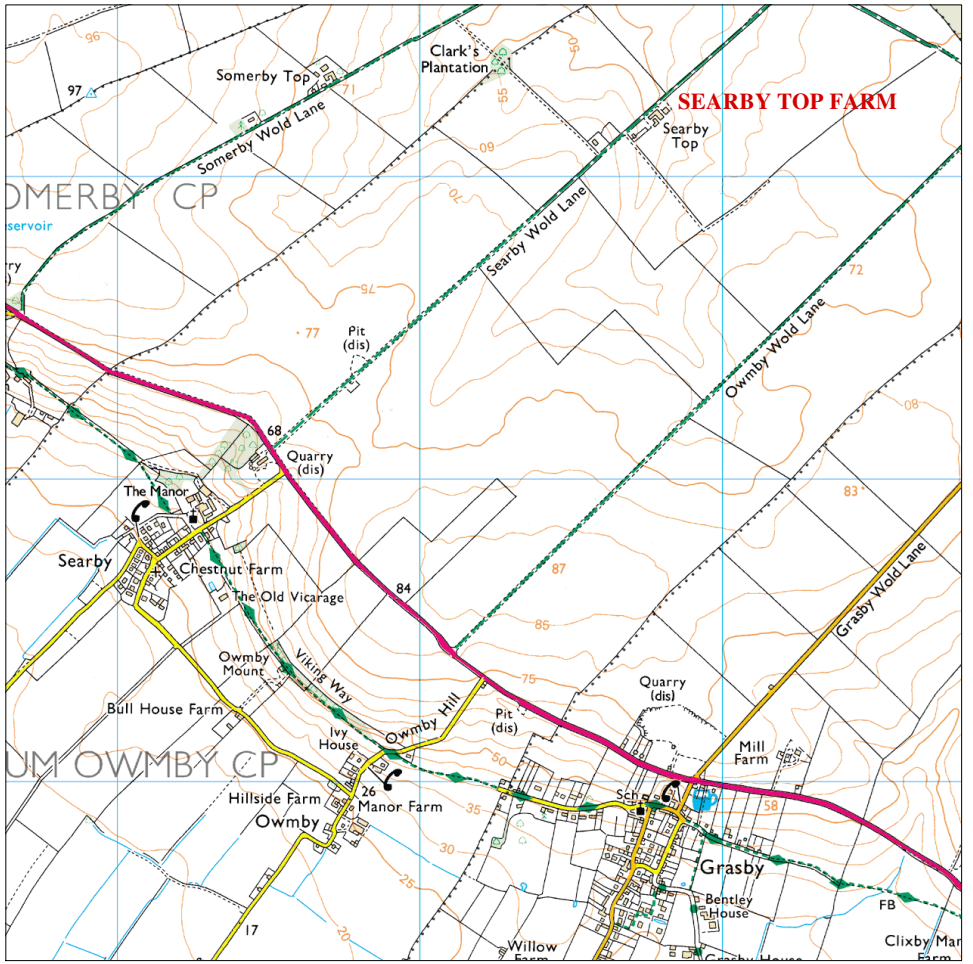
10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, Unit 6, Sleaford Station Business Centre, Station Road, Sleaford, NG34 7RG

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC 2012.55





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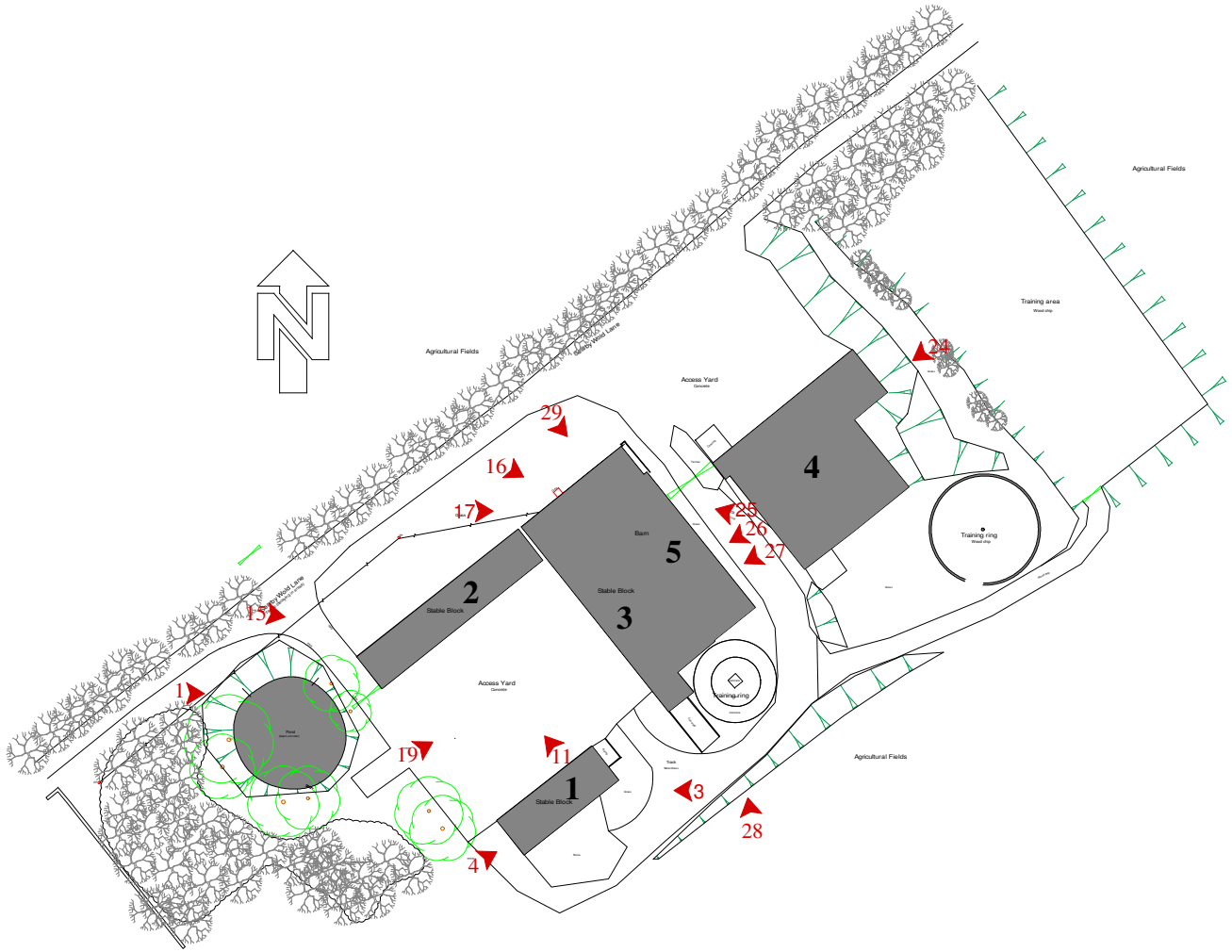
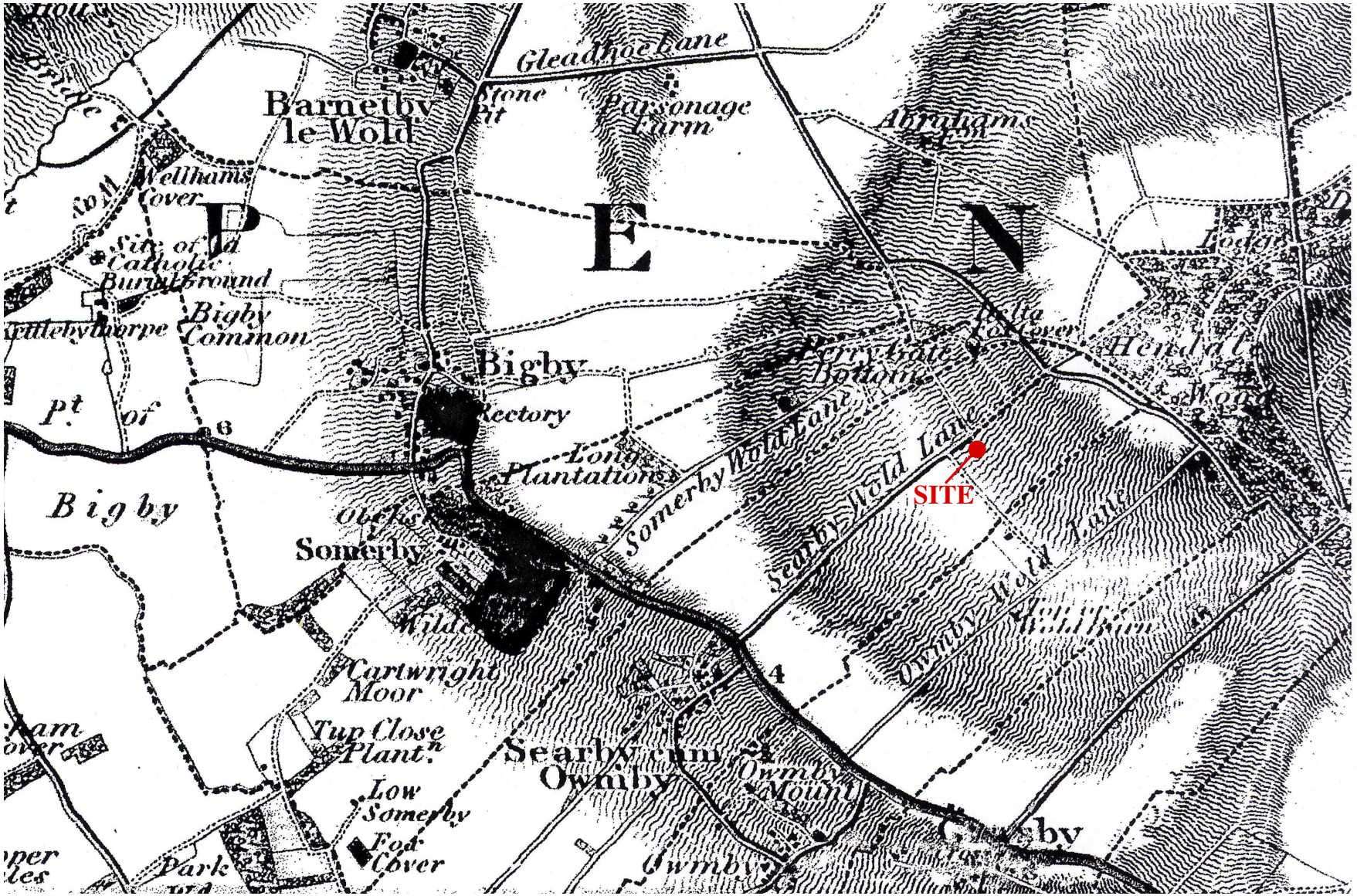
Site Location

Fig. 1



Based upon a drawing supplied by Brown and Buttrick Chartered Architects

Witham Archaeology | Block Plan Showing all Buildings | Scale 1:1000 | Fig. 2



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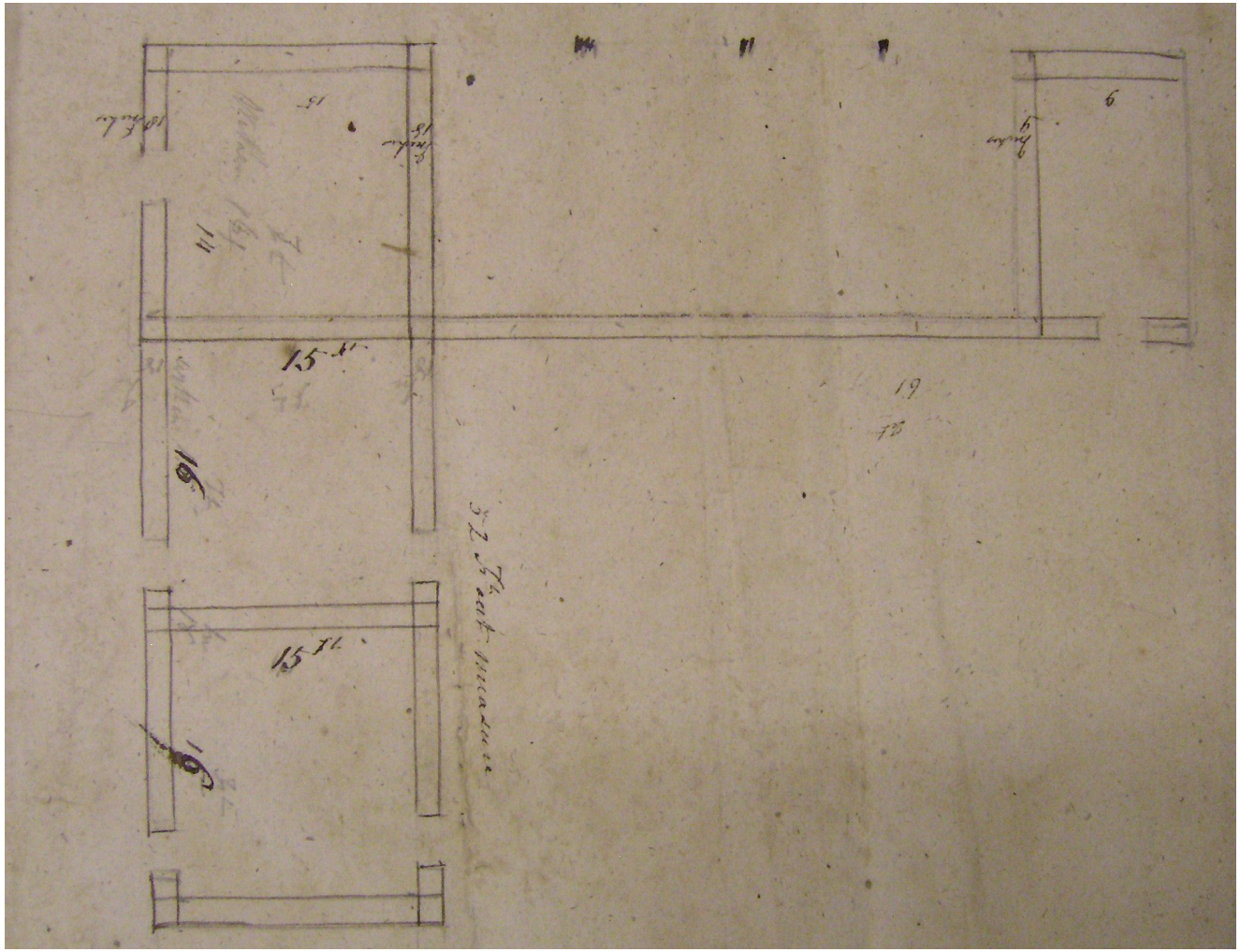
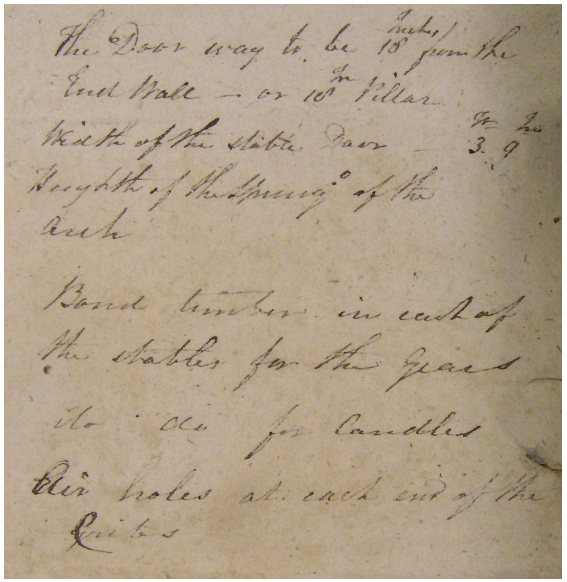
Bryant's Map of c. 1825 Not to Scale

Fig. 3

Witham Archaeology | Greenwood's Map of 1830 (Surveyed 1827-28) | Not to Scale | Fig. 4





Annotations on drawing

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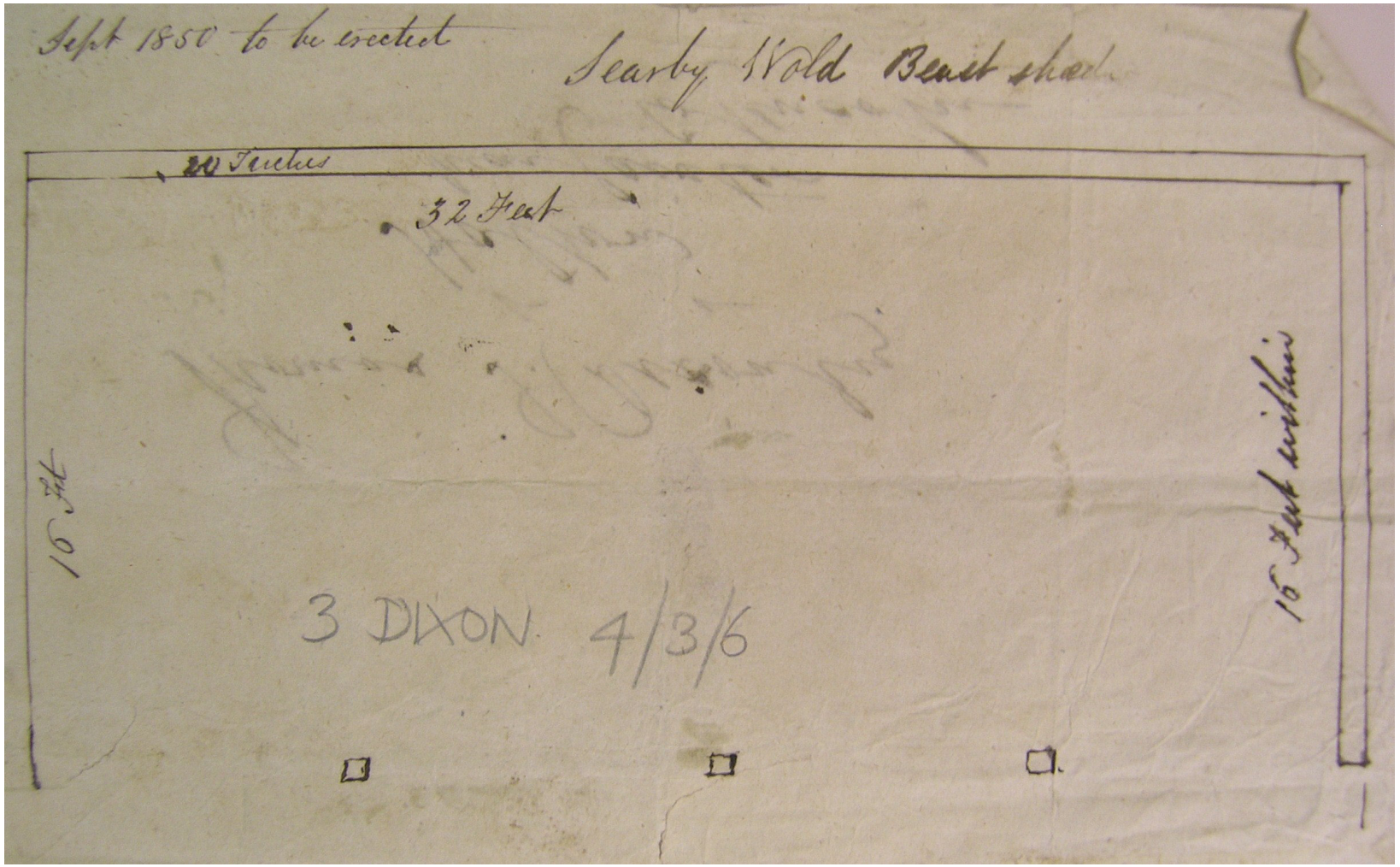
Plan of Proposed Buildings at Searby Wold (Cartshed and Stables?)

Fig 5



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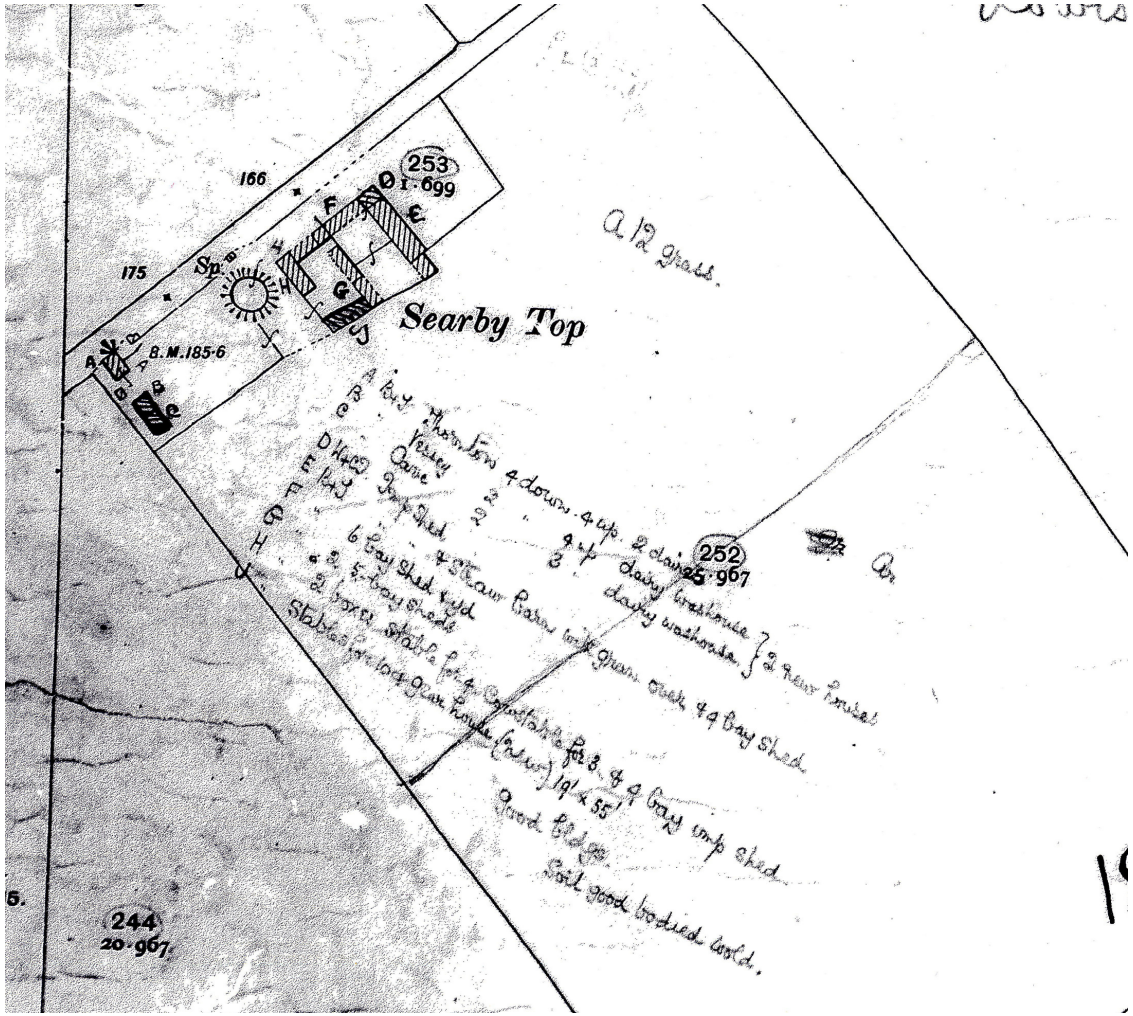
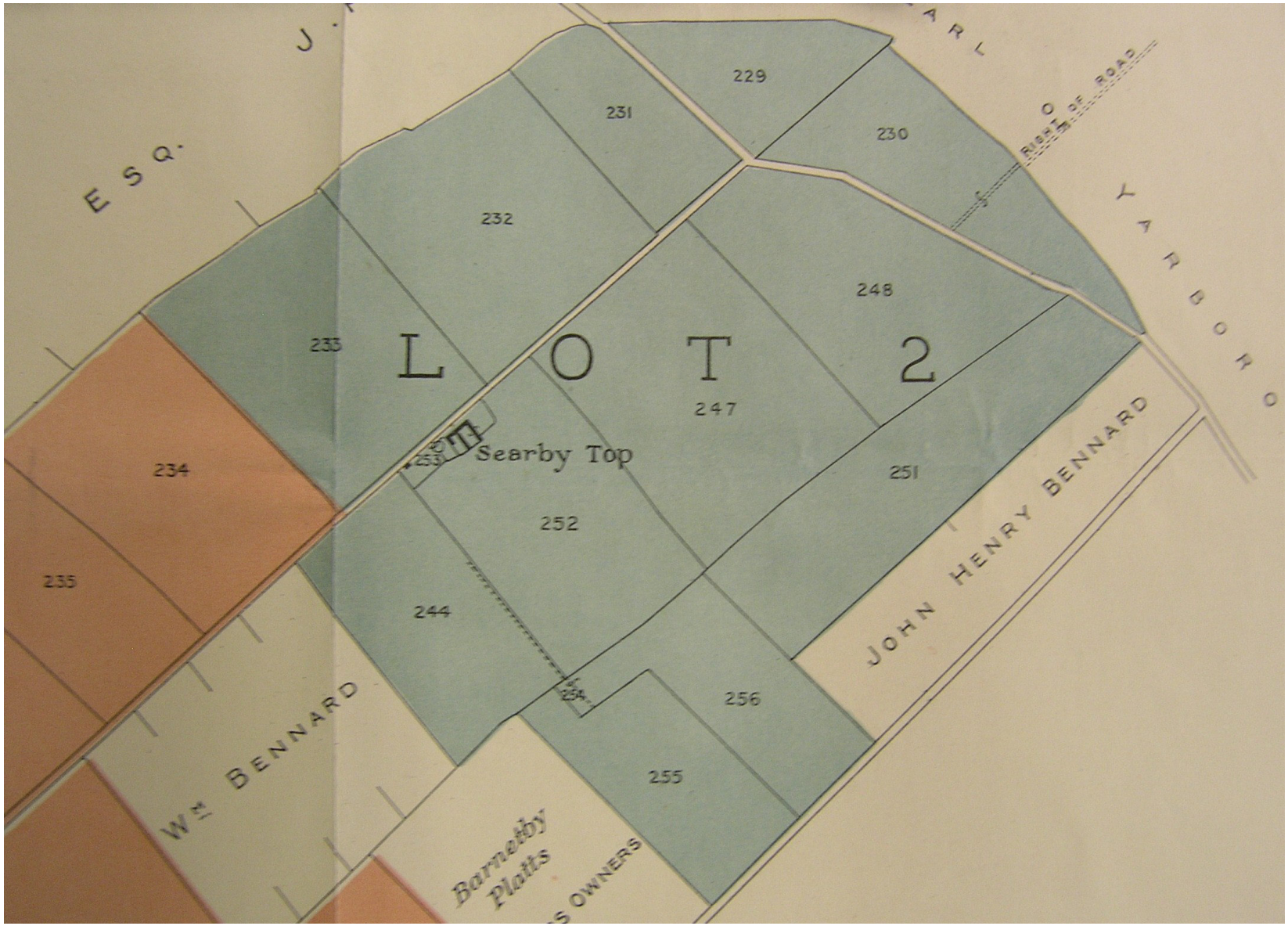
Plan of Proposed Beast Shed at Searby Wold

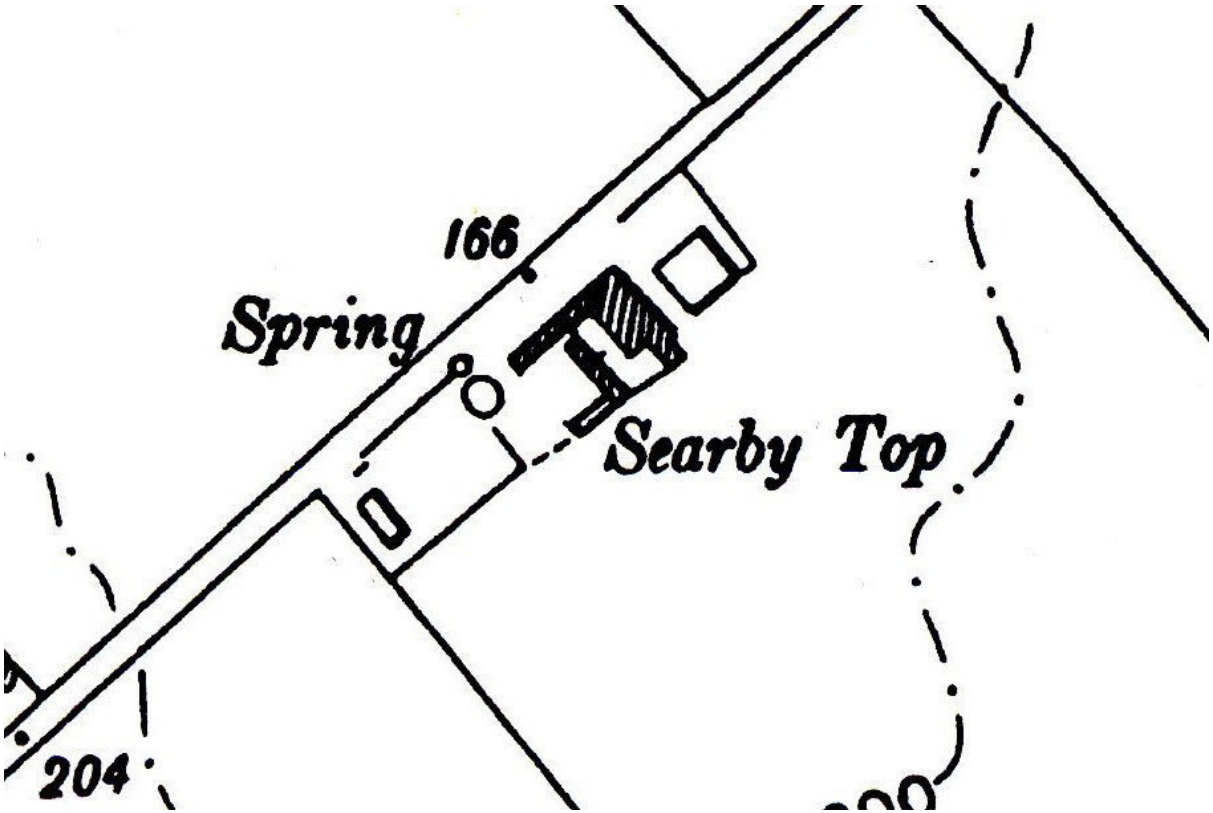
Fig 6



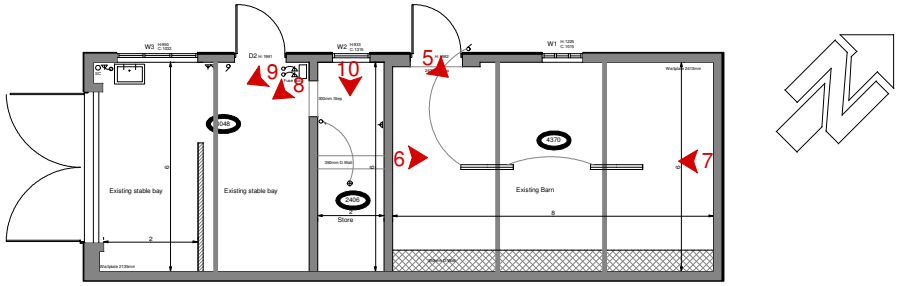
Witham Archaeology | Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 of 1907 | Not to Scale | Fig. 7



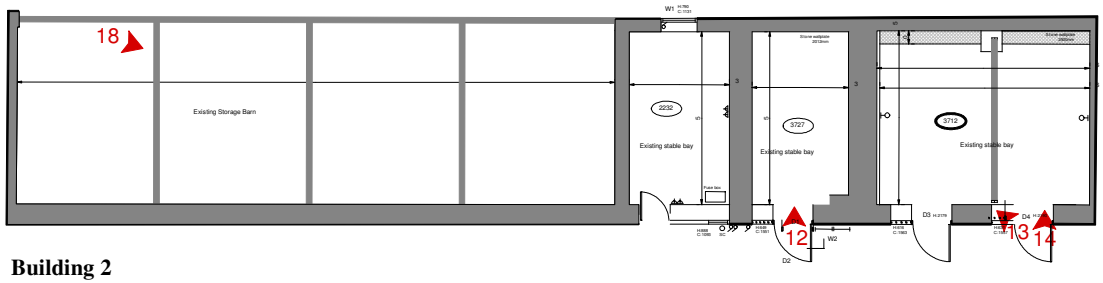
Witham Archaeology | Map Accompanying Sale Particulars of 1907 | Scale: c. 1:10 000 | Fig. 8



Witham Archaeology | 1956 Ordnance Survey 1: 10 000 | Reproduced at c. 1:2500 | Fig. 9



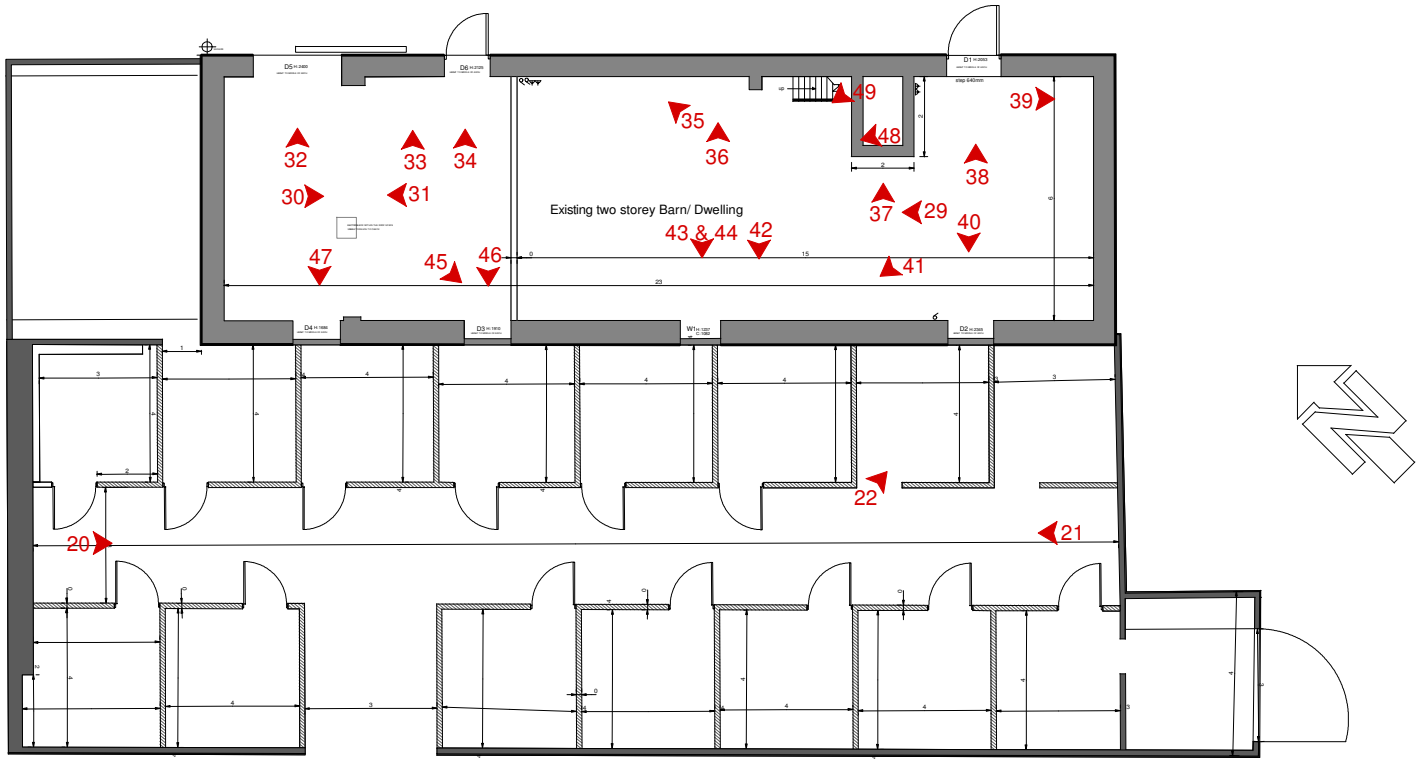
Building 1



Building 2

Based upon a drawing supplied by Brown and Buttrick Chartered Architects

Witham Archaeology | Ground Plans of Buildings 1 & 2 Scale 1: 200 | Fig. 10



Based upon a drawing supplied by Brown and Buttrick Chartered Architects

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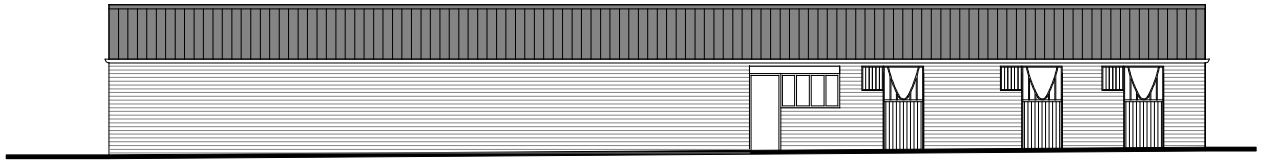
Ground Plans of Buildings 3 & 5 Scale 1:200

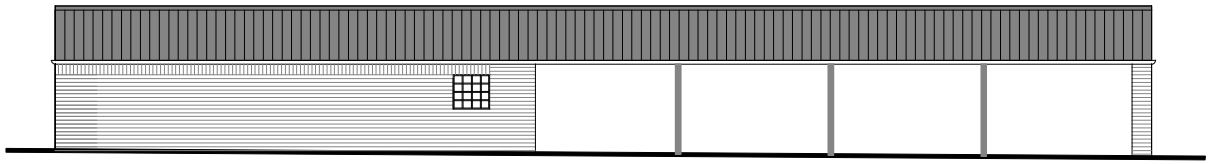
Fig. 11

Based upon a drawing supplied by Brown and Buttrick Chartered Architects

Witham Archaeology | Phase Plan Showing Traditional Farm Buildings | Scale 1: 500 | Fig. 12

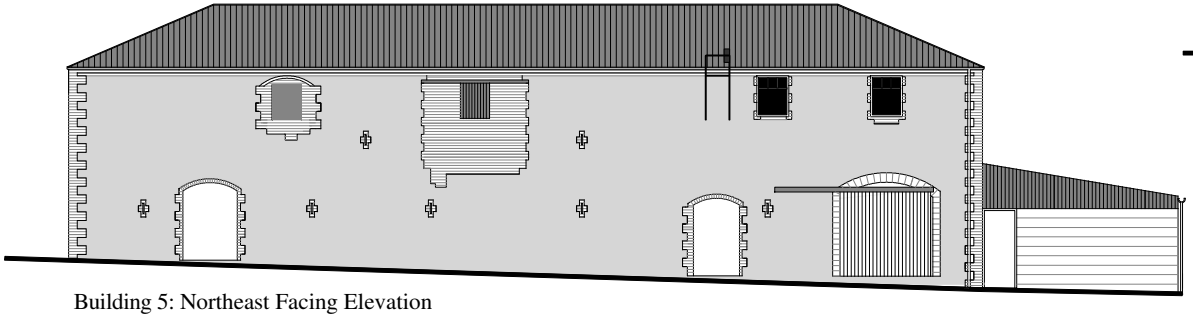


Building 2: Southeast Facing Elevation



Building 2: Northwest Facing Elevation

Building 1: Northwest Facing Elevation



Building 5: Northeast Facing Elevation

Based upon a drawing supplied by Brown and Buttrick Chartered Architects

Witham Archaeology | Elevations Drawings | Scale 1:200 | Fig. 13

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