

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Mr and Mrs Toulson

October 2015



**BULWARK FARM, CHURCH LANE, SCREDINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Historic Building Recording

V Mellor

BULWARK FARM, CHURCH LANE, SCREDINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

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Historic Building Recording

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BULWARK FARM, CHURCH LANE, SCREDINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a programme of historic building recording undertaken by Witham Archaeology on outbuildings at Bulwark Farm, Church Lane, Scredington, Lincolnshire. Mr and Mrs Toulson commissioned the project in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by North Kesteven District Council.

The buildings to be demolished comprised outbuildings and a semi-derelict barn at Bulwark Farm, Scredington. The date of the farmhouse at Bulwark Farm is uncertain although there are claims of a 17th century date for parts of the building and a possible mid 19th century date had been suggested for the associated farm buildings.

The earliest building recorded during the survey comprised the remains of a barn, which pre-dates the 1888 Ordnance Survey map of the area and for which a date in the first half of the 19th century is suggested.

A phase of extension and remodelling was identified involving the construction of a southerly range comprising a cart shed and possible granary, and a northerly range comprising a stable, a pigeon loft or dovecote and possible further animal accommodation. The construction of these ranges involved some alterations to the original barn, possibly including the raising of the barn roof. These additions also pre-date the 1888 map and a mid 19th century date is proposed.

The cart shed appears to have been converted to stables, perhaps in the late 19th century, with alterations to and the extension of this structure.

Various 20th century alterations, lean-to structures and shelter sheds were also recorded during the investigation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a programme of historic building recording undertaken by Witham Archaeology Ltd at Bulwark Farm, Church Lane, Scredington, Lincolnshire, on a group of farm buildings scheduled for demolition under a proposal to redevelop the site for residential purposes. The project was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Toulson in response to a condition of planning permission imposed by North Kesteven District Council. Fieldwork was carried out on 26th September 2015.

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 Figs. 1 and 2)

Bulwark Farm lies in the parish of Scredington and in the administrative district of North Kesteven, the village lying at a distance of c. 6km southeast of Sleaford. The farm is located in the historic core of Scredington village, approximately 100m northwest of the medieval parish church of St. Andrew and centred on NGR 509518 340486.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The buildings to be demolished comprise outbuildings and a semi-derelict barn at Bulwark Farm, Scredington.

The date of the former farmhouse which now forms the dwelling at Bulwark Farm is uncertain although there are claims of a 17th century date for the building. The farmhouse is not designated.

The village of Scredington has at least late Saxon origins as evidenced by a reference to the village in the Domesday survey of 1086 (Foster and Longley 1976). Five medieval moated sites have been recorded in and around the village. These include Hall Close 250m to the northwest which is thought to represent the remains of a manorial complex (Thompson, 2001).

Notes on the farm buildings were submitted to North Kesteven District Council by local historian Mr John Porter in 2012 (NKDC). Mr Porter provided an oblique aerial photograph of the farm buildings, apparently dating to 1955. He also suggested that the L-shaped arrangement of brick farm buildings visible in the photograph was constructed in around 1855 to 1860 when John Swallow was farmer.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 25th September 2015, were to:

- *Produce an archive record to Level II (Photographic Survey) standard prior to any alteration of the buildings which might be required as part of their conversion to domestic use.*
- *Gather sufficient background information for an analytical discussion of the buildings to Level II standard, as described in the document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*.*
- *Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *Provide information for accession to the county Historic Environment Record.*

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Fieldwork was carried out in accordance with guidelines issued by English Heritage (now Historic England) in the documents *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2006), *The Greater Lincolnshire Farmstead Assessment Framework: Guidelines for Best Practice* (2015) and recommendations by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers.

The photographic record was compiled in monochrome 35mm film and colour digital in JPEG format. 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 by MWS Architectural Ltd Architectural Consultant was provided by the clients Mr and Mrs Toulson for use in field recording and for illustration purposes in this report.

A very brief online search was made for cartographic and historical material relevant to the chronological development of the farm.

For the purposes of this report the main buildings (including traces of demolished buildings) are assigned [A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H & I] (Figure 3).

6.0 DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF OUTBUILDINGS AT BULWARK FARM

Figures 3-5

The following account contains descriptions of each of the buildings, both externally and internally, with photographs grouped together at the end of each section for ease of reference. Plates 1-34 provide views of the buildings.

The surveyed buildings comprised an L-shaped arrangement of brick farm buildings (A, B, C, E and G) which lay adjacent to the farmhouse, and to which were attached 20th century shelter sheds and traces of lean-to structures (D, F, I and H).

6.1 Stable and dovecot or pigeon loft A, cow house B and adjoining lean-to H

Structures A and B were located at the northeast corner of the surveyed buildings and adjacent to the Bulwark Farm farmhouse (Plates 1-3). These actually comprised a building, A having two stories and B being an adjoining ground floor room which was open to the rafters.

The north elevation of this range was generally of English garden wall bond brickwork (three stretcher courses to 1 header course) (Plate 3), and this brick bond was used throughout the majority of the buildings. Rounded bricks were used to form a slight coaching corner at ground floor level at the northwest corner of the building (Plate 2). At eaves level was a single course of straight dentils topped by a projecting string course of brick. The west gable end of this building was almost entirely obscured by the modern farmhouse extension immediately adjacent to it.

Building A had a single doorway in the north elevation, which had paired wooden doors of tongue and groove planks and a wooden lintel over the doorway. Patches in brickwork above this door suggest an earlier narrower and taller door opening here, perhaps having been widened to accommodate access for livestock (Plate 3). This room was only accessible via this doorway. The interior was whitewashed and the joists and boards of the first floor were in a state of partial collapse (Plate 4). The east elevation (dividing rooms A and B) featured a brick-infilled doorway with a wooden lintel (Plate 4). A thick wooden plank was attached to the east wall immediately to the north of this blocked doorway, and may have been associated with animal feed troughs or stabling. The south wall included a blocked doorway and blocked window, each with wooden lintels and infilled with breeze blocks (Plates 4 & 10). Shaped bricks were used at either side of this doorway and these were similar to those recorded in the external coaching corner of this building. To the east of the blocked door was a wooden tack hook and a small recess in the brick wall (Plates 4 & 5). A similar, smaller, recess or cupboard was recorded to the west of the blocked window in this wall (Plate 4). The west wall of this room was largely featureless, but included some further shaped bricks forming a slight projection to the upper portion of the centre of this wall. This was of somewhat uncertain function, but may have provided reinforcement to the brickwork of the upper storey (Plate 6).

The north external elevation of room B included a single opening at first floor level, which had a brick segmental arch over and a wood plank shutter which was likely of some age (Plate 3). Internally, this opening had a wood lintel and frame. This room was only accessible from the south side of the building, through a large opening which occupied the majority of the south elevation (Plate 10). This opening had evidently been substantially widened at some time, and was topped by a wooden lintel. The former position of the south wall was visible as a scar in the whitewash of the adjacent wall to the east and as brickwork at floor level (Plate 18). Inside, this room had a concrete floor with a step up to the north and an east-west manure drain in this concrete. At the north end of this room was a low-level concrete manger with iron tethering rings at its centre and to either side (Plates 7 & 9). The lower parts of the walls were rendered. Room B was open to the rafters, and the underside of a pantile roof in a state of collapse was recorded. The east wall of room B was formed by part of building C, and is described as part of that building.

The west wall included a single door at first floor level (Plate 8). This wood plank door had a wooden sill, lintel and surround and had a small hole located high within it. This door provided the only access to the upper floor of room A, and a stepladder was used during the survey to obtain photographs into this room through this doorway. These clearly showed brickwork in this room typical of a dovecote or pigeon loft, with numerous nest holes, each with an individual brick landing step comprising two projecting bricks (Plates 11 & 12). These nest holes appeared to be present across the entirety of all four walls of this room, and although these were neither individually counted nor had all survived, it seems that there would have originally been well in excess of 150 nest holes. The roofing of dovecote A comprised iron sheeting (Plate 13). Three small holes high in the brickwork of the southern elevation of room A formed dove holes into room A (Plate 10). Although the western gable end of the dovecote was partly collapsed, one side of a larger opening was visible in the brickwork (Plate 11). A 1970s aerial photograph of the farm indicates that this opening was square (Figure 6).

The south external elevation of A revealed brick segmental arches over both the ground floor blocked window and door, although the arch over the window had partly collapsed (Plate 10). Shaped bricks had been used at the southwest corner of this building to form a coaching corner at ground floor level, mirroring that of the northwest corner of the building.

A postulated lean-to structure H, adjoining the north elevation of range A and B, is represented by external render at ground floor level, in addition to a single small hole in the brickwork above the render which may have formed part of this structure (Plate 3). A lean-to structure is visible in this position on a 1970s aerial photograph of the site (Figure 6).



Plate 1 General view showing north elevation of farmhouse and recorded outbuildings in background, looking east.



Plate 2 Northwest corner of outbuilding A showing slight coaching corner (modern farmhouse extension at right), looking east.



Plate 3 North elevation of surveyed outbuildings, dovecote and stable A at right, animal accommodation B at centre, Barn C at left and shelter shed D at far left, looking south and southeast.



Plate 4 Ground floor interior of stable A, showing blocked door and window, tack hook and recesses in south wall, blocked door and timber of east wall visible at left, looking south.



Plate 5 Interior of ground floor stable of building A showing tack hook and recess associated with use as stable, looking southeast.



Plate 6 Interior of ground floor stable of building A showing brickwork of western wall, looking west.



Plate 7 Interior of room B, animal accommodation, looking north.



Plate 8 Doorway from room B leading to building A upper storey dovecote showing dove hole in plank door, looking west.



Plate 9 Interior of room B, detail showing rendered walls, concrete manger and iron tethering rings associated with use as cattle accommodation, looking northwest.



Plate 10 South external elevation of buildings A and B showing blocked openings of building A stable at left and three dove holes in brickwork at first floor level.



Plate 11 Interior of first floor dovecote or pigeon loft of building A as viewed from doorway, looking west.



Plate 12 Interior of first floor dovecote or pigeon loft of building A as viewed from doorway, looking northwest.



Plate 13 Interior of first floor dovecote of building A as viewed from doorway showing roof structure, looking west.

6.2 Barn C

Barn C was north-south aligned and retained both north and south gable ends in addition to the long west wall of the building. This barn was possibly of handmade brick, generally in English garden wall bond, and was apparently the earliest of the surveyed farm buildings. The eastern long wall of the barn had been entirely removed at some time and was open to form part of large modern shelter shed D (Plate 14).

The north external gable met building B with a straight join, apart from the uppermost 8 courses which were keyed-in (Plate 3). This gable was largely obscured by ivy, but included a single opening at first floor level, which had a wood surround and wooden planks secured over it. No additional features were noted in this gable internally (Plates 16 & 17).

The south gable end also formed the gable end of adjacent range E which abutted to the south (Plate 15). The gable had a single door opening at first floor level with a wood surround and a wood plank door. This elevation was of whitewashed bricks and an eaves scar at the top of the doorway suggested that the roof may have been raised or the wall rebuilt here over the top eight courses.

The long west wall of barn C (Plate 16) had a single wide door opening with a plank door and wood surround. As viewed externally, this doorway had a brick segmental arch over it, and clearly replaced an earlier doorway, also with a brick segmental arch, which it partially overlapped at its northern edge (Plate 18). This doorway was probably moved when the adjacent range A and B was constructed, the southern wall of this range forming a scar in paintwork on the west wall of barn C.

Externally, the west wall of C had a straight join with adjacent range E to the south, but was partially keyed-in over its upper courses of brickwork, this wall possibly having been raised at this upper level (Plates 29 and 18). Similarly, a large wooden lintel forming part of the south wall of room B was keyed-in to the west wall of barn C, but there was no evidence that the walls below this level were ever keyed-in together (Plate 18).

A faint vertical scar in the brickwork of the west wall inside barn C might indicate the former presence of an internal partition to this building, but this is uncertain (Plate 16). This scar was not evident in the external west elevation of barn C. Detailed examination of the internal elevations of barn C was somewhat hampered by the presence of large quantities of stored materials at the time of the survey.

The roofing of barn C was of iron sheeting, except for a small portion at the northern end of the building, where it adjoined range B, which retained pantiles (Plate 17).

The east wall of barn C had been entirely removed and replaced by three wooden supports. Two of these were of telegraph pole type, and a third of squared, possibly reused, timber (Plates 14-16).

The flooring had a slight step up from shelter D into barn C which had a poured concrete floor, apparently overlying rubble.



Plate 14 View of barn C, including external north gable end at right and south gable end now within shelter shed, looking southwest.



Plate 15 South gable end of barn C (also forming north gable of building E), looking southwest.



Plate 16 Internal view of west wall of barn C as seen from inside shelter shed D, looking west.



Plate 17 Interior of barn C (gable at right), detail of roof structure at junction with adjacent building B (gable at left), looking northwest.



Plate 18 Detail of east wall of barn C, showing doorway, earlier blocked doorway to left, and position of southern wall of building B visible as vertical scar in whitewash, looking east.

6.3 Cart shed/stable and granary E and adjoining structure G

Like barn C, range E had been encased within shelter shed D at its eastern side (Plates 19 & 20). This north-south range joined barn C, sharing a gable. The lower storey of this building apparently comprised a two-bay cart shed, open to the east, which had probably been converted to stables at some time with alterations including the addition of adjacent structure G. The upper storey of range E may have served as a granary.

This apparent cart shed had two bays opening to the east which had coaching corners of shaped bricks at the centre and south, and a large wooden lintel spanning both bays and the length of the building (Plates 19 & 20). Further shaped bricks were used at the back corners of the bays, although as this side of the building does not seem to have been open, these may have been used simply to reinforce the corners of the building rather than functioning as coaching corners (Plates 22 and 27).

Above the cart shed lintel, at the northern end of the east elevation, was a straight join with brickwork keyed-in above this (Plate 20). This probably indicates that the end of this lintel was inserted into the existing gable end of barn C when range E was constructed. The upper courses of keyed-in brickwork at the northeast corner of building E here correlate to the level of an eaves scar visible on the north gable end, and together these may indicate that the roof of barn C was raised when the adjacent building E was constructed (Plate 19).

The ceiling of the two cart shed bays was formed by the wooden joists and planks of the first floor room above (Plates 22, 24 and 27).

A blocked doorway was recorded at the rear (west) of the southern cart shed bay (Plates 27 and 29). A wooden door with wood frame and surround was recorded in the southern gable end of the building. This exited the southern cart shed bay and may be original to building E (Plates 20, 21 and 28).

The two cart shed bays were separated by a brick wall, apparently infill not original to the building (Plate 22). This included attached wooden pegs in the south bay which may be interpreted as tack hooks, and both this infilled wall and tack hooks may relate to the conversion of the cart shed into stables.

At the southeast corner of building E was an attached stretch of walling with a short return G (Plates 21 and 28). Internally, this appeared to include the scar of the pitched roof of a lean-to and possible traces of a doorway. This seems likely to be an addition to building E and would have formed a corridor along the eastern side of building E as part of the conversion to stables. The majority of extension G had been demolished on the construction of adjacent shelter shed D, and the remaining fragments of walling had been much repaired at this time.

The north cartshed bay included a gap in the planks of the ceiling, possibly representing the position of a hatch or trapdoor (Plate 24), and timber fragments attached to an adjacent joist may relate to this opening, or potentially a chute leading from it. Nearby, a short section of metal pipe was recorded suspended from the ceiling within this bay and exiting the north gable end (Plate 23). The possibility that these two features might together form part of a grain chute down from the upper floor was considered, but the pipe did not seem to have a significant fall which would be required for this. It could be that the pipe relates to the flue of a stove, this either being located in barn C and exiting via the ceiling of the north cart shed bay, or a stove within the north bay itself following its conversion to a stable. It is also possible that the pipe and opening in the ceiling might have accommodated moving parts of machinery used in crop processing, being related to the transfer of power between barn C and the upper storey of building E. A further explanation for the possible hatch is the loading and unloading of grain directly from carts into the room above, but given the joist that crosses this possible opening, this seems unlikely.

Marks were observed in the underside of the large lintel of the cart shed opening, in both the north and south bays (Plates 25 and 26). These do not appear to be carpenters marks but have been made with some care. These comprise a mixture of circular arcs produced by a compass or similar implement and straight lines. These are potentially graffiti, perhaps dating to the use of the building as a cart shed and the underside of this beam would be easily reached from a cart.

Three tie plates were recorded above this large lintel, two of which were mirrored in the western elevation, where the central tie plate had apparently been removed but a tie beam was still visible (Plates 20 and 29).

The upper floor of building E included an opening in the western elevation which retained part of a wooden frame and shutter (Plate 20). This opening appeared to have been enlarged at some time with the removal of an irregular area of brickwork immediately beneath it. A further high opening was recorded in the west elevation of the building (Plate 29) and this is probably a later insertion to the building.

It was not possible to access the upper floor of building E during the survey as it was accessible only by use of a high ladder. However, much of the upper floor was viewed using a camera held up through a hole in the cart shed ceiling, which did not indicate the presence of any significant architectural features or agricultural machinery in the room.



Plate 19 Cart shed and possible granary E, as viewed from inside shelter shed D, looking southwest.



Plate 20 Cart shed and possible granary E, as viewed from inside shelter shed D, looking southwest.



Plate 21 Detail of fragmentary masonry of structure G, apparently forming passageway associated with conversion of cart shed E to stables, looking southwest.



Plate 22 Interior of north bay of cart shed E, showing infilled brick wall at left and wooden joists and flooring of upper floor over, looking west.



Plate 23 Interior detail of north bay of cart shed E, showing metal pipe exiting north wall of bay, possibly associated with former stove within this room during use as a stable, looking north.



Plate 24 Interior detail of north bay of cart shed E, possible trapdoor in ceiling and possibly associated woodwork attached to joist, looking south.



Plate 25 Possible carpenters marks or graffiti on underside of cart shed lintel (south bay), looking west/up.



Plate 26 Possible carpenters marks or graffiti on underside of cart shed lintel (north bay), looking west/up.



Plate 27 Interior of south bay of cart shed E, showing use of curved bricks at corners of building, possible tack hooks associated with later use as a stable at right and blocked doorway in west wall, looking west.



Plate 28 South gable of building E and adjoining structure G, looking north.



Plate 29 West external elevation of building E and barn C, looking east.

6.4 Shelter shed D

Shelter shed D had been built onto the eastern side of barn C and buildings E and G, the eastern walls of both barn C and building G having been removed to facilitate its construction. This building almost entirely comprised wood and corrugated sheeting.



Plate 30 North elevation of shelter shed D, attached to barn C, and general view of north elevation of farmhouse and outbuildings, looking southwest.



Plate 31 Interior of shelter shed D, with buildings C, E and G partially preserved within western side of building D at right, looking south.



Plate 32 General view of outbuildings showing shelter shed D at centre attached to buildings E and C, shelter shed I at left and farmhouse in background, looking northwest.

6.5 Shelter sheds F and former shelter I

Areas of whitewash were recorded on the southern external elevation of range A and B, and also on the western external elevation of barn C (Plates 29 and 10). These formed scars marking the position of a former lean-to structure in the angle between these two buildings and with a roof pitched down to the south (structure I). Little further evidence for the function of this building was identified, although a light switch was recorded on the external wall of room A, suggesting that building I had electric lighting. This was likely an animal shelter.

Building I had apparently been demolished and replaced by a large shelter shed F. The northern portion of this shelter shed, between buildings A, B, C and G, was largely collapsed at the time of the survey (Plate 29), but the southern portion of the structure survived (Plates 33 and 34).

The majority of structure F comprised timber and corrugated sheeting, with south and east walls of breeze block, and a pair of garage doors at the east side (Plate 34). The west wall was viewed internally, where this was also largely of breeze. The north end of this west wall was of a separate block of brickwork, with somewhat haphazard brickwork generally of the same English garden wall coursing as seen elsewhere on the farm (Plate 33). Traces of an east-west joining wall were noted at the south end of this wall fragment, in addition to traces of pantile at the top of the wall. This suggests that this may be part of an earlier outbuilding to the farmhouse, possibly a privy or shed. The external elevation of this wall was obscured by shrubs and climbing plants and so could not be examined.



Plate 33, Interior of shelter shed I showing brickwork of western wall, conservatory and modern extension of farmhouse visible at right, looking west.



Plate 34 Interior of shelter shed I, showing wood, corrugated sheeting and breeze block construction, buildings E and C in background at left, looking northeast.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

For suggested phasing of surveyed buildings see Figure 7.

Phase I

The earliest phase of farm buildings recorded during the survey comprised barn C. As the east wall of this barn was entirely demolished it is not possible to identify the original form of the building with certainty.

Often such barns feature large paired doors in each of the long sides to create a threshing floor in the draught between them. Although part of a blocked doorway was identified in the western wall of the barn, this was rather small compared to many threshing barns in the area, although it may well have provided sufficient through-draught to serve this purpose, particularly if a supposed opposing opening in the east wall was somewhat larger.

The high opening in the north gable end of barn C is typical of a pitching hole for loading and unloading of crops from carts located outside into and out of the barn. The larger door in the south gable end may be original, but it is perhaps more likely that a pitching hole mirroring that of the north gable end was later enlarged.

A small vertical scar in the wall within the barn may indicate that it was formerly subdivided, perhaps dividing it into separate areas for crop processing and storage. Other characteristic features of barns, such as breather slits to allow adequate ventilation for stored crops, were not identified during the survey, and generally there was a lack of characteristic features to identify the precise function of the original building.

The dating of the barn is uncertain, but the bricks used in its construction may have been handmade. A building is shown here by the time of the 1888 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6), indicating the barn predates this. A local historian has postulated a construction date for the outbuildings in general of around 1855 or 1860, and it is quite possible that the barn dates to this period (NKDC 2012). The barn

may be slightly earlier, although it seems unlikely that it pre-dates the 19th century, and a tentative date range within the first half of the 19th century is suggested here.

Phase II

Phase II comprises the probable addition of a two-bay cartshed with possible granary over (E) at the south end of barn C, as well as the addition of stables, animal accommodation and a dovecote or pigeon loft (A and B) at the west of the barn.

Cart shed and possible granary E utilised the existing gable end of barn C, and similarly range A and B utilised a wall of barn C as its eastern wall. In each case alterations were made to barn C, with a barn door in the western wall being moved slightly to accommodate the southern wall of range A and B, and the possible enlargement of the first floor opening of the southern barn gable end to form an access door to the first floor of building E. There is some indication that the barn roof was also raised by a height of approximately eight courses at this time, although this is somewhat uncertain.

These additional buildings A, B and E are shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map, so again pre-date this.

Building E seems to have originally comprised a two-bay cart shed with a first floor room over this possibly serving as a granary. In a study of farmsteads in South Lincolnshire, Barnwall and Giles note that most early 19th century and earlier granaries are located over stables, whilst from the middle of the century onwards, some later ones were located over cart sheds and beside barns (1998, 52). This had the advantages of improved ventilation given the open-sided nature of cart sheds and reducing the potential negative effects of moisture from horses breath and bodies tainting the grain in the room above. This could suggest a likely mid 19th century date for building E, and it is possible that this correlates with the construction dates of 1855 or 1860 suggested by Mr Porter (NKDC 2012).

As is the case for barn C, there is something of a lack of diagnostic features to confirm the interpretation of the upper story of building E as a granary, but this seems a likely function.

Range A and B comprised a single building divided into two separate rooms at ground floor level. It seems probable that this building is broadly contemporary with building E. Both buildings E and A/B comprise similar brick and external brick detailing, and both use similar shaped bricks to form coaching corners in various positions, in addition to these bricks also apparently serving as reinforcement in some areas. It also seems likely that the roof of barn C was raised alongside the construction of ranges E and A/B, and it seems most likely this was carried out as a single phase of construction and remodelling.

The ground floor of building A was apparently constructed as a stable, probably with an access for the horse via the now-blocked southern doorway. Additional pedestrian access was through both the north and east walls, and a window was located in the south wall. A wooden plank on the east wall of this room may have served as part of a manger or support for a hay rack, and a wooden tack or harness hook was recorded at the southeast corner of the room. One, and possible two, small recesses or cupboards were recorded in the brickwork within this room, and although these examples are of rather small size these are also typical of stables, being used to store brushes and curry combs (Barnwall and Giles 1998, 53).

The upper storey of building A comprised a purpose-built pigeon loft. Within farms, such lofts are often located in the upper storey of other buildings such as stables or coach houses (Hansell and Hansell 1988, 163). In the 18th century it was even recommended that positioning pigeon lofts above stables or cowhouses would help the birds keep warm in the winter months and encourage early spring breeding, although by the 19th century their position in farmyards was random (Hansell and Hansell 1992, 64-66). The Bulwark Farm pigeon loft or dovecote included numerous brick-built nest boxes in each of its four walls, each with a small brick-built landing stage. It originally had a large opening in the west gable end. This had been largely removed by the time of the survey, but is evident on aerial photographs of the farm dating to the mid to late 20th century. In an aerial photograph dating to the 1970s this opening appears to be blocked, perhaps with wood, within which is a smaller access hole for birds. Three further dove holes were recorded in the brickwork of the south wall of the building. The room was accessed via a door in the east wall, presumably via a ladder leading up from ground floor room B. This planked door also included a small access hole for birds.

Despite being the same height as the stable and dovecote, room B had no upper floor, and was open to the rafters. This room had been largely rendered and was lacking in original diagnostic features to suggest its original function and the southern wall of this room had been entirely removed. A single opening in the north wall may have been a window. It seems likely this room was originally animal accommodation such as a loose box, but might equally have served as storage, with the opening in the northern wall potentially being a pitching hole to unload crops into this room.

Phase III

At some time cart shed E appears to have been converted into stables, with the addition of a brick-built lean-to structure G to create a passage along the east side of the building, the infilling of the central wall between the two cart shed bays and the possible addition of tack hooks within the southern bay. The date of this alteration is uncertain, but might be postulated to have occurred in the late 19th century.

At an unknown time a doorway between ground floor rooms A and B in the northern range was blocked. Although this alteration is undated, this may easily have been a late 19th century alteration.

Phase IV

A small lean-to structure H was added to the north side of range A and B at some time, and render adhering to the north elevation of A and B suggests this was animal accommodation. This lean-to structure is visible on a 1970s aerial photograph, and given the scale of the building may perhaps have been a pig sty or kennels. Alterations to the northern doorway of room A, within lean-to H, may have occurred at this time.

A lean-to shelter I, to the south of range A and B, was identified only through its position being marked in whitewash on adjacent buildings A, B, C and E. This building is not present on the 1955 aerial photograph, and had been replaced by the time of the 1970s aerial photograph. The function of this building is unknown, but may have been cattle accommodation.

Phase V

By the 1970s aerial photograph of the site, two substantial shelter sheds D and F had been constructed, which were not present on the 1955 aerial photograph (Figure 6).

Shelter shed F infilled the area between east-west range A and B and north-south range C and E. A fragment of an earlier brick wall was incorporated into this shelter at its western side, and, although unclear, it appears that this wall fragment is visible on the 1955 aerial photograph.

The construction of shelter shed D, at some time between the dates of the two aerial photographs of the farm, involved the demolition of the east wall of barn C and much of structure G, with buildings C and E being incorporated into shelter shed D.

A door in the west side of cart shed/ stable E is visible on the 1955 aerial photograph, and was presumably blocked at the time of the construction of shelter shed F. The southern door and window of stable A may have also been blocked at this time or still more recently.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr and Mrs Toulson for their helpfulness during execution of the survey and thanks are due to MWS Architectural Ltd for providing copies of the plans and elevations.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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NKDC

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: SCBF15

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 15/0447/HOUSE

FIELD OFFICER: Vicky Mellor

NGR: 509518 340486.

CIVIL PARISH: Scredington

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 26/9/15

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Historic Building Recording

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr and Mrs Toulson

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Lincoln

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC: 2015.210

PROPOSED ACCESSION DATE: February 2016

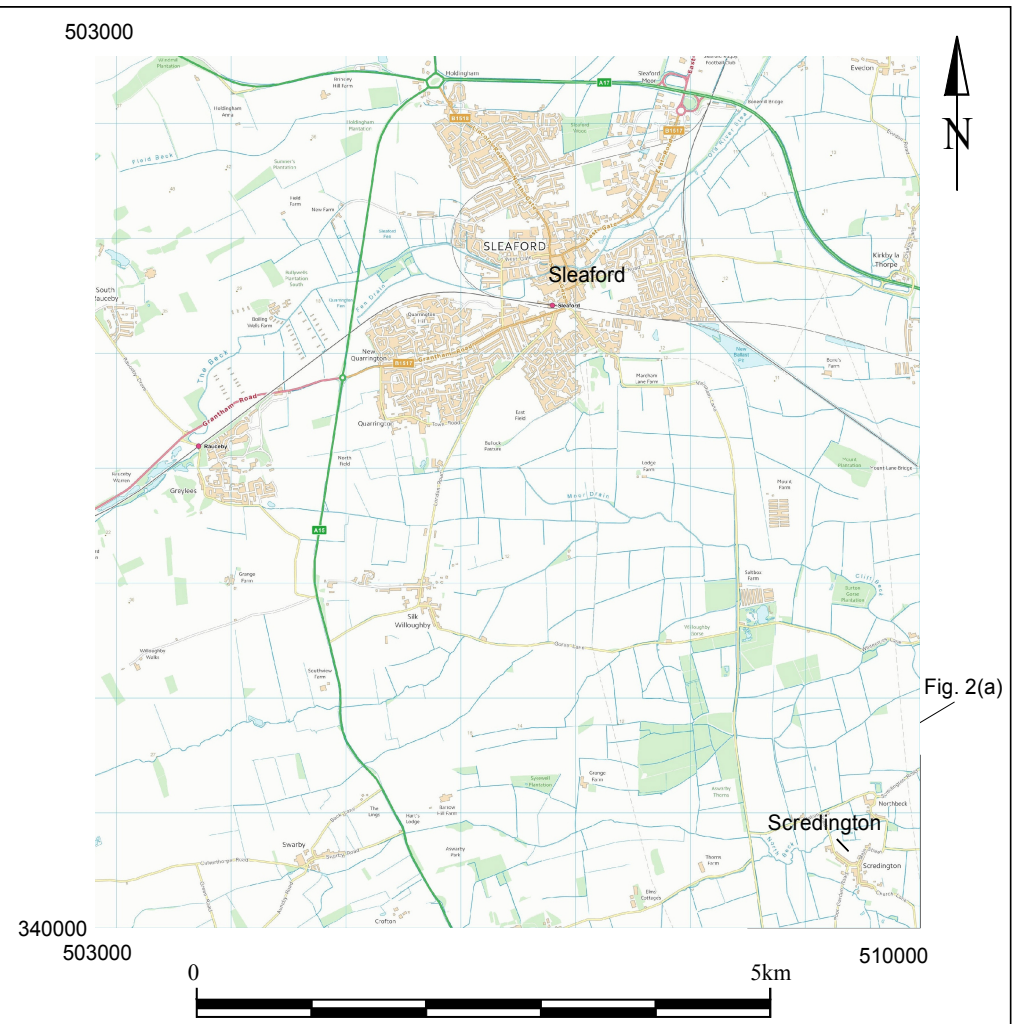
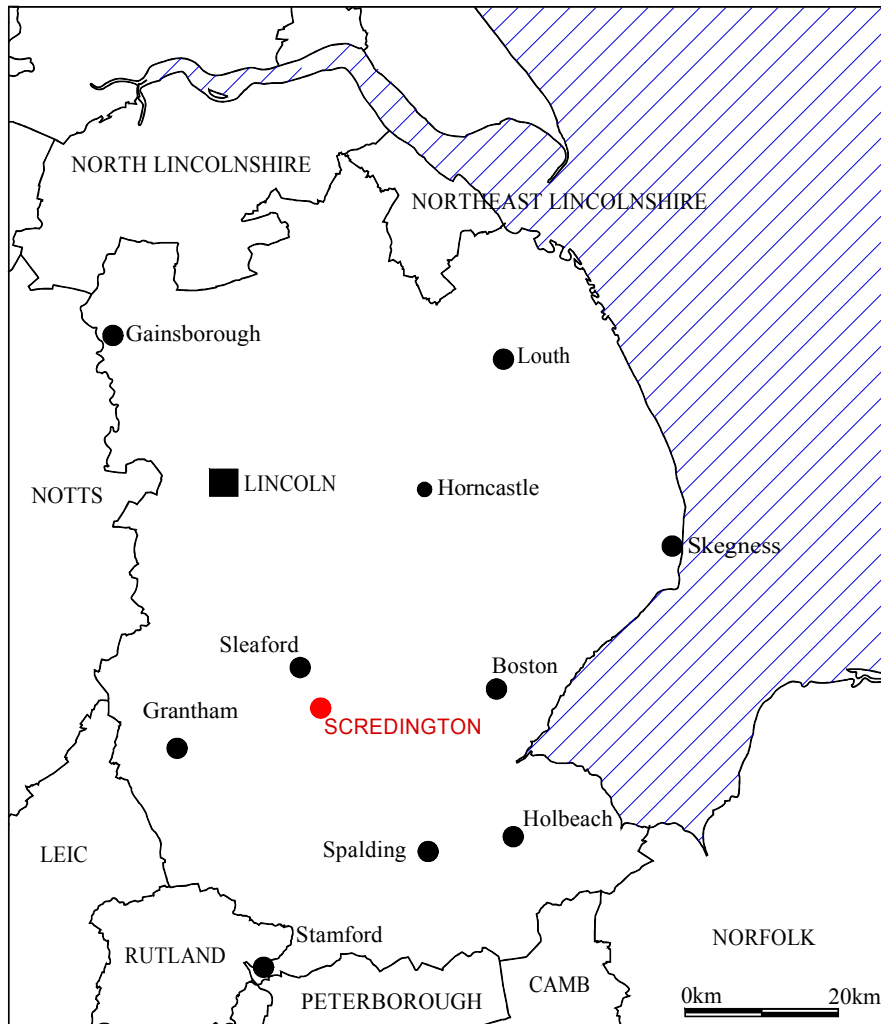
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21 monochrome negatives

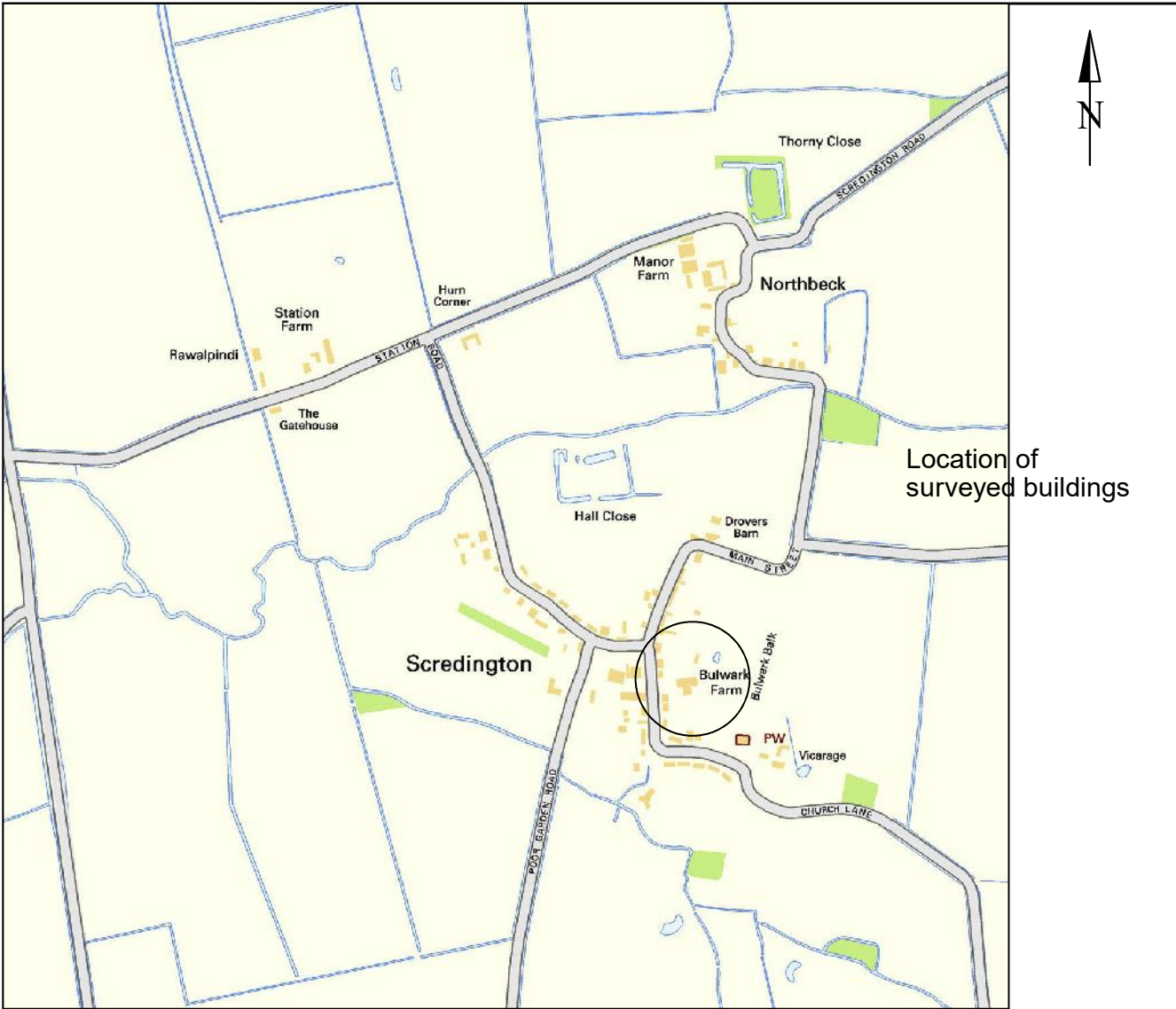
100 digital photographs

Set of Site Notes

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



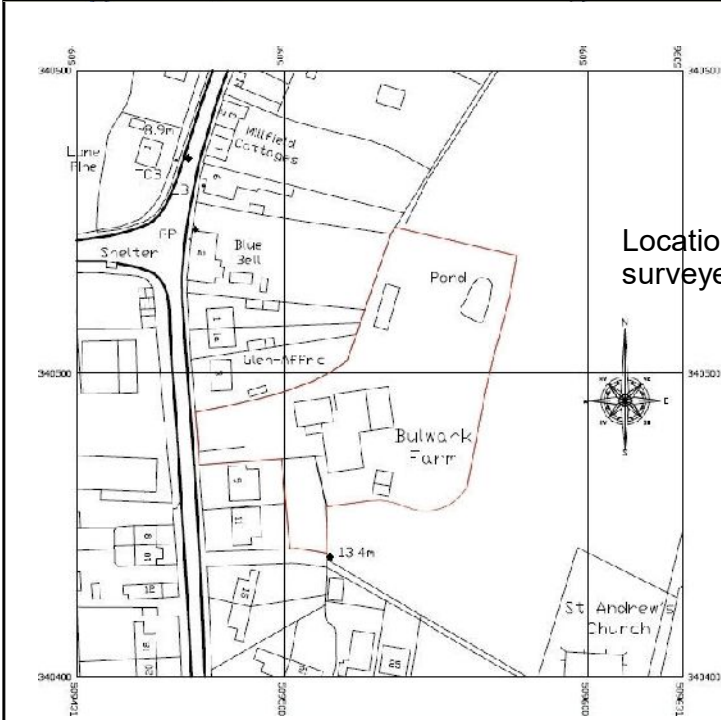
Based upon the Ordnance Survey VectorMap (TM) District map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright
Licence No.: 100049610



Location of surveyed buildings



Fig. 2 (a) Scale 1:10,000

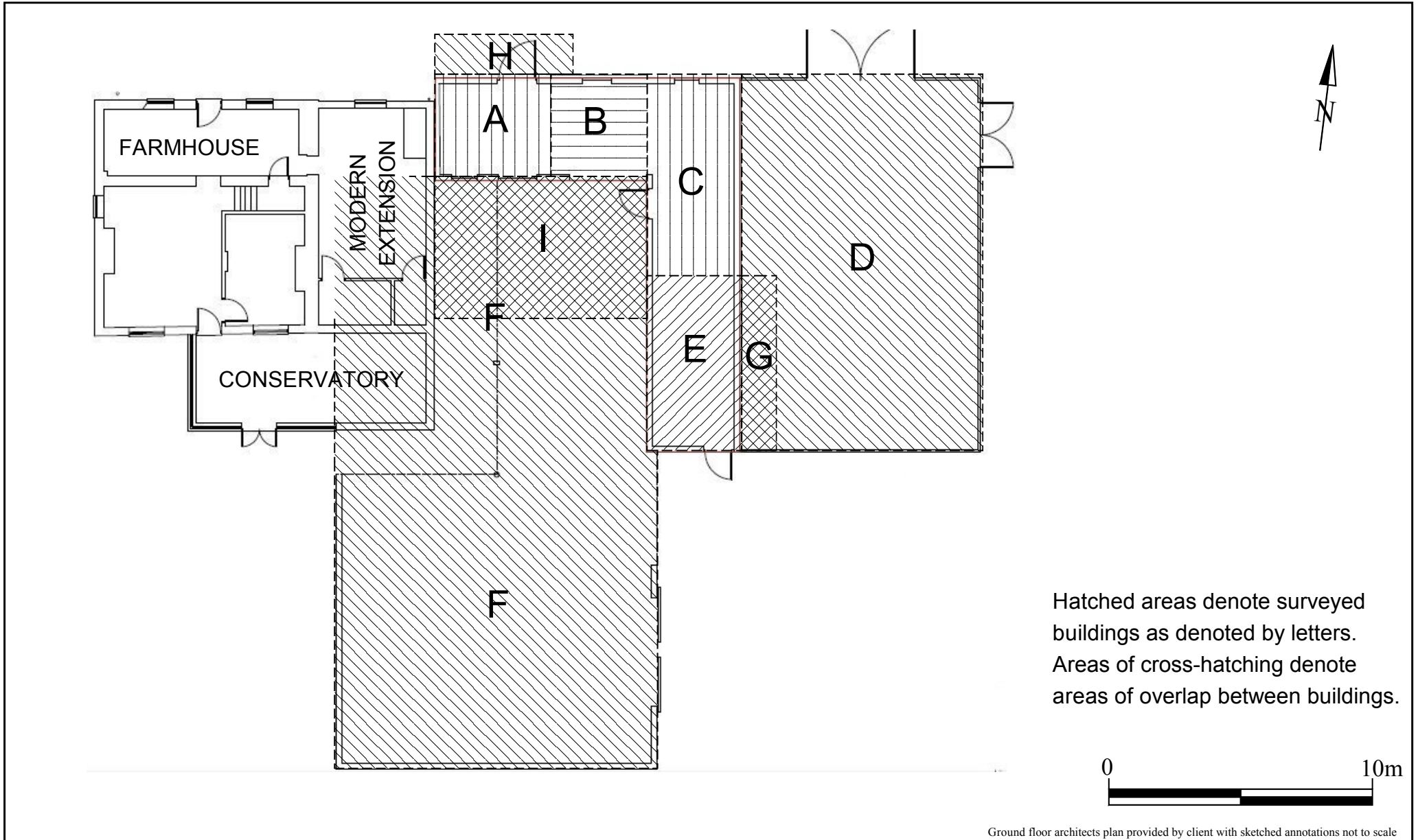


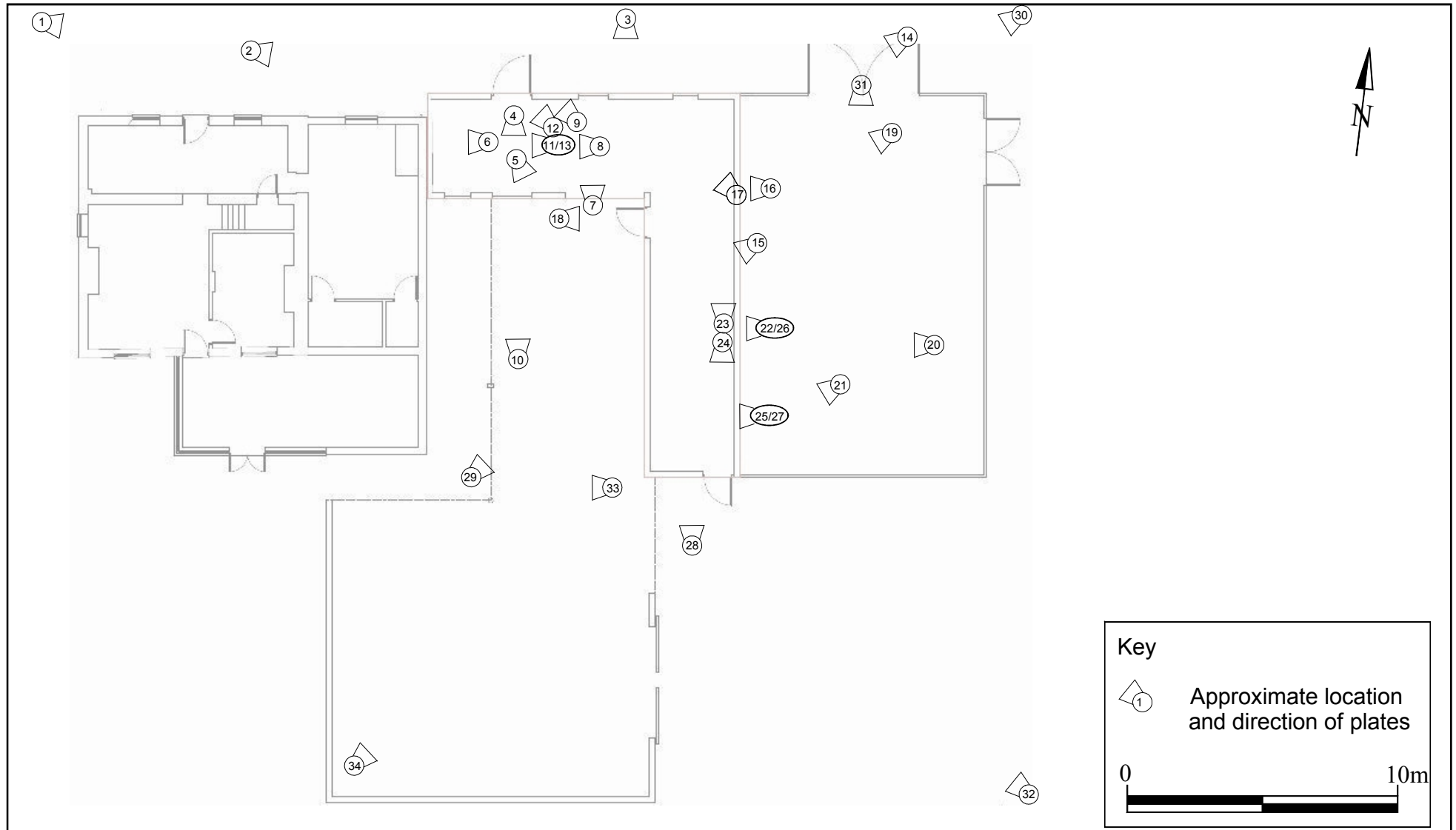
Location of surveyed buildings



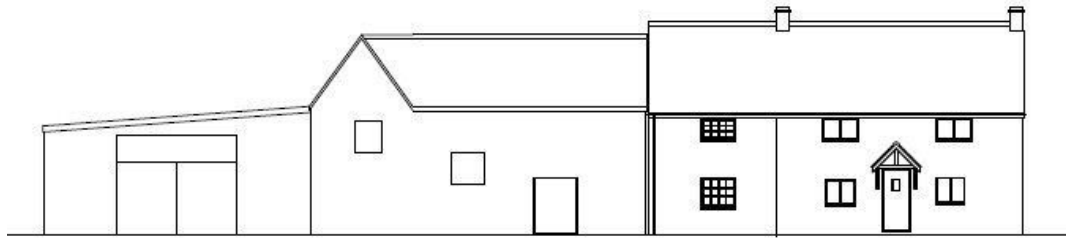
Fig. 2 (b) Scale 1:2,500

Location map kindly provided by client

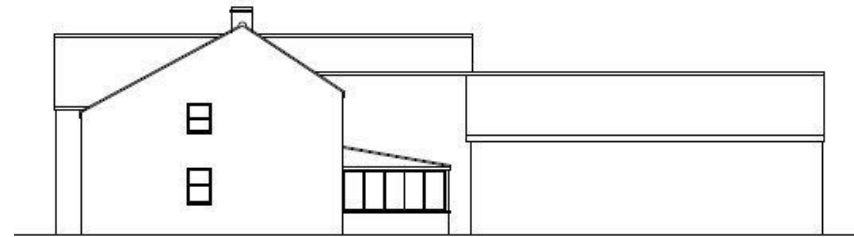




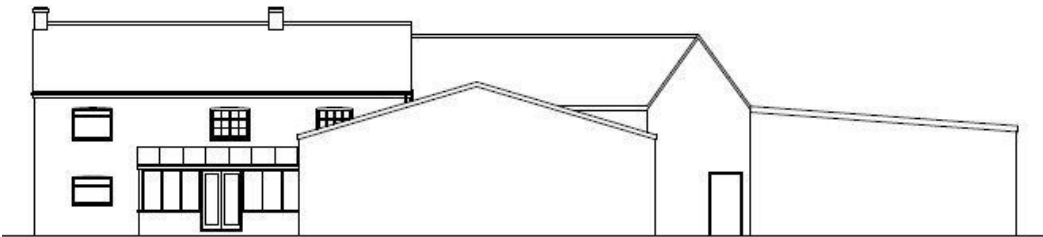
Ground floor architects plan provided by client with sketched annotations not to scale



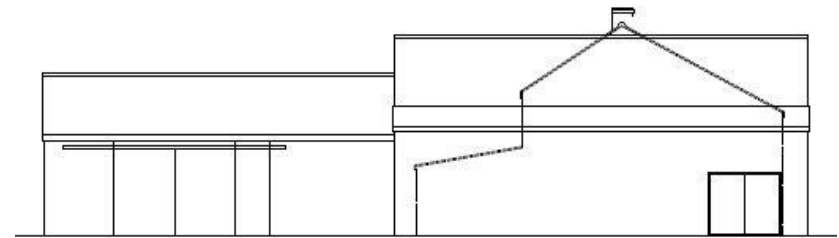
North elevation



West elevation



South elevation



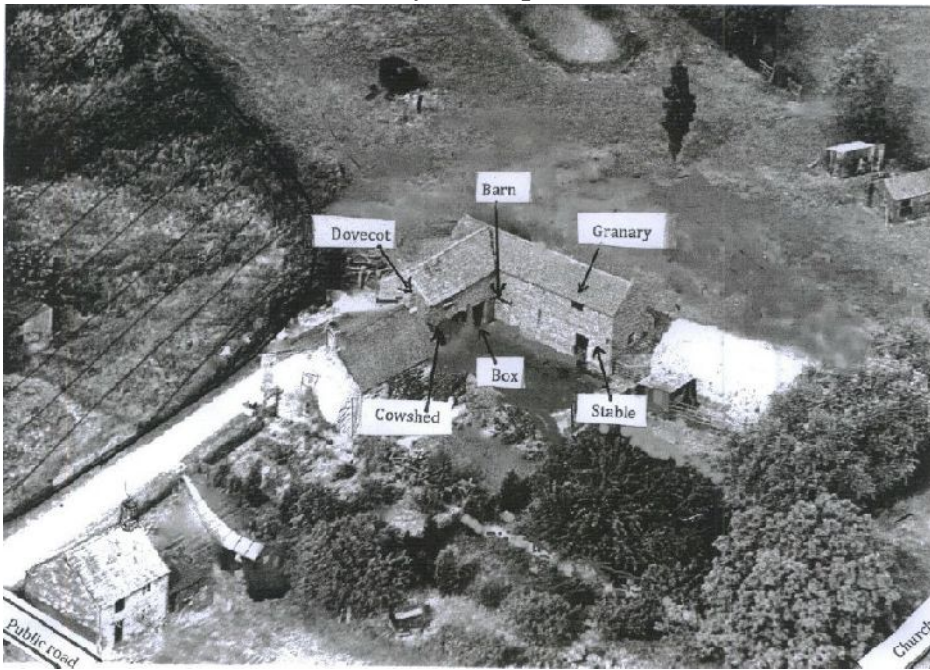
East elevation



Architects elevations as existing provided by client



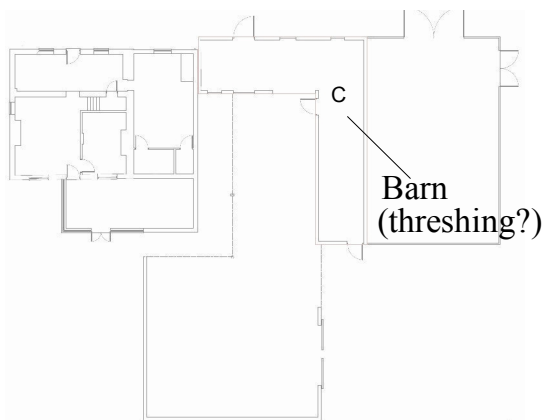
Extract from Ordnance Survey 6" map 1888



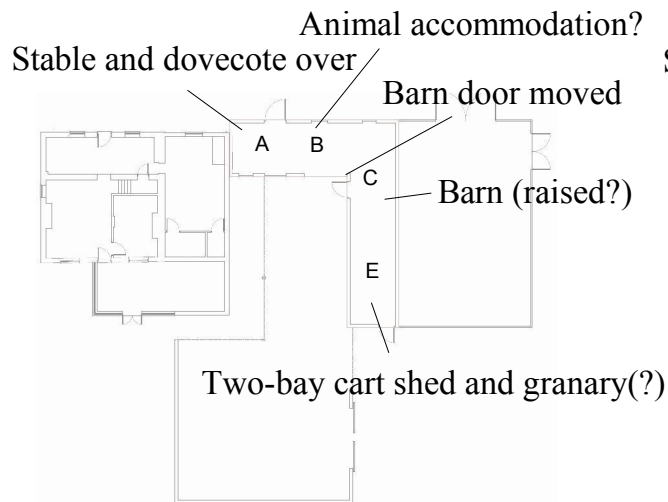
Oblique aerial photograph looking northeast, apparently dated 1955 provided to NKDC by local historian Mr John Porter (presumably annotated by Mr Porter)



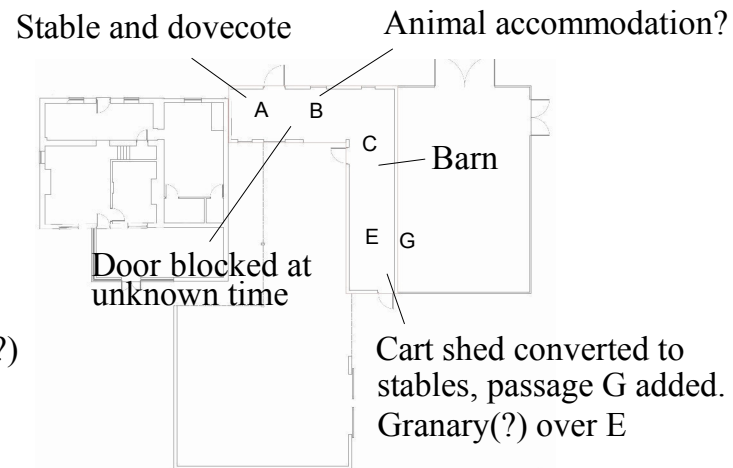
Oblique aerial photograph looking east, apparently dating to 1970s, provided by client



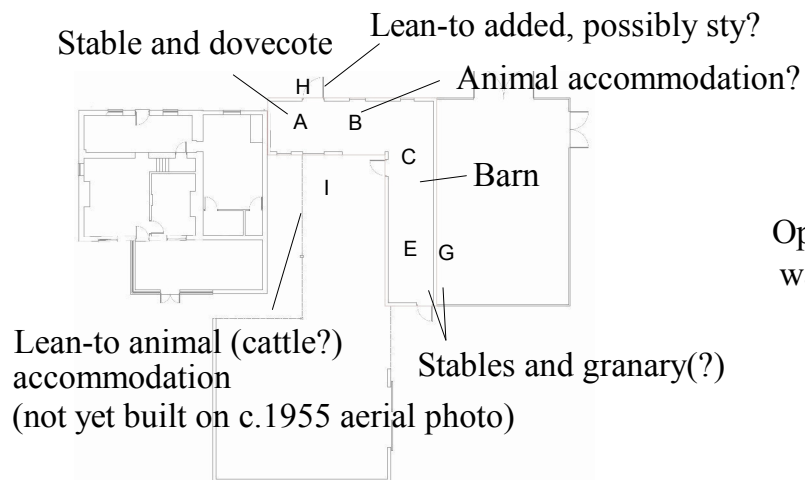
Phase I



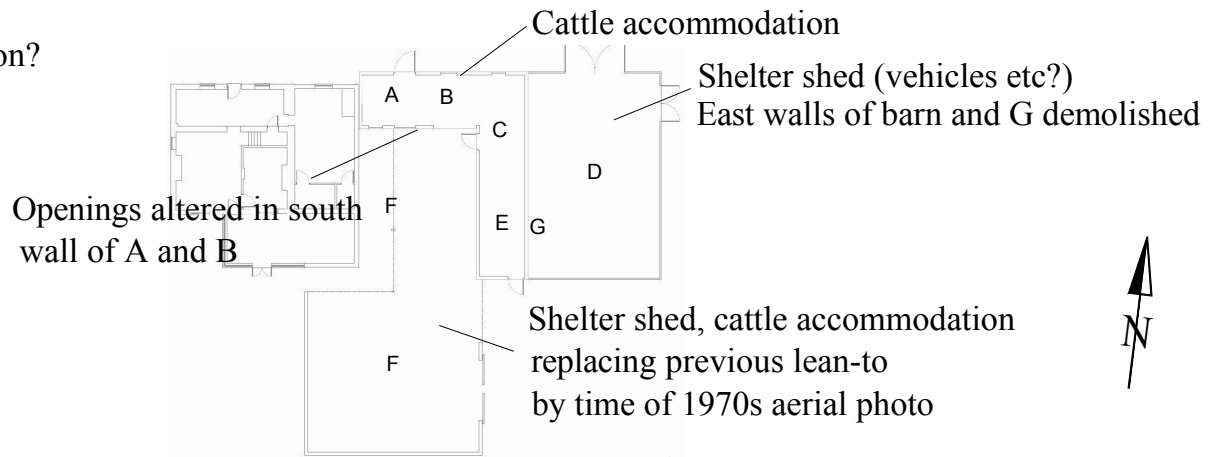
Phase II - layout as 1888 OS map



Phase III



Phase IV



Phase V



**APPENDIX - OASIS DATA
COLLECTION FORM**

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-227535

Project details

Project name	Historic Building Recording of farm buildings at Bulwark Farm, Scredington, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	A photographic survey was undertaken in advance of the demolition of a group of farm buildings at Bulwark Farm Scredington, Lincolnshire. The group included an L-shaped arrangement of 19th century brick buildings together with more recent lean-to structures. The north side of the L-shaped arrangement was formed by a multi-function building comprising a stable and cow house at ground floor with a dovecote above the stable. The east range consisted of a barn to the north, and a two-storey structure to the south. The latter was open sided at ground floor (opening to the east) and was accessible at first floor from a door in the south gable of the barn. The structure can be interpreted as a cartshed with granary above. The earliest building was probably the barn. It was later raised in height - possibly at the same time as the construction of the 'cartshed/granary' .
Project dates	Start: 26-09-2015 End: 26-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SCBF15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2015.210 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	COWHOUSE Post Medieval
Monument type	BARN Post Medieval
Monument type	CARTSHED Post Medieval
Monument type	DOVECOTE Post Medieval
Monument type	STABLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England
 Site location LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH KESTEVEN SCREDINGTON Bulwark Farm, Church Lane, Scredington, Lincolnshire
 Postcode NG34 0AG
 Study area 1000 Square metres
 Site coordinates TF 09518 40486 52.950239260242 -0.369747021424 52 57 00 N 000 22 11 W Point

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
 Digital Archive ID LCNCC:2015.210
 Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
 Paper Archive ID LCNCC:2015.210
 Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"
 Paper Media available "Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	Bulwark Farm, Church Lane, Screddington, Lincolnshire. Historic Building Recording
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Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Witham Archaeology Ltd
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Description	A4, comb-bound
Entered by	Russell Trimble (russell.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	23 October 2015

OASIS:

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