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ARCHAEOLOGY

**AN HISTORIC BUILDING
PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY AT
HALL FARM, OFF CHURCH ROAD,
PECKLETON, LEICESTERSHIRE**



The University of
Nottingham

**AN HISTORIC BUILDING
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HALL FARM, OFF CHURCH ROAD,
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**A report for
Peckleton Homes Ltd**

*by
Richard Sheppard*

OS Grid Ref. SK 4740 0071
TPA Project Code: HFP.1
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ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Location of redundant farm buildings of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire, the subject of an historic building photographic survey prior to their conversion to habitable accommodation. Not to precise scale. (*Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618*).

Fig. 2 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings belonging to Hall Farm situated south-east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire. Not to definite scale.

Fig. 3 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings (set around yard, to right) and a 20th century barn belonging to Hall Farm, situated east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire, and here showing viewpoints of external digital photographs taken February 2009. Not to definite scale.

Fig. 4 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings belonging to Hall Farm, situated east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire, and showing viewpoints of interior digital photographs taken February 2009. Not to definite scale.

Fig. 5 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings (set around yard, to right) and a 20th century barn belonging to Hall Farm, situated east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire, and here showing viewpoints of external film photographs taken February 2009. Not to definite scale.

Fig. 6 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings belonging to Hall Farm, situated east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire, and showing viewpoints of interior film photographs taken February 2009. Not to definite scale.

PLATES

Plates 1, 2 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire.

1: distant view showing surrounding landscape, taken from west; **2:** general view from south-east showing track in foreground.

Plates 3, 4 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire.

3: west side of brick barn showing large central doorway; **4:** east side showing smaller central door and side door.

Plates 5, 6 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire. **5:** view of the brick barn's roof structure, looking north; **6:** floor, lower side walling and openings of the brick barn, looking north.

Plates 7, 8 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire. **7:** view of the cart-shed situated in the north-west corner of the 19th century rectilinear farm complex; **8:** internal view of its roof structure.

Plates 9, 10 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire.

9: view of the six-bay open-fronted shed on north side of enclosure; **10:** view of interior looking west.

1. Project background

This brief archaeological building record by Trent & Peak Archaeology (TPA) was commissioned by Peckleton Homes Ltd. It is in relation to the forthcoming conversion of agricultural buildings at Hall Farm, off Church Road, to the south-east of Peckleton, Leicestershire to habitable accommodation (Fig. 1). The site is at Ordnance Survey Grid Reference SK 4740 0071 and includes a barn and adjoining farm structures which, although not listed or within a conservation area, are recognised as buildings of historic interest in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER; formerly known as the Sites and Monuments Record). The Planning Archaeologist required a full detailed photographic record be made of the structures prior to any of the planned alterations and partial demolitions. This was a condition of planning permission 06/00151/FUL.

Where specific briefs are supplied by relevant planning authorities with regard to farm buildings, they may require a mainly descriptive record, mainly in drawn and photographic forms. Such a record may be similar to that described as 'Level 2' in English Heritage's document 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice' (1st edition 2006). In this instance the emphasis was on a full photographic record.

This report is the result of a site visit by the author on the 19th February 2009. The record comprises both external and internal digital photographic views and the negatives and prints from two black and white films (for long-term archival storage). The survey was partly hampered by poor lighting conditions and the quality of some of the photographs reflects this.

Architects' plans kindly supplied by Nicolas Tye Architects were used as the basis of ground plans in this report which show the main features of the buildings (Fig. 2) and the viewpoints from which both colour digital and black and white film photographs were taken (Figs 3-6). Although there was no requirement to investigate the historical background of the farm or examine and record the structural nature of the buildings themselves the report includes comment on the possible age and purpose of the buildings (see below).

A table provides cross-reference between the digital and film photographs and the digital photographic record of the building is included here on an accompanying CD (see inside back cover). Selected colour photographs from this are included within the report as Plates 1-10. The farm complex was photographed from a distance to show its general setting in the landscape (Plates 1, 2), with the discrete structures viewed from convenient view-points at oblique angles to provide views of the full exterior (Plates 3, 4, 7, 9). Some relevant details (such as door fittings, ventilators, brick joins) were recorded close up.

Internal views show the roof structure and general layouts (Plates 5, 6, 8, 10) and several internal views show inscriptions and other minor features.

The TPA site code is HFP.1. The Leicestershire Museums Service archive code is X.A72.2009.

2. Brief description

The buildings at Hall Farm are set in an isolated position alongside a track that runs south-east from Church Road. They include a 3-bay barn, a cart-shed and a 6-bay long open-fronted shed, which together front two sides of a walled fold-yard entered on the east side. All the structures are built of brick with a minimal use of stone, and are roofed in tile. The buildings and walling are of a single phase construction, the only later works that are apparent being some cross-walling within the barn, now largely removed, and concrete flooring at either end. The roofing timbers all appear to be original and several of the tie beams bear distinctive symbolic scratch marks. No carpenters' marks were evident. A reused timber with a possible carpenter's mark is used as a common rafter in the second bay of the open shed. The barn has diagonal-shaped ventilators at two levels, those at the higher level being smaller, with the south end having a single off-centre ventilator. The central threshing floor area is formed of large bricks.

The brickwork consists of bricks $2\frac{5}{8}$ - $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches (67-70mm) thick and $9\frac{1}{4}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$ ins (235-240mm) long, laid in Sussex bond (a Flemish garden bond variant with alternating header and three stretchers per course). The buildings also have dentilation at the eaves level. The brickwork indicates a likely construction date of somewhere between 1800-40, most likely between 1820-35. Some blue bricks were introduced later. An early-mid 20th century 5-bay barn with curved cast iron trusses and corrugated cover was added to the west of the earlier buildings. This bears a plaque reading 'PARSONS SHERWIN & CO STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS NUNEATON.'

The brick buildings and walled enclosure form a distinct rectangle, with the yard entered on the east side and the barn's larger entry door set on the west side. The buildings belong to an outfarm, usually a dispersed satellite to a main farm. These usually consisted of a barn, shelter sheds for stock, and a foldyard. Outfarms were recommended in the 19th century for saving on transport and were common in the Midland counties (Brunskill 1987, 122). In this instance the outfarm may have been deliberately situated away from Peckleton Hall for mainly aesthetic rather than practical reasons.

Reference

Brunskill, R. W., 1987. *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain*. London.

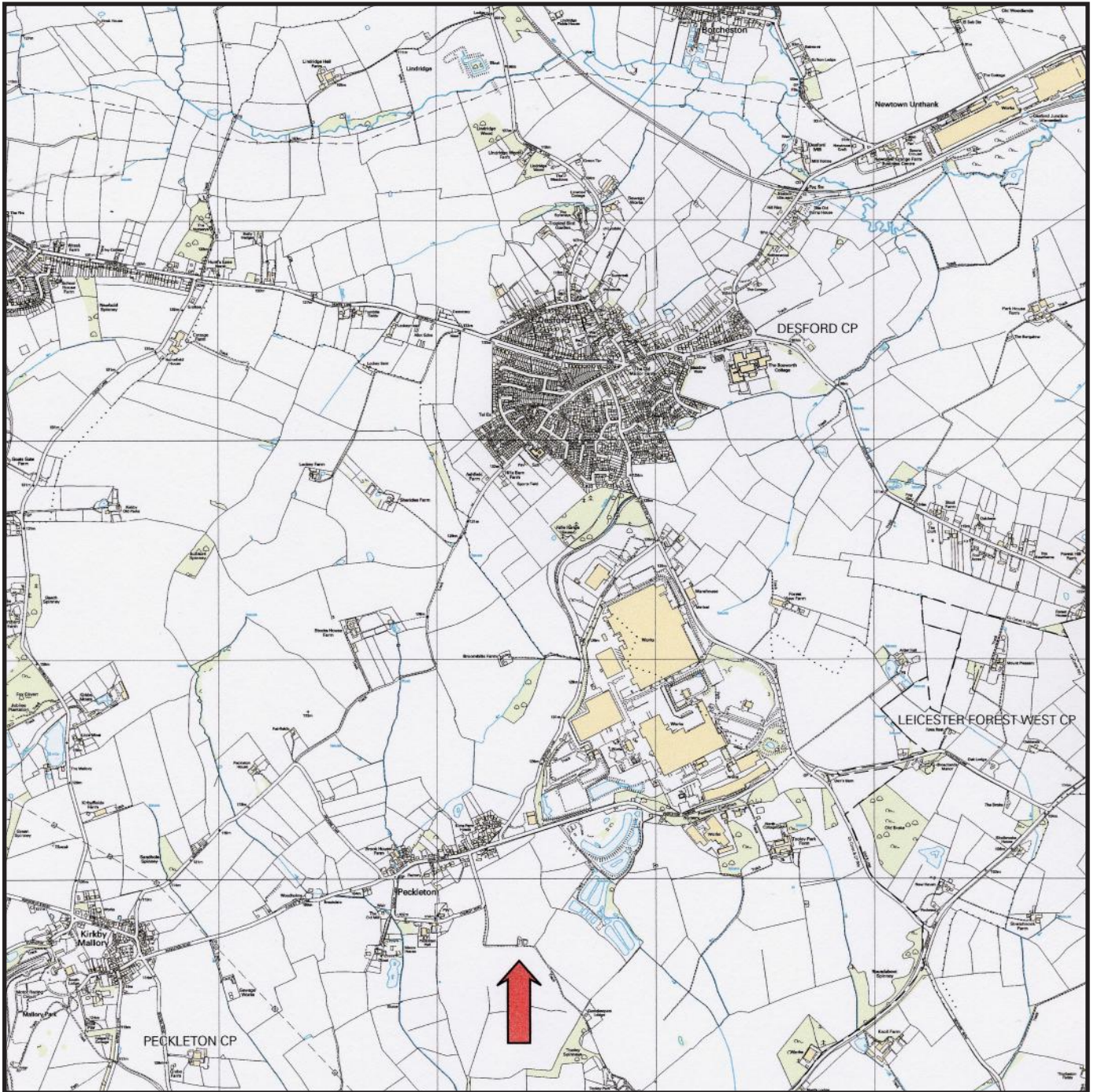


Fig. 1 Location of redundant farm buildings of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire, the subject of an historic building photographic survey prior to their conversion to habitable accommodation. Not to precise scale. (Ordnance Survey map reproduced with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright Licence No. AL 100020618).

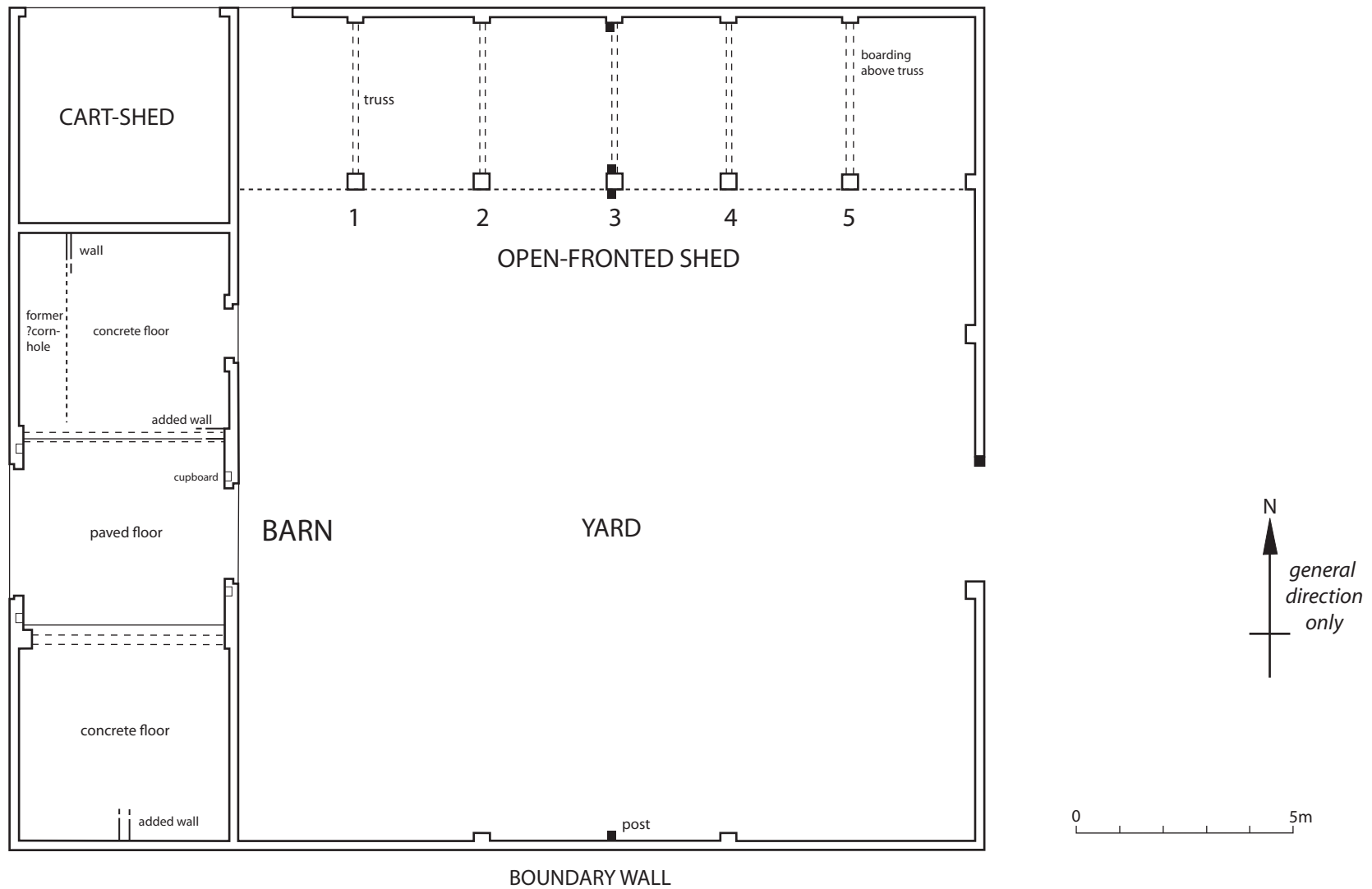


Fig. 2 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings belonging to Hall Farm situated south-east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire. Not to definite scale.



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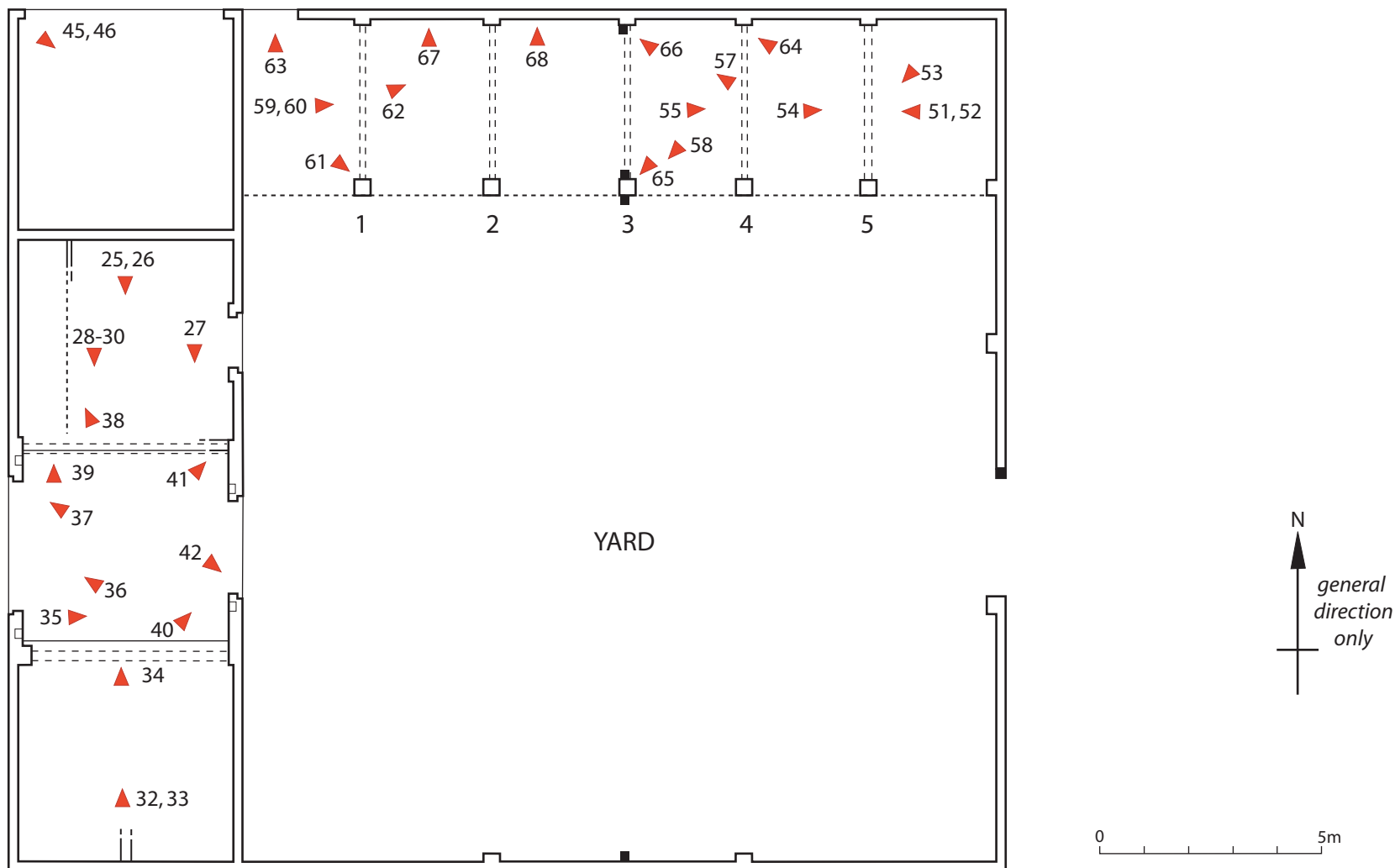


Fig. 4 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings belonging to Hall Farm, situated east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire, and showing viewpoints of interior digital photographs taken February 2009. Not to definite scale.

long distance
2/34 2/35

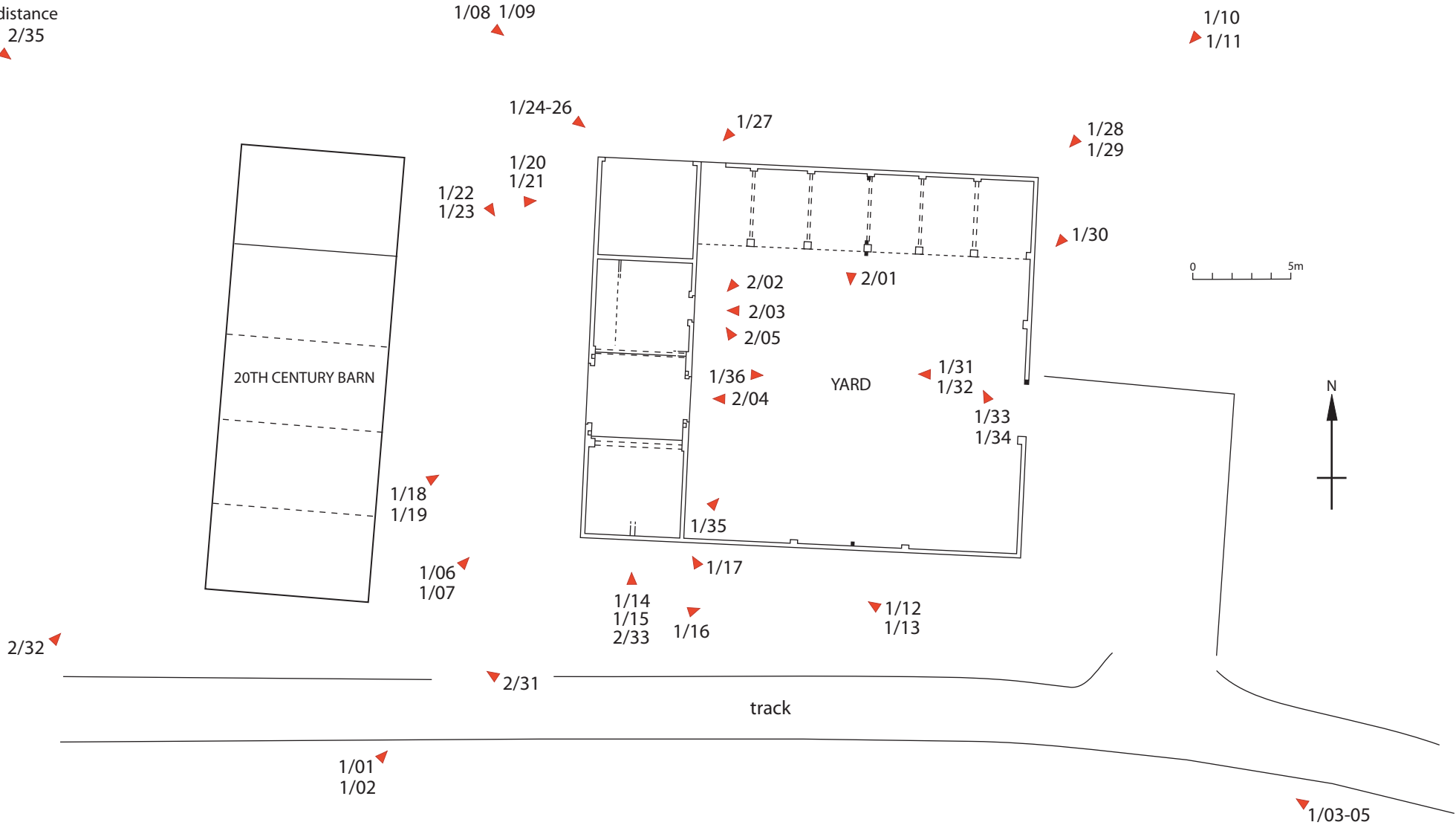


Fig. 5 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings (set around yard, to right) and a 20th century barn belonging to Hall Farm, situated east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire, and here showing viewpoints of external film photographs taken February 2009. Not to definite scale.

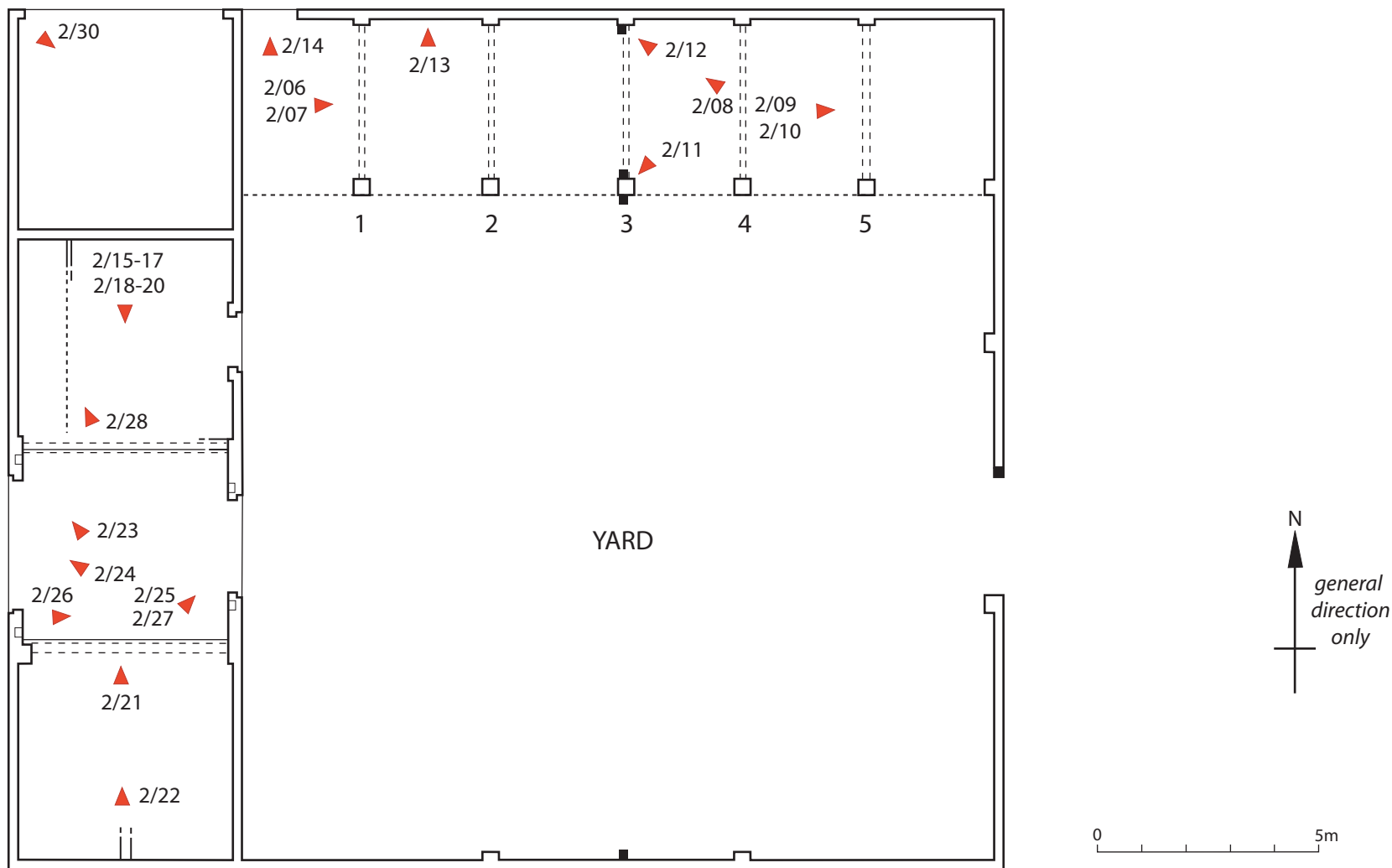


Fig. 6 Plan of the 19th century farm buildings belonging to Hall Farm, situated east of Church Road, Peckleton, Leicestershire, and showing viewpoints of interior film photographs taken February 2009. Not to definite scale.



1



2

Plates 1, 2 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire. **1:** distant view showing surrounding landscape, taken from west; **2:** general view from south-east showing track in foreground.



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Plates 3, 4 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire. **3:** west side of brick barn showing large central doorway; **4:** east side showing smaller central door and side door.



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Plates 5, 6 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire. **5:** view of the brick barn's roof structure, looking north; **6:** floor, lower side walling and openings of the brick barn, looking north.



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Plates 7, 8 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire. **7:** view of the cart-shed situated in the north-west corner of the 19th century rectilinear farm complex; **8:** internal view of its roof structure.



9



Plates 9, 10 of isolated farm building of Hall Farm, Peckleton, Leicestershire. **9:** view of the six-bay open-fronted shed on north side of enclosure; **10:** view of interior looking west.

10