

Witham Archaeology

A report to Mr and Mrs Chapman

September 2014



BARNS AT PARK HOUSE, GOREFIELD ROAD LEVERINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Historic Building Recording

R Trimble

BARNS AT PARK HOUSE, GOREFIELD ROAD, LEVERINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

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Historic Building Recording

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BARNs AT PARK HOUSE, GOREFIELD ROAD, LEVERINGTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a programme of historic building recording undertaken by Witham Archaeology prior to the conversion to residential use of agricultural buildings at Park House, Gorefield Road, Leverington, Cambridgeshire. The project was commissioned by Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Chapman, in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by Fenland District Council.

Park House is a Grade II Listed house dated to around 1720, with a range to the rear, which might be slightly earlier. Documentary records suggest that the original owner was John Lumpkin who was in occupation until 1743. The programme of recording centred on two Grade II listed farm buildings situated to the west of Park house, both listed as Grade II and interpreted as barns dating to the late 18th/early 19th century.

A single farm building (presumably the southernmost of the barns) is shown on the tithe map of 1843. Both barns are present on the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1888, situated on the north and south sides of a courtyard opening to the west. The east side of the courtyard appears to have been lined with cattle shelter sheds.

The survey has demonstrated that the southernmost building (Barn 1) originally comprised a traditional threshing barn (open to the roof) to the west, divided by a brick wall from a two-storey element to the east. The first floor space to the east may have functioned as a granary or possibly as a hayloft, and the area beneath as a stable. However, substantial alterations to the lower space militated against conclusive identification. At a later stage the building may have become fully two-storey (indicated by an infilled doorway at first floor in the threshing barn). The threshing barn was then converted for use as a stable, with a tack room situated in the ground floor space on the east side of the building.

The northernmost building (Barn 2) is similar to Barn 1, incorporating a threshing barn open to the roof on the west side and two-storey element to the east (also including a probable granary or hayloft). The building was largely unchanged, except for a large opening inserted into the west gable to allow storage of modern machinery in the threshing barn area.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of historic building recording undertaken at Park House, Gorefield Road, Leverington, Cambridgeshire, in advance of works to convert two farm buildings to residential use. The project, commissioned by Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Chapman, was carried out in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by Fenland District Council. Fieldwork was mostly completed during the period 23rd to 27th August 2012, but a further visit was made on 24th March 2014, to record elevations exposed by the removal of lean-to structures on the south side of Barn 2.

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 Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

Park House is located in the parish of Leverington and administrative district of Fenland at NGR TF 4350 1199, c. 2 miles northwest of the centre of Wisbech. The site lies on the northwestern periphery of the settlement at Leverington, at an elevation of around 3.2m above Ordnance Datum. The barns recorded as part of the current study are situated to the west of Park House.

The local geology is Jurassic mudstone of the Ampthill Clay Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Quaternary Period Clay and Silt (British Geological Survey, 1:50 000 Solid and Drift).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (see Figs. 3, 4 and 5)

Park House is a Grade II listed building (National Heritage List No. 1310313) dated to around 1720 with a possibly slightly earlier range to the rear. The two farm buildings are also Grade II listed – the southernmost (here designated Barn 1) under List No. 1125952, the northernmost (Barn 2) under List No. 1161019. Both buildings are attributed as late 18th or early 19th century in origin. The grounds of Park House are included in a gazetteer of Historic Gardens in Cambridgeshire (Cambridgeshire Garden Trust 2000).

Documentary sources (Pugh 1953) indicate that the first occupant of Park House was John Lumpkin (1655-1743), who was succeeded by a son, Nicholas (1685-1748) and then by a second Nicholas (1728-94). In 1798, a third Nicholas (son of Nicholas II) was obliged to mortgage Park House together with other property to a brother-in-law, Samuel Taylor, who subsequently purchased it at auction in 1805. Samuel Taylor died before the property was conveyed, so Park House together with around 40 acres from the Lumpkin estate was conveyed to one of his sons, Nicholas. In the will of Samuel Taylor (17th March 1806, PROB 11/1448) the property is described as the ‘said Messuage or Mansion House with the Barns, Stables, Outhouses and Appurtenances thereto belonging’, together with Park Field and other land in Leverington.

Following the death of Samuel Taylor in 1869, the property passed to his wife Sarah and subsequently to their son Francis Nicholas. The house and much of the estate was sold in 1889 to Sir Samuel Roberts of Sheffield, and again in 1919, to an occupying tenant Alfred Coates. The house was empty at the outbreak of war in 1939 and was subsequently used as accommodation for London evacuees. In 1944, the house and about 25 acres was bought by Mr. G. A. Shippey of Gorefield.

There is scant evidence to support a local tradition that Oliver Goldsmith wrote his play *She Stoops to Conquer* in the gardens around Park House.

Gorefield Road (titled ‘The Eighth Public Road’) is depicted on a map of 1843, accompanying the Leverington Enclosure Award (Wisbech and Fenland Museums, KWISMAPS/46). The map (not reproduced in this report) indicates Nicholas Taylor as the owner of land adjacent to the road but does not include any detail of buildings at Park House. The title map produced by John Lehair in the same year (Fig. 3) contains more detail of buildings and property boundaries, including Park House and a rectangular structure at the same location as Barn 1. The building is located against the south side of a sub-rectangular enclosure, bounded to the south and north by land belonging to Nicholas Taylor (plots 198 and 199 in the accompanying written schedule).

Farm buildings depicted with Park House on the County Series, First Edition 1:2500 map of 1888 (Fig. 4) include structures at the approximate locations of Barns 1 and 2, forming part a courtyard arrangement opening to the west. Barns 1 and 2 flank the south and north sides of the yard, while probable cattle shelter sheds form the east range, abutting Barn 1 and facing into the yard. The west side of the yard appears to be closed off by a wall extending between the east end of Barn 1 and the south wall of Barn 2. A small structure with a yard or enclosure to the south is depicted in the angle between Barn 2 and the outside of the yard wall. A number of discrete structures shown west of the courtyard and a rectangular building north of the house probably represent farm buildings – possibly further shelter sheds and perhaps stables.

The Second Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1902 (Fig. 4) shows an additional structure along the west side of the east range (possibly an extension to the proposed shelter shed) and a small structure

built into the northeast corner of the yard. The small structure and yard abutting Barn 2 has been removed, as has a rectangular block situated further to the west.

The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1927 (not reproduced) depicts new structures along the south side of Building 2 (probably a lean-to shelter shed) and further structures extending from the east gable wall. A small building and a yard shown in the angle between Barn 2 and the yard wall, correspond to structures present on the map of 1888 but not the map of 1902, which raises the possibility that they were mistakenly omitted from 1902 map.

On the Ordnance Survey map of 1977-8 the probable shelter shed is no longer present on the east side of the yard and there is a rectangular structure (presumably the recently demolished lean-to structure) located against the north wall of building side of Building 1. Probable lean-to structures also extend along the north side of Barn 2 and a rectangular building (present from at least 1888) west of the barn has been demolished.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 14th November 2011, were to:

- *produce an archive record to Level 3 standard prior to any alteration of the buildings which might be required as part of its conversion to domestic use.*
- *gather sufficient background information for an analytical discussion of the buildings to Level 3 standard, as described in the document 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice'.*
- *produce a project archive and report for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the county Historic Environment Record (HER).*

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with guidelines issued by English Heritage in the document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2006), and recommendations by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.

The photographic record was compiled in monochrome 35mm film and colour digital in RAW format (to be converted to TIFF for archive storage) using an SLR film camera with 28-90mm zoom lens and a DSLR 16 megapixel camera with 16-85mm lens (24 – 135mm film equivalent). The record includes general views of the buildings and their settings, views of all of the elevations and interiors, and detail shots of specific architectural features (for example, doors, windows, roof structures etc.). An index to the images was compiled on Witham Archaeology *pro forma* registers.

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

A full set of plan and elevation drawings was provided by Morton and Hall Consulting Limited for use in field recording and for illustration purposes in this report.

A search was made of collections held by Cambridgeshire Archives for topographical material relevant to the chronological development of the buildings.

For the purposes of this report the main buildings are designated Barn 1 and Barn 2, in accordance with annotations on drawings supplied by the architect.

6.0 RESULTS

For ease of reference the exteriors of the buildings are described in clockwise order with related photographs grouped at the end of each section. As far as possible the interiors are described in order of circulation with photographs grouped accordingly.

6.1 Barn 1 – Exterior (see Figs. 7 – 11)

The original layout of Barn 1 comprised a threshing barn open to the roof to the west, and a smaller two-storey section to the east, divided by an internal brick wall. The area containing the threshing barn was subsequently converted into a stable with a hayloft later inserted on the east side.

Two bricked up ventilation slots (*Plate 6*) relating to original use as a threshing barn are visible in the south facing elevation (*Plate 4*) of the building, while a wide opening in the centre of the elevation marks the position of the original south door. The west side of the door has been substantially rebuilt (probably as part of alterations to form the stables) and may have resulted in an alteration to the original width.

A bricked up opening located above the existing single width door to the stable probably defines the position of a pitching door (*Plate 8*), where the unthreshed crop would have been loaded into the storage area west of the opposing doors. Two phases of infill are evident in the brickwork, indicating initial alteration to form a doorway (possibly for access to an extended first floor- see below) and complete infilling at a later date (represented by red brick).

There are four square window openings in the elevation, with identical segmental arches in brick and wooden window frames. The only window at ground floor level opens to a former tack room (see below) while the first floor examples (see *Plate 7*) are distributed between the first floor level at the east end, the hayloft and the area above the stables at the west end. The latter two are clearly secondary to the original threshing barn and appear to relate to an extended first floor, reached from the outside via the modified pitching door opening. There is, however, no visible evidence internally to suggest a first floor extending throughout the area of the threshing barn.

Later modifications carried out in red brick include the complete blocking of the pitching door, construction of the section of wall west of the barn door (probably in the course of inserting the door to the stables) and construction of the section of wall east of the tack room window and west of the garage doors (*Plates 9 and 10*). The wide door at the east end is probably results from a late alteration to allow use of the ground floor space as a garage.

A vice (*Plate 5*) is situated at the southwest corner of the threshing barn, indicating that the abutting structure to the west was used as a workshop.

The east facing gable (*Plate 11*) is heavily obscured by foliage. However, a small window (*Plate 12*), similar in style to those in the south elevation is visible at ground floor.

An outbuilding (*Plate 13*), built in brick with a central door (slightly offset to the north) and slate pitched roof facing east, extends north from Barn 1. The east facing elevation has been heightened in brick and even more recent rebuilding is evident in the north wall. The structure is currently used as a store but was probably built as a pigsty (see below).

A section of wall extending north from the west side of the outbuilding would appear to represent a survival from the east range (probable shelter shed) shown on the 1888 and subsequent Ordnance Survey map (*Plate 14*). There is an opening in the wall, containing a wooden, slatted vent or shutter.

The west facing elevation of the outbuilding (*Plate 15*) is built in red brick heightened by nine courses of more recent construction. There is a bricked up doorway with timber lintel positioned centrally in the elevation and a smaller, square opening (also bricked up and with a timber lintel) immediately north of and slightly above the door. Marks on the wall indicate the former positions of structural components of the lean-to structure (see above) demolished as part of the current works, while whitewash adhering to the wall defined the limits of the interior. The small opening in the wall is

partially covered by the roof of the lean-to and would, therefore, probably have been blocked prior to construction.

A large bricked up area in the north facing elevation of the threshing barn defines the position of the original north door (*Plate 17*), which was bricked up in two phases - originally to allow the formation of a single width doorway with a segmental arch constructed in two courses of headers. Six ventilation slots (all filled in) arranged in corresponding pairs at ground and first floor levels (*Plate 18* and *Plate 19*) derive from the original phase of use as a threshing barn.

The opening created by the partial bricking up of the original north door appears to predate the formation of the stables as represented by the existing north door and symmetrically placed fanlight windows. It might therefore relate to an intermediate phase of use, possibly coinciding with alterations to the pitching door on the opposite side of the building (see Discussion and Conclusions below).

A bricked up opening (*Plate 19*) west of the existing stable door is identical in size and style to openings on the south side and was probably inserted as part of the same phase of alteration. Alternatively, the feature may have originated as a vent for the stables.

The symmetrical arrangement of door and fanlight windows clearly originated with the conversion to stables. The features are consistent in style with arches formed from single courses of headers. Furthermore, the door is positioned opposite the south door to form a passage through the stables.

There is a straight join between the main structure and the extension (*Plate 20*).

There is a bricked up opening high in the west gable end of Barn 1 (*Plate 21*), possibly representing an owl hole, and a pair of ventilation slots below (*Plate 1*). The gable end of the extension has a bricked up doorway at first floor level and a brick string course between floors (*Plate 22*). Differential weathering on the face of the wall indicates the extent of a lean-to structure demolished in advance of the current conversions, while holes in the brickwork show the positions of the roof timbers. A traditional wooden cart was noted in the area immediately east of the wall (*Plate 23*).

PLATES 1 – 23: BARN 1 EXTERIOR



Plate 1: General view of Barn 1, looking northeast



Plate 2: General view of Barn 1 and adjacent outhouse, looking southwest



Plate 3: General view of Barn 1, looking southeast



Plate 4: South facing elevation of Barn 1 with 2m scale, looking north



Plate 5: Vice positioned near the southwest corner of Barn 1, looking northeast



Plate 6: Ventilation slots in the south facing elevation of Barn 1, looking north



Plate 7: Second floor window located over ventilation slots in the south facing elevation of Barn 1



Plate 8: Position of probable pitching door in the south facing elevation of Barn 1



Plate 9: Ground floor window and modified doorway in the south facing elevation of Barn 1



Plate 10: Door at the eastern end of the south facing elevation of Barn 1



Plate 11: East facing elevation of Barn 1



Plate 12: Ground floor window in the east facing elevation of Barn 1, looking west



Plate 13: Outhouse (originally a pigsty?) north of Barn 1, looking southwest



Plate 14: Remains of the original east range, looking north



Plate 15: Rear wall of the outhouse north of Barn 1, looking east



Plate 16: North facing elevation of Barn 1, looking south



Plate 17: Bricked up doorways in the north elevation of Barn 1, looking south



Plate 18: Ventilation slots around the existing door in the north elevation of Barn 1, looking south



Plate 19: Ventilation slots, bricked up window, and fanlight in the north facing elevation of Barn 1



Plate 20: North facing elevation of the extension at the west end of Barn 1



Plate 21: West facing elevation of the extension at the west end of Barn 1, looking ESE



Plate 22: Blocked in doorway in the west facing elevation of the extension to Barn 1



Plate 23: Cart at the southwest corner of Barn 1, looking southeast

6.2 Barn 1 – Interior (see Figs. 7 and 8)

The following account proceeds in order of circulation, commencing at ground floor level, from the barn/stables on the west side of the building, to the garage on the east side, and then to the first floor, via the hayloft to the unit at the east end of the building.

Stables/Area west of the hayloft

The western end of the building contains two stable units at ground floor, situated to the side of a north-south passage running between doors in the long walls (*Plate 26*). A timber frame, panelled with closely fitted vertical planks (*Plate 24*), partitions the units. Similar framing, with a surviving area of panelling north of the door to the northernmost unit, forms the east wall of the stables. Both doors are missing and the frame in the southern unit is infilled with an improvised arrangement of horizontal wooden slats below and wire mesh above. The northern unit retains its wooden manger, located against the west wall (*Plate 25*), and the position of a corresponding manger in the southern unit is defined by an area of unpainted brick. Iron tethering rings are fixed to the west wall, above the surviving manger.

A bricked up area at high level in the south wall (*Plate 38*) corresponds to the probable pitching door seen in the external elevation. There are two phases of infill - both spanned by a timber lintel, which is probably original.

The two ventilation slots and owl hole, which, from the exterior, are visible at high level in the west wall, are not blocked in the interior (*Plate 45*, centre of view), but the ventilation slots in the north and south wall are all completely infilled.

While the ‘windows’ and bricked up doorway (remodelled from the pitching door) in the south wall of the threshing barn (see exterior, above) hint at the former presence of a first floor extending throughout the barn, there was no physical evidence for such a structure in the form of sockets for supporting beams and joists. The bricked up doorway formed within the original barn door in the north wall of the barn (see account of the exterior above) was visible at the eastern end of the threshing barn (see *Plate 27*, left of view). The feature appears to predate the stable and may have originated as part of alterations to form a two-storey structure.

The area east of the passage, beneath the hayloft, has been adapted to form a garage or machinery store. The area is in part defined on the west side, by a timber partition running between the north wall and an upright beneath the beam for the hayloft. The partition appears to have been constructed in two phases – the first comprising vertical planks to around two thirds height, the second represented by an area of infill above. The latter is comparable in style to the existing stables to the west.

Straight joins in the north wall (*Plate 27*) of the garage area define the positions of the original barn door (coinciding with the recessed section of wall visible to the centre of *Plate 27*) and the later single width doorway (to left of centre in *Plate 27*).

The east wall (*Plate 28*), forming the division between the original threshing barn and the two-storey element to the east, is plain except for a door at the southern end, providing access to the adjacent unit. The opening contains a wooden frame and plank door.

The large door providing access from the south (*Plate 29*) is substantially rebuilt on the west side and has a straight cut lintel overhead. Despite the alterations, the position of opening, opposite the original door in the north wall, suggests that it originated as the south door of the threshing barn.

Two Storied Element - Ground Floor

The ground floor unit at the eastern end of the building includes the remains of a tack room, defined by plank cladding and tack hooks on the west wall and the western part of the south wall (*Plate 30* and *Plate 31*). Originally the area might have been contained by a wall on the east side, but any evidence for a demolished return off the existing north wall is likely to have been covered by the smooth plaster which extends throughout the area east of the tack room. However, the area of rebuilding evident in the south wall (seen from the exterior in *Plate 9*) could relate to the demolition of an internal wall and possibly the blocking of a door to the tack room. The existing window in the south wall occupies a central position in the south wall of the area covered by cladding, providing further evidence for a separate tack room.

East of the putative tack room there is window placed centrally in the east wall, while a cupboard and shelves probably relate to recent use as a garage (*Plate 32*).

There is a trapdoor to the centre of the plastered ceiling (*Plates 31 and 32*), providing access to and from the probable granary overhead.

The wide doorway in the south wall is framed by straight cut timbers with a wooden lintel over (*Plate 33*).

Hayloft

The hayloft is bounded on the west side by panels of vertical planks to wall plate level (*Plate 34*), and to either side of an opening for access via a ladder to the stables below. There is a window (originally a granary vent?) in the south wall (*Plate 35*) and the bricked up interior of the easternmost fanlight window (*Plate 37*) in the north wall. The base of the fanlight window coincides more or less with floor level in the hayloft, indicating that fanlight was probably the earlier feature, bricked up as part of the formation of the hayloft. The eastern side of the hayloft is formed by the dividing wall (*Plate 36*) between the threshing barn and two-storey component to the east. It has a plank door set to the south of centre and a square opening in the apex.

In the second floor space at the east end of the building there is an opening (originally a vent?) high in the east wall (*Plate 44*). There are two bricked up openings lower down in the same wall (*Plate 41*), the first (probably a door) located to the south and approximately 1m high (*Plate 42*), the second (a window or vent) located to the north (*Plate 43*). Both have timber lintels and are probably original - the door perhaps providing access for the movement of grain for storage and for loading.

There is window or vent in the south wall (*Plate 40*), incorporating a reused timber as a lintel. Mortise and peg holes are visible in the visible face of the timber. Brick infills to either side of the existing plank frame indicate the existing window as a late alteration, inserted into a larger opening.

The trapdoor is positioned centrally in the space (*see Plate 40*).

Roof

The roof of sawn timber comprises six trusses, each with an iron king-rod, purlins and rafters. The roof is carried upon timber wall plates.

Adjoining structure on the west side of Barn 1

The extension is currently open to the roof but must originally have incorporated a first floor, indicated by an infilled door in the gable. The floor would appear to have rested on a ledge formed by a reduction in thickness of the walls. Internally, the door is visible as a recess in the west wall (*Plate 48*), above a small niche or alcove indicated by a bricked up area and a timber lintel. The niche may have functioned as a container for tools and equipment, or for a lamp.

In addition to irregular patches of whitewash surviving on the walls in general (*Plate 47*), there is a more extensive area of whitewashing at the northwest corner, suggesting the former presence of a fixture or fitting. Removal of the existing concrete floor in the area adjacent to the west wall revealed a brick floor beneath.

The roof of sawn timber comprises collared trusses, rafters and purlins. The doorway contains a relatively late, wooden, sliding door.

Outbuilding/Probable Pigsty

Internally, the original fabric of the structure (*see exterior, above*) is defined by the extent of plastering on the walls. There is a small bricked up opening high in the west wall, with a wooden grille in the interior indicating original use as a vent. A bricked up doorway visible in the west facing elevation (*see below*) is not visible in the interior, having been covered by the plaster. At some point in the 20th century, the walls were raised, by the addition of around ten courses on each side. There is no clear evidence of fittings or equipment in the interior.

PLATES 24 – 48: BARN 1 INTERIOR



Plate 24: Interiors of two stable units located at the west end of Barn 1, looking west



Plate 25: Manger at the northwest corner of Barn 1, looking west



Plate 26: Passage through the stables in Barn 1, looking north



Plate 27: Area east of the stables and blocked in doorways in the north wall of Barn 1, looking north



Plate 28: Internal wall at ground floor level in Barn 1, looking east (2m scale)



Plate 29: Internal view of the central doorway in the south wall of Barn 1, looking south



Plate 30: Unit including former tack room at eastern end of Barn 1, looking northwest



Plate 31: Unit including the former tack room at the eastern end of Barn 1, looking north



Plate 32: Unit at the eastern end of Barn 1, looking northeast



Plate 33: Interior of the door to unit at the eastern end of Building 1, looking north



Plate 34: Hayloft and roof structure from the western end of Barn 1, looking east



Plate 35: Interior of the hayloft in Barn 1, looking south



Plate 36: Interior of the hayloft in Barn 1, looking east (2m scale)



Plate 37: Interior of the hayloft in Barn 1, looking north



Plate 38: Bricked up opening (probable pitching door) in the south wall of Barn 1, looking southwest



Plate 39: Interior of the probable granary in Barn 1, looking west



Plate 40: Interior of the probable granary in Barn 1, looking south



Plate 41: Interior of the probable granary in Building 1, looking northeast



Plate 42: Bricked up doorway in the east wall of the probable granary in Barn 1, looking east

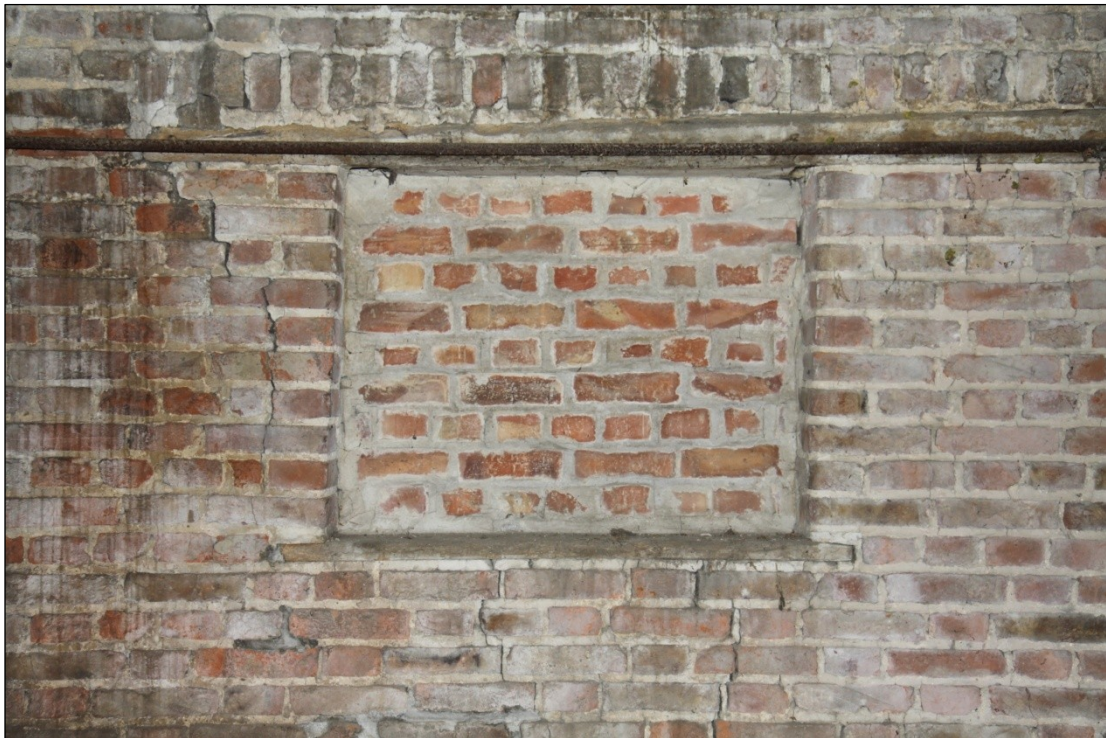


Plate 43: Bricked up window or vent in the east wall of the probable granary in Barn 1, looking east



Plate 44: Opening at high level in the east wall of the probable granary in Barn 1, looking east



Plate 45: Roof structure in the western part of Barn 1, looking west



Plate 46: Interior of the extension west of Barn 1, looking north



Plate 47: Interior of the extension west of Barn 1, looking northeast



Plate 48: Interior of the extension to Barn 1, looking northwest

6.3 Barn 2 - Exterior (see Figs. 12 – 16)

The south facing elevation of Barn 2 was heavily obscured by a wooden lean-to structure to the west, and a corrugated iron canopy to the east, supported on the open south side by wooden posts and lintels (*Plate 49* and *Plate 50*). The westernmost structure was later removed to reveal the south wall of the barn (*Plate 51*) and a buttress defining the west side of the door (*Plate 52*). Here, there were five ventilation slots in the barn wall (all blocked), three above and two below. The westernmost slots had been disturbed by modern reconstruction of the west gable. The south door of the barn (*Plate 53*) extends to the full height of the wall and has buttresses to each side. The door contains an infill of wooden planking, which incorporates a small door. East of the south door (*Plate 54*), there are two ventilation slots to the ground floor unit and a window or vent to the unit above.

The east facing elevation has a low door at ground floor, bricked up openings for a door and window/vent at first floor, and a window/vent higher in the gable (*Plate 55*). The door at ground floor is positioned centrally in the elevation and has a substantial reused wooden lintel above (*Plate 56*). Paired peg holes are visible on the exterior face of the lintel and corresponding mortises on the underside (*Plate 59*). The opening contains two phases of brick infill, the first in hand-made red brick (partly collapsed) to form a much narrower opening offset to the south, the second in modern brick to close most of the remaining opening. The bricked up door at first floor level is located on the south side of the elevation, extending to just beneath a stringcourse, while the window or vent is located centrally in the elevation (*Plate 57*). The surviving opening at higher level in the gable (*Plate 58*) contains a timber frame with remnants of glazing.

Several areas of brick infill are visible in the yard wall (*Plate 60*) extending east from Barn 2, including a low-level opening defined by a wooden lintel.

A plank attached to the north elevation (*Plate 61*) east of the north door denotes the former position of a lean-to structure shown on historic maps. The north door (*Plate 62*) is lower than the south door, which extends the full height of the wall (see above). It has a substantial timber lintel (*Plate 64*), but the original doors are missing and the opening is filled by modern ply boards. Stepped buttresses in brick are situated to either side of the door, extending to almost the full height of the wall. The buttress on the east side includes comparatively late fabric but the one on the west side appears to be wholly original. The lintel over the door has bowed under the weight of the overlying brickwork, leading to slumping in the wall.

East of the north door are three ventilation slots (*Plate 62*), opening from the ground floor unit, while higher in the wall, there is a square opening (originally a vent?) opening from first floor. The latter contained a wooden frame overlain with diagonally aligned slats (*Plate 63*), which was later removed.

Four ventilation slots (all blocked with brick) are present, low in the wall, west of the north door (*Plate 65*).

The west gable end is completely rebuilt (*Plate 66*) in modern brick to include a full width opening with sliding doors. The modification indicates a change in use to a vehicle and equipment store.

PLATES 49 – 66: BARN 2 EXTERIOR



Plate 49: South facing elevation of Barn 2, looking northwest



Plate 50: South facing elevation of Barn 2, looking north



Plate 51: South facing elevation of Barn 2 (lean-to removed), west side, looking north



Plate 52: Junction of south facing elevation of Barn 2 and yard wall, looking northeast



Plate 53: Door in the south facing elevation of Barn 2, looking north



Plate 54: South facing elevation, Barn 2 east of door, looking north



Plate 55: East end of Barn 2, looking southwest



Plate 56: Ground floor opening, east end of Barn 2, looking west



Plate 57: East facing elevation of Barn 2, first floor openings, looking west



Plate 58: East facing elevation of Barn 2, opening in gable, looking west



Plate 59: Underside of reused timber lintel, east facing elevation of Barn 2, looking up



Plate 60: Yard wall at east end of Barn 2, looking south



Plate 61: General view of Barn 2, looking southwest



Plate 62: Ventilation slots in the north facing elevation (east end) of Barn 2, looking south



Plate 63: Vent or window to first floor in the north facing elevation of Barn 2, looking south



Plate 64: Doorway in the north facing elevation of Barn 2, looking south



Plate 65: Ventilation slots in north facing elevation of Barn 2 (west side), looking south



Plate 66: West facing elevation of Barn 2, looking east

6.4 Barn 2 - Interior (see Figs. 12 and 13)

Internally, Barn 2 comprises a large space open to the roof on the west side and a two-storey element east of the opposing barn doors.

The western part of the structure originated as a traditional threshing barn, open to the roof with large opposing doors in the long walls (*Plate 67*), located immediately west of the partition wall. The south door (*Plate 70*) is the larger of the two, extending to the full height of the wall, with a timber lintel at eaves level. The lintel is supported by a substantial post, with planks panelling the areas to either side. The north door (*Plate 71*) is smaller, with a post supporting the wooden lintel and panels of ply blocking the opening.

Three ventilation slots are visible in the south wall (*Plate 68* and *Plate 69*), two above and one below, corresponding to the easternmost of the features seen externally in *Plate 51*. Five more slots (all bricked up) are visible at low level in the north wall (*Plate 71* and *Plate 72*), corresponding to features seen externally in *Plate 65*.

The barn is floored with modern, small tile cement blocks identical to the floor of the stable in Barn 1.

There are two openings in the internal wall (*Plate 73*), providing access to ground and first floor units occupying the area east of the opposing barn doors.

The ground floor space had a low ceiling carried by joists running between the long walls of the building (*Plate 74*). A straight join and substantial wooden lintel (*Plate 75*) in the east wall corresponds to the opening seen externally in *Plate 56*. There are three ventilation slots in the north wall, arched at the top and either partly or fully brick up (*Plate 76*), and two slots in the south wall (*Plate 77*).

Access to the space at first floor is provided by a door on the north side of the dividing wall, reached via wooden steps; the door is constructed from vertical planks (*Plate 80*). There are two blocked openings for a door and a window or vent in the east wall (*Plate 78*), as well as a window or vent at high level and a lintel (related to the ground floor door) is visible at just above floor level (*Plate 83*). The door (*Plate 82*) and window/vent (*Plate 81*), both with wooden lintels above, correspond to features seen externally in *Plate 57*. Additional windows or vents are present in the south (*Plate 79*) and north (*Plate 80*) walls. Wooden casements are currently in place in both openings, with diagonal wooden slats surviving on the exterior (see above – *Plate 54* and *Plate 63*).

The roof in Barn 2 comprises six trusses of the king-rod type seen in Barn 1 (see *Plate 67* and *Plate 78*).

PLATES 67 – 83: BARN 2 INTERIOR



Plate 67: Interior of Barn 2, looking east



Plate 68: Interior of Barn 2, looking east



Plate 69: Interior of Barn 2, ventilation slots in the south wall, looking south



Plate 70: Interior of the door in Barn 2, looking southeast



Plate 71: Interior of the north door in Barn 2, looking northeast



Plate 72: Interior view of ventilation slots in the north wall of Barn 2, looking northeast



Plate 73: Internal wall in Barn 2, looking east



Plate 74: Ground floor area at the east end of Barn 2, looking east



Plate 75: Ground floor area at the east end of Barn 2 (emptied), looking east



Plate 76: Interior view of ventilation slots in the north wall (east end) of Barn 2, looking north



Plate 77: Interior view of ventilation slots in the south wall (east end) of Barn 2, looking south



Plate 78: Interior of first floor unit (granary?) at the east end of Barn 2, looking southeast



Plate 79: Interior of probable granary at the east end of Barn 2, looking south



Plate 80: Interior of probable granary at the east end of Barn 2, looking north



Plate 81: Bricked up vent or window in the east wall of Barn 2, looking east



Plate 82: Bricked up door in the east wall of Barn 2, looking east



Plate 83: Timber lintel for ground floor opening at the east end of Barn 2, looking east

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Phase I

Barns 1 and 2 appear to be the primary elements in a complex of farm buildings shown west of Park House on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1888. The two buildings have much in common, with threshing barns open to the roof on their western sides, and two-storey elements to the east, situated immediately east of large, opposing barn doors. Corn crops would have been stored in the barn areas, west of the doors, ready for processing over the winter months. Threshing floors would have been located between the opposing doors. Here, hand flails were used to separate the grain from the chaff, while air currents created by the manipulation of the barn doors allowed the lighter chaff to be separated through pitching into the air (winnowing). The narrow, vertical slots found in Buildings 1 and 2 are typical of the traditional threshing barn, providing ventilation to the stored crop. Pitching doors, such as the bricked up example in the south wall of Barn 1, were another typical feature, allowing the higher levels of the barn to be filled from a cart positioned outside. Evidence for a pitching door in Barn 2 may have been destroyed by the late rebuild of the west gable.

As portable, steam powered threshing machines came into widespread use in the east of England from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the ability to process the corn crop rapidly (often in the field) led to the obsolescence of the threshing barn as a storage and processing area. Buildings 1 and 2 are therefore unlikely to be later than early 19th century (although it would appear that only Building 1 is depicted on the tithe map of 1843). Tumbled brickwork of the type evident in the gables of both buildings was common in buildings around the Wash in the 18th century, but declined in popularity from the early 19th century.

The layouts in both buildings resemble a structure recorded in the Lincolnshire Fens, at the former Woodbine Farm, Gosberton near Spalding, Lincolnshire (Trimble 2012). The latter building comprised a barn flanked by stables at ground floor with a hayloft above. The function of the hayloft was evident from a pitching eye in the gable wall. The building appears to have been a primary element on the farmstead, fulfilling the principal functions of barn and stable.

At Park House, Barn 1 could have performed similar functions to the building at Woodbine Farm. Alternatively, the second floor area may have functioned as a granary, defined by access to the outside (for the movement of grain) via the bricked up doorway, ‘window’ openings which might originally have contained the characteristic louvered vents and a doorway communicating with the threshing area. A study of farm buildings in Lincolnshire found that late 18th/ early 19th century granaries were mostly sited above stables (Barnwell and Giles 1997, 52). However, the extent of late alteration to the ground floor space in Barn 1 militates against the conclusive identification of a stable, which might have been located east of the area containing remains of a tack room.

In Building 2, ventilation slots in the walls of the ground floor space in the two-storey element attest to crop storage function. The area is subsidiary to the main barn and might therefore have been devoted to straw storage. It has been noted that where crops are stored to either side of a threshing floor, the smaller area is usually for straw storage (Brunskill 2007, 38-9). If so, the large opening in the east wall may have provided for efficient transfer of material to the store and into the adjacent cattle yards. The layout in the overhead space, with window openings (possibly louvered vents) and a door, once again indicates a use as a granary.

Phase IIa

It would appear that Barn 1 was substantially remodelled in the 19th century. The main north door was largely bricked up to leave a smaller, single width door, openings were inserted at high level in the south wall of the threshing barn, and the pitching door appears to have been narrowed into a doorway to first floor. However, no conclusive evidence was found internally for such a floor. The bricks partially infilling the ‘pitching door’ appear to have derived from the original fabric (possibly from piercings for the ‘windows’). The new single-width door in the north wall and the ‘windows’ display stylistic similarities and may have been formed in a single phase of work.

In Lincolnshire, the traditional threshing barn became obsolete in the 19th century as steam-powered threshing machines removed the need for long-term crop storage and hand threshing, and from around the mid 19th century, such buildings were increasingly used for processes associated with the cattle

yards, such as grain-milling and bruising, and later, as cattle numbers increased, mixing houses for fodder. New barn-type structures were built with a central processing room and a first floor granary to one side, or as fully two-storeyed buildings with granary extending throughout at first floor and a processing area at ground floor. Manor Farm, Walcot provides an example of a traditional barn converted to perform the same functions (Barnes and Giles 1997, 52). In Barn 1, the additional door in the south wall and windows suggest a similar arrangement, with access to the cattle yard provided by the modified north door.

Barn 2 appears to have remained largely unchanged and may have served a general storage function until rebuilding of the west gable at some time in the second half of the 20th century.

Farm buildings such the barns at Park House did not function in isolation and it is important to consider their role in the farmyard as a whole. From late in the eighteenth century there was an increasing emphasis on the systematic arrangement of farm buildings, following principles expounded in a growing technical literature (Harvey 1984, 64-119). Layout was primarily influenced by the necessities of feeding, littering and mucking out of livestock, while the increasing importance of manure as a fertiliser encouraged the adoption of efficient methods manure collection. Farmsteads therefore came to be organised around yards where the cattle were wintered, conventionally with the barn providing shelter on the north side and yards positioned to the south where the animals could benefit from the warmth of additional sunlight. Evidence from Lincolnshire suggests that accommodation for cattle was rare in that part of the country before the mid 19th century. Thereafter, concerns about productivity (weight loss suffered during cold conditions) and maintaining the quality of manure (preventing weathering) prompted the widespread introduction of shelter sheds (Barnes and Giles 1997, 46 and 57).

At Park House, cattle yards are evident on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888, arranged in a courtyard plan opening to the west. The east range probably included shelter sheds as well as the surviving outhouse, which may be interpreted as a pigsty. The Lincolnshire study indicates that housing for pigs became common from the mid 19th century and was usually small scale in character. Pigs were usually accommodated close to the house, where swill prepared in the kitchen could be easily transferred.

The building at Park House was originally much lower than at present (*ibid*, 62) and therefore consistent with a pigsty. Several buildings located away from the courtyard on the Ordnance Survey map of 1888 and since been demolished, may have originated as stables, cart-shed and cattle shelter sheds in the latter part of the 19th century.

Phase IIb – Stables in Barn 1

At some point, probably in the 19th or early 20th century, the window and door on the north side of Barn 1 were bricked up with identical orange brick laid in garden wall bond. A new door was inserted into the north wall, further to the west, and a corresponding door was created in the south wall, west of the original barn door. The latter appears to have necessitated rebuilding of the section of wall between the doors. Fanlights high in the south wall were probably inserted at the same time.

In terms of layout, the resulting stable conforms in some respects to an early type (late 18th/early 19th century but sometimes later) identified in the Lincolnshire study. The principal characteristics of the type were opposing doors placed centrally in the long walls and linked by a passage, with horses stalled in pairs to either side (usually two pairs on each side), facing the end walls (*ibid*, 53). The stable usually occupied the ground floor of a two-storey building with a granary above (see above). At Park House, there are stalls to the west of the passage with wooden mangers against the end walls, but the area to the east (beneath the hayloft) is now a vehicle store containing no evidence to suggest the former presence of stalls, mangers or hayracks. However, the symmetrical arrangement of the fanlights suggests that the stable might originally have been laid out in corresponding pairs to either side of the passage.

The hayloft would appear to be a later addition, as it covers the easternmost fanlight.

The stables are associated with a tack room located on the west side of the existing garage occupying the eastern end of the building. The tack room might originally have been defined on the east side by an internal wall, since removed to form the large garage. Examples from Lincolnshire indicate that separate tack rooms, connected to the stables by an internal doorway, were sometimes provided on better appointed farmsteads, (*ibid*, 55). The tack room would have stored harness and other equipment associated with the stable. Modifications to the wall adjacent to the door of the garage are similar in

fabric and style to the alterations around the main barn door further to the south, which might suggest a relatively late phase of alteration to form the existing openings.

Phase IV

Twentieth century alterations include the creation of the garage in Barn 1, and the rebuilding of the west gable wall of Building 2. The area beneath the hayloft might have been converted, at some time in the twentieth century, for use as a vehicle and/or equipment store.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr and Mrs Chapman for providing access to the buildings and Morton and Hall Consulting Ltd for permission to reproduce plans and elevations contained in this report.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

EVENT NUMBER: ECB3841

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: F/YR11/0259/LB & F/YR110258/F

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: TF 4352 1199

CIVIL PARISH: Leverington

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 13 – 27th August 2012 and 24th March 2014

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Historic Building Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr and Mrs Chapman

10.2 Archive Details

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

FINAL LOCATION: Cambridgeshire Archaeological Store

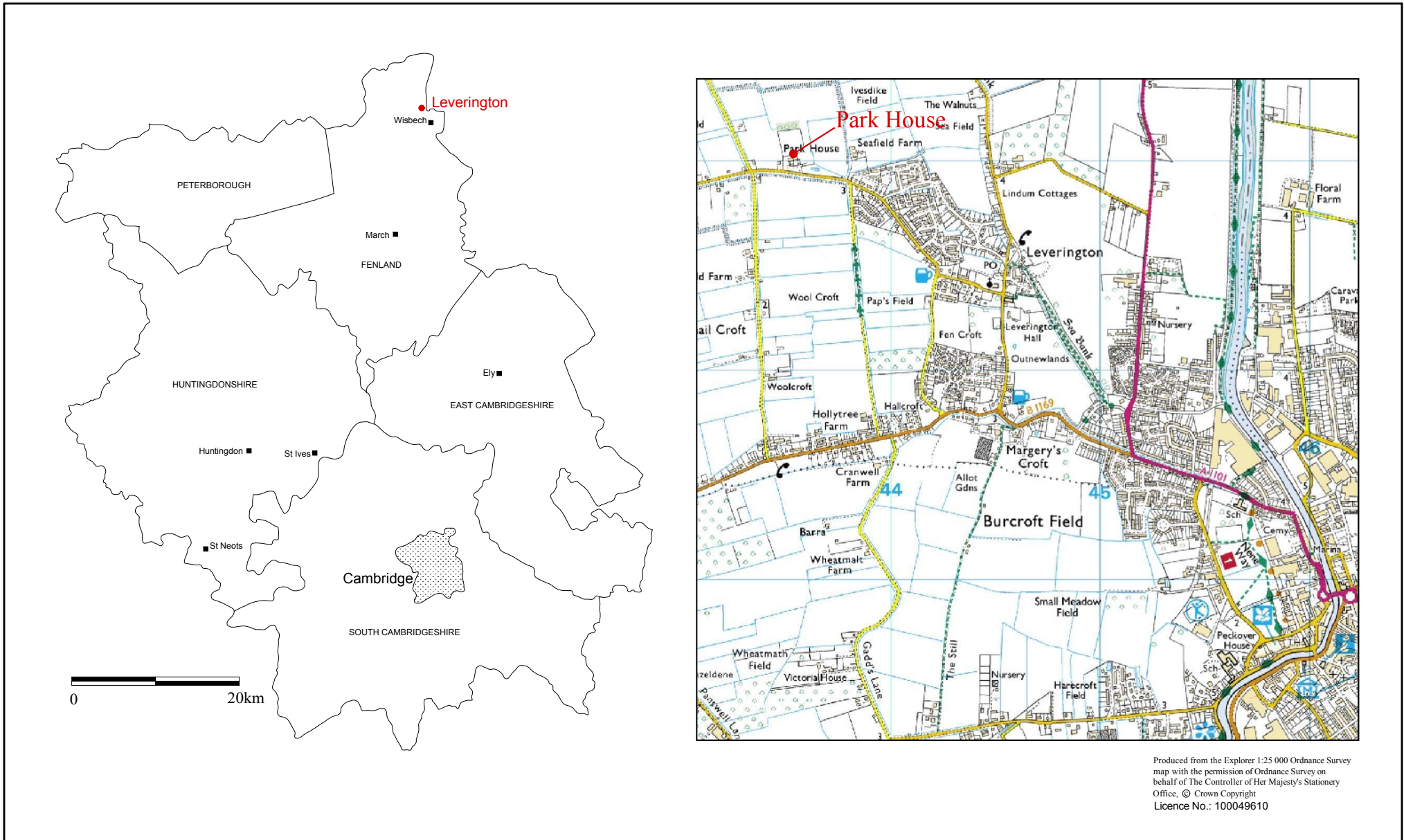
MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: - February 2015

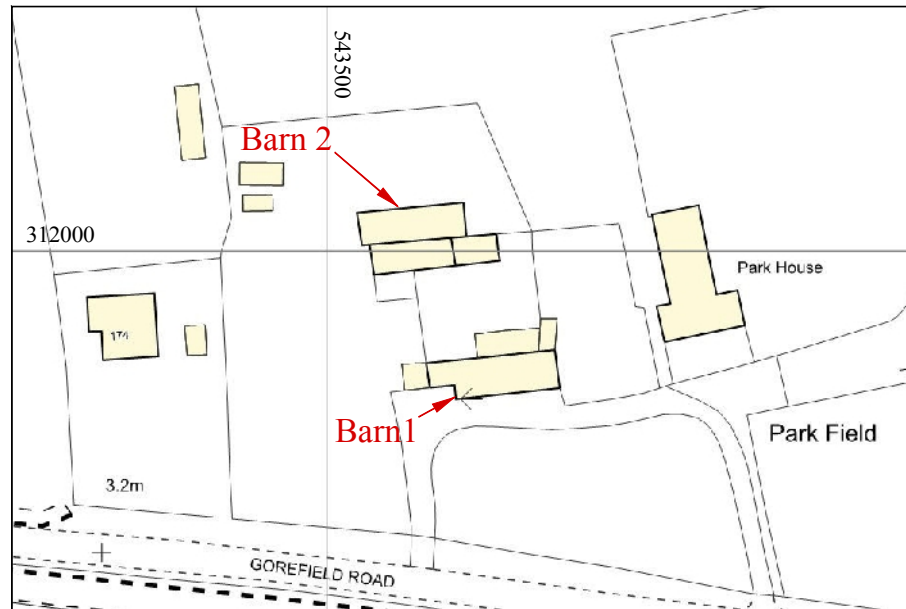
The Site Archive Comprises:

Monochrome negatives	7 sets
Digital photographs	407 files
Set of Site Notes	1 set
Annotated drawings	1 set

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

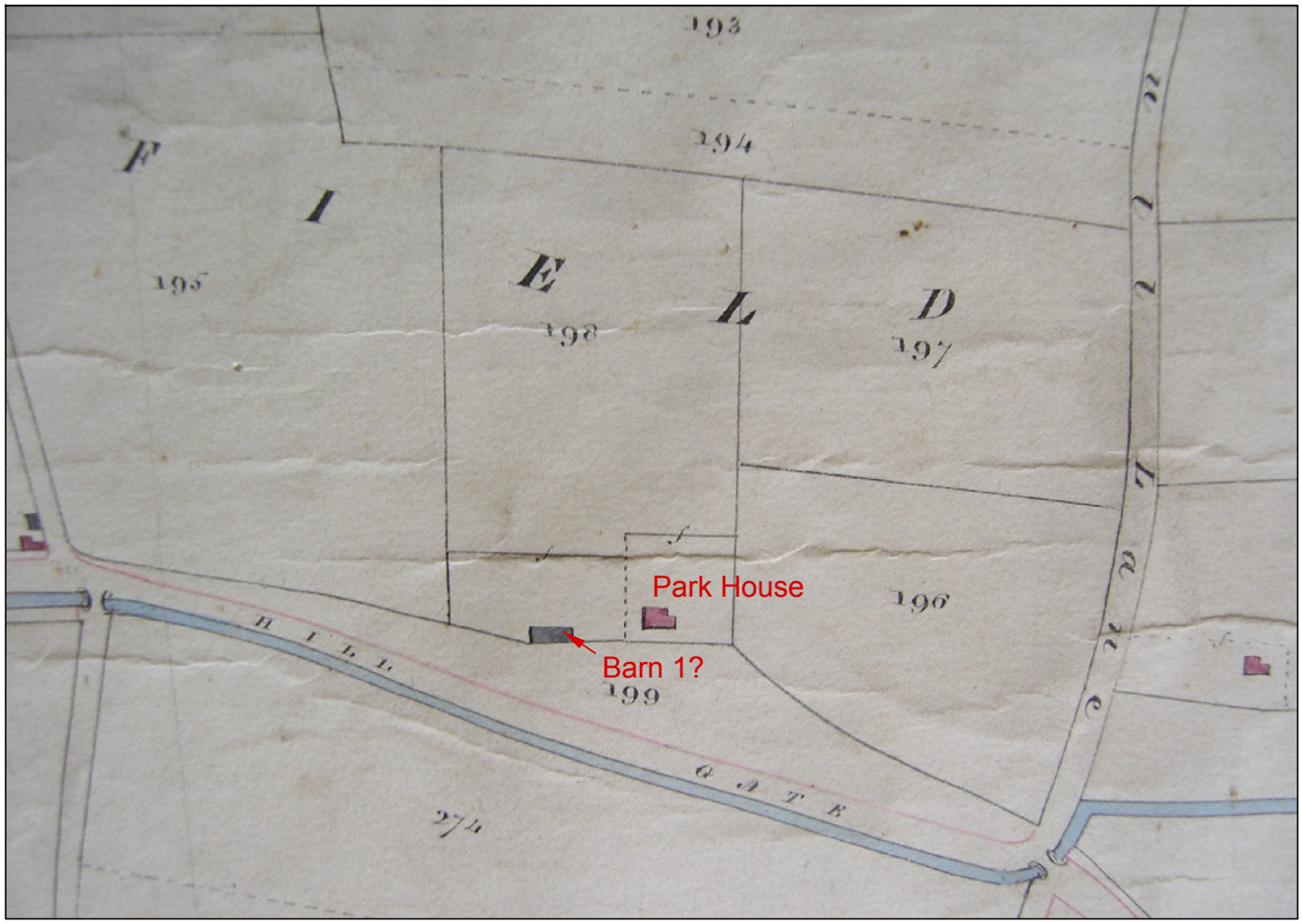


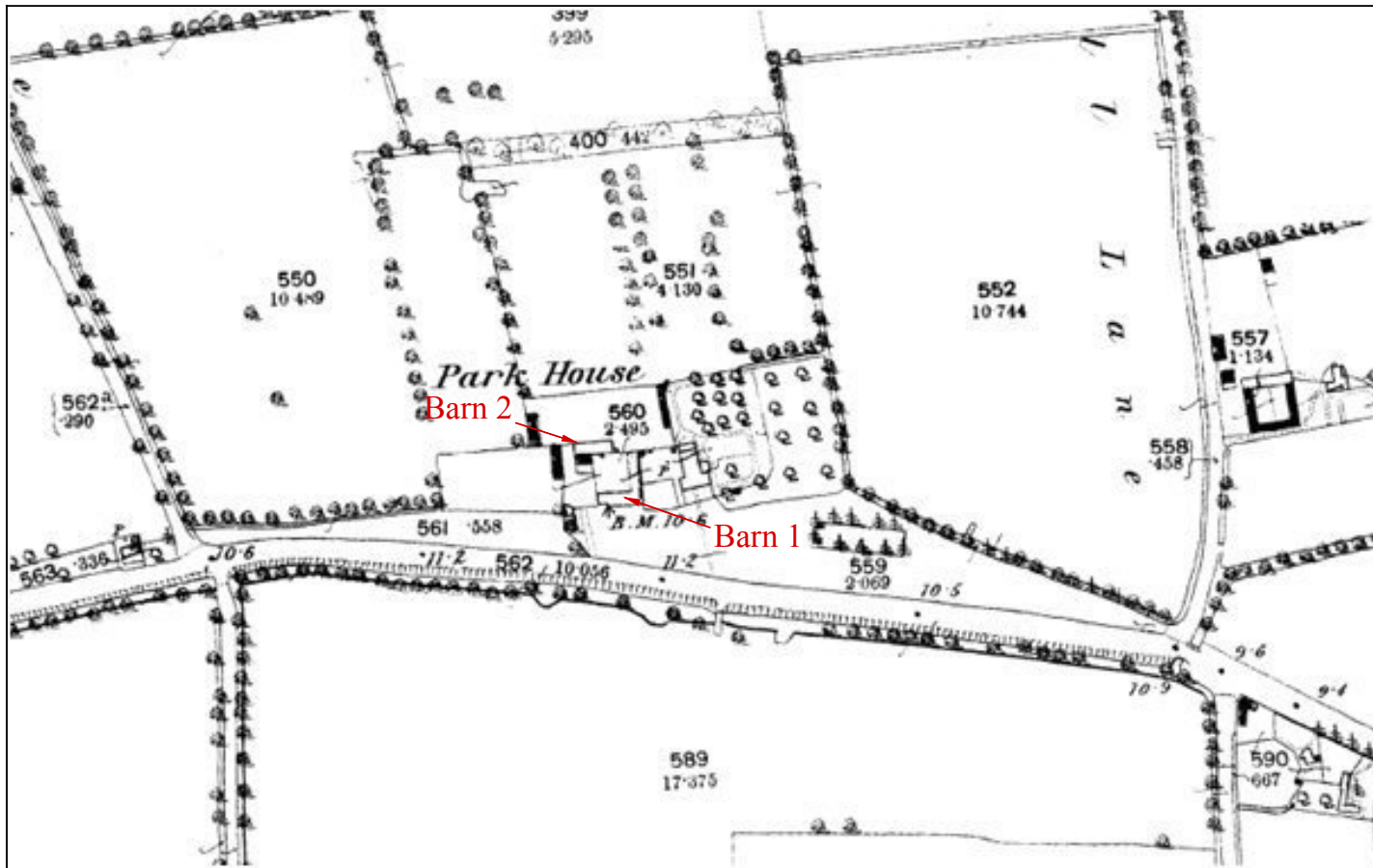
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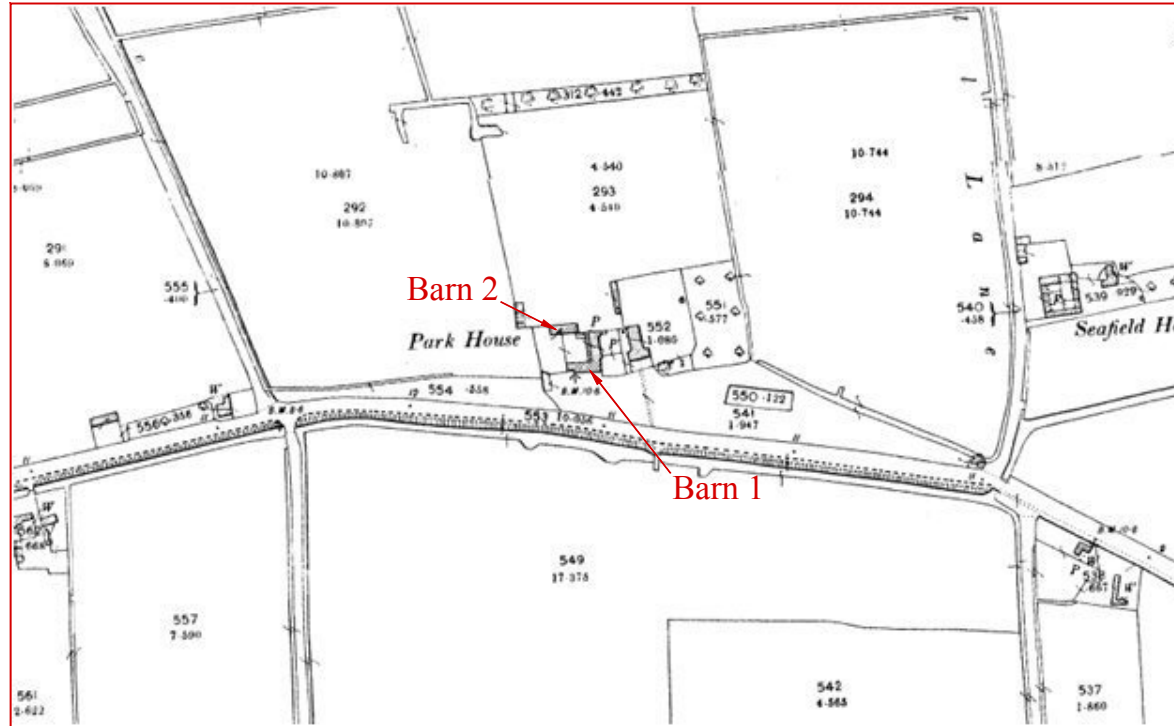


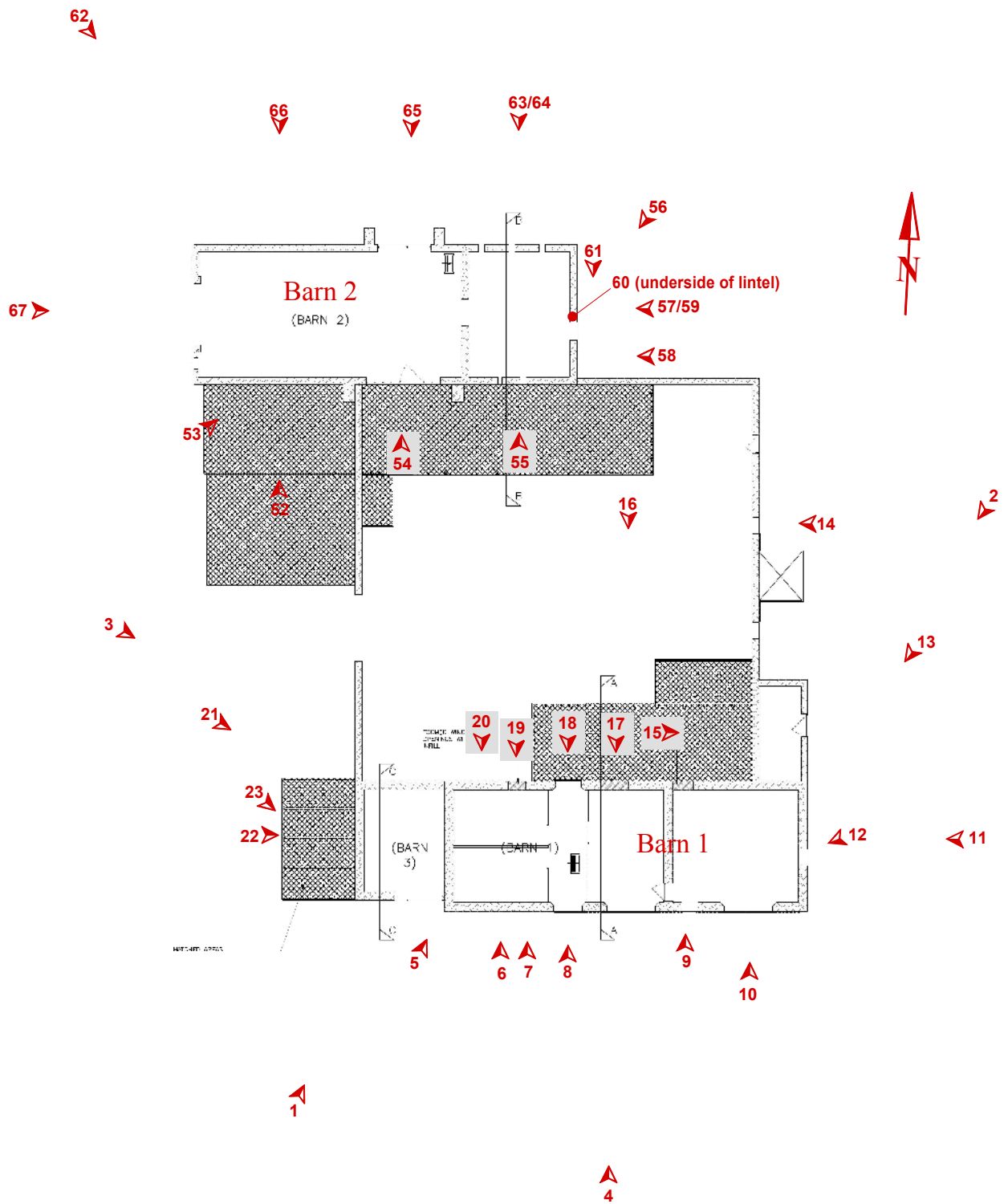
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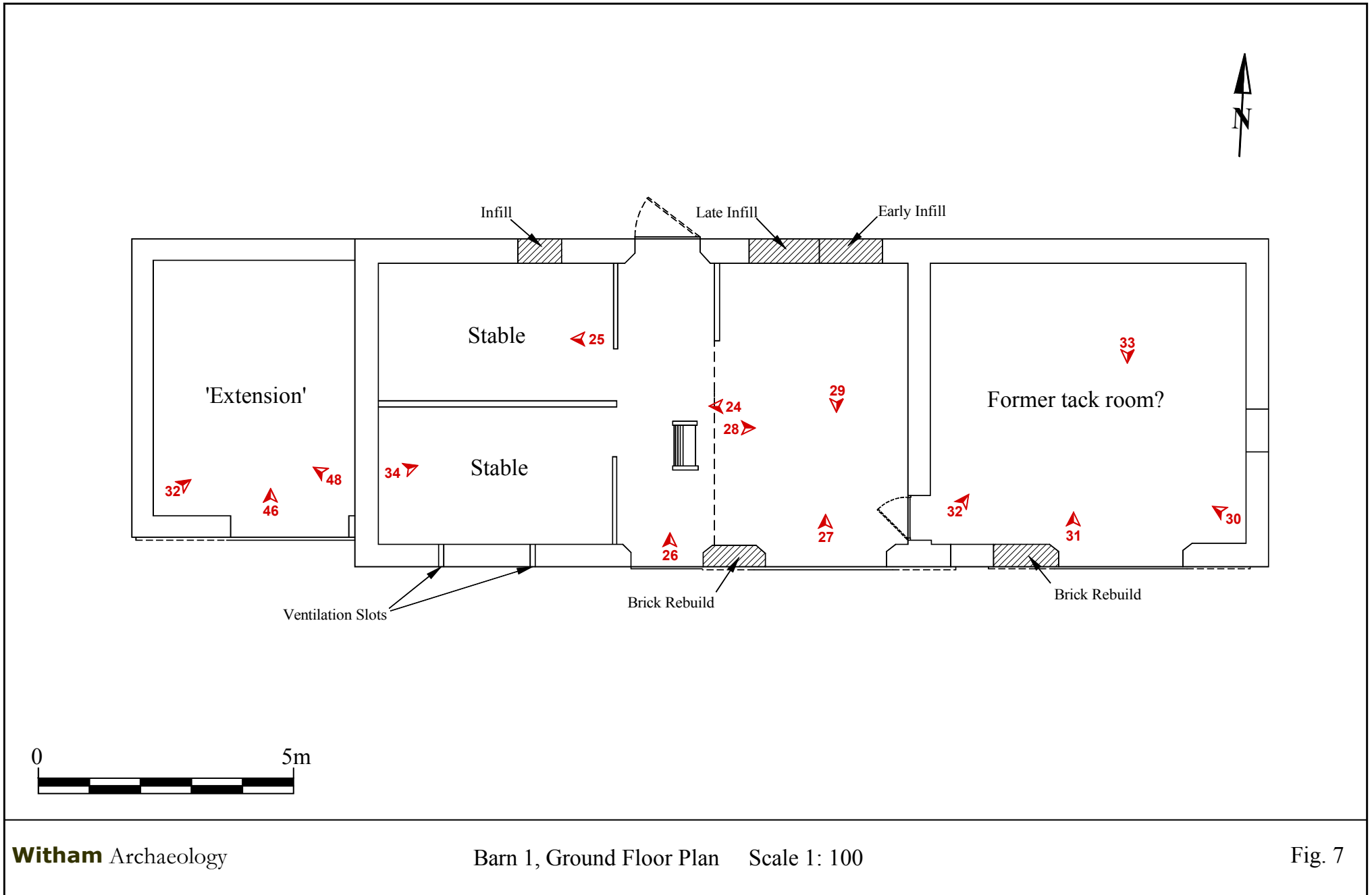


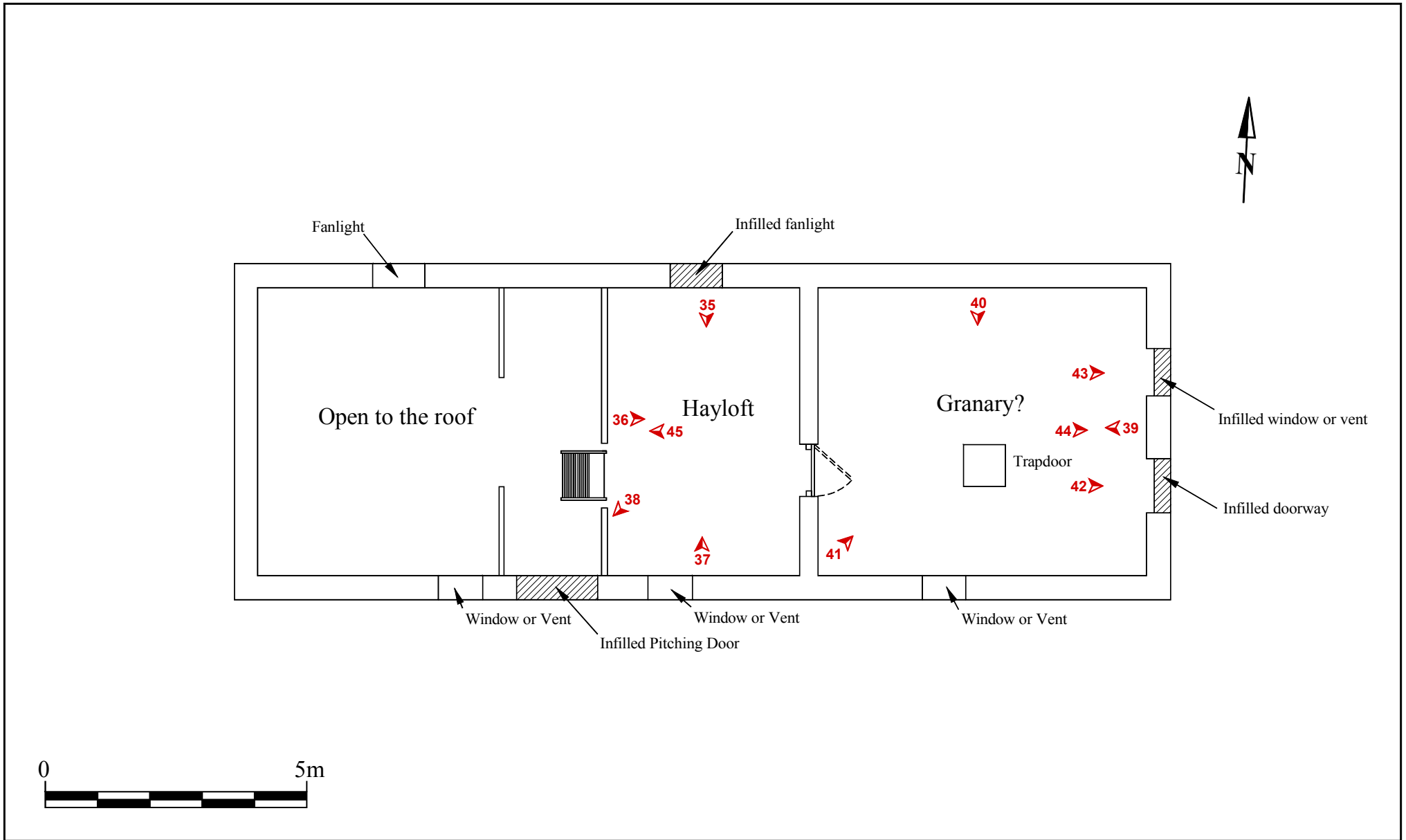


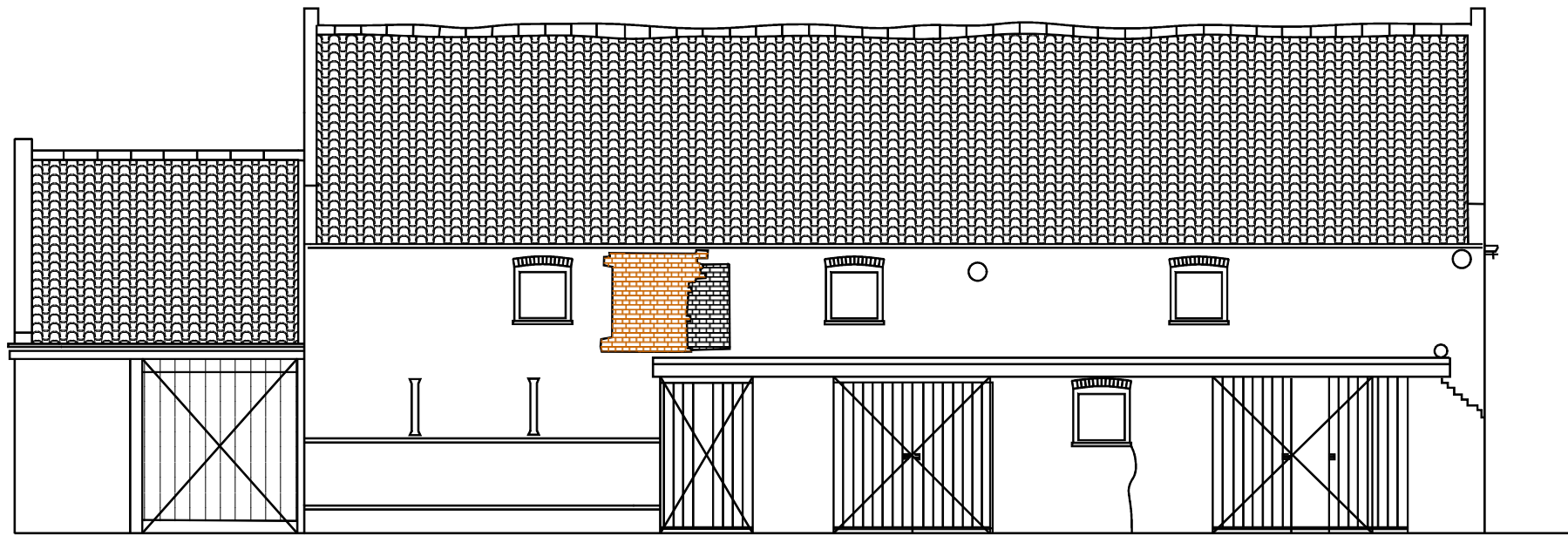


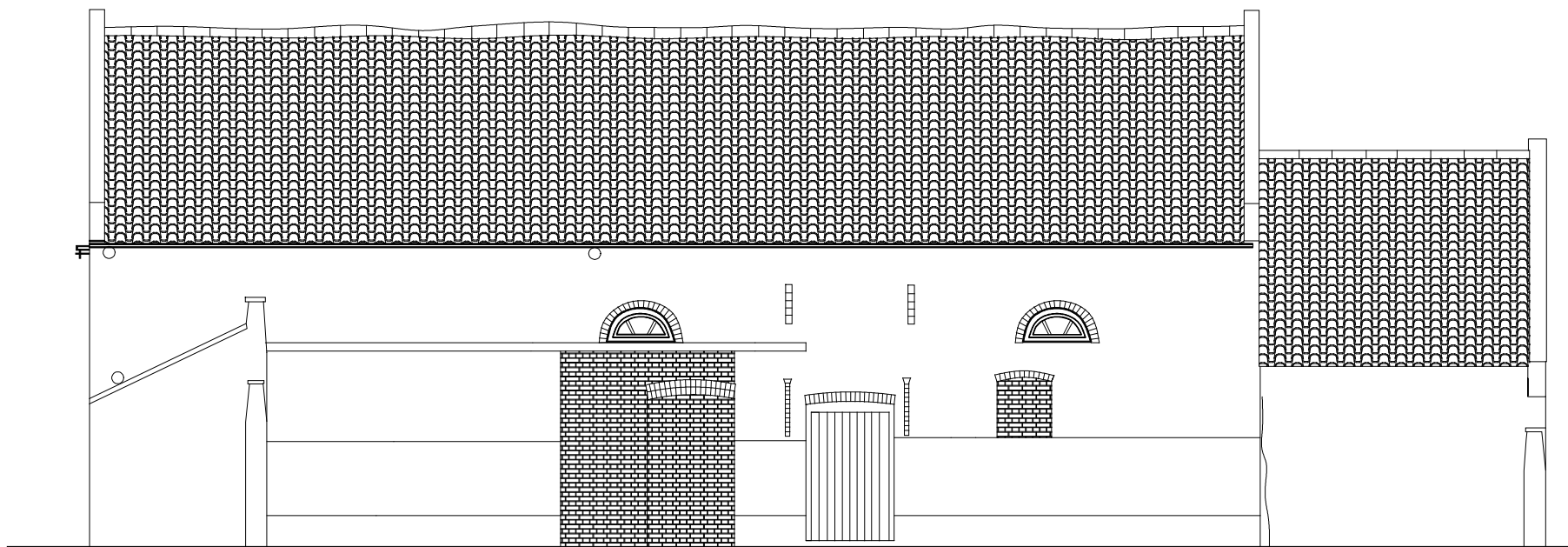
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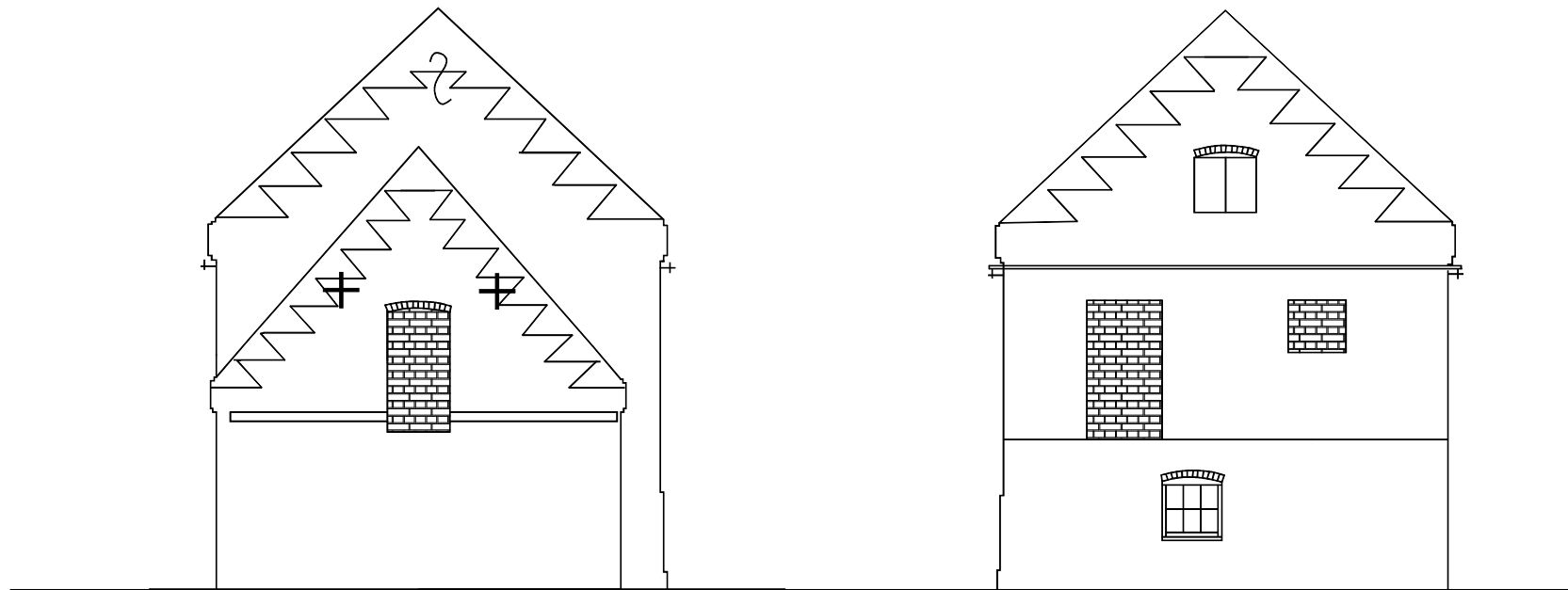
Witham Archaeology Site Plan Showing Photograph Directions Scale 1: 300 Fig. 6

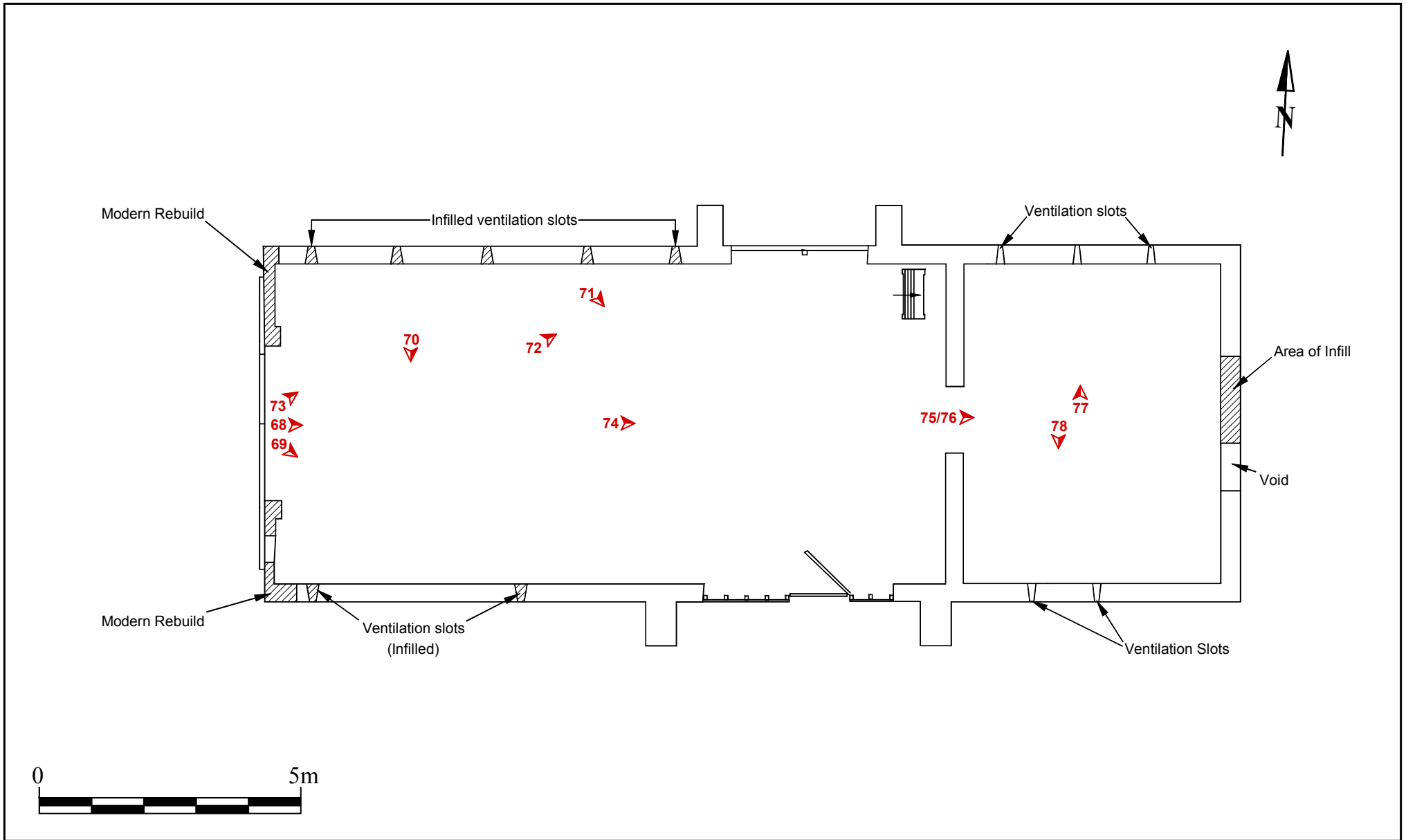


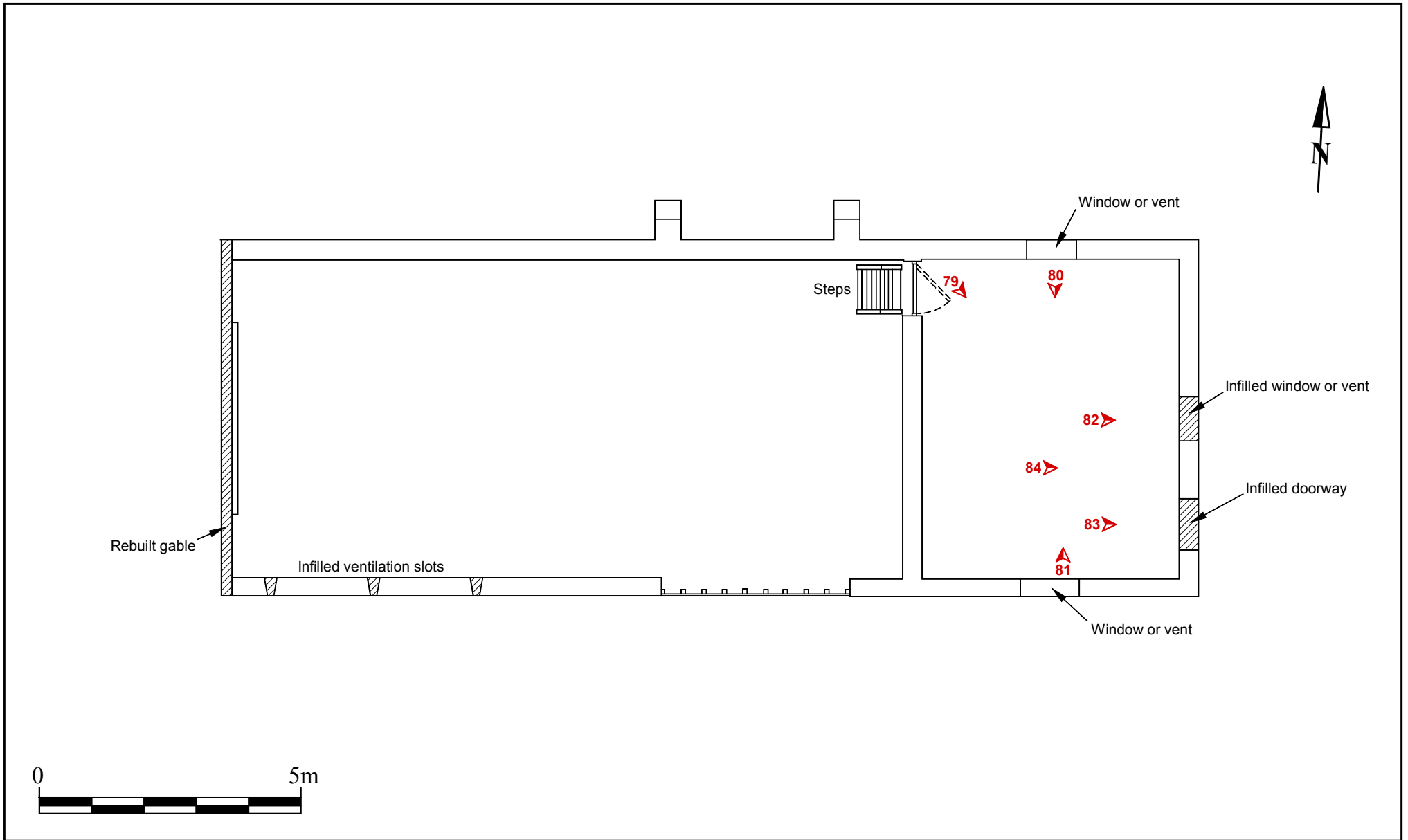


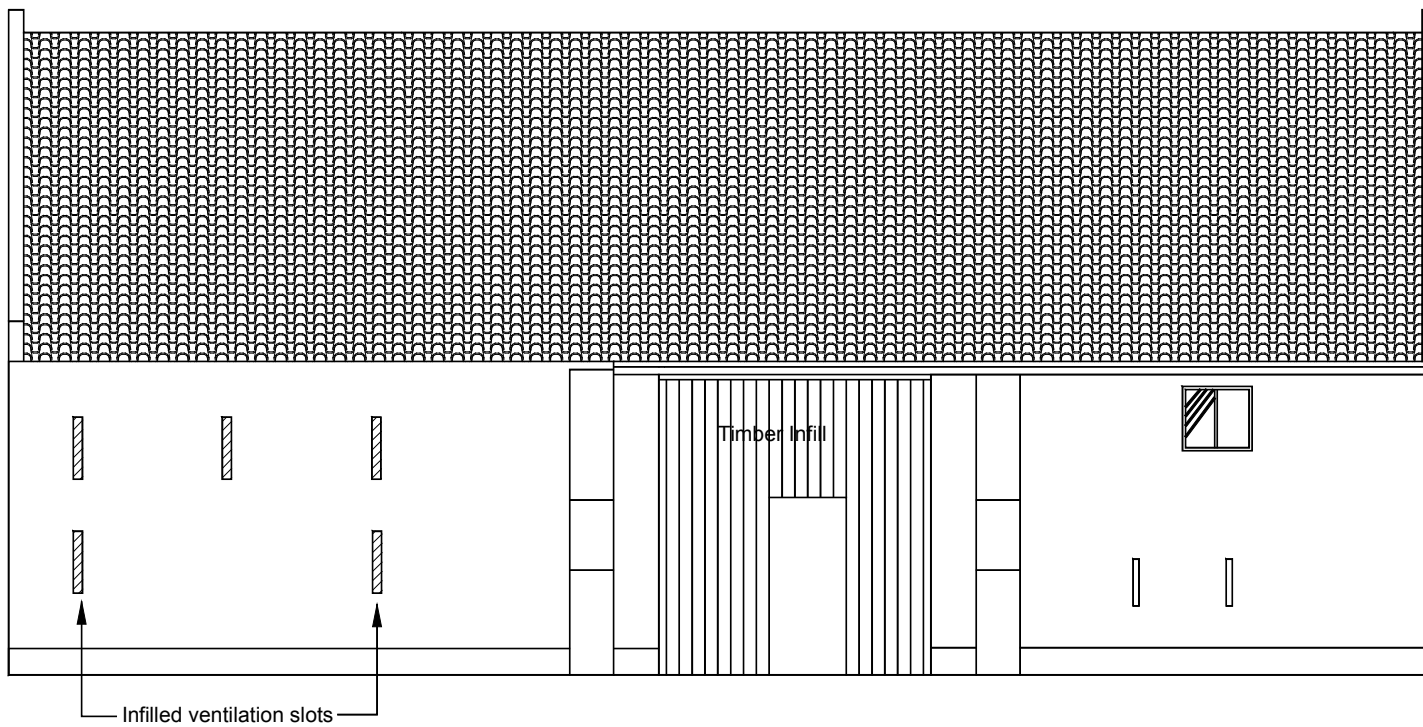


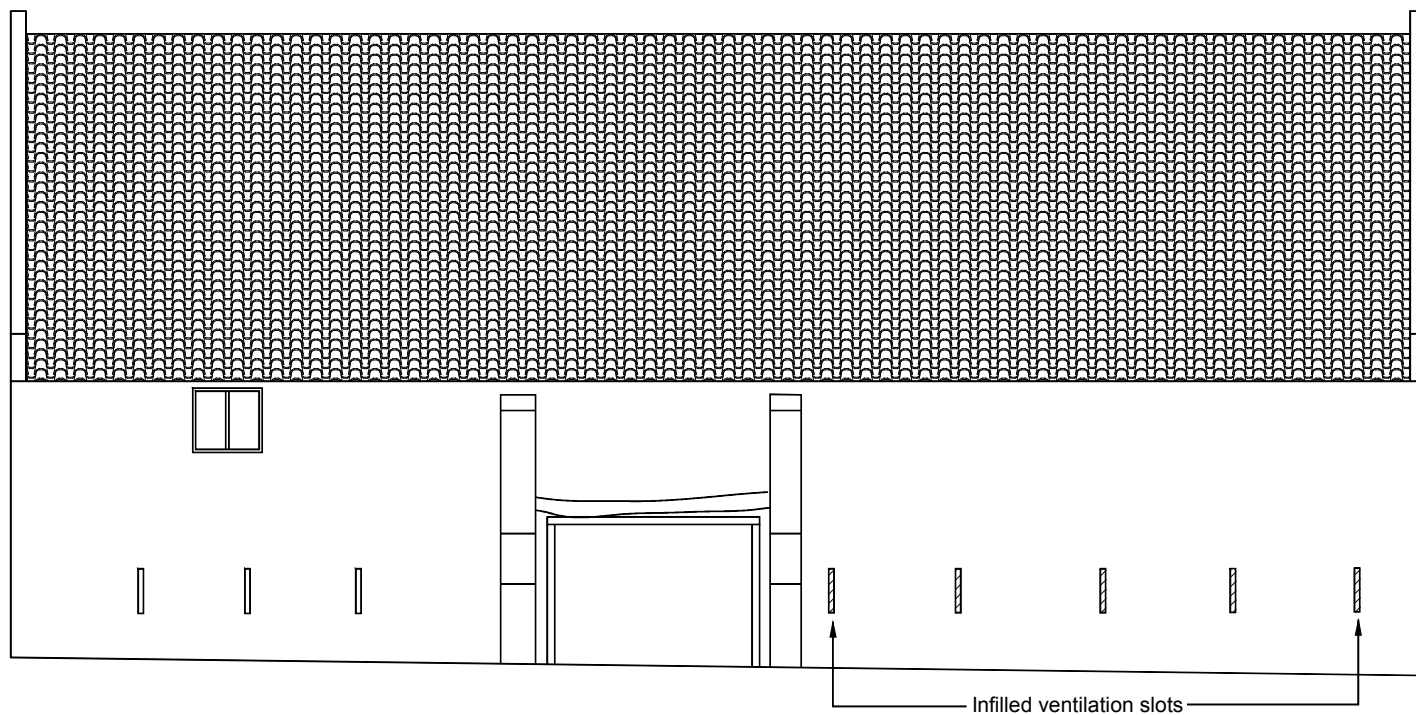


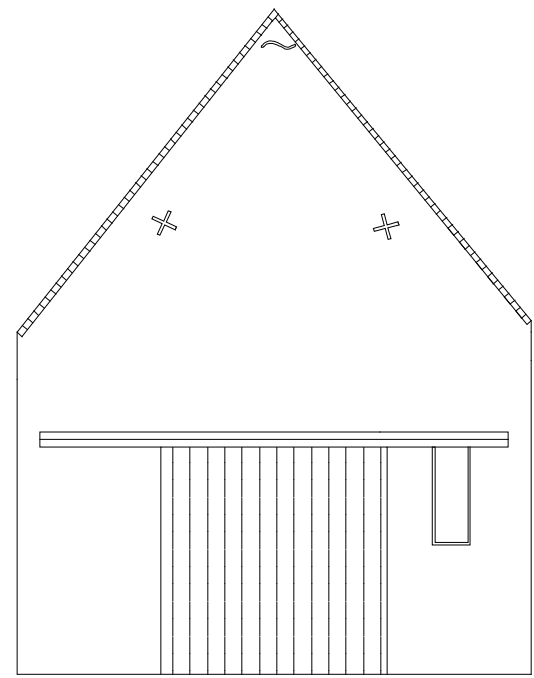
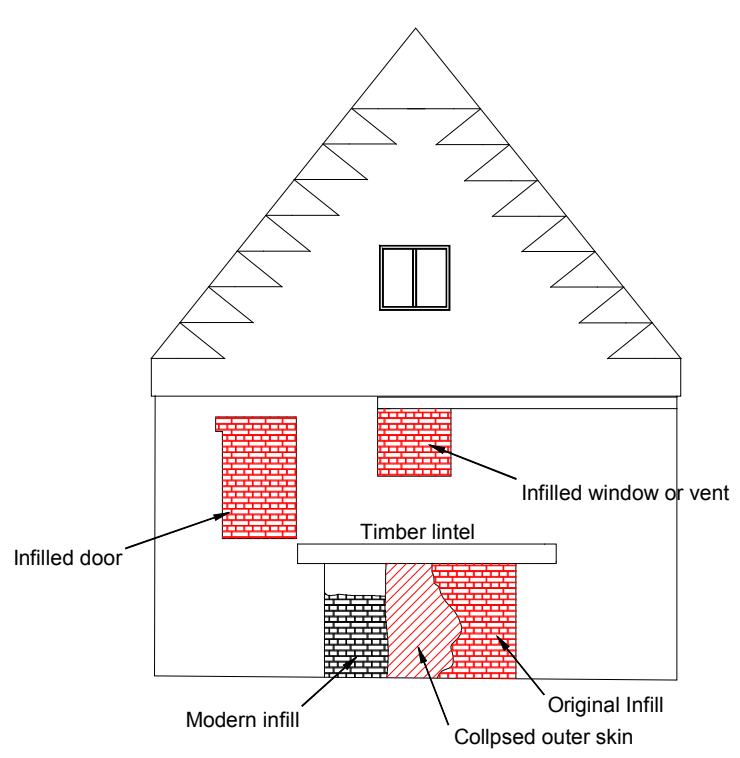












APPENDIX
OASIS DETAILS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

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OASIS ID: withamar1-189800

Project details

Project name	Historic Building Recording at Park House, Leverington, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	A programme of Historic Building Recording was carried out at Park House, Leverington, Cambridgeshire prior to the conversion of two farm buildings for residential use. The buildings are both Grade II listed, dated to the late 18th to early 19th century. Both of the buildings originally comprised threshing barns open to the roof on the west side with two-storey elements to the east. The first floor areas to the east were probably built as granaries but the functions of the ground floor spaces was less clear. There are indications that the threshing barn in the southernmost building was later modified to include a first floor. It was subsequently converted to stables and a hayloft was added at a later stage. The northernmost building is largely unaltered except for rebuilding of the west gable to include a large opening for modern farm machinery.
Project dates	Start: 23-08-2012 End: 08-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECB3841 - HER event no.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	BARN Post Medieval
Monument type	STABLE Post Medieval
Monument type	GRANARY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Annotated Sketch", "Photographic Survey"
Prompt	Listed Building Consent

Project location

Country England

Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND LEVERINGTON Park House, Leverington, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE13 5BE
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 4352 1199 52.6861900421 0.123539305369 52 41 10 N 000 07 24 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Russell Trimble
Project director/manager	Russell Trimble
Project supervisor	Russell Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs Chapman

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Digital Archive ID	TBC
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Store
Paper Archive ID	TBC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Map","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Barns at Park House, Gorefield Road, Leverington, Cambridgeshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Trimble, R.
Other bibliographic details	Witham Archaeology Report No. 57
Date	2014

Issuer or publisher	Witham Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sleaford
Description	A4, comb-bound
Entered by	Russell Trimble (russell.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	10 September 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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