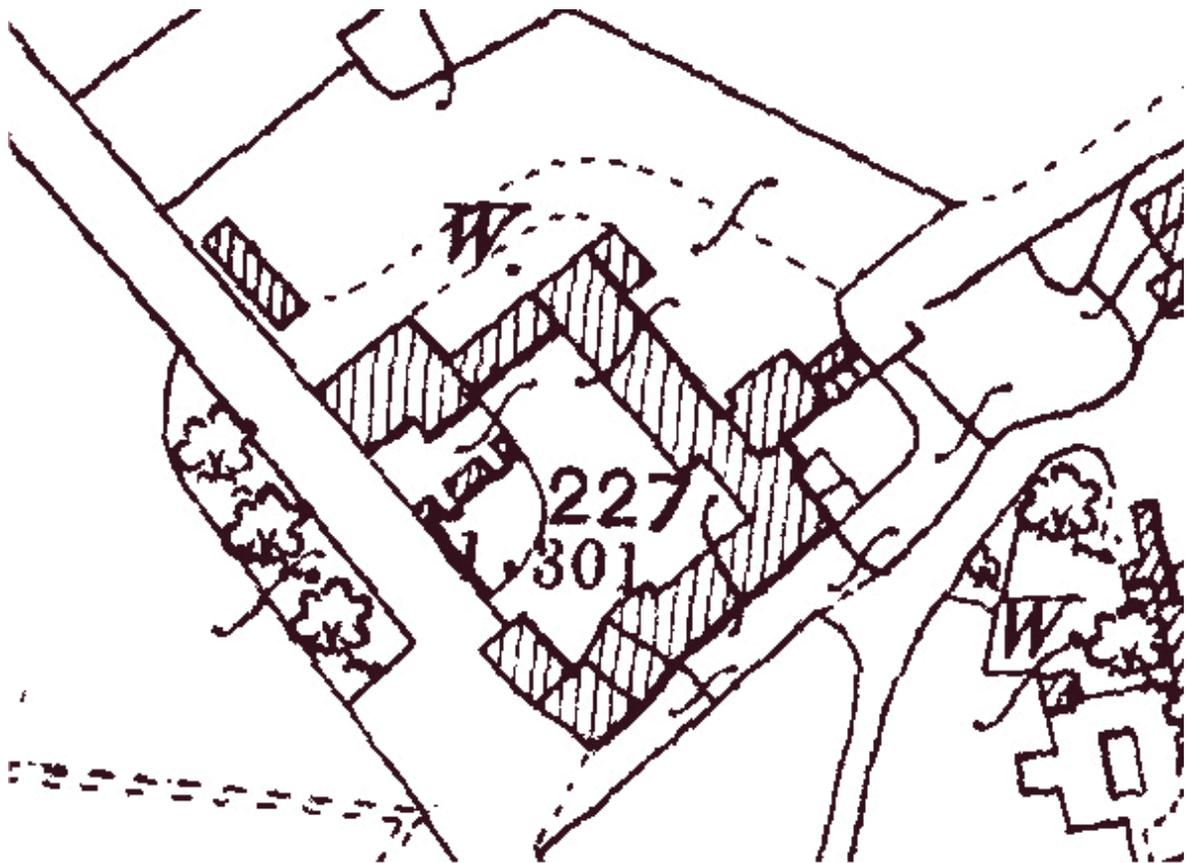


BENTHALL HALL FARM

Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2017
(Vernacular Building Survey)



FINAL REPORT



National Trust

Report Ref.: 2017_001.v2.FINAL

Issue Date: 25th August 2017

Report prepared by

RIC TYLER
MCIFA FGCert. Arch. Hist (Oxf)

4 Friars Walk, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1NT
t: 07929 023963 e: rictyler@btinternet.com
www.rictyler.com



Project Data

Project Number: 2017_001
Client Name: National Trust
Site Name: Benthall Hall Farm, Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire
NGR: NGR SJ 65720 02638
Status: Un-listed

NT HBSMR Reference: N/A

Planning Authority: N/A
Planning Ref.: N/A

Document Data

Document Title: Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2017
Issue No.: v.2 **FINAL**

Document Location: Hard copies of the present report will be deposited with the National Trust Hub at Attingham Park, Atcham, Shropshire and a digital copy with 'OASIS', the on-line grey-literature library of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

OASIS ID: rictyler1-294137

Prepared by: Ric Tyler MCI^fA
Issue Date: 25th August 2017

Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for the commissioning body and titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of the author being obtained. Ric Tyler MCI^fA accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than that for which it was commissioned.

RIC TYLER
MCI^fA PG Cert. Arch. Hist (Ox)

4 Friars Walk, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1NT

t: 01584 879990 m: 07929 023963

e: rictyler@btinternet.com www.rictyler.com



BENTHALL HALL FARM

Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2017**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<i>Summary</i>	1
1	INTRODUCTION	2
1.1	Background to the Project.....	2
1.2	Designations.....	3
2	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
3	METHODOLOGY	4
3.1	Documentary Research.....	4
3.2	Historic Building Record.....	4
4	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT	5
4.1	General Historical Context.....	5
4.2	Benthall Hall.....	6
4.3	Benthall Hall Farm.....	8
4.4	The Lost Village of Benthall.....	9
5	GRAPHIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	9
5.1	Early Maps and Views.....	9
5.2	The Tithe Map.....	9
5.3	Ordnance Survey Maps.....	11
5.4	Historical Views and Photographs.....	13
6	OTHER SOURCES	13
6.1	Salop Fire Office Records.....	13
6.2	Census Data.....	14
6.3	Electoral Registers.....	15
6.4	Draft Lease of 1906.....	17
6.5	1934 Sale Particulars etc.....	17
6.6	Valuation of 1946.....	18

7	BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS.....	19
7.1	Overview	19
7.2	Building A; former Threshing Barn	20
7.3	Building B; former Threshing Barn	23
7.4	Building C: Cow House	25
7.5	Building D: Stables.....	27
7.6	Building E: Shelter Shed	28
7.7	Building F	28
7.8	Building G: Cartshed.....	30
7.9	Building H: Cart / Shelter Shed.....	31
7.10	Building I: Cow House (latterly milking shed)	32
7.11	Building J: Pig Sties	33
7.12	Building K	34
7.13	Building L: Pig Sties / Stalls	34
7.14	Building M: C20 th -Shed.....	35
7.15	Building N: Dutch Barn	35
7.16	Gardener's Cottage	36
7.17	The Dovecote	40
7.18	The 'Farmhouse'	42
8	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	42
8.1	The Development of the Farmstead	42
8.2	Assessment of Historical Character.....	43
8.3	Assessment of Significance	44
8.4	Conclusion.....	45
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	45
10	SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY	46

List of Illustrations within text

General site layout (bird's eye view).....	2
Sales particulars for 1844 auction.....	7
Tithe map of 1845 (detail)	10
Ordnance Survey edition of 1882	11
Ordnance Survey edition of 1902	11

Ordnance Survey edition of 1927	12
Ordnance Survey edition of 1963	12
View from Leighton's <i>Shropshire Houses Past and Present</i> , 1901.....	13
Plan included with draft lease of 1906.....	17
Key plan to farm buildings	19
Gardener's Cottage, key plan (ground floor level)	36
Historical view of Benthall with dovecote (+ detail).....	41
Benthall Hall Farm: Summary Plan.....	43
Composite view of foldyard looking south-east.....	43

List of Tables within Text

Table 1: Extracts from schedules accompanying tithe map of 1845.....	10-11
Table 2: Historical census return data	15
Table 3a: Summary of historical electoral registers (Benthall Hall Farm)	16
Table 3b: Summary of historical electoral registers (Gardener's Cottage)	16

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Location plan.
Figure 2:	Detailed location plan; modern aerial view (© Google Earth).
Figure 3:	RCHME Survey of (?)DMV and associated earthworks, 1990
Figure 4:	Cartographic Sources (1); Early County Maps.
Figure 5:	Benthall Parish tithe map of 1845.
Figure 6:	Site plan with key to buildings.
Figure 7:	Barn A , plan.
Figure 8:	Barn A , north elevation.
Figure 9:	Barn A , south elevation.
Figure 10:	Barn A , east gable end and adjacent structures (L , K , I and J).
Figure 11:	Barn A , transverse cross-sections; (a) Truss T4 ; (b) Truss T5 and (c) Truss T6 (west gable end).
Figure 12:	Barn B , plan.
Figure 13:	Barn B , west elevation (to foldyard).
Figure 14:	Barn B , east elevation
Figure 15:	Barn B , north gable end and adjacent structures.
Figure 16:	Barn B , transverse cross sections; (a) Truss T5 and (b) Truss T4 .
Figure 17:	Buildings C/I ; plan.
Figure 18:	Building C ; west elevation (to foldyard).
Figure 19:	Buildings C and I , cross-section looking north.
Figure 20:	Buildings D , F and G , south elevation.
Figure 21:	Buildings D / E , plan.
Figure 22:	Buildings D / E , transverse cross-section.
Figure 23:	Buildings E , F and G , north elevation.
Figure 24:	Building F , (a) plan and (b) longitudinal cross-section.
Figure 25:	Building F , transverse cross-sections; (a) Truss T1 , (b) Truss T2 and (c) Truss T3 .
Figure 26:	Buildings G / H ; plan.
Figure 27:	Buildings G / H , elevations; (a) west and (b) east.

- Figure 28: Buildings **G / H**; transverse cross-sections; **(a)** Bldg. **G** and **(b)** Bldg. **H**.
 Figure 29: Buildings **I / J**; south elevation
 Figure 30: Building **I**; transverse cross-section
 Figure 31: Dutch Barn **N**; **(a)** plan, **(b)** west elevation and **(c)** transverse cross-section.
 Figure 32: 'Gardener's Cottage', ground floor plan.
 Figure 33: 'Gardener's Cottage', first floor plan.
 Figure 34: 'Gardener's Cottage', second floor plan.
 Figure 35: 'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation.
 Figure 36: 'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation.
 Figure 37: 'Gardener's Cottage', gable elevations; **(a)** north and **(b)** south.
 Figure 38: 'Gardener's Cottage', longitudinal cross-section.
 Figure 39: Dovecote and adjoining boundary wall ; **(a)** south elevation, **(b)** cross-section, **(c)** plan at basement store level and **(d)** plan at dovecote level.
 Figure 40: 'Farmhouse'; plans and elevation from NT 2001 survey.
 Figure 41: Outline Phasing

List of Plates

- Plate 1: Barn **A**, general view (oblique) of north (yard) elevation, looking south-east (Bldg. **C** to left).
 Plate 2: Representative bay of timber-framing atop (under-built) brick plinth (Bay 4, north elevation).
 Plate 3: Detail of brick nogging infill with vent holes.
 Plate 4: Extant threshing doors to Bay 3 (N).
 Plate 5: Detail of socket **(A)** for threshold in bay-post to west side of northern threshing door, note also peg holes **(B)** for former transverse cill.
 Plate 6: Barn **A**, general view (oblique) of south elevation, looking north-east (stables **F** to left).
 Plate 7: Representative bay of timber-framing atop stone plinth (Bay 2, south elevation).
 Plate 8: Blocked threshing door to Bay 3 (S).
 Plate 9: Blocked 'pass' door to east side of Bay 3.
 Plate 10: Iron pintles indicating bi-partite doors.
 Plate 11: Double doors inserted to Bay 1 of south elevation (?late C19th/early C20th), **NB**. peg holes for former studs to rail.
 Plate 12: Brick under-build of Bays 4/5 of south elevation, with vent holes, GF door and 1F pitching hatch (both evidently inserted, blocked in C19th); **NB**. tie beam with pegging for studs and recessed primary angle-post to left, partly obscured by tiles.
 Plate 13: Barn **A**, east gable end, underbuilt beneath tie and with renewed nogging panels above.
 Plate 14: Barn **A**; west gable visible above roof of abutting shelter shed **G**.
 Plate 15: Bays 4/5 looking south-west.
 Plate 16: Detail of passing braces at NW angle (Bay 5).
 Plate 17: Primary truss **T4** with raking struts, note cut-off central, vertical stud beneath tie-beam.
 Plate 18: Secondary king-post truss **T5**.
 Plate 19: Secondary brickwork to Bays 4/5 (S); note inserted feed trough.
 Plate 20: Secondary weatherboarding partition at **T3** to east side of threshing bay (Bay 3).
 Plate 21: Inserted feed-trough to south wall.
 Plate 22: Bays 1/2 looking north-west.
 Plate 23: Bay 1 looking north, note underbuilt gable end to right.
 Plate 24: Secondary weatherboarding partition to side of Bay 2; **NB**. central vertical stud, **T3**.
 Plate 25: Low stone and brick transverse wall at Bay 2/3.
 Plate 26: Barn **B**, threshing door, west elevation, Bay 3.
 Plate 27: Barn **B**, west elevation looking east.
 Plate 28: Ground-level opening at Bay 4, blocked in two phases.
 Plate 29: Barn **B**, west elevation, mainly obscured by lean-to shed **K**.
 Plate 30: Barn **B**, threshing door (blocked), east elev. with breeze-block ventilator casing.
 Plate 31: Barn **B**, west elevation (N end) with small breeze-block shelter for grain dryer plant.

- Plate 32: Barn **B**, north gable end.
- Plate 33: Barn **B**, south gable end above Bldg. **C**.
- Plate 34: Barn **B**, interior looking south. **NB.** rendering of lower walls.
- Plate 35: Barn **B**, interior looking north.
- Plate 36: Blocked threshing door (E wall).
- Plate 37: Breeze-block wall forming enclosed passage to south end of barn **NB.** superimposed hatch openings (blocked) to gable end.
- Plate 38: Brick pier at **T3**, west; blocked western threshing door to left.
- Plate 39: Variant detail with timber strut/up-brace arrangement at **T5**, west. **NB.** infilled joist sockets at level of render.
- Plate 40: Transverse passage to S end of barn **B**.
- Plate 41: Roof over threshing bay, **NB.** wind bracing to upper purlin and massive timber lintel to threshing door.
- Plate 42: Barn **B**, queen-strut roof truss **T4**.
- Plate 43: Building **C**, west elevation to yard, **NB.** rebuilt upper wall (1990).
- Plate 44: Building **C**, northern doorway (blocked).
- Plate 45: Building **C**, central doorway with variant head (remodelled).
- Plate 46: Building **C**, interior looking north. **NB.** vent holes of Barn **B** south gable.
- Plate 47: Inserted door leading through to Bldg. **I** to east.
- Plate 48: Interior detail of vents, with low-level arch below.
- Plate 49: Stone double-sink on brick piers to north-west corner.
- Plate 50: Straight-flight stair rises to loft level at south-west corner.
- Plate 51: Surviving (secondary) post and tethering ring to south-west corner at base of inserted stair
- Plate 52: Queen-strut truss to Bldg. **C**, incorporating much re-used timber.
- Plate 53: Timber-framing of Barn **A** (north elevation, Bays 1/2) exposed at loft level of Building **C**.
- Plate 54: Blocked gable opening of Barn **B**, visible at loft level of Bldg. **C**.
- Plate 55: Stables **D**, south elevation.
- Plate 56: Stables **D**, interior looking north-east.
- Plate 57: Stables **D**, interior looking south-west.
- Plate 58: Timber-framing of Barn **A** forming east wall of stables **D**.
- Plate 59: Timber-framing of Building **F** forming west wall of stables **D**.
- Plate 60: Stables **D**, detail of hay rack and feed trough with (partly) enclosed feed drop from hay loft.
- Plate 61: 'Ghost' of former stall partition in brick floor.
- Plate 62: Detail of crown-strut roof truss over Stables **D,NB.** framing of Bldg. **F** to left.
- Plate 63: Upper gable of Barn **A**, visible at loft level of Stables **D**.
- Plate 64: Shelter shed **E** looking south, backing on to stable **D**.
- Plate 65: Central brick pier supporting eaves.
- Plate 66: Secondary (post-1927) pier to west (contemp. northwards extension of adjacent Building **F**).
- Plate 67: Shelter shed **E**, breeze-block feed trough and feed rack over.
- Plate 68: Angled tie with vertical struts supporting longitudinal purlin.
- Plate 69: Shelter shed **E** looking east, timber-framing of Barn **A**.
- Plate 70: Shelter shed **E** looking west, timber-framing of Building **F**.
- Plate 71: Fenced stock area before shelter shed **E** (introduced 1902-1927, reduced to current size by 1963).
- Plate 72: North gable end of Bldg. **F** to foldyard (extended post -1927).
- Plate 73: South gable end of Bldg. **F** (extended/rebuilt c.1960).
- Plate 74: Small-square framing of Building **F**, east wall (composite).
- Plate 75: Bldg. **F** interior looking south-west with relic timber-framing to east wall.
- Plate 76: Bldg. **F** interior looking north.
- Plate 77: Building **F**, southern truss **T1** (south face) with rendered brick-nogging infill.
- Plate 78: Building **F**; central, interrupted tie-beam truss **T2** (north face) with secondary tie beam bolted on.
- Plate 79: Building **F**, northern truss **T3** (north face).
- Plate 80: Breeze-block trough and feed-racks over.
- Plate 81: Detail of two phases of feed-rack.
- Plate 82: Detail of upper loft floor, integral to earlier phase of feed rack.

- Plate 83: Cart shed **G** (right) and Building **H** (left), west elevation, general oblique view looking north-east.
- Plate 84: Late-19th/early-20th-century, 3-bay cart shed **G**, looking north-east.
- Plate 85: Detail of cast-iron column supporting eaves.
- Plate 86: Cart-shed **G**, KP roof truss.
- Plate 87: Timber-framing (much repaired) of Building **F**, exposed to rear (east) side of cart shed **G**.
- Plate 88: Cart Shed **G**; multi-phase brickwork of north wall incl. (**A**) limit of rebuild and (**B**) former gable of Bldg. **H**.
- Plate 89: Building **H**, east elevation to foldyard.
- Plate 90: Building **H**, oblique view looking south-east.
- Plate 91: Building **H**, interior, north-west angle.
- Plate 92: Building **H**, roof truss and inserted partition.
- Plate 93: Subsidiary yard to east of Barn **A**.
- Plate 94: Building **I**, south elevation, note clear change in brickwork at c.7½ft. above ground level (marked with arrow).
- Plate 95: Building **I**, east gable showing clear change in brick evidencing raising of upper storey.
- Plate 96: Building **I**, interior looking west. **NB**. vertical struts rising from offset in wall supporting west end of lower purlins.
- Plate 97: Building **I**, interior looking east.
- Plate 98: Connecting door (inserted) between Bldgs. **I** and **C** (**NB**. discrepancy in floor levels).
- Plate 99: Trough and feed rack.
- Plate 100: Tethering bar and ring.
- Plate 101: Building **I**, KP truss **T1**.
- Plate 102: Building **I**, truss **T2**.
- Plate 103: Pig sties **J** looking north-east (outlet wall).
- Plate 104: Central sty with original iron gate and angled feed chute.
- Plate 105: Detail of iron gate, dated '1819'.
- Plate 106: Detail of iron feed chute.
- Plate 107(a): Bldg. **K** looking north-west.
- Plate 107(b): Similar view, Sept. 1990 during extensive reconstruction.
- Plate 108: Pens / sties **L** with outlet wall (partly collapsed), looking south-west.
- Plate 109: Reduced doorway to southern 'inlet'.
- Plate 110: Feed trough within southern 'inlet'.
- Plate 111: Western jamb of former gateway.
- Plate 112: Building **M**, interior looking south-west.
- Plate 113: Building **M** looking south with inset of maker's plate (WH Smith and Co. Ltd. of Whitchurch).
- Plate 114: Early-20th-century Dutch Barn **N** looking south-east.
- Plate 115: Early-20th-century Dutch Barn **N** looking north, with later extension **N1** to right.
- Plate 116: 'Gardener's Cottage'; oblique view from NW.
- Plate 117: Clear vertical straight-joint in north elevation.
- Plate 118: 'Gardener's Cottage'; north elevation with early structure **A** to right and **B** to left with later, pent-roofed extension **C** (19th century) to extreme left.
- Plate 119: Ground floor blocked window with chamfered-brick surround and central mullion, central to early block **A**.
- Plate 120: Curved wall of probable former bread oven.
- Plate 121: 19th-century, pent-roofed extensions **C/D** to east end of range with porch **E** (left) of c.2000.
- Plate 122: Gardener's Cottage, Core **A/B**, south elevation.
- Plate 123: Door onto section **A**.
- Plate 124: Modified window openings.
- Plate 125: West gable end.
- Plate 126: Blocked primary door.
- Plate 127: Southern door (inserted/adapted).
- Plate 128: Inserted carriage doors to north side of range.
- Plate 129: Detail of blocked vents at first-floor level.
- Plate 130: Detail of first floor window **NB**. queen closers to right hand jamb (arrow).

- Plate 131: 'Gardener's Cottage'; south elevation.
Plate 132: Modern brick pier supports intersection of chamfer-stopped ceiling beams.
Plate 133: Chamfer-stopped ceiling beam over [G3].
Plate 134: Chamfer-stopped common joists exposed above SW quarter of [G3].
Plate 135: Lath and plaster wall enclosing stair B.
Plate 136: Representative modernised interior; room [G2] looking north-west.
Plate 137: Chamfer-stopped beam over [G2].
Plate 138: Sample 4-panel door.
Plate 139: Stair B rising from 1F – attic, looking east.
Plate 140: Plank and baton door between [S1/2].
Plate 141: Three-course former eaves band to east wall of block A, visible at floor level within [S1].
Plate 142: Room [S2] looking west.
Plate 143: Room [S1] looking west with raised party wall, rendered to level of lower purlin.
Plate 144: Dovecote (left) and boundary wall to Rose Garden (foreground), looking north-east.
Plate 145: Dovecote, south elevation.
Plate 146: Dovecote from north-east.
Plate 147: Door to basement store, south elevation.
Plate 148: Detail of applied stiles, rails and fielded panels.
Plate 149: Upper level 'window' to south elevation.
Plate 150: Detail of re-used carved elements.
Plate 151: Basement store, looking north.
Plate 152: Door in west wall serving main room.
Plate 153: Main room looking east.
Plate 154: Detail of nesting box.
Plate 155: Detail of wall-mounted bracket.
Plate 156: Interior of main 'window'.
Plate 157: 'Farmhouse'; general, oblique view from south-east.
Plate 158: Former cart entrance to ground floor of west gable end.
Plate 159: Blocked ventilation slits to upper west gable.
Plate 160: East gable end with upper ventilation slits and ground level cart entrance (obscured by hedge).

List of Appendices

APPENDIX A: Catalogue of project drawings.

APPENDIX B: Catalogue of project photographs.

BENTHALL HALL FARM

Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2017

Summary

The current report summarises the results of a programme of historic building recording and assessment undertaken in June 2017 in respect of the constituent buildings of the farmstead complex at Benthall Hall Farm, Broseley, Shropshire, together with the adjacent 'Gardener's Cottage' and a dovecote within the Rose Garden to the west of the main house at Benthall. The project was commissioned by the National Trust to research the origins and development of the buildings and to bring together the findings of previous phases of work into an accessible narrative report, with a view to enhancing understanding of the historical development and significance of the site.

Benthall Hall is a Grade I listed house of late-16th century date, located c.2km north-west of Broseley and 4.75km north-east of Much Wenlock in central, eastern Shropshire, centred on NGR SJ 65800 02600. The farm buildings of Benthall Hall Farm, the subject of the current report, are arranged around a central foldyard centred c.80m WNW of Benthall Hall.

Overall, Benthall Hall Farm presents an attractive group of vernacular agricultural buildings, arranged on a regular courtyard plan, enclosed on three sides, retaining good historical character and group value, illustrative of the evolution of the farmstead. The plan has clearly arisen from a piecemeal, ad hoc evolution rather than as a planned act of unified design; indeed, the farm complex encapsulates a protracted, essentially accretive development, with individual constituent buildings dating from the probable mid-17th century right the way through to the later years of the 20th century. The piecemeal development of the complex means it is difficult to identify distinct building 'phases' per se, though most of the key elements appear to have been broadly in place by the mid-19th century with eight broad stages of development evident. A particular driver of change would appear to have been the sale of the estate in 1844, and the subsequent leases which saw the historical link between farmstead, formerly a demesne farm, and main house broken for the first time. Of particular note are two impressive former threshing barns, one timber-framed and reasonably of mid-17th century date, the other brick-built of the 18th century. Other buildings of the complex represent solid, if unexceptional, examples of vernacular ranges of the late-18th through to the early-20th century; survival of early fixtures and fittings is poor. The relationship of the farmstead to the house is of particular interest, and the current 'farmhouse' at the north-west corner of the courtyard can be shown to comprise a converted cart shed/grain store, representing a fascinating, physical reflection of a fundamental change in the running of the farm following the sale of the estate in 1844. Reference to historical mapping indicates a loss of less than 50% of traditional structures, at least when evaluated against the layout of the farmstead in the mid-19th century, and as such the 'heritage potential' of the farmstead can be evaluated as high. Modern, 20th-century introductions have tended to be concentrated to the rear of the main farmyard complex, out of view from the public realm, thus retaining the overall form and legibility of the traditional courtyard plan.

The 'Gardener's Cottage' represents a complex and inherently ambiguous structure, having developed over at least five different phases and evidently having evolved significantly in terms both of its form and function to such an extent that its origins are difficult to interpret with any degree of confidence and thus remain obscure. The dovecote, by contrast, can be fairly securely attributed to Robert Bateman, an architect and artist, the son of the horticulturalist James Bateman of Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire, who leased the house from 1890 to 1906.

The current project has allowed for a drawn, photographic and written record of the farm complex at Benthall Hall and its associated buildings to be made to a level commensurate with a Level 2/3 record as defined by Historic England, in line with the requirements of the Trust set out at the commencement of the project.

BENTHALL HALL FARM

Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire

Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2017

1 INTRODUCTION

The current report summarises the results of a programme of historic building recording and interpretation/assessment undertaken in June 2017 in respect of a number of farm buildings and other structures associated with Benthall Hall, Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire on behalf of the National Trust.

1.1 Background to the Project

Site Location

- 1.1.1 Benthall Hall is a late-16th century, Grade I listed house, located c.2km north-west of Broseley and 4.75km north-east of Much Wenlock in central, eastern Shropshire, centred on NGR SJ 65800 02600 (Figure 1). It is sited high above the River Severn, which flows to the north, at an elevation of c.187m AOD, the land dropping off precipitously to the north at Benthall Edge and to the east to the deeply sided Severn Gorge at Ironbridge. The hall is accessed via a long, tree-lined driveway ('The Avenue') opening off the western side of the modern B4375 Much Wenlock - Broseley road. The farm buildings of Benthall Hall Farm, the subject of the current report, are arranged around a central foldyard centred c.80m WNW of Benthall Hall (Figure 2 and inset below).



General site layout; Bird's-eye view looking c. south-west with farm buildings to foreground.

- 1.1.2 The former parish of Benthall¹ lies on the south bank of the River Sever overlooking the town of Ironbridge; it is largely rural in aspect though formerly the extensive reserves of coal, limestone, ironstone and clay were exploited for industrial purposes. Much of the centre of the former parish lies on the undulating plateau of boulder clay; workable Lower Coal Measures outcrop frequently while Benthall Edge, a south-west to north-east aligned escarpment forming the north-west parish boundary represents an outcrop of Silurian limestone, forming the north-eastern end of Wenlock Edge (Clark and Alfrey 1987, 38).

Scope of Work

- 1.1.3 The current project has been commissioned by the National Trust to make a detailed record of the constituent buildings of the farm complex (excluding the 'farmhouse' and attached garages to the north side of the foldyard), together with the adjacent 'Gardener's Cottage' and a dovecote within the Rose Garden to the west of the main house at Benthall, to research the origins and development of the buildings and to bring together the findings of previous phases of work into an accessible narrative report, with a view to enhancing understanding of the historical development and significance of the site.
- 1.1.4 No official brief was issued in respect of the recording project, the scope of which was established through a process of discussion between the current author and Ms. Janine Young (NT archaeological consultant for the West Midlands Region) and Mr. Simon Howard (NT Estate Manager, South Shropshire).
- 1.1.5 The current report has been prepared in accordance with Historic England guidelines as published in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE, 2016), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (CIfA, 2014), the National Trust's *Guidance Note on the Recording and Analysis of Historic Buildings* (NT, 1998) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings* (ALGAO, 1997). Assessment of the farm buildings (§.8) has been undertaken following the guidelines laid down by Historic England in *Farmstead Assessment Framework* (HE, 2015).

1.2 Designations

Statutory Designations

- 1.2.1 None of the buildings currently under consideration are statutorily listed, though the dovecote may reasonably be interpreted as a 'curtilage building'² of the Grade I listed Benthall Hall.³

Non-Statutory Designations

- 1.2.2 None of the buildings currently under consideration are included on the Shropshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.2.3 Of the structures currently under consideration, only one, the dovecote within the Rose Garden, is included on the National Trust's internal Historic Building Sites and Monuments Record (HBSMR), ref. 179250,⁴ where it is described as follows:

'Dovecote located within the rose garden at Benthall Hall. Thought to have been built by Robert Bateman when he was tenant at the hall in the mid/late 19th century.'

¹ The parish was abolished in 1966 and incorporated into Barrow CP together with Linley, Posenhall and Willey CPs (VCH 1998, 221-233).
² Section 1(5) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act (1990) states that a listed building also includes any ancillary object or structure within the curtilage of the building, which forms part of the land and has done so since before 1st July 1948. (Historic England 2017, 2).
³ http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1176832&resourceID=5.
⁴ http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MNA179250&resourceID=6.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The aim of the historic building record was to provide a detailed visual record of the buildings concerned and to generate a descriptive and illustrative account of the same, including a summary of their character, date and techniques of construction, so far as possible from a non-intrusive investigation, together with a discussion of their origin, context, history and development and an assessment of their historical character and significance.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Documentary Research

- 3.1.1 A search was made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps, early photographs and drawings, written descriptions, and primary and secondary sources related to the site at the Shropshire Archives at Castle Gates, Shrewsbury and at the archives of the National Trust regional office at Attingham Park, Atcham, Shropshire. Standard on-line sources including Heritage Gateway, Access to Archives and the National Monuments Record (Swindon) were also consulted, while historical census records were accessed via www.ancestry.com. No Benthall family archives have been accessed as part of the current project.

- 3.1.2 A full list of sources is included below at section §.10.

3.2 Historic Building Record

- 3.2.1 The historic building record comprised three elements; drawn, photographic and written recording, outlined below. The resultant record is broadly commensurate with a hybrid Level 2/3 'descriptive/analytical record' as defined by Historic England in 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (HE, 2016; 26, §.5.2-3).

Drawn Record

- 3.2.2 Overall measured plans of the buildings concerned were prepared on site, using existing base survey drawings where available,⁵ otherwise new survey was made in pencil on archivally stable drafting film to an appropriate scale (1:50), measurements being obtained through a combination of taped measurements and hand-held electronic laser. Drawings were annotated to show features of architectural and historical/archaeological significance (blocked doors, windows, fireplaces, straight joints, evidence for phase breaks, machinery etc.). A register of project drawings is included at **Appendix A**.

Photographic Record

- 3.2.3 To complement the drawn survey, a photographic record was made comprising high-resolution digital photography using a Nikon D3000 DSLR camera. The survey extended to include general and detailed shots, contextual views of the buildings and their accessible external elevations, together with general and detail views. Where practically feasible, photographs included graded photographic scales. Selected site record photographs are reproduced as plates within the current document; a full register of project photographs is included at **Appendix B**.

⁵ Base drawings (plans and elevations) for the farm buildings, refs. BE/S3 and BE/S4, dated January 1990; for the 'Gardener's Cottage' (plans and elevations), unreferenced, dated August 2000. Survey drawings were also identified for the 'farmhouse' ref. BH/FH/Plans/Elevs, dated July 2001 (beyond scope of current project though included here for completeness).

Written Record

- 3.2.4 A written record was maintained in the form both of annotations to site drawings and as free text to accompany the drawn and photographic records, which together form the basis for the building descriptions included below at section §.7.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

4.1 General Historical Context

- 4.1.1 With the exception of a bronze age axe found in the River Severn, there is no evidence for pre-historic settlement within the parish of Benthall (Clark and Alfrey 1987, 16). Early settlement activity is suggested by the early and unusual dedication of Benthall church to the fifth-century St. Brice of Tours, one of only two such dedications in England,⁶ and by its early font, although this is unsubstantiated by archaeological evidence. Benthall (2005, 24) highlights the suggestion that the hall of the current house is built upon the site of a Saxon precursor, though this is purely conjecture.⁷
- 4.1.2 Benthall probably formed part of the Domesday Manor of Much Wenlock, and the prior of Wenlock remained overlord until the priory's surrender in 1540 (VCH 1998).⁸ The place name 'Benthall' derives from the Anglo-Saxon '*beonet*' and '*halh*' meaning a 'nook or corner where bent grass grows' (Bowcock 1923, 40; Gelling 1990, 37). The name has been rendered variously as '*Benetala*' (1120), '*Benithal*' (1204), '*Benedhal*' (1255) and '*Benethal*' in 1421, the tri-syllabic form remaining common until the middle of the fifteenth century (Gelling, *op. cit.*); the spelling 'Bentall' on Joseph Saxton's map *Salopiæ Comitatus* of 1577 (see §.5.1 below; Figure 4a) is the earliest representation of the modern, bi-syllabic form.
- 4.1.3 The earliest recorded settlement is arguably the 'vill' held in 1125AD from the monks of Wenlock by one Anfred de Bentala, who was most probably Lord of the Manor (VCH, 1998; Benthall 2005, 24); Benthall was at that time under Forest Law. After the succession of Anfred's grandson Hamon, the lands were enfeoffed by Syward the Champiun after whose death it reverted to Wenlock Priory. Robert de Benethall (d.1249) reclaimed the land in exchange for lands in Much Wenlock, thereafter passing to his son Phillip de Benthall who gave free rights to Buildwas Abbey in c.1250 for carriage of coal, stone and timber across his lands (VCH, 1998). Phillip died in c.1281 without male issue and in 1283 the estate was acquired by Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells and Lord Chancellor of England (Benthall 2005, 25); in the same year Margery, eldest daughter of Phillip de Benthall, was married to one John Burnell, a relative of Robert, and they together took possession of the Benthall estate. The estate passed to John's eldest son Phillip (referred to as 'Phillip Burnell de Benethale' in a deed on 1322) and subsequently through his male line, the name Burnell being dropped by subsequent generations. The history of the manor is given in detail in the Victoria County History (VCH, 1998) and will not be repeated at length here, while the descent of the Benthall family is well recorded and is summarised in the current National Trust guidebook (Benthall 2005, 24-30).

⁶ The church was rededicated to St Bartholomew when it was rebuilt in 1667 following damage incurred during the Civil War.

⁷ An associated suggestion that timbers from the cellar of the main house originate from a Saxon building is fanciful; these timbers, deeply chamfered with cut-off ogee stops are most probably broadly contemporary with the timber-framed elements of the north-east range (see Tyler 2013, 25) and reasonably formed part of a now lost part of that building.

⁸ Accessed digitally via 'British History Online' at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22875>.

4.2 Benthall Hall

Early History

4.2.1 It is probable that a house existed at Benthall as early as the middle of the 13th century,⁹ possibly earlier, though no trace of any early structure survives today and its form and location have been the subject of much speculation. The earliest parts of the extant buildings at Benthall, date stylistically to the first half of the 16th century,¹⁰ tying in broadly with the traditional construction date of 1535 for the original building which would thus have been undertaken by Robert (active 1521) or William Benthall (d.1572). The principal stone-built range is stylistically late 16th-century in date and is commonly held to date from c.1580,¹¹ built by Lawrence Benthall (I) and retaining part of the earlier building as a service wing. The house and estate passed via Lawrence's brother John to his nephew, also named Lawrence (here, II), who continued to develop the exploitation of mineral resources on the estate lands (his coal mines were producing over 30,000 tons of coal; Clark and Alfrey 1987, 19) and promoted brick-making at Benthall Marsh as well as farming the demesne lands around the hall. Lawrence (II) undertook significant modifications to the house in the early-17th century together with his wife Katherine (née Cassey), who were resident between 1623 and 1652. During the Civil War, Lawrence Benthall (II) fortified his house for the King and a Royalist Garrison held the manor until July 1645 when Parliamentary forces, who had taken the stronghold of Shrewsbury in February of that year, occupied the house which was valued as a strategic base to control trade on the River Severn. Lawrence did not regain his property until the cessation of hostilities and was subsequently heavily fined for his loyalty to the king (Benthall 2005, 27). During the Civil War, the chapel was effectively destroyed, being rebuilt in 1667, while tradition holds that the village of Benthall was raised to the ground (though see §.4.3 below).

4.2.2 The house was assessed for Hearth Tax in 1672 when Phillip Benthall, Lawrence and Katherine's son, was recorded as having 18 hearths.¹² When Phillip's son Richard died without issue in 1720, the estate passed by way of marriage of his cousin Katherine, to the Browne family of Caughley Hall near Broseley. In 1746, the house passed to one Ralph Browne, the last descendant of the Benthall family to own it till the early years of the 20th century.

19th century

4.2.3 From Ralph Browne, who died without issue in 1763, the house and estate descended via the hands of his wife and brother-in-law, eventually passing by marriage to the Harries family of Cruckton Hall near Shrewsbury,¹³ in whose hands it remained down to the mid-19th century. In September 1844 however, the house, together with the whole of the parish including 'various other excellent houses and farms', was sold at auction by Thomas Harries as a single lot to John George Weld-Forester, 2nd Lord Forester of the neighbouring Willey estate, and was subsequently let out to a series of tenants.¹⁴

4.2.4 The most notable tenants of the house were George Maw and his elder brother Arthur who, having established an encaustic tile business in the Severn gorge,¹⁵ together took out a lease on the house, separating

⁹ A house is first recorded in 1274, while 13th-century floor tiles have been found at the western end of the house (Benthall 2005, 25).

¹⁰ Tyler (2013, 28; figure 28) citing fieldwork undertaken in 1998 by Jeremy Milln (former NT Archaeologist).

¹¹ Historically, the date 1583 is often quoted (see Newman and Pevsner 2006, 141; citing the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* 16, 1860; this reference appears incorrect, however a date of 1573 is given in the Vol. 17 of the same Journal, 1861, p.49).

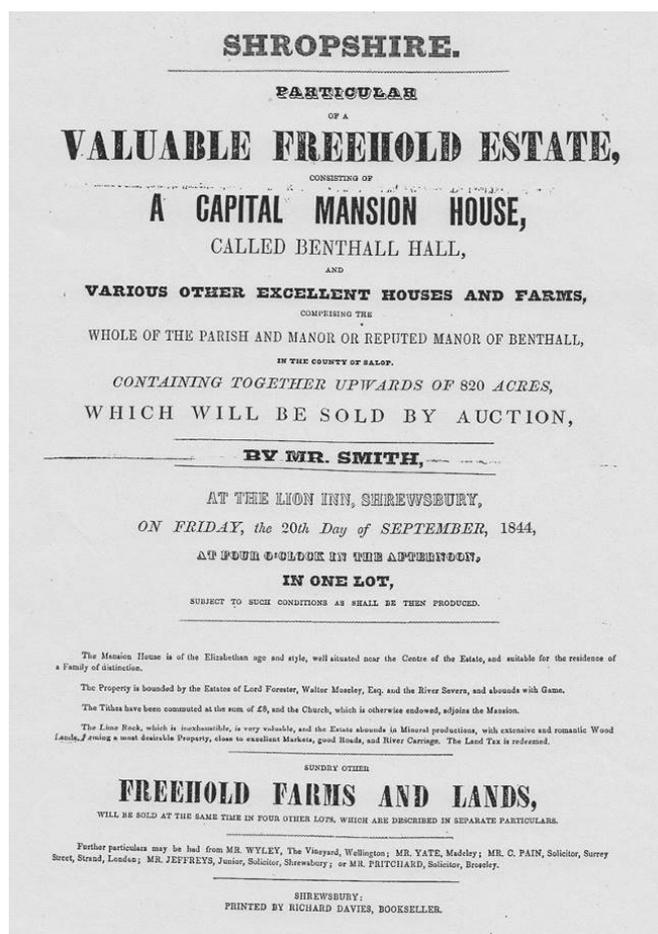
¹² Shropshire Archaeological and Parish Register Society, quoted in Clark and Alfrey 1987, 104.

¹³ First recorded in the occupation of Francis Blithe Harries (b.1776) in 1804 (see §.6.1). See <https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalhera01-byuburk#page/742/mode/2up>.

¹⁴ The auction took place at The Lion Inn, Shrewsbury on the afternoon of Friday, 20th September 1844. Edward Benthall of the Devon branch of the family, then a judge in Bengal, failed in a bid to purchase the house and estate at this time (Benthall 2005, 29), though it was to be his grand-daughter, Clementina, with her husband James Floyer Dale who would go on to save Benthall some 90 years later (see §.4.2.5).

¹⁵ The Maw brothers relocated to the Benthall Works at Broseley from a site in Worcester in 1852, making use of the local clays and coal and soon opening their own mines. At first the company barely covered its expenses and full commercial production did not begin until 1857. A few years later, however, encaustic tiles became the height of fashion with mosaic tiles also forming a large part of the Maws' business

it into two dwellings.¹⁶ George resided there from 1853 to 1886, he is recorded at Benthall in the 1881 census, then aged 48, together with his wife, seven children, a governess and four household staff. Robert Bateman, an architect and artist and son of the horticulturist James Bateman of Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire, leased the house from 1890 to 1906 and is recorded at the house in the 1901 census, then aged 59 and 'living on his own means', with a domestic staff of four. Bateman designed the rockeries and the Rose Garden (originally the 'Pixy Garden') to the west end of house, including the dove-cote and connecting garden wall which form part of the current study. That the farm first appears in the historical census returns as a discrete address in 1861 (see §.6.2) would suggest that the split of house and farm occurred at or soon after the 1844 sale of the estate.



Sales particulars for 1844 auction

20th century

- 4.2.5 In 1918, the Benthall family re-established their connection with the house when the Reverend Charles Benthall obtained a lease, living there for a number of years down to 1932 (Benthall 2005, 29). Following his

and by the 1880's Maw & Co had become one of the most influential and important tile manufacturers in the country. In 1883 they moved to new premises at a more appropriate site covering some five acres at Jackfield. The company grew to be the world's largest producer of ornamental tiles and, at the height of the tile boom the company produced over 20 million tiles a year (info: <http://www.mawandco.com>)

¹⁶ Physical evidence for this partition has not been forthcoming though, given the short time-frame and 'family' nature of the multiple occupation, any division may have been of an ephemeral in nature, no more than a permanently locked door such as the current arrangement between the main house and the leased rooms at the north end of the north-east range.

departure, in July 1934, the owner Cecil George Wilfred Weld-Forester (7th Baron Forester) again offered Benthall for sale by auction; sales particulars record an upset price of £3,000 for the house, cottage and gardens with an option to the purchaser to take the farm at an agreed price, while a letter of 14th July 1934 from Perry and Phillips of Bridgnorth, acting as Forester's agents, states that if no suitable buyer be found, then the house would be 'immediately demolished'.¹⁷ A series of letters preserved in correspondence files at Shropshire Archives record the attempts by Gilbert Benthall among various members of the extended Benthall family and conservation bodies (including the National Trust and SPAB) to raise funds to purchase the house and effectively save it from destruction. In the event, the auction was cancelled¹⁸ when the house was privately purchased, together with the adjoining 134 acre farm (tenanted), for the price of £5,000 by James Floyer Dale and his wife and cousin Mary Clementina, née Benthall (grand-daughter of Edward Benthall, see fn. 14),¹⁹ the couple changing their name to Benthall in 1935. Various improvements were made at the house, including the dismantling of the north-west range in 1935 (Figure 12b). For a period during the Second World War (1941-46), the house was used as a school for evacuee children from the south of England (see plan at Tyler 2013, 7).

- 4.2.6 James Floyer Benthall died in 1942 and in 1958 his widow initially proposed leaving the house to her cousin, Sir Paul Benthall, though Clementina Benthall and her cousin Sir Edward Benthall ultimately gifted the house and adjacent home farm to the care of the National Trust, together with some of its more important contents and an endowment to maintain the house. The Trust undertook an extensive programme of refurbishment works at the house in the early 1960s, under the direction of J Brian Cooper, architect, of Highfield Road Birmingham (see Tyler 2013, p.31-3; §.8.9); the house has subsequently been tenanted by various members of the Benthall family and remains a residence of Mr and Mrs Edward and Sally Benthall.

4.3 Benthall Hall Farm

- 4.3.1 Former open-field land to the south, east and perhaps north-east of Benthall Church was beginning to be inclosed in the early years of the 16th century, with much common land being inclosed in the later-16th and early-17th centuries (VCH, 1998). During this period, cattle played an important role within a mixed agricultural economy and when Richard Benthall died in 1720, his demesne farm had cattle worth £93 (c.50 beasts in all), 6 horses (£15 15s), sheep worth £17, pigs (£10), poultry (10s) and corn, peas, vetches and hay (£64). The agricultural writer Arthur Young visited Benthall in 1776²⁰ describing 'a farm of 320 a., presumably the Hall demesne, which employed 7 men and 2 dairymaids. Half was grass supporting 8 horses, 6 oxen, 38 cattle, and 80 sheep. The arable was growing 35 a. of wheat, 35 a. of barley, 40 a. of oats, 20 a. of peas, 20 a. of clover, and 10 a. of turnips, with 10 a. of fallow' (*ibid.*).
- 4.3.2 Down to the 19th century, Benthall Hall Farm would appear to have been farmed directly as demesne lands from the manor house itself, there being no discrete farmhouse *per se*, the current 'farmhouse' being a former cart house/store converted to domestic use, probably in the mid-19th century.²¹ The complex includes two demonstrably early elements of probable mid-17th-century date, though the majority of the surviving buildings date to the 18th- or early-19th centuries; the development of the farm will be discussed in more detail below (§.7) with reference to historical sources and to the buildings themselves.

¹⁷ Shropshire Archives ref. 6001/4676-4677. Benthall (2005, 29) records that the intention was for the house to be dismantled and exported to the USA, though no corroborative documentation for this has been located as part of the current study.

¹⁸ Announcement in Times, 10th July 1934, within collected correspondence papers 1930-61; Shropshire Archives ref. 6001/4676-7.

¹⁹ Conveyance dated 27th September 1934 (NT 'Dead Deeds' files, Attingham; ref. Benthall DD/2).

²⁰ Young *Tours in England and Wales*, p.145-9; quoted in VCH Shropshire Vol. X

²¹ The farm is first listed as a separate residence in the census returns of 1861 (see §.6.2 below) which may provide a context for the conversion of the cart house.

4.4 The Lost Village of Benthall²²

- 4.4.1 A complex of earthworks lying to the north of the hall and some 500m south of the Benthall Edge escarpment (centred on NGR SJ 6575 0270; Figure 3), represent relic agricultural activity while a number of associated features have been postulated as representing part of the deserted settlement of Benthall village.²³ A local tradition holds that the settlement was razed during the Civil War after a Royalist attack in 1645, when the hall was garrisoned by Parliamentary forces (see §.4.2.1), though it more likely that it was simply gradually abandoned in favour of the new industrial settlements of Bower Yard and Broseley Wood, both of which had begun to grow in the late-16th century (VCH, 1998; Clark and Alfrey 1987, 88). The earliest features appear to be a headland and fragmentary traces of open-field, broad-ridge arable furlongs; these were subsequently superseded by a pattern of hedged hollow-ways (a-b, b-c; Figure 3) enclosing fields with ridge and furrow cultivation. Associated settlement activity is represented by a number of building platforms (f and g; Figure 3), though these may represent no more than a single farmstead with associated yards, paddocks and closes. It is unclear whether the earthworks relate to a building contemporary with the early phases of Benthall Hall, or perhaps a 'home farm' later replaced by Benthall Hall Farm. It has been noted that the series of hollow-ways appear to have been laid out, or adapted, to respect the present site of Benthall Hall and its setting. The landscape around the hall was again modified by the early-19th century through the abandonment of the hollow-ways and re-enclosure of the fields in a pasture regime, possibly associated with the creation of a more open, less formal setting for the hall.

5 GRAPHIC AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

5.1 Early Maps and Views

- 5.1.1 Early maps county maps such as Saxton's *Salopiae Comitatus* of 1577 (Figure 4a) are of too large a scale to be of any real use in tracing the development of the buildings currently under consideration; Saxton depicts Benthall (spelt 'Bentall') though it is rendered in highly stylised form, showing church and adjacent house. Likewise, county maps of the 18th and 19th centuries (Rocque 1752; Bough 1808, Figure 4b) are of little tangible use in the context of the current study.

5.2 The Tithe Map

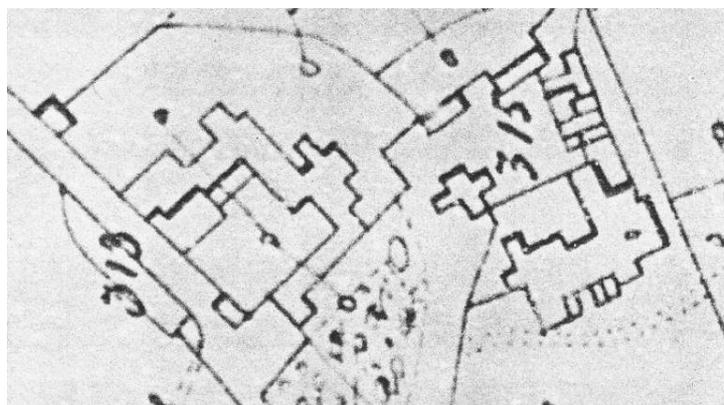
- 5.2.1 The first map to show the Benthall lands and the buildings of the hall and farmstead in any detail is thus the parish tithe map of 1845 (see Figure 5 and inset detail below).²⁴
- 5.2.2 The farm buildings as depicted are arranged, essentially, on the U-shaped, regular courtyard plan they retain to the present day, with a central foldyard enclosed on three sides by agricultural ranges, with the south-west side being mainly open, save for a single shelter shed (**H**)²⁵ set within a simple, closing wall; two fenced enclosures are indicated to the north-western side of, and extending to the full width of, the foldyard. The complex faces onto the eastern side of a SE/NW aligned track, leading ultimately to Hungerdale Farm below Benthall Edge.

²² Description based upon anonymous type-written notes within Benthall files at Attingham (?possibly by Paul Everson, 1990; info: J Milln) and accompanying plot (RCHME, 1990; see Figure 3).

²³ Shrops. HER ref. 03819 (http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MSA2504&resourceID=1015).

²⁴ Shropshire Archives Fiche P27/1.

²⁵ See Figure 6 for key to building references established for and used within the current report.



Extract of tithe map of 1845 showing Benthall Hall (right) and farmstead buildings (left).

- 5.2.3 Significant variations from the farm plan that survives today include the absence of cartshed **G** to the south-west corner of the foldyard (to be added between 1882 and 1902, see below), a sizeable projection at the north gable end of barn **B**, and a further structure lying to the north side of Building **I** (the latter within the area of extant late 20th-century shed **M**), both absent by 1882. The south-eastern side of the foldyard was formed by an elongated range (presumably barn **A** in combination with stables **D** and shelter shed **E**), at the western end of which a transverse block (Building **F**) is shown to have projected significantly to the south.²⁶
- 5.2.4 A second, irregular yard area extended to the north and east of the main farm buildings, corresponding broadly with current arrangements; a single, rectangular structure is shown to have occupied the north-west angle of the secondary yard, backing onto the SE/NW trackway. Interestingly, to the east of the main complex, pigsties **J** are not shown on the 1845 map, though the evidence of the surviving (dated) gates would seem to indicate they had been introduced some 25 years previously.
- 5.2.5 The apportionment accompanying the 1845 tithe lists the entire parish of Benthall in the ownership of Thomas Harries Esq. (see §.4.2.3) and mostly in the occupation of Frances Harries; relevant sections are presented in tabulated form below. Plot 315, totalling 5A OR 13P, corresponds to Benthall Hall and includes the associated farm buildings currently under consideration ('buildings, fold, plant etc.').

No.	Owner	Occupier	Description	Area			State of Cultivation
				A	R	P	
179	Thomas Harries Esq.	Francis Harries Esq.	House and Garden	-	-	25	---
186			ditto	-	-	32	---
231			ditto	-	-	36	---
313			Plantation	-	-	14	---
314			Road	-	3	4	---
315			BENTHALL HALL, Offices, Pleasure Ground, Garden, Buildings, Fold, Plant etc.	5	-	13	---
316			Upper Crifton Meadow	5	2	38	Pasture
317			Upper Hill Head	2	1	34	Pasture
318			Upper Hill Head	7	3	9	Pasture
320			House and Garden	-	-	35	---
321			Ox Leasow	8	2	3	Pasture
326			Little Meadow	1	3	21	Pasture
327			Simpsons Crifftin	8	3	18	Pasture
328			Near White Leasow	9	1	34	Arable
329	Further White Leasow	8	2	30	Arable		
330	Plantation	-	1	6	---		

²⁶

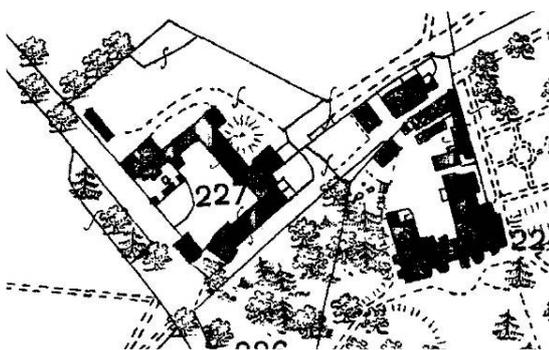
The extent of the southern projection does not correspond to the plan of the range at that date implied by the surviving fabric, and it is thus assumed that this represents an error in survey/depiction.

331		Crifin Meadow	7	3	10	Pasture
332		Canal Meadow	6	-	10	Meadow
333		Lawn and Pool	12	3	12	Meadow
334		Lawn	5	2	26	Pasture
335		Cover	-	2	18	---
336		Gardeners Meadow	6	1	23	Arable
337		Three Square Piece	5	3	24	Arable
338		Lower Silver Hill	4	1	35	Arable
339		Middle Silver Hill	6	2	22	Arable
340		Upper Silver Hill (and Lower Moor Meadow)	11	-	18	Arable
341		Pool	-	3	14	---
342		Road	1	2	20	---
343		Lower Marsh Meadow	12	1	5	Pasture
344		Pool	-	2	-	---
345		Furlong	8	3	10	Arable
346		Upper Furlong	12	-	25	Arable
355		House and Garden	-	1	2	---
TOTAL			164	2	26	

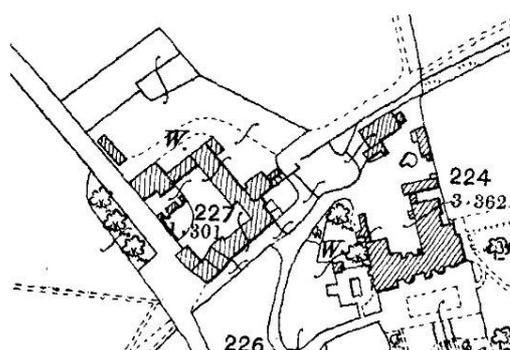
Table 1: Relevant extracts from schedules accompanying 1845 tithe map.

5.3 Ordnance Survey Maps

5.3.1 A more detailed picture of the farmstead buildings is presented by the first edition Ordnance Survey County Series 25 inch (1:2,500) map of 1882 (see inset, below left). Most of the extant buildings are indicated, at least in outline, save the open-fronted cartshed (G) to the south-western angle of the main foldyard. The southwards projection of Building F, to the south side of the foldyard, appears much reduced from the arrangements depicted in the tithe plan of 1845, possibly indicating an historical phase of modification (or the correction of an historical survey error – see fn.26), while the projecting structures to the north side of Barn B and Building I, present on the tithe map (see above), had been removed by this date.²⁷ Stalls L, with walled outlets are clearly depicted to the east end of Barn A, indicating that a gateway within the southern boundary wall, recorded during the current project (see §.7.13.2, Plate 111), had become redundant by this date. The area to the south-east of the ‘farmhouse’ is shown to have been occupied by two fenced or walled yards, the first, hard against the farmhouse being rectangular in plan and including three discrete structures ranged against its southern wall, the second with a curving boundary to the south and east.



Extract of first edition Ordnance Survey County Series 25 inch (1:2,500) map of 1882.



Extract of Ordnance Survey County Series 25 inch (1:2,500) edition of 1902.

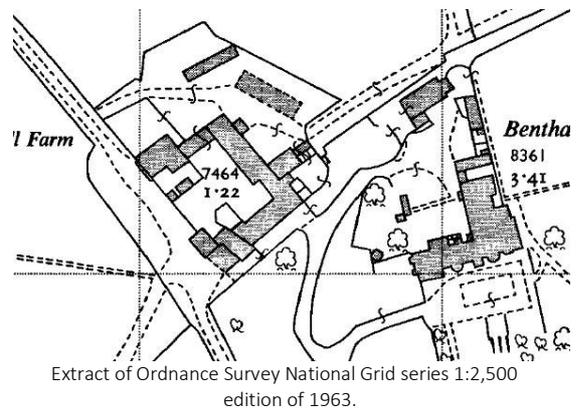
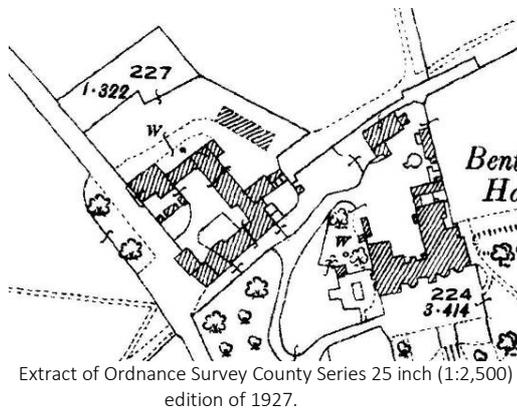
5.3.2 Within the secondary yard to the north and east of the farm buildings, accessed via a track immediately north of the ‘farmhouse’ block, the building at the north-western angle had been replaced by a long, narrow range aligned parallel to the trackway wall, while a circular platform indicated within the stackyard to the rear of

²⁷

An attached structure of reduced scale is, however, indicated to the east side of barn B at its northern gable end.

Barn **B** most probably indicates the site of a former open-air, horse-gin for a mechanical threshing machine.²⁸ A small area to the east end of Barn **A** had evolved by this time into a discrete yard, flanked by buildings and bounding walls, the north side being formed by the range of three pigsties (**J**) to the east end of Building **I**, shown here in outline only, though known to have been extant by that date (see §.7.11).²⁹

- 5.3.3 Beyond the farmstead buildings, it is clear that the Rose Garden and the associated dovecote had yet to be laid out to the west of the main house, the area being shown as having comprised tree planting, while a series of structures are shown to the west and south-east of the 'Gardener's Cottage', of which no trace survives today.
- 5.3.4 The 25 inch edition of 1902 (see inset, above right) illustrates significant developments. Firstly, cartshed **G** had been introduced since the time of the first edition map, occupying the southern-most angle of the main foldyard, open-fronted to the south-west onto the trackway. To the east of Building **I**, pigsties **L** are shown fully for the first time with three individual 'inlets' and 'outlets'. Beyond the farmstead, the Rose Garden (originally the 'Pixy Garden') had been formed to the west of the main house, including the dovecote incorporated into its northern bounding wall. Further, a number of the buildings to the west and south-east of the 'Gardener's Cottage' indicated on the first edition map had been removed.
- 5.3.5 Further developments had occurred by the time of the 1927 Ordnance Survey edition (see inset, below left). An additional, fenced stock area had been formed to the south side of the main foldyard, spanning Shelter Shed **E** and the western half of Barn **A**, with implications for the arrangements of the latter (see §.7.2.5). Within the subsidiary yard to the north and east, the structure to the north-west corner had been removed while five-bay Dutch Barn **N** had been introduced, set at an angle to Barn **B** and aligned parallel to the north-eastern bounding wall.



- 5.3.6 The latest available historical Ordnance Survey edition is that of 1963 (see inset, above right) which again illustrates significant developments. Principal among these are modifications to Building **F** on the southern boundary of the foldyard, which can clearly be seen to have been extended to both north and south, with the rebuilt southern gable end projecting forward of the line of both stables **D** and cartshed **G** to east and west respectively,³⁰ and the north gable extending into the main foldyard. The small structure to the north-east side of Barn **B**, evident as far back as 1882, had been altered in plan, made smaller and set back further from the north gable end, while the fenced stock yard within the foldyard had also been reduced in size (now extending to the width of shelter shed **E** only, as survives today). An enclosed garden had been formed to the north of the 'farmhouse' and the entry to the subsidiary yard moved westwards accordingly; within the latter

²⁸ See reference to 'horse gearing' in 1814 Fire Insurance Policy (§.6.1.3).

²⁹ Integral iron gate dated 1819.

³⁰ The rebuilding of the southern gable was undertaken subsequent to the lease of the farm to Sydney Edward Yates in September 1960 (see deed DD/3, §.6.7.2 below).

yard an additional long, rectangular range had been introduced to north-west of Dutch Barn **N**, of which no trace survives.

5.4 Historical Views and Photographs

- 5.4.1 Historical views and photographs of Benthall tend to focus on the house itself and are thus of strictly limited use in tracing the development of the farm buildings currently under consideration. A notable exception is a view published in Leighton's *Shropshire Houses Past and Present* of 1901 (see inset below) which, while again focussing on the house, depicts the dovecote within the rose garden to the west of the house and the timber-framed Barn **A** beyond, to the far left-hand side of the image.



Sketch of c.1900 from Leighton's *Shropshire Houses Past and Present* (1901);
NB. timber-framed Barn **A** to left (with framed cross-range)

- 5.4.2 To the west (left), Barn **A** is shown as butting up against a further timber-framed range, gabled to the south and, while this does not accord directly with the complex of buildings as recorded,³¹ the latter range may be a depiction of the timber-framed elements surviving within building **F** (extended and rebuilt to both north and south in the early-mid 20th century) rendered with a degree of 'artistic licence'.

6 OTHER SOURCES

6.1 Salop Fire Office Records

- 6.1.1 A fire insurance mark of the Salop Fire Office³² (1780-1890) was noted high on the north gable end of Barn **B** (see §.7.3.5), with policy number '3742' clearly visible on the lower plaque beneath the distinctive company logo of three leopards heads in relief.³³ Reference to SFO records at the Shropshire Archives³⁴ reveals that this policy was taken out on 23rd August 1804 by Francis Blythe Harries, wording as follows:

Richard Francis Blithe Harries of Benthall in the County of Salop Esquire desires to insure:

1. *His stock of grain, hay, straw and fodder in his stock yard situate as above, not exceeding three hundred and seventy pounds.*

³¹ In reality, Barn **A** and Building **F** (a timber-framed range aligned north-south) are separated by a brick-built, 1½ storey stables (**D**) of late 18th-century date with a ridge line significantly lower than Barn **A**.

³² The Salop Fire Office was established in 1780, being reconstituted in 1792 and 1796, and survived as an independent concern until it united with the Alliance Assurance Company in 1890.

³³ Colloquially known as the 'loggerheads', the leopards head logo derived from the coat of arms of Shrewsbury.

³⁴ Shropshire Archives ref. 4791/1/5; Salop Fire Office, Policy Book 5, p.323.

2. *A timber building situate near the above together with his stock of hay therein not exceeding thirty pounds*

Amount insured £400

Annual premium £0 10s 0d

6.1.2 Further policies taken out by Harries in respect of Benthall are as follows:

- Policy 3939, September 1805³⁵
- Policy 5458, December 1807³⁶
- Policy 10824, February 1814³⁷

6.1.3 The wording of policies 5458 and 10824 (identical) may be of direct relevance in their reference not only to a barn, stockyard, grain, straw and fodder on his farm, but also to his 'stock of horse gearing' (presumably related to mobile threshing equipment) stored at another property.

Policy 10824, February 3^d, 1814

Francis Blyth Harries of Benthall in the County of Salop Esquire desired to insure:

1. *His stock of grain straw and fodder in his barn and stock yard thereto belonging situate as above and on his farm belonging thereto not exceeding four hundred pounds.*
2. *His stock of horse gearing, hay and straw in his four stables and straw room under one roof situate on the south side of the road leading from the Iron Bridge to Bridgnorth in the county aforesaid not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds.*
3. *His boring mill worked by water with room over it and carpenters shop adjoining under one roof together with his utensils and stock therein situate at Benthall aforesaid not exceeding one hundred pounds.*
4. *His blacksmith's shop with room over it and carpenters shop adjoining under one roof together with his utensils and stock therein situate at Benthall aforesaid not exceeding one hundred pounds.*
5. *His moulding shop, workman's house and two warehouses, a smith's shop with two fires and pattern makers shop over, also a building newly erected consisting of a smith's shop, warehouse and carpenter's workshops and pattern room over together with his stock and utensils therein situate at Benthall aforesaid not exceeding seven hundred pounds.*

All of the aforesaid premises are of brick, tile and slate. Amount insured £1,650 Annual premium £2 3s 0d.

6.2 Census Data

6.2.1 Early census returns related to Benthall are somewhat ambiguous, with references to both the 'Hall' and 'Hall buildings' being occupied by agricultural labourers. An early reference to 'Benthall Cottage' in 1841 may possibly relate to the present day 'Gardener's Cottage', though identification is tentative, while the address does not appear in later returns. Benthall Farm first appears as an independent listing in the returns of 1861, when it was occupied by Ann Price, a dairy maid, and her three children, the implication being that the 'farmhouse' (which comprises a converted cart house/store) was in existence as such by that date. Returns for 1871 and 1881 record John Ward (farm Bailiff) and his wife Anne in residence while, from 1891 to 1911, the farm was consistently occupied by the Oakley family, firstly Joseph Oakley and his wife Ellen with family and, following the death of Joseph, with Ellen as head of household (see also, electoral registers, §.6.3 below).

³⁵ Shropshire Archives ref. 4791/1/6; Salop Fire Office, Policy Book 6, p.63.

³⁶ Shropshire Archives ref. 4791/1/7; Salop Fire Office, Policy Book 7, p.134.

³⁷ Shropshire Archives ref. 4791/1/9; Salop Fire Office, Policy Book 10, p.370.

Year	Address	Name	Age	Status	Occupation	
1841	Benthall Hall	Margaret Smout	35		Female Servant	
		Richard Oakley	30		Male Servant	
	'Benthall Cottage'	Sarah Oakley	30			
		Harriet Oakley	10			
		Ann Oakley	9			
		John Oakley	7			
		Hannah Oakley	5			
Richard Oakley	3					
1851	Benthall Hall	Thomas Roberts	45	Head	Agricultural labourer	
		Anne Roberts	27	Wife		
		George Roberts	2	Son		
		Edward Roberts	76	Father		
	'Hall Buildings'	Aaron Langford	34	Head	Agricultural labourer	
		Jane Langford	34	Wife		
		John Langford	5	Son		
1861	Benthall Farm	Sarah Langford	2	Daughter		
		Anne Price	43	Head	Dairy Maid	
		Thomas Price	17	Son	Plough Boy	
		Henry Price	15	Son	Apprentice to joiner	
1871	Benthall Farm	Mary Price	6	Daughter		
		John Ward	48	Head	Farm Bailiff	
1881	Nr. Benthall Hall	Anne Ward	55	Wife		
		John Ward	68	Wife	Farm Bailiff	
1891	Benthall Farm	John Ward	55	Wife		
		Joseph Oakley	56	Head	Farmer	
		Ellen Oakley	54	Wife		
1901	Benthall Farm	Joseph B Oakley	15	Son	Farmer's son	
		Joseph Oakley	66	Head	Farmer	
		Ellen Oakley	63	Wife		
1911	Benthall Farm	Joseph B Oakley	25	Son	Farmer's son	
		Ellen Oakley	74	Head	Farmer (widow)	
		Joseph Bowen Oakley	35	Son	Working on farm	
		Frances Oakley	30	Wife		
		Ellen Oakley	2	Daughter		
		Frances Mary Oakley	1	Daughter		
Selina Jones	14	FS	General servant (domestic)			

Table 2: Extracts for Historical Census Returns, 1841-1911 (accessed via www.ancestry.com)

6.3 Electoral Registers

6.3.1 A review of historical electoral registers at the Shropshire Archives indicates an overlap with the pattern of occupation illustrated by the historical census data presented above. Joseph Oakley is listed as the sole 'occupation elector' from 1890³⁸ through to 1904, though he must have died in the years soon thereafter (his wife Ellen is listed as 'farmer (widow)' in the census of 1911), and presumably before 1910 when the property is not listed. The farm evidently continued under the occupation of his widow Ellen, however, together with her son and daughter-in-law (see Table 2 above) although she does not appear in the electoral registers in her own right until 1919, by which time limited female suffrage had been introduced under the terms of the Representation of the People Act of 1918 (aka. the 'Fourth Reform Act'). From 1921 down to 1933, the farm is listed under Ellen's son Joseph Bowen Oakley together with his wife Frances, while from 1933 on, it is listed under Clara and Charles William Bowen (the Oakleys having removed to nearby Little Posenhall Farm by that date). For a ten year period from 1950 to 1960 the farm was in the hands of John and Mary Evans, while from 1962-68 it was occupied by Sydney and Brenda Yates. Since 1969,³⁹ the farm has been occupied by members of the Davies family, in whose hands it remains today, firstly William Edward and Florence J Davies and latterly,

³⁸ The enfranchisement of 'occupiers' having been introduced under the terms of the Representation of the People Act of 1884 (aka. the 'Third Reform Act').

³⁹ Tenancy Agreement dated 2nd February 1969 (NT 'Dead Deeds' files, Attingham; ref. Benthall DD/5); see §.6.6 below.

from 2001, by their son Philip;⁴⁰ this pattern of occupation is reflected in the electoral registers down to 1996 (presented in tabulated form below).

6.3.2 'Gardener's Cottage' does not appear expressly until 1990, when it was occupied by one Andrew J Flower, with Andrew Rothery listed in 1992, and Robin Johnson in 1994. Earlier references to 'Benthall Hall Cottage' may, however, be pertinent, occupied by Thomas Sidney and Dorothy Jane Bagley from 1950 to 1974. The current occupants, Mr Nick Swankie (NT Gardener in Charge) and family, have been in residence since 2005.

Year	Eligible Voters	Address	Qualifying Property	Nature of Qualification
1847	Not listed (No eligible voters)			
1874	Henry Thomas Adamson	Church St., Broseley	Benthall Hall Farm	Freehold Rent-Charge
1879-1885	Thomas Talbot Day	Broseley	Benthall Hall Farm	Freehold Rent Charge
	Theodore Cecil Weld Forester	54 Seymour Street, Portman Sq., London	Benthall Hall Farm	Freehold Rent Charge
1890-1904	Theodore Cecil Weld Forester	54 Seymour Street, Portman Sq., London	Benthall Hall Farm	Ownership voter
	Joseph Oakley	Benthall Hall Farm	Benthall Hall Farm	Occupation voter
1910	<i>Not listed</i>			
1919-1920	Ellen Oakley	Benthall Hall Farm	Benthall Hall Farm	Occupation qualification
1921-1930	Joseph Bowen Oakley Frances Oakley	Benthall Hall Farm	Benthall Hall Farm	Residence/Occupation Husband's Occupation
1932	Joseph Bowen Oakley Frances Oakley Francis Mary Oakley	Benthall Hall Farm	Benthall Hall Farm	Residence/Occupation Husband's Occupation Residence (W)
1933	Charles Bowen Charles William Bowen	Benthall Hall Farm	Benthall Hall Farm	Residence/Occupation
1934-1948	Clara Bowen Charles William Bowen	Benthall Hall Farm	N/A	N/A
1950-1960	John Evans Mary E Evans Elsie Mabel Gregory (1950)	Benthall Hall Farm	N/A	N/A
1962-1968	Sydney Yates Brenda Yates	Benthall Hall Farm	N/A	N/A
1970-1996	William E Davies (1970-90) Florence J Davies (1970-96) John E Davies (1970-74 only) Trevor W (1972/4 only) Patricia M (1980-84 only) Philip (1980 on)	Benthall Hall Farm	N/A	N/A

Table 3a: Benthall Hall Farm: Summary of Historical Electoral Registers, 1847-1996 (source: registers at Shropshire Archives)

Year	Eligible Voters	Address	Nature of Qualification
1950-1974	Thomas Sidley Bagley ⁴¹ Dorothy Jane Bagley	'Benthall Hall Cottage'	N/A
1990	Andrew J Flower	Gardener's Cottage, Benthall	N/A
1992	Andrew J Rothery	Gardener's Cottage, Benthall	N/A
1994	Robin PC Johnson	Gardener's Cottage, Benthall	N/A

Table 3b: Gardeners Cottage etc.: Summary of Historical Electoral Registers, 1950-1996 (source: as above)

⁴⁰ Tenancy Agreement dated 23rd August 2001 (NT 'Dead Deeds' files, Attingham; ref. Benthall DD/6); see §.6.6 below.

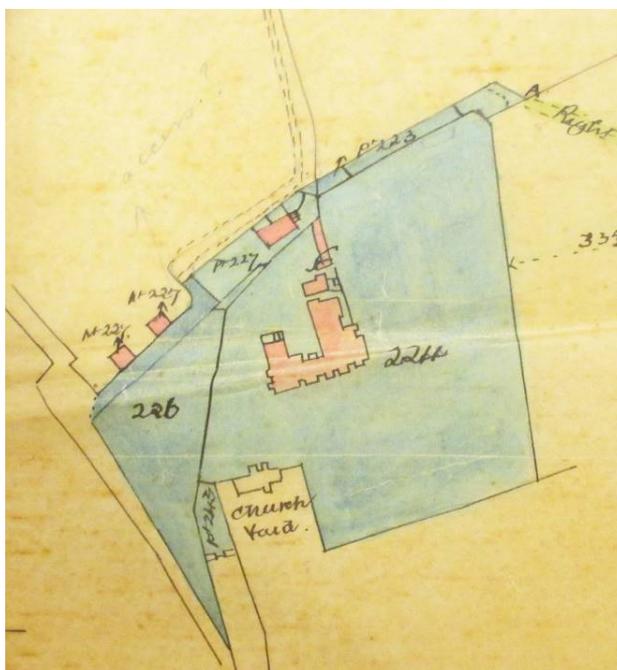
⁴¹ Previously listed at 'Benthall Hall'.

6.4 Draft Lease of 1906

- 6.4.1 A draft lease dated 12th April 1906⁴² between the Right Honourable Cecil Theodore Weld, Lord Forester of Willey and Mrs. Ethel Landsbach Packer in respect of 'Benthall Hall and premises' for a term of 21 years is of interest in the description of the property included therein, worded as follows:

'All that capital messuage or mansion called Benthall Hall with the buildings, coach houses, stables, garden, lawns and grounds thereto belonging... and also all that cottage with the buildings and garden thereto belonging situate on Benthall Edge near Benthall Hall aforesaid'.

- 6.4.2 An accompanying plan (see inset below) clearly indicates that the majority of the farm buildings currently under consideration were excluded from the lease, though the gardener's cottage and associated garden were included together, apparently, with the eastern two bays of barn **A** and the stables **D**, the latter reasonably the 'coach house' and 'stables' of the attendant description; all are annotated '227'.



Plan included with draft lease of 1906 (SA ref. 1681/37/3).

6.5 1934 Sale Particulars etc.

- 6.5.1 An advertisement for the auction of 1934 describes the farm as 'an excellent stock raising farm of 146 acres or thereabouts, with good farmhouse and buildings including stabling, cow houses, barn, stockyards, turnip house, 6-bay Dutch barn, pig styes, fowl houses &c., all in good state of repair'. Accompanying particulars describe a 'CAPITAL MIXED FARM adjoining, with good house and buildings, about 146 acres. 127 acres are let on a yearly tenancy to Mrs. Bowen⁴³ and 19 acres to Mr Roberts'.

⁴² Shropshire Archives ref.1681/37/3.

⁴³ See Table 3 above.

6.6 Valuation of 1946

- 6.6.1 An annual valuation of Benthall farm undertaken for Mrs. C Bowen and Sons in 1946⁴⁴ lists 35 cattle, 3 horses ('Gypsy', 'Blossom' and 'Folly'), 10 pigs, poultry (50 hens, 2 geese, 12 ducks) and produce (hay, straw, oats, beet pulp etc.), 'artificial' and cultivations, to a total value of £232 8s 3d.

6.7 NT 'Dead Deeds' Files

- 6.7.1 A series of 'dead deeds' stored at Attingham are of use in tracing specific dates of transfer of ownership/tenancy of the farm during the mid-late 20th century, as follows:

Deed DD/1

Dated 30th January 1933, a Tenancy Agreement between John Todd Esq. (presumably acting as agent for Weld-Forester) and Mrs. C Bowen and Mr. J Evans in respect of Benthall Hall Farm at a rent of £124 p.a. for two years, thereafter £150, payable quarterly.

Deed DD/2

Dated 27th September 1934, a Conveyance of Freehold of 'Mansion House, farm and lands known as Benthall Hall and Benthall Hall Farm' from John Todd Esq. (vender), acting on behalf of the Rt. Hon. Cecil George Wilfred Weld, 7th Baron Forester, to Mr and Mrs. James and Clementina Floyer Dale for the sum of £5,000.

Deed DD/3

Dated 12th August 1960, Tenancy Agreement between National Trust and Mr. Sydney Edward Yates in respect of Benthall Hall Farm at annual rent of £635 from 29th September 1960.

Deed DD/5

Dated 2nd February 1969, Tenancy Agreement between National Trust and Mr. William Edward Davies in respect of Benthall Hall Farm at annual rent of £1,000.

Deed DD/6

Dated 23rd August 2001, Tenancy Agreement between National Trust and Mr. Philip Davies in respect of Benthall Hall Farm at monthly rent of £450, with provision for sub-letting of Farmhouse to a Mr. and Mrs. Rogers.

- 6.7.2 A repair schedule included with the 1960 agreement (**DD/3**) lists the farm buildings at that date, though change of use makes it somewhat problematic to correlate these with the extant ranges (possible identifications shown in parenthesis):

- New Calf Boxes and Implement Shed (?)
- Old Stable (reasonably **F** – schedule refers to 'rebuilding of south end gable wall', **NB.** stables **D** was excluded from the agricultural tenancy; see §.6.4)
- Open Cattle Shed (?E)
- Wain House (**G**)
- Old Cowhouse (**A?**)
- New Cowhouse (**M**)
- Loose Box (?)
- Piggeries (**L/J**)
- Dutch Barn (**N**)
- Large Brick Barn (**B**)
- Range of Boxes (?C) and Dairy (?I)

⁴⁴ Shropshire Archives ref. 4752/78/71.

- Farmhouse
- 6.7.3 The fifth schedule attached to **DD/3** lists the 'loft floor and partitions in the large brick barn' under 'redundant buildings'.
- 6.7.4 A further repair schedule accompanying the 1969 tenancy agreement (**DD/5**) lists the following:
- Wain House (?G)
 - Two Loose Boxes (?J)
 - Large Loose Box
 - Fold Yard
 - Loose Box adjoining
 - Fertiliser Store
 - Cowhouse for 1 and Calf Box
 - Cowhouse for 5
 - Pig Sties (J/L)
 - Large Box with feeding...
 - Barn, Lofts and Store (B)
 - Cattle Yard
 - Range of Boxes adjoining
 - Stackyard

7 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

NB. *The farm buildings are oriented predominantly to respect the line of the adjacent, NE/SW aligned trackway; this will be simplified for the purposes of the following descriptions such that buildings will be referred to as being aligned north-south or east-west (both 'grid' and 'site' north are indicated on figures included within this report). Principal measurements will be presented here in Imperial units reflecting the system of measurement in use at the time of the buildings' construction.*

7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 The farm buildings at Benthall are arranged, essentially, around three sides of a single, central foldyard (total area of c.625m²/6,700sq. ft. with principal access via a wide entrance gateway in the western boundary wall), with a former stackyard to the north-east and a small, enclosed subsidiary yard to the east (see plan at Figure 6 and inset below). It does not represent a 'planned' farmstead *per se*, however, clearly having evolved over an extended period of time by a process of gradual accretion, with buildings of various dates and phases of construction, the earliest dating most probably to the early/mid-17th century.
- 7.1.2 The farm was originally run, presumably from the main house, as a demesne farm with the current 'farmhouse' to the north-west corner of the yard (beyond scope of current report) being a former cartshed with hay-lofts / granary over, converted in the mid-19th century. This conversion to residential use reflects a split in the lease and a change in operational organisation of the farm following on, reasonably, from the sale of the estate by Thomas Harries in 1844; as noted above, the farm is first referenced as a separate address, independent from the house, in census returns of 1861 (§.6.2).



Key Plan to Farm Buildings

7.2 Building A; former Threshing Barn

7.2.1 **Barn A** (Figures 7-11; Plates 1-25) is a five-bay former threshing barn with central threshing bay (Peters' 'Type 1b'; 1969, 69-73; table 17), of timber-framed, post-and-truss construction, defining the eastern end of the southern foldyard boundary. It is abutted to the west by stables **D** and shelter-shed **E** and to the east by pigsties/stalls **L**, while the eastern two bays of the north elevation are abutted by cowhouse **C**. Its form and manner of construction indicate an early date, probably of the early to mid-17th century, and it thus forms one of the earliest structures on the site.

7.2.2 The barn is rectangular in plan, aligned east-west, with overall internal dimensions 56ft. x 20½ft. (thus with internal floor area of c.1,150 sq. ft.), standing c.16½ft. high to wall plate, above a mid-height stone plinth (variously rebuilt in brick), and 30ft. to ridge. It is of five structural bays, here numbered 1 to 5 from east to west; bays measure c.9½ft., save Bay 3, the former threshing bay to the centre of the range, which is wider at 15½ft. The pitched, clay-tile clad roof is gabled to east and west.

Exterior

7.2.3 The **north elevation** (Figure 8; Plate 1) faces onto the central foldyard; it is of five bays, the eastern two bays (which are independently accessed from the south) being obscured by abutting range **C** (though the frame of the former is visible from the interior of the latter). The range is timber-framed, of post-and-truss construction, the wall comprising three levels of 'small square' panels,⁴⁵ formed by bay-posts/intermediate studs and rails/mid-rails, all double-pegged, set upon a raised cill atop a stone plinth, variously rebuilt in brick.⁴⁶ The intermediate studs are formed in two sections, the lower part framing two panels vertically, and the upper framing a single panel, such that the lower level of mid-rails extend between intermediate studs while the upper level of rails extend between bay-posts (see Plate 2).⁴⁷ The frame panels are infilled with a single-skin of red-brick nogging, the brickwork evidently of some considerable antiquity and including a regular

⁴⁵ Actually rectangular, measuring c.2½ ft wide by 3ft tall.

⁴⁶ Bays 1/2 and 3/4 are strengthened by long, straight diagonal 'passing braces', though these are set within the main frame and are not visible externally.

⁴⁷ This arrangement varies to the south.

pattern of header ‘vents’, normally five per panel (Plate 3). Where visible, the flanking faces of vertical frame members (both posts and intermediate studs) include grooves, which could possibly suggest the panels were formerly infilled with some form of wattle and daub. No corresponding ‘dowel holes’ for vertical staves were noted in horizontal members, however, as might be expected, and the vertical grooves may alternatively have functioned to accommodate slotted or ‘sprung’ cleft-oak boards (see Brunskill 2007, 129).⁴⁸ However, on the balance of evidence, it seems most likely that the brickwork infill actually represents a primary feature, representing a fairly common characteristic of the West Midlands region (Historic England, 2006), and that the vertical grooves served simply as a ‘key’ for the original mortar, stabilising the infill material (Brunskill 1997, 63).⁴⁹

- 7.2.4 To the centre of the range, the wider Bay 3 represents the original threshing bay and is furnished with a large door opening, 10½ft. wide and 12ft. high (Plate 4), defined to east and west by full-height posts extending from ground level to wall plate; the eastern of these posts is set in by some 4ft. from the main bay-post.⁵⁰ The western bay-post retains evidence related to the primary arrangements of the barn, in the form of a socket for a former threshold (**A**; Plate 5), and a pegged mortice for a former, low transverse partition to the western side of the threshing floor (**B**; Plate 5).⁵¹
- 7.2.5 An secondary double-door at Bay 5 to the west end of the range (blocked internally), has been cut through the primary frame, inserted beneath the lower level of mid-rails. The creation of a fenced stockyard within the area of the main foldyard in the early part of the 20th century, first illustrated in the Ordnance Survey edition of 1927 (see §.5.3.5 above) may provide a context for this insertion and implies a change in the use of the barn for the accommodation of livestock.
- 7.2.6 In general terms, the **south elevation** (Figure 9; Plate 6) reflects that to the north, though it has been subject to significant modification. Of five bays, original timber-framing survives in part only, Bays 4 and 5 to the west having been rebuilt entirely in brick to plate level, probably in the late-18th century. Where extant, framing is again of small-square panelling, infilled with brick nogging, though in this elevation, rails extend between bay-posts at both levels, with intermediate studs thus comprising three separate sections between cill and plate (Plate 7); a section of original stone plinth survives at Bay 2.
- 7.2.7 The large threshing door to the west side of Bay 3 has been fully blocked (Plate 8), in 19th-century Broseley brick laid to Flemish stretcher bond,⁵² while a smaller ‘pass’ door⁵³ (Plate 9; similarly blocked) is clearly evidenced to the eastern side of the bay (with blocked ?window/hatch over), defined by a subsidiary post, set c.4ft. in from the eastern bay-post and extending fully from ground level to plate, as to the north. Surviving iron pintles driven into the face of the flanking posts suggest former bi-partite threshing doors (Plate 10). A set of double carriage doors have been inserted at Bay 1 (Plate 11), probably in the late-19th or early-20th century affording access to the subdivided interior of the range,⁵⁴ while Bays 4 and 5 have been fully underbuilt, most probably in the late-18th century, in red brick, 9 x 4 x 2½in., laid to English garden wall bond, with regularly spaced header vents, arranged vertically above one another at five course intervals (Plate 12). A ground floor pedestrian doorway and high-level hatch at Bay 5, both beneath segmental header-arches, have been blocked in Broseley brick. The blocking of the threshing door at Bay 3, the interior sub-division of Bay 2/3 (see §.7.2.10)

⁴⁸ Brunskill (2007, fig.102) identifies similar ‘slotted’ infill panels at Home Farm Barn at Hodnet, near Market Drayton in North Shropshire, dating to 1619, while it may be pertinent that the Hodnet barn also includes diagonal braces set internal to the main, square-panel frame, as at Benthall.

⁴⁹ **NB.** The lack of clear visual access makes interpretation difficult; any future removal of brickwork infill, for maintenance purposes for example, clearly has the potential to expose further evidence related to the manner of primary frame construction and infill, and should be closely monitored.

⁵⁰ To the south, this post frames a small ‘pass door’ (§.7.2.7), an arrangement that may well have been repeated here.

⁵¹ Also evident to the south.

⁵² The distinctive, brindled Broseley brick was first used at Benthall from the early years of the 19th century.

⁵³ A small, light doorway allowing easy pedestrian access to the barn without the need to open the large, heavy threshing doors.

⁵⁴ The arrangements illustrated in the draft lease plan of 1906 (§.6.4) indicate that a southern entrance to the east end of the barn must have been established by that date.

and the introduction of carriage doors to Bay 1 all reasonably related to the splitting of the lease of the house and farm, effected by 1906 at the latest, though possibly as early as the 1840s sale.

- 7.2.8 The **east elevation** (Figure 10; Plate 13) presents a tall, blind gable end, rebuilt in stretcher-bond brick beneath tie level in mid-late C20th (?1960s/70s), though originally framed. Angle-posts survive to north and south, while pegging within the tie beam indicates a pattern of five original uprights (central post flanked by two intermediate studs to north and south).⁵⁵ The gable retains its original truss (**T1**), of double-collar form with four queen-struts extending between tie beam and lower collar, and two between lower and upper collar, all double-pegged; brick infill panels have been renewed contemporary with the underbuilding of the main wall below tie beam level.
- 7.2.9 The **west elevation** (Plate 14) is, for the most part, obscured by abutting ranges **F** and **G**, though framing is exposed internally (Figure 11c; Plate 15). As elsewhere, the wall-frame is formed of three levels of small-square panels, infilled with red-brick nogging, upon a raised cill carried by a low stone plinth. Beneath tie level, the wall is formed of five upright members, viz. a central, full-height post extending from cill to tie, flanked by intermediate studs, two each to north and south, in two-part form following the pattern of the north elevation (see §.7.2.3). Above tie level, truss **T6**, matches **T1** to the east, of double-collar form with four queen-struts extending between tie beam and lower collar, and two between lower and upper collar.

Interior

- 7.2.10 **Internally**, the barn is arranged over five bays (here, 1 to 5 from east to west; Figure 7), formerly two storage bays to either side (east and west) of a central threshing bay (Bay 3), the latter served by wide doors to north and south. Where surviving, timber-framing is fully exposed with flush-set brick nogging infill, as evident externally and described above; a feature of note is the long, straight 'passing' braces (eg. Plate 16) extending between cill and bay-posts at Bays 1/2 and 3/4 of the long elevations and at the gable ends, set internally to the main framework, and thus not visible externally. A low cill wall of stone and brick (Plate 25) survives to the east side of the threshing bay (beneath Truss **T3**),⁵⁶ and evidence of peg-holes within the wall posts defining the western side of the threshing floor (**B**, Plate 5) indicates a similar feature originally existed (see §.7.2.4); such divisions between threshing floor and storage bays served to prevent the mixing of threshed and unthreshed corn (Peters 1969, 96). Bays 1 and 2 have subsequently been fully partitioned off to form an enclosed coach bay, accessed via double doors inserted at Bay 1 of the south elevation in the late 19th/early-20th century, while Bays 3-5 are accessed solely from foldyard to the north, via the original threshing doors at Bay 3 (the corresponding door to south having been blocked in the 19th century) and formerly via a pair of inserted doors at Bay 5.
- 7.2.11 **Cross-frames** are formed of substantial wall posts rising to jowled heads, with straight up-braces rising from posts to soffit of tie-beams, double-pegged top and bottom. Gable trusses **T1/6** (Figure 11c) are described above, trusses **T2** to **T4** are of uniform, simple form (Figure 11a; Plate 17), without collar and with heavy, angled struts rising from ties to principals mid-way between two tiers of side-purlins. At **T3/4** (ie. to either side of the original threshing bay) a long, central post extends from tie to a transverse cill (extant at **T3**; mostly lost at **T4**); structurally unnecessary, the central posts would originally have functioned to retain stacked sheaves within the respective storage bays (Brunskill 2007, 42-3; Peters 1969, 96). Truss **T5** (Figure 11b; Plate 18) represents a secondary insertion, introduced when the south wall of Bays 4/5 was underbuilt in brick (Plate 19); it is of king-post form (bolted at tie) with two levels of raking struts rising from the king-post to principals. The **roof** is carried on two tiers of trenched side-purlins (one-bay sections, scarfed to east of trusses) and a square-section ridge piece; upper purlins are wind-braced at Bay 1 (E), Bay 5 (W) and at threshing Bay 3 (both E and W), while lower purlins are unbraced throughout. At **T3**, the truss and cross-frame have been fully closed off by the introduction of weatherboarding (Plates 20/24), applied to the western face, related to the

⁵⁵ Pattern of framing survives to west (Plate 13).

⁵⁶ The lower, stone section of wall was noted to include at least two fragments of old bottles.

separation off of Bays 1/2 to form a carriage house (Plates 22/3) in the late-19th or early-20th century. The western bays of the barn have latterly functioned as a cowshed, with a rudimentary, breeze-block constructed feed trough arranged against the southern wall (Plate 21).

7.3 Building B; former Threshing Barn

7.3.1 **Barn B** (Figures 12-16; Plates 26-42) is a five-bay former threshing barn with central threshing bay (Peters' 'Type 1b'; 1969, 69-73; table 17), solidly constructed in narrow (2¼in.) orange/red-brick,⁵⁷ laid to a regular English garden wall bond, defining and dominating the northern end of the eastern foldyard boundary; it is abutted to the south by cow house **C**. Its size,⁵⁸ form, manner of construction and physical relationships to adjoining ranges suggest a fairly early origin, though reasonably later than the earliest, timber-framed elements, **A** and **F**, and an early to mid-18th-century date thus seems reasonable.

7.3.2 The barn is rectangular in plan (Figure 12), aligned north-south, with overall internal dimensions 78ft. long x 20½ft. wide, thus with internal floor area of c.1,600sq. ft., approximately one third as large again as timber-framed Barn **A**. The barn stands c.15ft 9in. high to a plain eaves and 31ft. to ridge; the clay-tile clad roof is pitched, and gabled to north and south where it is furnished with low parapet walls (possibly secondary). It is of five structural bays, here numbered 1 to 5 from south to north; bays are broadly equal, measuring 15½ft. wide, though the central, former threshing bay, is marginally wider at 16ft. Most original external openings have been blocked in breeze-block/brick when the barn was converted to a grain store in the mid-late 20th century.

Exterior

7.3.3 The **west elevation** (Figure 13; Plate 27) faces onto the main foldyard; it is of five bays, the northern-most bay being partly obscured by an abutting range of garages defining the north side of the yard (beyond scope of current report). The range is brick built in narrow orange/red brick (9½ x 4 x 2¼in.), laid to a regular English garden wall bond, with three levels of header ventilation holes (lower levels blocked to Bays 4/5, north of threshing doors). Bay 3 is occupied by a massive pair of threshing doors, set within a rebated, segmental headed opening (Plate 26), 12ft. wide x max. 13½ft. tall to the intrados of the segmental brick arch of alternating stretchers and paired-headers. The doorway has been blocked internally in breeze-block (pre-1990), though the paired doors (not original) have been left *in-situ*: pin-hung on strap-hinges and formed of diagonally set planking, the northern door comprises a single leaf, while that to the south is split. Stone hinge-blocks within the brick jambs indicate the fixing points for original doors. Pedestrian doors at Bays 1 and 2 formerly afforded access to the interior, that at Bay 1 now opens onto a transverse passage (Plate 40), defined by an inserted breeze-block wall (Plate 37), at the south end of the range while that at Bay 2 has been blocked internally. Bay 1 also includes a high-level hatch, hard beneath the eaves, while an area of secondary brick below eaves level at Bay 2 includes a concentration of vent holes. At Bay 4, a wide opening beneath a substantial timber lintel has been blocked in two distinct phases (Plate 28); first being reduced in size by approximately half to the south, where it is fully blocked in flush brickwork, while to the north a split-door survives *in situ*, though blocked internally. The function of this opening is not immediately apparent, though the reference to internal floors and partitions in the 1960 tenancy agreement (see §.6.7.3) clearly indicates that the barn was formerly subdivided internally, both vertically and horizontally, and the various openings of the foldyard elevation were presumably related to this sub-division (see §.7.3.8).

7.3.4 The **east elevation** (Figure 14; Plate 29) closely reflects the arrangements of the foldyard elevation, though is here for the most part obscured by the abutting 20th-century shed **M** and by a longitudinal blockwork casing to

⁵⁷ Elsewhere at Benthall, Milln has previously identified garden structures using narrow red brick as dating to the early-18th century (internal NT memo. Jeremy Milln to Graham Dench dated 2d August 2000).

⁵⁸ In the later-18th and 19th centuries, the practice of storing hay in thatched ricks increasingly negated the need for such large barns.

a modern grainstore ventilator (Plate 30).⁵⁹ Walling is again in narrow red-brick, laid to English garden wall bond with three levels of regularly spaced, header ventilation holes. Bay 3 is dominated by a rebated threshing door opening beneath a segmental-arch matching that to the east (Plate 30), blocked in breeze-block though here lacking doors. High-level hatches are located beneath eaves level to Bays 2 and 4, while a doorway at Bay 1 opens onto the transverse passage. The head of a further blocked opening is visible to the north side of Bay 1, possibly a blocked doorway or a hatch matching that to the east, though the obscuring of the lower wall to both exterior and interior preclude identification either way.

- 7.3.5 The **north elevation** (Figure 15; Plate 32) presents a tall gable end, brick-built and rising to a low parapet wall, with renewed brick coping, and is pierced by four levels of header ventilation holes. Differential discolouration and weathering to the brickwork of the parapet wall may indicate a secondary addition. A pair of tall, inserted, sliding-doors occupy the centre of the ground floor level with two levels of hatchway openings over, the lower blocked (and truncated by the inserted doors), the upper extant with timber lintel and cill and with a pin-hung wooden door, hinged to the west.⁶⁰ Patches of modern brickwork to east and west of the inserted sliding doors indicate historical phases of repair.⁶¹ The apex of the gable is adorned by a lead firemark plaque of the Salop Fire Office, policy '3742' dating to 1804 (Plate 32, inset; see details at §.6.1.1 above).
- 7.3.6 The **south elevation** (Plate 33) is obscured, for the most part, by abutting Building C, though it can be seen to reflect the arrangements of the north gable end, with two upper levels of hatch opening (both blocked; the upper externally, Plate 33, the lower internally, Plate 37).

Interior

- 7.3.7 **Internally** (Plates 34/5) the barn comprises, essentially, a single unencumbered space (though see below), save for a narrow transverse enclosed passageway formed against the southern gable end by the introduction of a breeze-block constructed wall (Plate 37). The barn is arranged over five bays (here, 1 to 5 from south to north), formerly two storage bays to either side (north and south) of a central threshing bay (Bay 3), the latter served by opposing threshing doors to east and west (both now blocked; see Plate 36). Bay divisions are demarcated by projecting piers of brickwork extending c.3ft into the body of the range (Plates 38); those at **T2/T5** being stepped at c.7ft above floor level, the resulting ledge supporting vertical struts to overlying roof trusses (Plate 39; see §.7.3.8). The barn is floored throughout in concrete, while the lower walls have been rendered to a height of c.6ft. 8in. above floor level, the latter part of improvements to the barn undertaken in 2002,⁶² by which time it was already in use as a grain store.
- 7.3.8 As noted above (§.7.3.3), documentary sources indicate that the barn was, until the second half of the 20th century, sub-divided internally with 'loft' floors and partitions; Bays 1/2 and 4/5 display evidence in the form of infilled sockets to the east and west walls, for former flooring over at a level of c.7½ft. above internal floor level. Such internal sub-division was common in the region (Historic England 2006, 48-9), for separating types of crops and, when the barn was empty, for sorting of livestock. Sub-division also reflects the development of barns as multi-functional buildings, occurring from the later-18th century on in response to increasing mechanisation, often housing cattle and carts/implements (Historic England 2006, 50), together with

⁵⁹ A 'Danagri -3S' grain dryer is housed in a small, pent-roofed, breeze-block extension at the north end of the west elevation (Plate 31), approximately on the site of ranges shown on early Ordnance Survey mapping.

⁶⁰ Evidence recorded internally indicates that the barn was formerly furnished, at least in part, with upper storage levels, and this is reflected in the wording of the repair schedule accompanying the 1960 lease which describes 'loft floor and partitions in the large brick barn' (see §.6.7.3 above).

⁶¹ That to the east may represent a blocked doorway, formerly opening onto a northward extension to the barn shown on the 1845 tithe map (inset at §.5.2), though missing by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

⁶² Letter BA Shipston (NT) to P Davies dated 12 December 2002, relating to 'Grain Store Improvement'. The date of initial conversion to grain store use is not known, though the threshing doors to Bay 3 are shown as being blocked as far back as the NT base survey drawings of 1990.

accommodation for feed preparation / corn-holes / mixing rooms etc. (Peters 1981, 28).⁶³ The historical loss of these features at Benthall, however, negates any meaningful reconstruction of former arrangements.

- 7.3.9 The **roof** is supported on six timber trusses (here, **T1-T6** from south to north) of essentially uniform, queen-strut form, with two queen-struts extending between tie and collar (Figure 16b; Plate 42).⁶⁴ Trusses **T2** and **T5** vary, however, being furnished with additional, vertical struts beneath the outer end of the ties to both east and west, rising from offsets within their respective, stepped brick piers, with long, straight, up-braces spanning the angle between vertical strut and soffit of tie (Figure 16a; Plate 39); this arrangement may again be related to the former flooring over of the storage bays of the barn. Tie-beams are of substantial scantling throughout, in places slightly cranked to their upper face and roughly converted; principals, by contrast, are of slighter cross-section, being machine cut and tapering slightly towards the apex. The roof is carried on three tiers of square-section side-purlins in one-bay sections, scarfed to the south of each truss, and a square section ridge-piece; upper purlins are wind-braced at the central threshing bay (Bay 3) only.

7.4 Building C: Cow House

- 7.4.1 **Building C** (Figures 17-19; Plates 43-53) comprises a medium-sized former cow house, located to the south-east corner of the main foldyard, approximately rectangular in plan, aligned north-south and extending between the east end of Barn **A** to the south and the southern gable end of Barn **B**. It is brick-built of 1½ storeys beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof with a dormer pitching-door to the western, foldyard elevation; to the east it is abutted by Buildings **I** and **K**. It has overall internal dimensions of 28ft. long (N/S) x 17ft. wide (E/W), standing 11ft. to eaves to the west and 22½ft. to ridge. The cow house was introduced most probably in the later years of the 18th century, though recorded evidence suggests it has undergone several phases of rebuilding and/or modification; it is currently used as a store.

Exterior

- 7.4.2 The principal **west elevation** (Figure 18; Plate 43) faces onto the main foldyard. It is brick-built in pale-mid orange/red brick (9½ x 4½ x 2½in.) laid to an irregular, mixed bond, extending between Barn **A** to the south and Barn **B** to the north, both of which it meets in straight butt-joints. It stands 1½ storeys tall, rising 11ft. to a plain eaves beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof with a central dormer gable housing a boarded timber pitching door. Wide (4ft.) opposing doors to north and south are furnished with low, segmental-arches of alternating stretchers and paired-headers (as per threshing doors of Barn **B**); the northern door was been blocked in mixed brick, with a plain square window having been inserted into the blocking material (Plate 44), while that to the south is extant though redundant. A further, central doorway (Plate 45), of variant form though assumed original, is pin-hung on strap hinges and opening outwards to the south, closed by a plain segmental arch of a single header-course (brindled brick). Original, vertical ventilation slits (blocked) pierce the elevation to north and south of the central doorway, arranged in two symmetrical sets of three, superimposed vertical slits, five brick-courses high and separated by a single course. The brickwork of the upper wall varies in colour, possibly indicating an historical heightening of the range, and is pierced by three levels of regular, superimposed header-vent holes at three-course intervals; vent-holes are absent immediately above the central doorway though the quality of the brickwork here suggests a phase of rebuilding (at which time the door arch may have been modified). The uppermost eight courses of brick were renewed in c.1990, together with the corresponding upper section of the east wall, in association with work on the roof and a substantial rebuild of Building **K** to the east (see §.7.12; Plate 108b).
- 7.4.3 The **east elevation**, partly visible from within Building **I**, is essentially blind save for a single, inserted doorway aligned with the central door of the foldyard frontage, approached via a ramp, the ground level to the east of

⁶³ The number of smaller, pedestrian doorways and hatches, in particular to the foldyard elevation, would appear to reflect a former, subdivided and compartmentalised interior space.

⁶⁴ Gable trusses to north and south are set into the brickwork and comprise simple tie/collar trusses, with no queen-struts.

the range being some 3½ft. lower than the main foldyard. The topmost courses of brickwork were rebuilt in c.1990, contemporary with repair work to the yard elevation (see Plates 108a and b). Of particular interest is an offset in the elevation at hay-loft level, suggestive of a heightening of the range, most probably when Building I was appended to the east (the offset carries timber struts supporting the lower tier of side purlins of the latter range). Above the offset, the wall is again pierced by three levels of regular, superimposed header-vent holes at three-course intervals, with a blind section, possibly rebuilt, off-centre towards the north of the range.

- 7.4.4 **Internally**, Building C comprises a single, unencumbered space (Figure 17; Plate 46), standing 7ft. 4in. tall from concrete ground slab to the soffit of the timber loft floor over. The presence of an offset plinth and single-header vent holes in the south gable end of Barn B clearly indicate that Building C represents a secondary addition. Central doorways to the west (original) and east (inserted; Plate 47) define a transverse passage, the latter door being approached via a ramp descending from west to east to serve Building I. To either side of the western door, superimposed ventilation slits have been blocked, with low-level brick arches presumably related to some former sluicing system (Plate 48). Original doors to north and south are redundant; that to the north having been blocked and a stone sink introduced (Plate 49), that to the south being cut across by an inserted stair (Plate 50). Raised concrete pads to the northern and southern ends of the range represent the bases for secondary cattle stalling, with a single timber stanchion and tethering ring to the south-west corner (Plate 51) indicating stalls aligned on the ends of the range, apparently a reversal of the original arrangements (see below). The ceiling is spanned by three substantial timber beams, stop-chamfered, supporting longitudinal, plank-section common joists; an inserted, straight-flight stair rises from south to north at the south-west corner of the range (Plate 50), cutting across the southern of the original doorways in the foldyard elevation.
- 7.4.5 The **hay-loft** is approached via the stair at the south-west corner of the range (Plate 50), again comprising a single, unencumbered space, though with restricted headroom (4½ft.) beneath the tie beam of the single roof truss (Plate 52). The timber framing of Barn A (Bays 1/2) is exposed to the south (Plate 53), while to the north the mid-height hatch of the southern gable of Barn B has been blocked in two phases (Plate 54); to the west, a pitching door is accommodated within a small, central dormer gable. The **roof** is of two uneven bays,⁶⁵ carried on single queen-strut truss (Figure 19; Plate 52), aligned on the north side of the pitching hatch, and incorporating much re-used timber, supporting single tier of side purlins. The western purlin is supported to the north in the first phase brick infill of the Barn B hatch opening (Plate 54).
- 7.4.6 The arrangement of openings to the foldyard elevation would seem to indicate that Building C originated as a cow house with a central, transverse feeding passage running across the width of the building (accessed via the central doorway), with animals tethered in two rows facing one another, accessed via the redundant doorways to north and south (Peters' 'Type 2b'; 1969, 142-3; figure 30).⁶⁶ This design of cow house was popular throughout the 18th century and into the early years of the 19th century, though it gradually went out of fashion in favour of the 'single-line' plan with cattle facing across the building (Peters' 'Type 4'), due to problems of the spread of disease exacerbated through the close proximity of cattle (Peters 1969, 143). The plan at Benthall was evidently modernised such that cattle were tethered facing away from each other, to north and south (Peters' 'Type 2d', 1969, 142; table 30), evidenced by the surviving tethering post immediately adjacent to the southern, redundant door (at the base of the inserted stair; Plate 51).
- 7.4.7 The differential colouring of the upper brickwork to the yard elevation, while partly accounted for by a relatively recent (c.1990) phase of building repair, suggests an historical heightening of the range and this is supported by the evidence of an offset within the eastern elevation; together this evidence suggests the hay-loft represents a secondary modification and that, in its original form, the cow house stood somewhat lower.

⁶⁵ 12½ft. to north; 15ft. to south.

⁶⁶ See also Brunskill 2007, figure 36.

7.5 Building D: Stables

7.5.1 **Building D** (Figures 20-22; Plates 55-63) comprises a small, rectangular stable block of a common standard design, aligned approximately east-west and oriented to the south, inserted between ranges **A** to the east and **F** to the west, the latter both reasonably of mid-17th-century date. Its style and manner of construction suggest a late-18th/early-19th-century origin. It is brick-built in red brick, occupying an irregular trapezoid plan (reflecting its insertion between two pre-existing ranges) with maximum internal dimensions of 24ft. long (E/W) x 14ft. wide (N/S). It rises through 1½ storeys, standing c.14ft. to eaves and 23½ft. to ridge, beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof, abutting the gable end of Barn **A** to the east and oversailing the transverse roof of Building **F** to the west.

Exterior

7.5.2 The stable block is oriented to the south, away from the foldyard, from where it is accessed off a track flanking the southern foldyard ranges. The principal **south elevation** (Figure 20; Plate 55) is brick-built in red-brick laid to English garden wall bond⁶⁷ to ground floor and irregular bond above, rising through 1½ storeys to a plain eaves; a wide, central doorway beneath a segmental arch of a single header-course affords access to the interior, via a simple ledged and braced door, pin-hung on strap hinges to the west and opening outwards. The eastern jamb of the door has been historically repaired in Broseley brick. To east and west, the doorway is flanked by opposing window openings, both beneath single header-course segmental arches, that to the west having been historically reduced in width. A square, flat-headed hatchway opening with pin-hung door is located above the central doorway, slightly offset to the east, hard beneath the eaves with the main wall plate acting as a lintel, affording access to an upper hay-loft.

7.5.3 To the north, the stable block is blind and is abutted by pent-roofed Shelter Shed **E** while to east and west it abuts Barn **A** and Building **F** respectively.

Interior

7.5.4 The central doorway of the south elevation opens onto a single unencumbered space, trapezoid in plan (Figure 21; Plates 56/7) and standing 9ft. high to the soffit of the overlying hay-loft floor, with a timber feed trough (metal lip) and hay-rack over (Plate 60), extending to the full length of the north wall (served by a longitudinal feed-drop in the overlying hay-loft floor). Timber-framing of Barn **A** and Building **F** is exposed to east (Plate 58) and west (Plate 59) respectively. Flooring is in red-brick throughout, with a 4ft. wide, longitudinal 'passage' of edge-laid brick to the east end of the south side; the remainder of the floor area is of face-laid brick, sloping up gently towards the north, with relic partitioning (timber uprights and rails supporting beaded matchboard infill) at the feed trough, and scars/voids in the flooring (Plate 61) indicating a former subdivision of two irregular stalls to the east, aligned north-south (*viz.* across the range as per Peters' 'Type 2a'; 1969, 115)⁶⁸ and 8ft. 2in. deep, and a possible, larger loose-box / foaling pen to the west. The upper hay-loft floor is carried on two substantial transverse timber beams, stop-chamfered, supporting nine regularly-spaced longitudinal common joists of plain section. There is no obvious evidence for internal vertical access to the hay-loft over, though a void in the floorboards to the south-east angle may suggest the location of a former ladder access (no evidence for associated wall fixings).

7.5.5 The **hay-loft** is accessed externally via the hatchway located above the main door of the south elevation.⁶⁹ It forms a single unencumbered space, with a boarded floor incorporating a narrow feed-drop to the north side,

⁶⁷ Five stretcher courses between header courses.

⁶⁸ Peters' 'Type 2' arrangements, with stalls aligned across rather than along the axis of the building, developed from the mid-18th century on, becoming the standard plan by the turn of the 19th century. 'Type 2a' has no separate provision for harness or feed, though the presence of a hay-loft resolved the latter; harness would have been simply stored on the walls behind the horses.

⁶⁹ Concerns as to the stability of the hay-loft floor meant access to the upper level was restricted to a visual inspection only from the hatchway of the south elevation.

and with clearance of 5ft. beneath the tie-beam of the central roof truss (Plate 62). The upper timber-framing of Barn **A** and Building **F** is exposed to east and west respectively while, to the north wall, immediately above hay-loft floor level, the southern end of the sloping tie of shelter shed **E** projects through the depth of the wall. The **roof** is of two bays, carried on a collared timber truss with a single, central crown-strut extending between tie and collar, all double-pegged, supporting a single tier of shallowly-trenched side purlins to north and south (Figure 22; Plate 62).

7.6 Building E: Shelter Shed

7.6.1 **Building E** (Figures 21-23; Plates 64-70) forms a simple, two-bay shelter shed backing onto the rear (north) elevation of stables **D** to the south and open to the main foldyard to the north, extending between Barn **A** to the east and building **F** to the west (Plate 64). It is approximately rectangular in plan (Figure 21) with maximum external dimensions of 27ft. (E/W) by 9½ft. (N/S), beneath a clay-tile clad, mono-pitch roof that effectively extends the northern roof slope of the adjacent stable block (Figure 22), the bresummer of the open northern elevation (Figure 23) being supported on three brick piers at a height of 5ft. 7in. above yard level.⁷⁰ The eastern and central brick piers (Plate 65) are of plain red-brick construction, that to the west of Broseley brick with bull-nosed angles (Plate 66), rebuilt when adjacent Building **F** was extended northwards in the early-middle years of the 20th century (post-1927). To the south, the shelter stands to a maximum height of 14ft.

7.6.2 **Internally**, the shelter is furnished with a modern (breeze-block) trough to the south wall, 2ft. wide by 2ft. 3in. high, with a modern feed rack over, both extending to the full length of the building (Plate 67).⁷¹ The **roof** is of simple common rafter form, rafters rising from the northern bresummer to the northern wall-plate of the stables, supported by a single, roughly-converted side-purlin which retains bark in places. The purlin is of a single length, set into the brick-nogging infill of the timber-framed ranges to east and west, and supported mid-span by vertical struts rising from a single, angled tie-beam (Figure 22; Plate 68), the latter set into the northern stables wall to the south. The timber-framing of Barn **A** (Plate 69) and Building **F** (Plate 70) is exposed to south and north respectively. To the north of the shelter shed, a timber fence defines a polygonal stock enclosure (Plate 71), introduced at some point between 1902 and 1927 (see §.5.3.5) and originally extending further to the east, though reduced to its current extent by 1963.

7.7 Building F

7.7.1 **Building F** (Figures 20 & 23-25; Plates 72-82) comprises a multi-phase structure of rectangular plan, aligned approximately north-south with overall dimensions of 35½ft. (N/S) x 18½ft. (E/W), of a single storey, standing c.10ft. to eaves and 21ft. to ridge, beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof, gabled to north and south. It forms part of the range of buildings defining the southern boundary of the foldyard, abutted by stables **D**/shelter shed **E** to the east and backed onto by cart shed **G** to the west. From an initial external inspection, the range is largely unprepossessing in aspect, with northern and southern gables of early/mid-20th-century brick construction; on closer inspection however, and particularly of the interior, the building reveals a more complex and somewhat ambiguous development, with both long elevations retaining sections of small-square timber-framing atop a stone rubble plinth, similar in nature to that of Barn **A**, and reasonable mid-17th century in date, thus forming one of the earliest structures on the site.

7.7.2 The **north elevation** (Figure 23; Plate 72) presents a brick gable end of Broseley-type brick, laid to a regular, English garden wall bond to eaves level and Flemish stretcher bond above, furnished with a wide, flat-headed double-door beneath a timber lintel offset towards the east side of the range and with a central pitching door to the gable over, the latter segmental-headed with a single header-course arch, housing a timber door, pin-hung on strap-hinges to the east. The north-eastern angle is bull-nosed while to the west, the line of the gable end is carried through to meet Buildings **G** / **H**. Reference to historical Ordnance Survey mapping (see §.5.3)

⁷⁰ Bresummer is in two parts, comprising re-used sections of wall-plate (with rafter seatings in non-functional locations).

⁷¹ Peters' 'Type 3a' (1969, 147, table 31), enabling the maximum feeding provision.

indicates that the building was extended northwards and the gable rebuilt at some point between 1927 and 1963, the structure formerly terminating on a line with the north elevation of adjacent shelter shed **E**.

- 7.7.3 The **south elevation** (Figure 20; Plate 73) likewise presents a plain brick gable in modern, purple/red stock brick laid to a regular English garden wall bond throughout, returning northwards to both east and west. A single, two-light timber casement pierces the ground floor, beneath a flat, soldier-course head. Again, reference to historical Ordnance Survey mapping confirms that the range was extended southwards and the gable rebuilt at some point between 1927 and 1963, while the evidence of historical deeds refines the date of these modifications to c.1960 (Deed **DD/3** of 1960 refers to the 'rebuilding of south end gable wall' of the 'old stables'; see §.6.7.2).⁷²
- 7.7.4 The **east elevation** (visible internally, Figure 24b; Plates 74/5) incorporates two 10½ft. bays of timber-framing (Bays 2/3, Figure 24), comprising two levels of small-square framing atop a 2½ft. high stone rubble plinth. Bay-posts and intermediate studs (two per bay) extend to the full height of the wall, from raised cill to wall plate, double-pegged top and bottom, with a single level of mid-rails, also double pegged, defining panels 2½ft. wide x 3ft. high, infilled with brick nogging. Short, straight knee-braces rise from bay posts to plate. As in Barn **A**, vertical members only include grooves to their flanking faces, either for early 'sprung'/slotted timber infill or for the 'keying' of mortar (see §.7.2.3). To the north, the elevation has been extended by c.4ft. in Broseley brick in the early years of the 20th century, at which time the northern bay posts were removed, while to the south, the range has been extended in two phases, firstly by 2ft. 8in. with the erection of adjacent Stables **D**, which stood slightly proud of the original gable end, and then again by a further 7ft. when the gable end was rebuilt in c.1960.
- 7.7.5 The **west elevation** (visible internally, and from within shelter shed **G**; see Plate 87), closely reflects the arrangements of the east elevation, though the timberwork here has been subject to extensive repair with little original fabric surviving. Again, the elevation has been extended to both north and south.
- 7.7.6 **Internally**, the range comprises a single unencumbered space (Figure 24a) of three full bays (here, Bays 1 to 3 from south to north) with a short extension to the north; at the core of the building are two bays (Bays 2/3) of an early, timber-framed range. Wall-framing is of small-square panels infilled with single-skin brick nogging, described above, broadly similar to Barn **A**, while the roof is spanned by three trusses (**T1-T3** from south to north) of varying design (Figure 25), as follows:

T1 (Figure 25a; Plate 77): forms southern gable end of the primary range. Collared truss with three queen-struts between tie and collar, v-struts above collar. Brick nogging infill survives in part, partly rendered to south (Plate 77). Short knee-braces rise from bay posts to tie soffit. Redundant mortices (x4) and peg-holes to soffit of tie, and within eastern/western bay posts, indicate former studs and rails forming small-square framing below. Originally closed.

T2 (Figure 25b; Plate 78): of interrupted tie-beam form⁷³ with two, widely-spaced queen-struts extending from collar, close to junction with principals. The corresponding dropped floor beam has been historically removed (mortices survive to bay-posts) and the Qs cut off just below the level of the interrupted tie. A secondary tie has been inserted, to alleviate evident problems of spreading, simply bolted to the northern face of the interrupted tie to east and west (Plate 78); redundant, double-pegged mortices within the secondary tie

⁷² Thereby also establishing an historical usage for the range; the reference cannot allude to Stables **D**, which lay outside of the agricultural tenancy and which, by virtue of its location and alignment, does not have a southern gable end.

⁷³ A truss in which the central section of the tie beam is omitted, the remaining ends being tenoned into posts rising from a lower floor beam; commonly used in attic storeys of buildings where enhanced circulation and enhanced headroom within the central part of the building was required at the upper level. A development of the post-medieval period and commonly encountered in structures of the 18th and 19th centuries, interrupted tie-beams have been recorded as early as the mid-12th century at Kempley Church, Gloucestershire, though there used in an open roof context (D Miles, *pers. comm.*).

correspond exactly to the spacing of the extant queen-struts, suggesting the original dropped beam has simply been re-used (inverted).

T3 (Figure 25c; Plate 79): is not associated with any wall-framing, the eastern and western elevation having here been underbuilt in brick in the early-20th century. It is a plain collared truss originally with four queen struts above tie level, two extending to principals (extant) and two between tie and collar (lost though evidenced by mortices/peg-holes); formerly with v-struts above collar level (again evidenced by redundant mortices). Tie beam badly weathered to centre, though long mortices and peg-holes suggest lower struts and knee-braces, perhaps forming part of (?)early spur walls, later re-used as door jambs. The truss is generally weathered to the northern face, indicating an exterior context for an extended period of time.

- 7.7.7 The **roof** itself is carried on a single tier of side purlins, originally wind-braced at each bay (braces survive in part only; see Figure 24a) and a square-section ridge piece.
- 7.7.8 A blockwork constructed feed trough with modern hay-rack over run the length of the western wall (Plate 80), with sections of an older, timber hay-rack over (Plate 81); the upper rail of the earlier timber rack forms an integral part of a former upper hay-loft floor (Plate 82), the western section of which is angled up to meet the level of the western wall-plate (Plate 82). A series of timber brackets at a similar level, applied to the inner face of the eastern bay-posts and studs evidence the eastern end of the implied hay-loft floor (Figure 25b), which accords with the level of the dropped floor beam of interrupted tie-beam truss **T2**.
- 7.7.9 Building **F** has evidently been subject to several phases of significant modification, which have served to obscure its original layout and function, which remain unclear. At the core of the range are two bays of a timber-framed range though, with no primary openings evident within either the eastern or western long elevations, and evidence for a former closed truss at **T1**, the building was either accessed from the northern gable end (which would present a somewhat unusual arrangement),⁷⁴ or the possibility arises that it may represent a relic part of a former, longer range, perhaps the southern end of a small, five-bay barn.⁷⁵ Whatever its original extent, the range had been truncated by the early-19th century (see tithe plan of 1845), and the loss of framing north of **T3** effectively precludes further meaningful speculation as to the original form. The structure was twice extended during the early-mid 20th century, first to the north and subsequently to the south,⁷⁶ while historical deeds indicate that it functioned, at some point, as a stables.

7.8 Building G: Cartshed

- 7.8.1 **Building G** (Figures 26-28; Plates 83-88) comprises a simple, three-bay cartshed, located to the south-western angle of the foldyard backing onto the western side of Building **F** and open to the west, ie. away from, and with no direct access from, the yard itself; to the north it abuts the southern gable end of Building **H** (Plate 83). The cartshed represents one of the latest additions to the farm complex, having been introduced in the late-19th century, at some point between the Ordnance Survey editions of 1882 and 1902 (see §.5.3 above).
- 7.8.2 The cartshed is brick-built in Broseley brick (9 x 4 x 3in.) laid to a regular Flemish stretcher bond, of a single storey beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof, hipped to the south and gabled to the north, the latter wall corresponding to the southern wall of adjacent Building **H** (on a line with the remodelled north wall of Building **F**). It is rectangular in plan (Figure 26), aligned approximately north-south, with overall exterior dimensions of 31½ft. (N/S) x 19ft. deep, standing 6½ft. tall to eaves (to the west) and just over 17ft. to apex. The **west elevation** (Figure 27a; Plate 84) incorporates three 10ft. wide, open bays with a plate supported on two, regularly spaced, circular-section cast-iron columns, 5in. in diameter, tapering to 4in. at the head (Plate 85). To the southern angle, the south wall returns slightly with bull-nosed angles; the **south elevation** itself is blind.

⁷⁴ Vertical timbers display no obvious signs of brick infill panels.

⁷⁵ Which would thus have included a threshing floor to the north of **T3**.

⁷⁶ **NB.** Both gable ends would thus have been of exposed timber-framing before the early-mid 20th century.

7.8.3 **Internally**, the cartshed is open, of three bays, with no evidence for original transverse partitions. The pitched roof, slightly asymmetrical in profile,⁷⁷ is carried on two machine-cut, softwood king-post trusses (Figure 28a; Plate 86) with raking struts rising from joggled bases (bolted at tie) to the inner face of the principals, and supported on plank-section side purlins, two tiers to the west and one to the east. To the west, the ties are carried by the eaves plate over the open front, while to the east they are set into the brickwork infill of the west wall of building **F**,⁷⁸ with additional support being afforded by projecting, bull-nosed brick piers rising from ground level (Plate 87). The plate to the east is set higher than that to the west (at the same height as the wall plate of adjacent building **F**), supported by the brick piers and, to the south, by a stepped brick corbel. The rear, eastern wall incorporates the small-square framing of Building **F**, here exposed and extensively repaired (Plate 87) atop a coursed stone plinth, extended to both north and south in Broseley brick. The north wall (Plate 88) is of multiple phases reflecting a somewhat complex development; the early core of the wall, related to the free-standing range depicted on early maps (see §.5) is in mixed bond red-brick (**A**: Plate 88), though this has been rebuilt in Broseley brick to the west (**B**: Plate 88), contemporary with modifications to Building **H**, and extended to the east (**C**: Plate 88) contemporary with the erection of the cartshed itself, closing off the former gap between **H** and **F**. The former eastern roof line of the gable end of Building **H** is preserved (**D**: Plate 88).

7.8.4 Building **G** was clearly constructed as a cartshed for the storage of farm carts and other agricultural machinery. Historically, shelter was necessary for even the simplest of farm implements, for wooden items were susceptible to damage from sun and rain while more complex pieces of machinery incorporating moving parts of iron were liable to rust and seize up if left exposed to the elements for any length of time. The single-fronted shed, open to one long elevation as here, represents the most common, though by no means the only plan form (see Peters 1969, table 36), simply and effectively combining shelter for stored implements with the advantage of ready, discrete access to each bay. Isolation from, and opening away from, the foldyard reduced the risk of injury to livestock from entering the building.

7.9 Building H: Cart / Shelter Shed

7.9.1 **Building H** (Figures 26-28; Plates 89-92) comprises a simple, two-bay shelter-/cartshed located to the southern end of the boundary wall defining the western side of the main foldyard, onto which it faces to the east, immediately south of the main entrance gateway. It is trapezoidal in plan, with the principal axis aligned north-south, the southern wall being set at a slight angle, representing an extension of the rebuilt north gable end of Building **F** (Figure 26); it has maximum external dimensions of 27ft. (N/S) x 20ft. (E/W), standing 7½ft. to eaves, and c.15½ft. to ridge.

7.9.2 The building is brick-built, faced externally in Broseley brick (9 x 4 x 3in.) laid to a regular Flemish stretcher bond with bull-nosed angles, rising through a single storey to a plain eaves beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof, hipped to the north and gabled to the south. The **east elevation** (Figure 27b; Plate 89), onto the foldyard, is of two uneven bays (7ft. 3in. to south, 9ft. to north), defined by a narrow, central pier of Broseley brick with bull-nosed angles, formerly open but presently housing inserted double-doors, pin-hung on timber posts. Northern and western elevations are blind (Plate 90). The **south wall**, exposed within Building **G** (Figure 28a; Plate 88), presents a more complex 'patchwork' of various phases of brickwork, described at §.7.8.3 above, with inherent implications for the development of the building (see below).

7.9.3 **Internally**, the formerly open shed has been sub-divided by the introduction of a half-height, transverse wall of breeze-block construction (Plate 92), erected on the line of single roof truss and the central pier of the foldyard elevation. Internal walling, in particular to the north, is in mixed red brick, clearly less well-finished than the exterior faces to north and west, and is arguably of a different phase of construction, suggesting a phase of

⁷⁷

The eastern plate is set higher than that over the open bays to the west, reflecting the eaves level of adjacent Building **F**.

⁷⁸

Ties extend through the depth of the wall and are visible within Building **F**.

significant historical modification (see below). A brick-built feed trough with timber rack over (Plate 91) extends to the full length of the west wall. The **roof** is of two bays, carried by a single, machine-cut softwood king-post truss (Figure 28b; Plate 92), with shallowly-raking struts rising from joggled base (bolted at tie) to principal rafters at the level of a single tier of side-purlins. The western end of the tie beam is supported on a bull-nosed brick pier.

- 7.9.4 Although a building reflecting the general plan and arrangements of Building **H** is shown as extant on early maps including the tithe map of 1845 (see inset at §.5.2), the fabric of the range, in particular the use of Broseley brick in the exterior facing of the western and northern elevations, closely matches that of adjacent cartshed **G** (demonstrably late-19th/early-20th century) and the northern extension of Building **F** (post-1927). The form of the softwood, king-post roof truss, broadly similar to those used in Building **G**, and distinct from earlier 19th-century ranges elsewhere within the complex, is also of note. Together, the evidence of the building fabric may suggest an early 19th-century range having been fairly extensively remodelled in the late-19th/early-20th century, 'refaced' externally to complement new introductions. The original function of the range would have been as a simple shelter shed, or perhaps a cart-/implement shed,⁷⁹ subsequently superseded by Building **G** to the south.

7.10 Building I: Cow House (latterly milking shed)

- 7.10.1 **Building I** (Figures 10/17/19 and 29/30; Plates 94-102) comprises a three-bay, 1½ storey former cow house located to the east of, and abutting, cow house **C** to the west. It is rectangular in plan, aligned approximately east-west, and is oriented to the south onto a small subsidiary yard area to the east end of Barn **A** (Plate 93). Evidence of varying brickwork, most clearly expressed to the east gable end, indicates that the range has been historically raised by ½ a storey. To the east, the gable end is abutted by a range of three pigsties (Building **J**), the latter securely dated to '1819', and it is thus probable that the cow house, in its original form, dates to the late-18th or early years of the 19th century.
- 7.10.2 The cow house is rectangular in plan (Figure 17) with maximum exterior dimensions of 28ft. (E/W) x 19ft. (N/S), brick-built in red brick, rising through 1½ storeys, standing 12½ft. to a double ¼-brick oversail eaves band beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof, 25½ft. to ridge, gabled to the east and partly oversailing the eastern roofslope of Building **C** to the west. The principal **south elevation** (Figure 29; Plate 94) faces onto the yard, abutted and partly obscured to the west by Building **K** (a sloping scar across the upper brickwork evidences a former, steeper roofline to the latter building, rising to plate level of Building **C**). The brickwork of the elevation clearly evidences the two-phase development of the range, the lower c.7½ft. being constructed in mid-orange/red brick laid to an irregular mixed bond, above which more regular, brindled brickwork rises to eaves level in a variant Flemish stretcher bond (see Plate 94).⁸⁰ The ground floor is pierced by a central doorway beneath a segmental arch of a single header-course (brick-type matching that of the upper, raised section of wall), housing a simple, ledged and braced door (1990), pin-hung on strap hinges to the west and opening outwards. To the east of the doorway, a reduced window opening is again spanned by a single-header arch, with brick-type again matching the upper wall. Immediately above the eastern springing of the window arch, an anchor plate denotes the location of a transverse building tie, probably introduced to alleviate potential spreading when the building was heightened. High above the window opening, hard beneath the eaves, a simple, square pitching-hole is furnished with a timber door, pin-hung on strap hinges to the east. Within Building **K** to the west, a blocked doorway with flat, timber lintel, possibly converted from a second window opening reflecting that to the east, formerly opened onto the interior of the range (Figure 29).
- 7.10.3 The **eastern elevation** presents a tall, brick-built gable end rising to a plain verge, and again expresses the two-phase development of the range through differential brickwork (Figure 10; Plate 95), with the former gable

⁷⁹ Though the orientation of the shed onto the foldyard would argue against such a function – see §.7.8.4.

⁸⁰ Alternate Flemish courses, separated by three courses of stretchers, include two headers between stretchers, as opposed to the standard single header.

end clearly discernible, rising c.17½ft. to apex. A single, square window opening (former pitching door) is located central to the lower, original gable, and evidently pre-dates the heightening of the range. The **north elevation** is blind save for a single doorway opening to the far east end, serving an interior feeding passage.

- 7.10.4 **Internally**, cow shed **I** comprises three uneven bays (here numbered 1 to 3 from west to east),⁸¹ open to the underside of the raised roof (Figure 19/30; Plates 96/7). It is accessed from the exterior via the central doorway of the south elevation, and via a door at the east end of the north wall, the latter opening onto a 3ft. wide, longitudinal feeding passage which runs the full length of the building on the northern side. A third door opens to the west, inserted into the rear wall of cow house **C** affording access between the two ranges; the floor level within **C** is some 3½ft. higher than within **I** such that the door is approached by a ramp from either side (Plate 98). A blockwork trough with timber feed rack over (Plate 99) runs the length of the building, offset towards the north side of the range and served by the feed passage previously noted; tethering bars and rings survive to east (Plate 100) and west.
- 7.10.5 The building is spanned, at c.7½ft. above floor level, by two substantial (10x7in.) beams, chamfer-stopped, located immediately below the extant roof trusses (see below), reasonably reflecting the level of a former hay loft served by the pitching door of the south elevation. That the sides of the beams lack redundant mortices suggests original, longitudinal common joists would have simply rested atop the beams (as per within cow house **C**; see Plate 46). The **roof** itself is carried on two timber trusses (**T1/2** to west and east) of varying form, supporting two tiers of substantial, square-section side purlins. Truss **T1** to the west is of king-post form, with raking struts rising from KP (pegged at tie) to principals mid-way between the purlins (Figure 30; Plate 101); **T2** to the east is simpler, of basic principal rafter form with a high collar at the level of the upper purlins (Plate 102). To the west, purlins are supported by vertical struts rising from an offset in the eastern wall of Building **C** (Plate 96).
- 7.10.6 Building **I** originated as a low, single-storey cow house, reasonably slightly later than cow house **C** which it butts up against to the west, the implied plan here of cattle tethered across the building (Peters' 'Type 4'; 1969, 150-51), as opposed to along its length, representing a later development in stock management. That it is itself abutted by pigsties **L** to the east indicates that it must have been in existence by 1819 (see below), and it was thus reasonably constructed in the later-18th or very early years of the 19th century. At some point, probably in the mid-19th century, the eaves level of the range was raised by c.5ft to provide increased hay-loft capacity over, though the latter feature has subsequently been removed (date/context unknown);⁸² the extant roof structure may simply have been re-used from the earlier building, raised and re-set at the higher level. It is understood that the range latterly functioned as a milking shed (N Swankie, *pers. comm.*).

7.11 Building J: Pig Sties

- 7.11.1 **Building J** (Figure 29; Plates 103-106) comprises a range of three identical pigsties, aligned east to west, abutting the eastern gable end of (and thus post-dating) Building **I** to the west (Plate 103). The sties follow a standard pattern (see Peters 1969, 200) of small, single-storey 'loose-boxes' (aka. 'inlets', a covered section for sleeping and shelter from the weather), each opening onto an enclosed yard (or 'outlet'), here located to the south side and bounded by a low (4ft. tall) brick wall with rounded stone coping.
- 7.11.2 Extensive vegetation precluded access to the inlets themselves, though available survey drawings indicate that each measures 5½ft. (E/W) x 6ft. (N/S); outlets measure 5½ft. (E/W) x 8½ft. (N/S) and are accessed via 32in. wide openings within the southern bounding wall. Openings are segmental-headed with single-header arches, and house one-piece, cast-iron frames comprising jambs/head/cill with integral pintles to carry gates, hinged

⁸¹ Bay 1, 10ft.; Bay 2, 11ft; Bay 3, 5½ft.

⁸² As early as the mid-19th century, the use of the hay-loft was increasingly frowned upon and abandoned due to concerns regarding lighting and ventilation for cattle (Brunskill 2007, 66-7).

to the east. Only one original gate survives *in-situ*,⁸³ to the central sty; this includes the date '1819' incorporated into the ironwork of the upper section, beneath the arched head (Plates 104/5) and, as the gates are clearly purpose-made for the sties, securely dates their construction. The two western sties also include cast-iron feed chutes (Plate 106), 11in. wide x 5in. deep, angled and passing through the depth of the outlet wall to feed troughs within the yards.⁸⁴

- 7.11.3 Long a part of the rural economy, pigs were valued both for their ability to fatten quickly and cheaply, and to eat foodstuffs that would otherwise be wasted - they were often associated with dairying, feeding on whey, the bi-product of milk and cheese production, otherwise they would feed on scraps, boiled rootcrops and grain. The standard form of piggery with small, roofed stall and adjacent yard, as here, had become established by the early-18th century (Peters 1981 72-3; fig 36); inlets were large enough to accommodate one or two fattening pigs, or for a sow with her litter, while outlet yards were of a similar or slightly larger size, furnished with a feeding trough. The date '1819' in the surviving, purpose-built gate (Figure 29, inset; Plate 105) not only provides secure dating for the sties themselves, but also a *terminus ante quem* for adjacent structures.

7.12 Building K

- 7.12.1 **Building K** (Figures 10/17/29; Plate 107a) is a simple, single-cell structure located in the south-east angle of Buildings I and C, brick-built beneath a pent, clay-tile clad roof.⁸⁵ It is approximately square in plan, measuring 12ft. (N/S) x 10ft. 4in. (E/W) internally, standing 6ft. tall to a double ¼-brick oversail eaves band to the east, and 12½ft. to the west, where it backs onto the eastern wall of Building C. The building is accessed via a simple doorway opening at the south end of the east elevation; the interior is floored in face-laid brick with a single stone pad (function unclear), though little survives to indicate former/original function. A blocked doorway (?former window) to the north formerly opened onto Building I, while straight joints in the brickwork of the south wall indicate some form of former opening.
- 7.12.2 Building K was subject to extensive rebuilding and full re-roofing in 1990 (see Plate 107b) and its original function is unclear, though given its proximity to both pigsties L and cow houses C/I, it may have been related to feed preparation.

7.13 Building L: Pig Sties / Stalls

- 7.13.1 **Building L** (Figure 10; Plates 108-110) comprises a pair of conjoined, brick-built sties/stalls backing onto the east gable end of Barn A. As with sties J (see §.7.11.3), they follow a standard pattern of enclosed 'inlets' opening onto yards (outlets) to the south, defined and enclosed by a brick wall (partly collapsed; Plate 108),⁸⁶ though the dimensions here are significantly larger. The enclosed 'inlets' measure 8ft. (S) and 11ft. (N) long, both being 5ft. 9in. wide internally. They stand 5½ft. high to the east and 9½ft. high to the south, where they back onto the rebuilt, brick gable end of Barn A, beneath a pent-roof clad in corrugated cement fibre sheets. Outlets are 9ft wide, that to the south being accessed via a gate in the east wall, that to the north originally accessed from the north; both furnished with a concrete/ceramic feed trough (Plate 110). Brickwork is of unevenly fired brick of varied colouration, laid to a regular Flemish stretcher bond; original doorways are high and wide with segmental arches of a single header-course, though both have been reduced in height by the

⁸³ A second iron gate, also dated 1819, survives *ex-situ*, within the grounds of the Gardener's Cottage, while it is understood that a further, similar example, possibly originating from Benthall, has been re-used at a residential property in Broseley (N Swankie, *pers. comm.*).

⁸⁴ The easternmost sty does not retain a feed chute, though an area of brick patching within the outlet wall most probably indicates an original location (see Figure 29).

⁸⁵ A scar on the south wall of Building I would seem to indicate that the roof was formerly of a steeper pitch, rising to eaves level of Building C, though the roofslope had already been modified prior to building works undertaken in 1990.

⁸⁶ Probing beneath thick vegetation indicates a 5ft. wide metalled path running parallel to the outlet wall, to the western side of the yard; full clearance of the yard thus has the potential to reveal further details of former arrangements.

introduction of buff/yellow brick below the primary arch (Plate 109), supported on timber lintels (the northern jamb of the north sty has been rebuilt in similar brick).

- 7.13.2 A feature of particular interest was noted in the southern flanking wall of the southern outlet, where a straight-joint with integral stone block supporting an iron latch-fastener (Plate 111) represents the western jamb of a former door/gateway serving the eastern, subsidiary yard from the south. The wall to the east of the surviving jamb has been rebuilt and it is thus not possible to establish the width of the door/gateway opening; it became redundant with the construction of sties **L**.
- 7.13.3 The sties and associated outlets are clearly shown on historical mapping as far back as the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1882 (inset at §.5.3.1), and on all subsequent editions, and thus represent structures of some antiquity, though the quality of the brickwork to the sties themselves suggests a phase of later rebuilding, maintaining the original plan.

7.14 Building M: C20th -Shed

- 7.14.1 **Building M** (Figure 15; Plates 112-3) comprises a simple steel, lean-to shed by WH Smith and Co. Ltd. of Whitchurch, Shropshire (Plate 113, inset) erected in the later years of the 20th century against the eastern elevation of brick barn **B** and abutting the north wall of cow house **I** to the south (Plate 113). It was introduced at some point between the Ordnance Survey edition of 1963 and the RCHME earthwork survey of 1990 (Figure 3). The shed is steel-framed, of three c.15½ft. bays, with overall plan dimensions of 50ft. (N/S) x 27ft. (E/W), standing 12ft. tall to eaves to the east and 19½ft. tall to the west where it butts up against Barn **B**, with a mono-pitch roof supported on six plank-section timber purlins. Walls are of concrete block construction to a height of 5ft. 9in., above which they are simply clad in corrugated cement-fibre sheets (Plate 113).
- 7.14.2 **Internally**, the shed is essentially a single open space (Plate 112), most recently used as a grain store. To the west, the external elevation of Barn **B** is flanked by a low blockwork casing related to a ventilator serving the Barn **B** grain store, while to the south, a transverse passage extends the enclosed passage at Bay 1 of Barn **B**, affording through access from the foldyard. A surviving water trough to the west and former feed racks etc. to the south, backing onto the passage and boarded off to the north, evidence the former use as a shelter shed.

7.15 Building N: Dutch Barn

- 7.15.1 **Building N** (Figure 31; Plates 114-5) comprises a simple, iron-framed, open-sided Dutch barn of standard early-20th-century type, rectangular in plan measuring 75ft long by 23ft wide, and aligned approximately north-south, located to the east of Barn **B**. It is of five uniform bays of 15ft,⁸⁷ defined by paired I-section columns (7 x 4in.) with upper brackets supporting longitudinal timber plates at a height of c.17ft.⁸⁸ The roof is of characteristic 'bowed' section carried by 'trusses' of crossing, scissor-brace and cross-girder form supporting four longitudinal purlins. The roof is clad in corrugated iron with upper gable ends clad in renewed, profiled plastic sheeting. The barn is of early 20th-century origin, having been introduced at some point between the publication of the Ordnance Survey editions of 1902 and 1927 (see §.5.3.); no maker's plate was noted, though standard structures are known to have been supplied by a number of manufacturers within the local area, for example WH Smith and Co. Ltd. of Whitchurch, who were responsible for the (later) simple lean-to shed **M** flanking the eastern side of barn **B**. A simple, five-bay, steel-framed extension with mono-pitch roof (**N1**) was added to the eastern side of the Dutch barn at some point between the Ordnance Survey edition of 1963 and the RCHME earthwork survey of 1990.

⁸⁷ **NB.** Sales particulars of 1934 (see §.6.4 above) describe a Dutch barn of six bays implying that the barn has been reduced in length by one bay; given the modular construction of the building, it is not possible to identify whether this reduction occurred to the north or south end of the range.

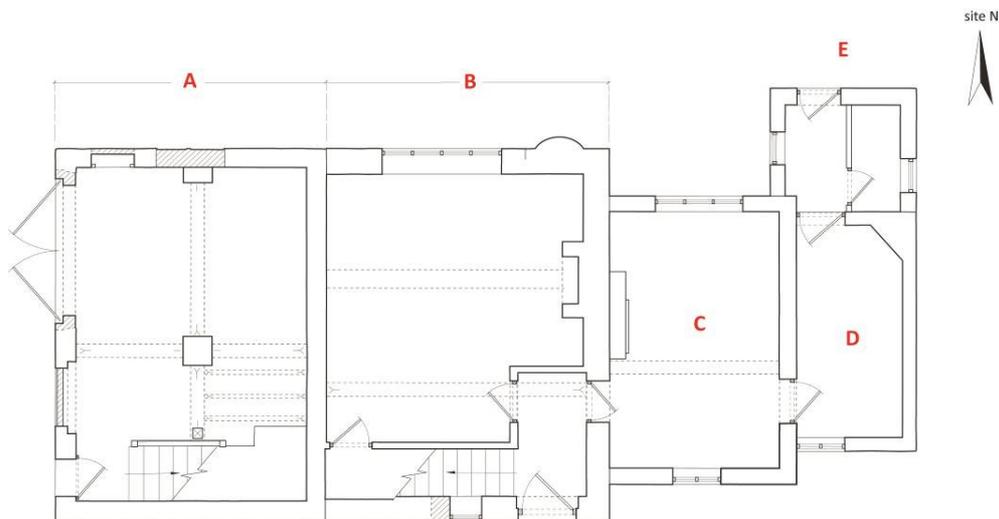
⁸⁸ The barn stands somewhat taller to the south, reflecting a drop in ground level.

7.15.2 The Dutch barn (or 'hay barn') represents a feature common to farms in wetter pastoral areas, in particular the Midland and northern counties of England and North Wales (Brunskill 2007, 102), representing an inexpensive alternative to thatched ricks within a yard. Developed as a structure purely for the storage of hay or straw rather than the processing of cereal crops, the fully roofed, open-sided form combined protection from precipitation with maximum ventilation. As early as 1797, Pitt (quoted in Peters 1971, 93-4) noted that 'A Dutch or hay barn, on an economical and durable construction, would save the occupier so much trouble in thatching that he could afford to pay a consideration for it.' Initially erected as makeshift, temporary structures, they were not often built as permanent structures before the second half of the 19th century, being seen as something of an extravagance. Their use spread notably after c.1885, however, as a response to the agricultural depression (Peters 1981, 31), when dairying was one of the few areas of farming that remained profitable leading to an increased requirement for and production of hay.⁸⁹

Other Buildings

7.16 Gardener's Cottage

7.16.1 The 'Gardener's Cottage' (Figures 32-38; Plates 116-143) is located c.50m north of the main house and c.75m north-east of the centre of the farm complex foldyard. In its current form, the range is predominantly residential in nature, though it evidently encompasses a number of discrete phases of development and its origins (both in terms of form and function) and its subsequent developmental sequence remain somewhat ambiguous. The core of the building is rectangular in plan aligned approximately east-west (Plate 116), with overall dimensions 33½ft. (E/W) x 23ft. (N/S), brick-built of two storeys with attics, standing c.19½ft. to eaves beneath pitched clay-tile clad roof, gabled to east and west, and 33ft to ridge. Clear, full-height straight joints within the northern and southern elevations (Plate 117) indicate, however, that this core range incorporates two distinct phases of construction (**A** and **B** to west and east respectively; see inset plan below), with the earliest section being **A** to the west, originally aligned north-south and having been effectively doubled in size by the addition of **B** to the east. Elements **C** (2-storey) and **D** (single-storey) were appended to the east side of **B**, viz. the east gable end of the enlarged building, most probably in the mid-19th century, as a kitchen and wash house, while **E** represents a single-storey porch, added to the north side of **D** in the later-20th century, c.2000.⁹⁰



'Gardener's Cottage'; Key Plan (ground floor level)

⁸⁹ This period witnessed the introduction, generally, of the first mass-produced iron farm buildings (EH 2006b, 57).

⁹⁰ Photographs in Attingham archives dated November 2000 illustrate a previous, late-20th-century, pent-roofed porch.

Exterior

- 7.16.2 The two-phase development of the central core of the range is clearly expressed in the **north elevation** (Figure 35; Plate 118), where a full-height straight joint extends from ground level to eaves (Plate 117). The western section (**A**) represents the earlier structure, 16½ft. wide and standing 20ft. to eaves, with a two-course string defining the internal first floor level. Ground floor brickwork is of narrow (2¼in.) dark, red-brick laid to an (irregular) English garden wall bond, while first floor walling is laid to a mixed bond; the uppermost seven courses beneath the eaves have been raised in a paler, orange/red brick beneath a ¼-brick oversail. The elevation is blind, the only original opening, an unusual rectangular, two-light window with chamfered-brick frame/central mullion (Plate 119) set centrally to the ground floor level, having been historically blocked in brick. To the east, section **B** is marginally wider at 17ft., standing to the same height as **A**, in a paler orange/red brick laid to an irregular, mixed bond. Ground and first floor windows represent secondary (C20th) insertions/modifications, steel-framed of four lights. To the east end of the ground floor, a projecting curved section of header bond wall (Plate 120), in purple/green Broseley brick and set within a wider area of patching, appears to represent the back of a former bread oven (obscured internally). A uniform, pitched and clay-tile clad roof extends over the core building, gabled to east and west with low parapet walls, coped in stone slabs and carried by stone kneelers; a short brick gable stack rises to the east. East of the two-part core, two-storey extension **C** is constructed in Broseley brick laid to a regular Flemish stretcher bond, beneath a pent, clay-tile clad roof (Plate 121). The north elevation of **C** is recessed from the façade of the core range, with a brick-built former stack rising in the angle of the two; this has been truncated/capped at roof level.⁹¹ Projecting from the east end of the range, porch E dates from the turn of the 21st century (see fn.90), replacing a former late-C20th ephemeral structure.
- 7.16.3 The **south elevation** (Figure 36) reflects, in general terms, the arrangements of the northern façade, with two-part core **A/B** to the west and extensions **C/D** to the east. Sections **A** and **B** are again differentiated by variant coloured brickwork, and are defined by a full-height straight joint (Plate 122), as to the north, the full elevation being here unified by a decorative eaves band of alternating dentil (straight) and dogs-tooth (angled) headers above a ¼-brick oversail. First floor walls to both **A** and **B** include rows of staggered, blocked vents of inverted 'T' form (six rows to **A**, seven to **B**), three courses high and separated by a single brick-course. Internal first floor level is expressed by a two-course string which extends to the full length of the elevation, though terminating just short of the south-east angle. Section **B** to the east is pierced at ground floor level by a pedestrian doorway, offset towards the east, beneath a three-centred brick arch of alternating stretchers and double-headers with stone springers and decorative key (Plate 123); stone blocks within the jambs suggest the location of former hinge-pintles (east) and latch (west). To the west of the door opening, a high-level ground floor window and low-level first floor window are superimposed vertically, lighting an internal stairwell (Plate 124); patching to the west of the ground floor opening and east of the first floor window indicate a phase of historical modification, possibly related to the reversal of the internal stair. The ground floor wall of section **A** is obscured by a secondary, weatherboarded shed. To the east of the core, extensions **C** and **D** are of two distinct phases, but both constructed in Broseley-type brick, indicative elsewhere of an early-mid 19th-century date.
- 7.16.4 The **west elevation** (Figure 37a; Plate 125) presents a tall gable end of two storeys with attics, brick built in orange/red brick with first and second floor levels defined by projecting, two-course strings. Ground floor level is laid to English garden wall bond and includes an original doorway (blocked in Broseley brick; Plate 126) slightly off-centre to the south of the elevation, with segmental arch of alternating stretchers and double-headers and with a stone key. To the north side of the range, a wide, double carriage-door was been inserted beneath a heavy timber lintel (Plate 128), doors are pin-hung on heavy 'L'-hinges. A further doorway to the south of the elevation, again inserted/adapted (Plate 127), opens onto the base of stair **B** internally (see Figure 32). First floor brickwork is laid to a mixed bond and, as to the south, includes seven rows of superimposed, blocked vents of inverted 'T' form (Plate 129); opposing windows to north and south are set beneath

⁹¹ Possibly related to the former bread oven evidenced by the projecting section of brickwork (Plate 120).

segmental heads of alternating stretchers and double-headers (Plate 130), similar to the ground floor (blocked) door. Extant, timber casement windows (two-light, cross pattern) represent secondary insertions, probably of 19th-century date, with brick blocking to the upper arch in both cases, though the openings are evidently primary, evidenced by the use of queen closers⁹² to the jambs. The gable above the upper string is secondary, of a distinct, paler brick laid to a regular Flemish bond, with opposing openings beneath segmental heads of single-header arches; that to the south houses a two-light timber casement, that to the north, modified with a dropped cill, housing a timber door (cut through upper string course), pin-hung on strap hinges to the south. The gable rises to a low parapet wall, with stone kneelers and coped in stone slabs.

- 7.16.5 The **east elevation** (Figure 37b; Plate 131) is, for the most part, obscured by the pent-roof of 19th-century extensions **C** and **D**. The upper gable only of block **B** is visible, brick-built to an irregular, mixed bond, rising to a low parapet wall, coped in stone slabs and with a short, two-flue gable stack. Opposing windows beneath single-header arches house modern, two-light timber casements are set immediately above the pent-roof of extension **C**.

Interior

- 7.16.6 The **ground floor** of the cottage (Figure 32) is split functionally between a store, occupying the western section (**A**) of the core (room **[G3]**), and residential use occupying the remainder of the building (including the eastern extensions **C**, **D** and **E**), with no internal communication between the two parts. Access to the store is via the wide double-doors inserted in the north end of the west gable end (Plate 128) which open onto room **[G3]**, and via a second pedestrian door at the southern end of the same elevation (Plate 127) which opens onto the base of stair **B**. An original, central doorway (Plate 126) has been historically blocked off. Essentially a single, open space, 14ft. (E/W) x 20ft (N/S), save for enclosed stair **B** rising against the southern wall, the plan is interrupted by a central brick pier (inserted, late-C20th) supporting the overlying ceiling structure (Plate 132). In its current state, **[G3]** is unlit save for a small overlight above the southern door of the west elevation, though a former two-light, moulded-brick window opening is located to the centre of the north elevation, blocked in brick; a cupboard let into the wall to the west of this former window opening may possibly have been formed within a former doorway.⁹³ Where visible, the room is floored in face-laid red brick.⁹⁴ The ceiling is in four parts, supported by axial (longitudinal) and transverse beams, all deeply chamfered (2in.) with well executed ogee-stops (Plate 133), while common joists (exposed to the SE quarter of the room only) were noted to be similarly chamfer-stopped (Plate 134) denoting an original ceiling of superior quality.⁹⁵ Stair **B** rises west to east against the southern wall, enclosed to the north side by a stud wall with lath and plaster render (Plate 135), with a quarter-turn northwards at the south-eastern angle of the range, where it has been closed off at first floor level. The structure of the stair is not integral to the ceiling framing, evidently cutting through the southern section of longitudinal spine beam (a detail repeated at 1F/2F level), thus indicating that it represents a secondary insertion.

- 7.16.7 The main, residential section of the cottage is accessed via the doorway at the west end of the south elevation (Plate 123), opening onto a small lobby **[G1]**. A straight flight stair (**A**) rises from east to west to first floor level,⁹⁶ while doorways (simple 4-panel doors; Plate 138) open to west and east onto sitting room **[G2]** and kitchen **[G4]** respectively, the latter within eastern extension **C**. Sitting room **[G2]** (Plate 136) occupies the northern part of the core range, lit by an inserted, four-light steel casement window to the north wall and with

⁹² A brick of half normal width, used to complete a course, for example at a quoin or jamb of an opening (door/window) or to space regular bricks.

⁹³ The exterior brickwork is somewhat disturbed, though no clearly defined opening can be discerned.

⁹⁴ At the time of inspection, access to store **[G3]** was highly restricted due to accumulated, stored materials. A fuller inspection, should the opportunity arise, may have the potential to reveal further evidence for historical arrangements and usage.

⁹⁵ The intersection of principal longitudinal and transverse beams is obscured by the brickwork of the supporting pier (Plate 132). The framework, originally exposed, was subsequently obscured by a lath and plaster ceiling (see Plate 134), and is currently hidden, for the most part, by a matchboard lining applied to the soffit of the common joists

⁹⁶ The blocking of the windows lighting the stairwell, evident externally (§.7.16.3; Plate 124), may suggest that the alignment of the stair has been historically reversed.

a fireplace to the east, set within a projecting chimneybreast. A four-panel door to the south-west corner opens onto a small under-stair cupboard, though may formerly have served stair A on a reversed alignment (see fn.96). The ceiling is spanned by two transverse ceiling beams, that to the south being chamfer-stopped (Plate 137), that to the north, boxed-in. Phases of historical refurbishment leave little of historical significance exposed; no evidence was recorded for example, for a bread oven implied by the curved brickwork projection noted externally (Plate 120) at the east end of the north wall. Kitchen [G4] is located within eastern extension C, lit by three-light and two-light casements to north and south respectively, and with a range backing onto the axial stack of the core block. A door opening off the east side of [G4] opens onto [G5] within the single storey extension D; here, an angled wall to the north-east corner may suggest the location of a former fireplace which would accord with an historical function as an attached wash-house, though again modern refurbishment has obscured any unambiguous structural evidence. A doorway off the north side of [G5] opens onto porch E (comprising lobby [G6]/ WC [G6a]), appended in c.2000.

- 7.16.8 **First floor** accommodation (Figure 33) is approached via stair A, rising as a straight flight from lobby [G1], with a single winder-step to the head of the stair onto landing [F1]. At this level, through access is afforded between the two discrete phases of the 'core' range (A and B to west and east), via a doorway inserted at the south end of their party wall, the floor of A being set some 18in. above that of B (Figure 38). The northern two-thirds of core range B is partitioned off by an ephemeral stud wall to form bedroom [F2], lit by an inserted, four-light casement to the north wall, while doors off landing [F1] open onto bathroom [F6] within the upper part of extension C to the east, and onto a lobby [F3] to the west, at first floor level of core range A. As at ground floor level, the ceiling of range B is spanned by two transverse beams, both here exposed and of chamfer-stopped form. Core range A is subdivided to form bedroom [F5] to the north and a small lobby [F4] to the south-west opening onto the base of a further flight of stair B. Longitudinal ceiling beams are exposed within [F5] and [F3], stop-chamfered as at ground floor level, while a corresponding transverse beam is presumably encased within the stud partition wall forming the southern side of bedroom [F5].
- 7.16.9 **Second Floor** (Figure 34) is accessed from within A only, via stair B rising from west to east at the south-western corner of the building (Plate 139); as at ground floor level, the southern longitudinal beam of the first floor ceiling has been cut through to form the well for stair B, where it is simply supported by an upright stud of the stairwell wall (Plate 139), indicating its insertion. The attic level is sub-divided on a simple bi-partite plan reflecting the A/B development of the core of the building, with [S1] to the east and [S2] to the west, interconnected by a single, plank and baton door at the south end of the party wall (Plate 140). Room [S2] currently houses two large, galvanised steel water tanks (Plate 142) supported on timber bearers set into the brickwork of the west gable and party wall to the east; Room [S1] is used for storage. Both rooms are lit by paired windows within the gable ends,⁹⁷ [S1] being furnished with a small fireplace (blocked) within a shallowly projecting chimneybreast. A three-course brick string (Plate 141) was noted just above floor level in the west wall of [S1] (*viz.* the original exterior wall of section A) and may reasonably be interpreted as an original eaves band for the early, north-south aligned block. The brickwork above the string is roughly finished (see Plate 143), clearly secondary and never external, and is furnished with a high-level hatchway (Plate 143).
- 7.16.10 The **roofs** over each half of the range are similar, supported on two tiers of side purlins and plank-section ridge pieces, purlins being set into the brickwork of the respective gable ends, and the raised party wall. Walls of [S1] are rendered to the level of the lower purlin (Plate 143) and the room was evidently formerly ceiled at this level suggesting a domestic function (a secondary, roughly converted beam presumably gave mid-span support to the related ceiling).
- 7.16.11 The 'Gardener's Cottage' is a complex and inherently ambiguous structure, having developed over a number of phases and evidently evolved in form and function to such an extent that its origins are difficult to interpret with any degree of confidence and thus remain obscure. The core of the building is clearly of two distinct phases of construction, evidenced by the full-height straight joints of the northern and southern elevations and

⁹⁷

The north window of the west gable has been converted to a doorway/hatch.

by the variant internal floor levels. The earliest section is reasonably the western part (**A**), which would have comprised a rectangular structure of two-storeys, suggested by the surviving 'eaves band' at attic level (Plate 141), aligned north-south. The function of the early range is not known - the interior carpentry is clearly above the status of an agricultural building, with ogee-stopped main beams and common joists to the ground floor ceiling, while the quality of the former, moulded-brick mullioned window of the north elevation is also of note. Original means of vertical access within this primary structure is unclear, as it would appear that stair **B** to the south side of the range represents a secondary insertion. The first phase of enlargement comprised the addition of **B** to the west, effectively doubling the floor area of the range, built up against and retaining the eastern wall of the primary building as an internal partition wall, at which stage the orientation of the enlarged building was turned through 90°, with a new pitched roof introduced, gabled to east and west. The ceiling beams of the enlarged range mirror the style and quality of the primary work, deeply chamfered with ogee-stops, though the presence of extensive vent holes (blocked) at first floor level to the western and south elevations of the enlarged building is suggestive of a use for crop storage, at least in part. Eastern extensions **C** and **D** were added in early to mid-19th century, most probably to form a kitchen and attached wash house, implying a domestic, residential function by that time at the latest. The cottage has undergone subsequent phases of modification and refurbishment, with Benthall's notes on water supply to the hall,⁹⁸ for example, recording that the cottage was being 'extensively altered' in 1982, while porch **E** represents the latest phase of work, added in c.2000.

7.17 The Dovecote

- 7.17.1 The dovecote (Figure 39; Plates 144-156) is located to the west of the main house, set within the northern bounding wall of the Rose Garden (extending between the dovecote and the main house; Figure 39a, Plate 144), both features traditionally attributed to Robert Bateman who leased the house from 1890 to 1906 (§.4.2.4). They were introduced at some point between the first and second edition Ordnance Survey 25in. maps, published in 1882 and 1902 respectively (§.5.3), while they are also visible peripherally on the view of the house published in Leighton's *Shropshire Houses Past and Present* in 1901 (§.5.4.1).
- 7.17.2 The **boundary wall** (Figure 39a) is 33ft. 4in. long defining the northern side of the Rose Garden (originally the 'Pixy Garden'), brick-built in Broseley brick (9 x 4 x 3in.) laid to a regular English garden wall bond and standing c.10ft tall to a ¼-brick oversail supporting a dentillated band, above which a single stretcher-course is capped by stone copings. The wall adjoins the mid-point of the eastern elevation of the dovecote to the west (Figure 39c) and abuts a relic stub wall of the 19th-century north-west range of the main house to the east (demolished c.1935; see Tyler 2013, fig.12b). A simple, flat-headed doorway opening, 3ft. 4in. wide x 6½ft. tall beneath a timber lintel and furnished with a projecting brick drip-mould, pierces the wall towards the east end, affording through access to the yard area to the north of the house. The door opening is rebated to the north with iron pintles to the western jamb indicating a former door. To the far east end of the wall, a two-light timber window houses fixed, multi-pane lights.
- 7.17.3 The **dovecote** itself is octagonal in plan (Figure 39c; Plates 145/6),⁹⁹ each side measuring 3½ft., and stands c.15ft. tall to ¼-brick oversail and dentillated eaves band supporting a single stretcher-course (as per the bounding wall) beneath a low, rendered domed roof (Figure 39a).¹⁰⁰ Walling (8in. thick) is in Broseley-type brick laid to a mixed bond, though largely approximating to English garden wall as per the bounding wall, with shaped stretchers to angles. The southern elevation (Plate 145) is pierced by two, superimposed openings; a low doorway at ground (basement) level and a taller opening to the main floor. The lower level door (Plate

⁹⁸ Benthall, P., type-written notes, Attingham Archives.

⁹⁹ A plan form popular from the early 18th century on (Hansell and Hansell 2001, 20).

¹⁰⁰ The form of the roof has historically been the subject of some discussion; the pre-1935 photograph appears to show a domed roof as survives today, though the Leighton view of 1901 is somewhat more ambiguous and may illustrate a shallow-pitched, tile-clad roof. The remodelling of the roof was discussed as early as 1983 and proposals were again put forward in 1996 to replace the dome with a steeper, pitched and tiled roof (letter; Bob Tolley, ST Walker and Partners, to Graham Dench, NT, dated 24.01.1996; Attingham Archives), though these were not pursued, perhaps in the absence of any unambiguous evidence.

147) is of ledged-and-braced form with applied, moulded stiles and rails enclosing raised and fielded panels (Plate 148), the latter badly weathered and partly missing;¹⁰¹ it is hung on modern, steel strap hinges to the east. The upper opening (Plate 149) is infilled with a mix of horizontal timber boarding, again with applied stiles and rails, here showing signs of carved decoration (Plate 150),¹⁰² steel mesh and glazing. It includes two dove-holes to the lower edge, furnished with a projecting timber alighting ledge, and three dove-holes within the upper mesh panel, also served by a timber ledge. Main access to the upper floor is via a raised doorway in the western elevation, approached by a series of stone steps (Plate 152); other elevations are blind.

- 7.17.4 **Internally**, the dovecote is arranged over two levels (Figure 39b), a lower room serving as a store and an upper level housing the 'dovecote' proper. The 'basement' store room (Figure 39c) is accessed via the doorway in the south elevation (described above), which opens onto a small, low space (Plate 151), standing just 5½ft. tall from a floor of face-laid brick to the underside of a (renewed) ceiling, forming the floor of the upper level, carried on five north-south aligned common joists. The room is plain and featureless, save a pair of high-level vents to the north-east and north-west angle walls. The upper room (Figure 39b; Plate 153) is accessed via the doorway within the west elevation (Plate 152), opening onto a room of similar plan and standing c.11ft. tall to the soffit of the domed ceiling. The interior of the room does not incorporate integral nesting holes as might be expected for a purpose-built dovecote, being furnished alternatively with two simple nest-boxes to the north-east and south-east angle walls, of timber construction and comprising four vertically-arranged boxes (Plate 154).¹⁰³ Brackets projecting from the east wall (Plate 155) may have originally functioned to support feed bowls.



Historical (pre-1935) postcard view of Benthall with Dovecote to extreme left (arrowed).



Detail of dovecote.

- 7.17.5 The lack of 'integral' dovecote features has raised the possibility of the building having had an alternative original function (N Swankie *pers. comm.*) and this is perhaps lent some degree of credence by an early (pre-1935)¹⁰⁴ photograph (inset above), which appears to show the main level opening of the south elevation, somewhat taller than the extant opening, housing a tall, six-pane window above a blank lower panel; the opening also appears to be furnished with a brick drip mould as per the doorway to the east. This has led to the suggestion that it may have originated as some form of small 'summer house' or 'garden room', created

¹⁰¹ A quinquennial condition review of 2005 by ST Walker and Partners (Attingham Archives) reported that 'the carved panels on the south face remain in order, as do the doors, which appear to have been made from old panelling'.

¹⁰² RCHME notes of 1990 record that 'the front door of the loft appears to be formed from a section of ornately carved 17th-century furniture', though continued weathering makes any more detailed interpretation difficult.

¹⁰³ RCHME notes of 1990 record that 'no nesting boxes survive(d) inside' the dovecote at that date, indicating the current boxes are recent introductions.

¹⁰⁴ The photograph must pre-date 1935 as the 19th-century north-west range of the main house, which the connecting garden wall abuts and which was demolished around this time (see Tyler 2013, 11-12; figure 12b), was still in existence.

for the enjoyment of the adjacent Rose Garden, though the diminutive plan-size would seem to argue against this and no corroborative evidence has been recorded to support such an interpretation.¹⁰⁵ Assuming the structure was originally built as a dovecote above a garden store, it was clearly designed to accommodate only a small number of pigeons probably of a more exotic nature (known as 'fancy' pigeons, eg. fantails), rather than a practical pigeon house for the accommodation of any significant number of birds for the table, and to simultaneously function as an attractive garden feature or 'eye-catcher'.

7.18 The 'Farmhouse'

7.18.1 The present 'farmhouse' defines the north-west angle of the foldyard (Figure 40; Plates 157-160); although outside of the scope of the current recording and assessment project, a cursory external inspection reveals a building of some considerable interest. It is brick-built in dark red brick laid to a regular Flemish bond, rectangular in plan and aligned east-west, of two full storeys with attics over, beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof, gabled to east and west; it dates most probably to c.1800. A number of features of significance are immediately apparent, indicative of a non-domestic origin. Firstly among these, and most importantly, are wide, opposing cart doors at ground floor level, one to each gable end (Figure 40e/f; Plate 158), furnished with wide segmental heads and stone hinge-blocks indicating former double-doors opening outwards. Both openings have been blocked in, with windows being incorporated within the infill brickwork, the clear indication being that the building originated as some form of 'drive-through' cartshed with storage lofts over. The latter were served by tall vertical ventilation slits (Plate 159) which have also been blocked in with conversion to domestic use. The implication of a non-domestic origin raises the question of where the original 'farmhouse' was located and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that the running of the farm was formerly overseen from the main hall itself. Outline survey drawings exist, both plans and elevations prepared in 2001 (reproduced here at Figure 40), but the building certainly warrants further, more detailed study as and when the opportunity arises, including an internal inspection, with a view to recovering further evidence for its former use and the date/context of its conversion to residential accommodation.¹⁰⁶

8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

8.1 The Development of the Farmstead

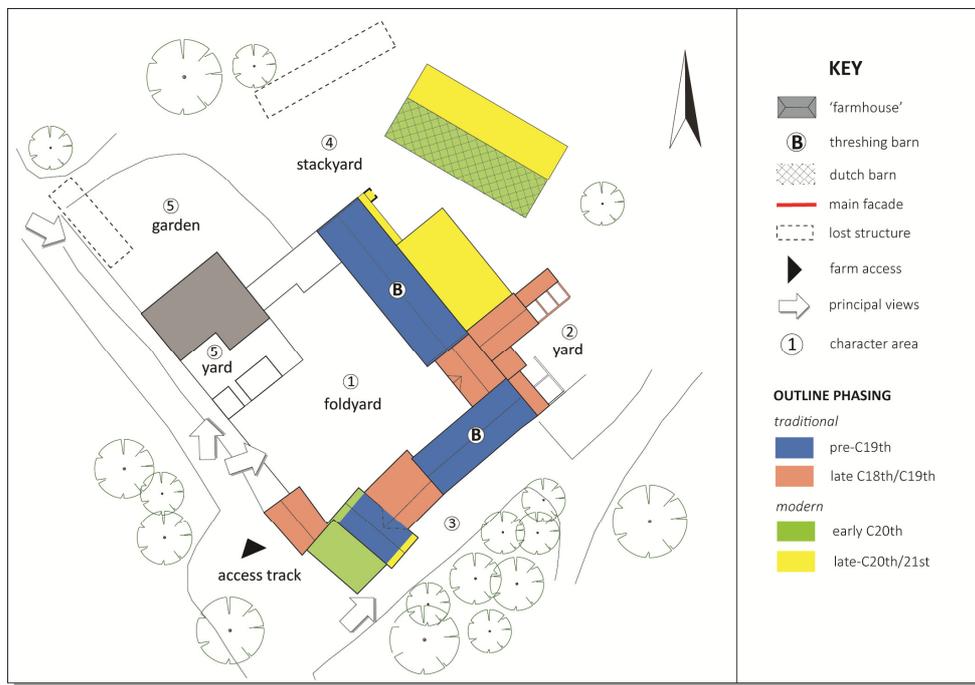
8.1.1 The current project has established that the farm complex at Benthall encapsulates a protracted, essentially accretive development, with individual constituent buildings dating from the probable mid-17th century right the way through to the later years of the 20th century. The development is reflected and well-illustrated in the progressive change of basic construction techniques and building materials, from the use of traditional timber-framing in the earliest elements, through the red-brick of the 18th- and early-19th centuries, to the increasing use of Broseley brick during the later 19th century and the introduction of iron/steel prefabricated buildings in the early-mid 20th century. A particular driver of change in the mid-19th century would appear to have been the sale of the estate in 1844, and the subsequent leases which saw the historical link between farmstead and main house broken for the first time. The piecemeal, accretive development of the complex means it is difficult to identify distinct 'phases' of development *per se*, though most of the key elements appear to have been broadly in place in their current form by the mid-late 19th century and the following general developmental progression seems reasonable (see Figure 41).

¹⁰⁵ The internal finishing of the upper level is rudimentary in nature, with no evidence for former rendering of internal wall surfaces as one might expect if this were the case.

¹⁰⁶ It may be significant that 'Benthall Farm' is first listed as an independent residential address in the census returns of 1861, during the period when the main house was let to George Maw, and it thus seems probable that conversion occurred following the sale of the estate in 1844.

Phase I:	Early- to mid-17 th century:	Timber-framed Barn A , two-bay core of Building F
Phase II:	Early-mid 18 th century:	Brick Barn B
Phase III:	Mid- to late-18 th century:	Cowhouse C and Cowhouse I (single storey, later raised), Stables D , Shelter Shed E , modifications to Barn A
Phase IV:	Early-19 th century:	Pigsties J (dated 1819), Shelter Shed H
Phase V:	Mid-19 th century:	Conversion of 'farmhouse' to residential use (c.1840s)
Phase VI:	Late-19 th /early-20 th century:	Cartshed G / modifications to shelter shed H ; Internal sub-division of Barn A
Phase VII	Early/mid-20 th century:	Dutch Barn N ; northern extension of Bldg F
Phase VIII:	Mid/late 20 th century:	Southern extension of Bldg. F ., Shed M ., extension N1 to dutch barn, modifications to Barn B

8.2 Assessment of Historical Character



Benthall Hall Farm: Summary Plan

8.2.1 The farm complex at Benthall occupies a regular courtyard plan, enclosed on three sides and essentially open to the south-west, though this form has clearly arisen from a piecemeal, *ad hoc* development rather than as a planned act of unified design. Principal views from the public realm are from the west, where a footpath track leads north-west towards Benthall Edge, specifically across the main foldyard with a panorama of multi-phase vernacular buildings (see inset below).



Composite view of foldyard looking south-east with multi-phase vernacular ranges (B, C, A, E/D and F from left to right).

- 8.2.2 The farmstead as survives can be split into five distinct ‘character areas’, see summary plan above, as follows:
1. The central foldyard, enclosed and defined by an interesting and attractive, multi-phase group of traditional farm buildings (*viz.* ‘farmhouse’, **B, C, A, D/E, F, H**) spanning an extended date range, from the mid-17th century through to the early-20th century (see inset above); includes some historical stock enclosures of early-20th century date. Forms the single most significant view onto the farmstead from the public realm, though its visual amenity is compromised by the extensive concreting of the yard surface itself.
 2. Small, secondary yard to east of Barn **A** defined by cowhouse **I**, pigsties **L** and **J** and free-standing boundary walls. May retain historic ground surfaces beneath extensive vegetation cover. Outside of/not visible from public realm.
 3. Trackway running parallel to south range of buildings of foldyard, affording particularly good views of timber-framed barn **A**. Outside of/not visible from public realm, except for oblique views from trackway.
 4. Former stackyard to east and north sides of brick Barn **B**, of historical significance though dominated today by 20th-century, pre-fabricated sheds and barns. Includes views over surrounding landscape and towards Gardener’s Cottage and main house to the south-east. Outside of/not visible from public realm.
 5. Private areas associated with the ‘farmhouse’ (a converted cart house/grain store), namely an enclosed garden and yard. Outside of/not visible from public realm.

8.3 Assessment of Significance

- 8.3.1 Overall Benthall Hall Farm presents an attractive group of vernacular agricultural buildings, retaining good historical character and group value, illustrative of the evolution of the farmstead. The barn represents the most important and usually the largest building of any farmstead complex, the focal point to which other buildings were related, serving traditionally to both store and process the grain crops produced on the farm, and Benthall is furnished with two impressive examples, timber-framed Barn **A** and brick-built Barn **B**. Given its evident early date, its atypical technique and materials of construction, and its relative completeness, Barn **A** represents a particularly significant survival. Given the subsequent, sequential rebuilding and development of the remainder of the farm complex over the ensuing centuries however, Barn **A** must unfortunately be appreciated in relative isolation, with no clear understanding of the form and layout of the contemporary buildings which would have originally accompanied it (the core of Building **F** may be broadly contemporary in origin, though it has been modified almost beyond reasonable interpretation), though this does not detract from its inherent historical and evidential value. Barn **B** forms a dominant feature of the foldyard and is a good example of a large, brick-built threshing barn; internal modification and associated blocking/alteration of exterior openings has, however, had a negative impact upon the historical integrity of the building.
- 8.3.2 Other buildings of the complex represent solid, if unexceptional, examples of vernacular ranges of the late-18th through to the early-20th century, though the loss of contemporary internal fittings to subsequent re-purposing is a matter of regret. The relationship of the farmstead to the house at Benthall is of particular interest, and the converted ‘farmhouse’ to the north-west corner of the complex, outside the scope of the current project but included for reasons of completeness, represents an fascinating physical reflection of a fundamental change in the running of the farm following the sale of the estate in the mid-19th century.
- 8.3.3 Reference to historical mapping indicates a loss of less than 50% of traditional structures, at least when evaluated against the layout of the farmstead in the mid-19th century, and as such the ‘heritage potential’ of the farmstead can be evaluated as high. Modern, 20th-century introductions have tended to be concentrated to the rear of the main farmyard complex, out of view from the public realm, thus retaining the overall form and legibility of the traditional courtyard plan.

8.4 Conclusion

- 8.4.1 The current project has allowed for a drawn, photographic and written record of the farm complex at Benthall Hall to be made, to a level commensurate with a Level 2/3 record as defined by Historic England, in line with the requirements of the Trust set out at the commencement of the project.
- 8.4.2 The farmyard and its constituent buildings are of inherent historical interest and significance and certainly warrant inclusion on the Trust's HBSMR and County HER. Certain of the buildings, in particular former threshing barns **A** and **B**, are of particular historical interest, though the degree of modification undertaken to these structures, some effected in the relatively recent past, would perhaps preclude them from Statutory listing.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 The project was commissioned by Mr Simon Howard (Estate Manager, South Shropshire) and Ms. Janine Young (Regional Archaeology Consultant) both of the National Trust, to whom thanks are given for help and co-operation throughout. Special thanks to Mr. Nick Swankie, Gardener in Charge at Benthall for arranging safe and unhindered access to the site for the purposes of recording, and to Mr. Philip Davies for allowing access to buildings under his agricultural tenancy. Thanks also to staff at the Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, at the National Trust's regional hub at Attingham Park and to Mr. Duncan James, Mr Julian Munby and Dr. Daniel Miles for discussions on technical aspects of the timber-framed ranges.
- 9.2 Archival research, site recording and report preparation were undertaken by Mr Ric Tyler MCI(f)A.

10 SOURCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

a) Cartographic Sources (in chronological order)

- 1577 Joseph Saxton's map of Shropshire '*Salopiæ Comitatus*'.
- 1752 John Rocque's '*Actual Survey of the County of Salop*'.
- 1808 Robert Baugh's 'Map of Shropshire'.
- 1845 Benthall Parish tithe map (SA Fiche PF27/1).
- 1882 Ordnance Survey First edition County Series 25in. (1:2500) map.
- 1902 Ordnance Survey County Series 25in. (1:2500) map.
- 1927 Ordnance Survey County Series 25in. (1:2500) map.
- 1963 Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:2500 map.

b) Primary Sources

Shropshire Archives

- 1681/37/3 Draft lease of 1806 between CT Weld and EL Packer.
- 4752/78/71 Valuation of farm undertaken for C Bowen and Sons.
- 4791/1/- Policy Books of the Salop Fire Office (re.4791/1/5, -/7 and -/9)
- 6001/4676-7 Correspondence file re. Benthall and Family, 1930-61. (ref.).

National Trust (Attingham Archives)

- Type-written notes by Paul Benthall on 'Water at Benthall'.
- Dead Deeds (as listed at §.6.7 of main text).
- RCHME earthwork survey of fields to north-west of Benthall Hall and related notes on 'Suggested Deserted Village at Benthall', 1990.

c) Secondary Sources

Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), 1997. *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings*.

Benthall R, 2005. *Benthall Hall, Official Guidebook*. London, The National Trust. (Text updated and corrected from original by Paul Benthall, 2001).

Bowcock EW, 1923. *Shropshire Place Names*. Shrewsbury, Wilding and Son.

Brunskill RW, 1997. *Brick Building in Britain*. London, Victor Gollanz.

Brunskill RW, 2007. *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain and their Conservation*. Yale University Press.

CIfA, 2014a. *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*. University of Reading, CIfA.

CIfA, 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. University of Reading, CIfA.

Cifa 2014c. *Code of Conduct*. University of Reading, CIFA.

Clark C and Alfrey J, 1987. 'Benthall and Broseley Wood: Third Interim Report of the Nuffield Archaeological Survey'. Ironbridge Institute Research Paper No. 15.

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*. (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

Gelling M, 1990. *The Place Names of Shropshire Pt. 1*. English Place Names Society.

Hansell P and J, 2001. *Dovecotes*. Princes Risborough, Shire Publications.

Historic England, 2006. *Historic Farmsteads Preliminary Character Appraisal Statement: West Midlands Region*.

Historic England, 2015. *Farmstead Assessment Framework: Informing Sustainable Development and the Conservation of Traditional Farmsteads*.

Historic England, 2016. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*.

Historic England, 2017. *Listed Buildings and Curtilage, Advice Note* (consultation draft).

Lake J, 1989. *Traditional Farm Buildings: An Introduction and Guide*. London, Blandford.

Leighton S, 1901. *Shropshire Houses Past and Present*. London, Chiswick Press.

National Trust 1998. *Guidance Note on the Recording and Analysis of Historic Buildings*.

Newman J and Pevsner N, 2006. *The Buildings of England: Shropshire*. Yale University Press.

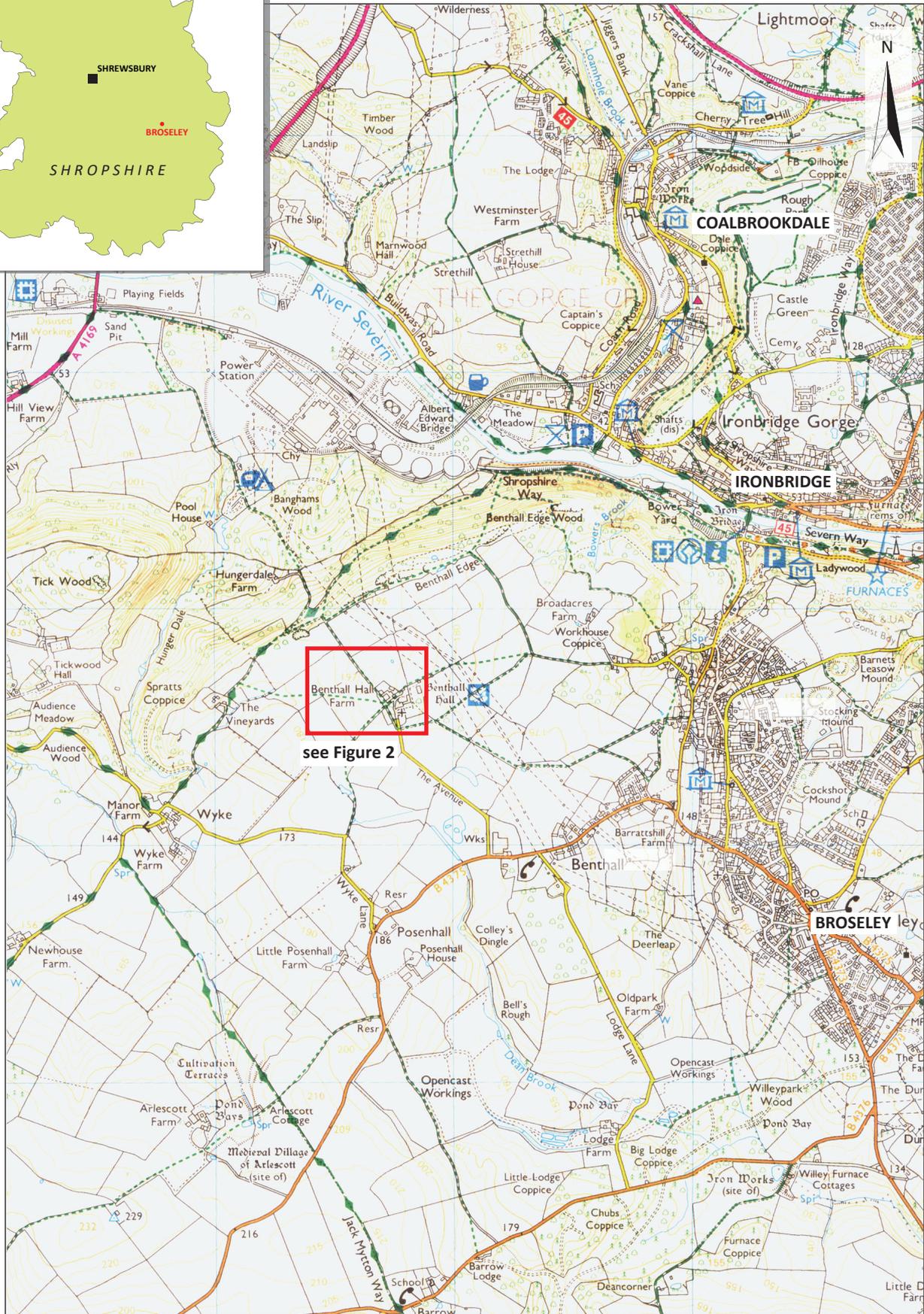
Peters JEC, 1969. *The Development of Farm Buildings in Western Lowland Staffordshire up to 1880*. Manchester University Press.

Peters JEC, 1981. *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings*. Oxford, Shire Publications.

VCH (CJ Currie, ed.) 1998. *A History of the County of Shropshire, Vol. 10: Munslow Hundred (part) The Liberty and Borough of Wenlock*.

d) Online Sources

- <http://www.archaeologists.net>
- <http://www.british-history.ac.uk>
- <https://www.gov.uk>
- www.heritagegateway.org.uk
- <https://historicengland.org.uk>

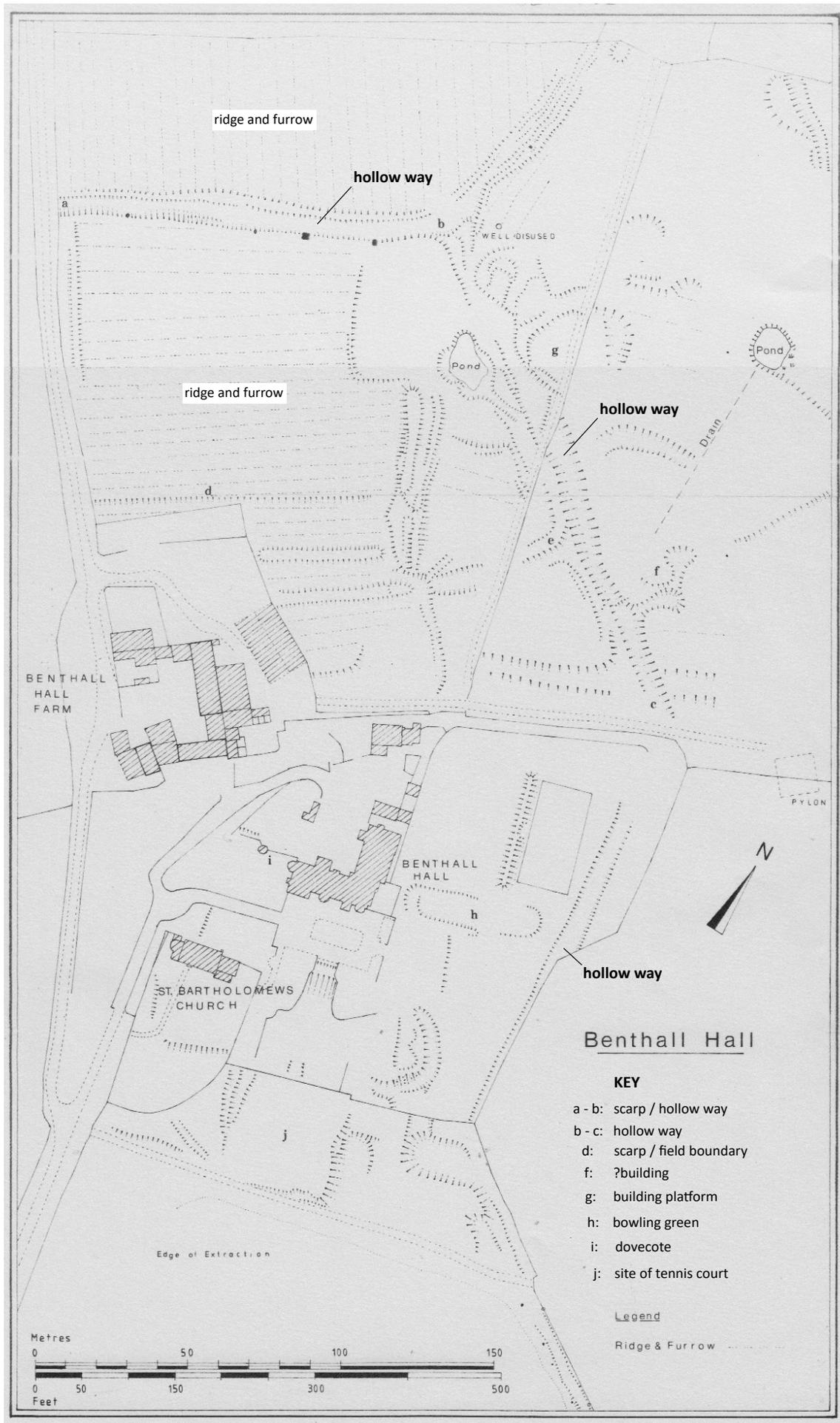


Based upon Explorer 1:25,000 map (Sheet 242)
 Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2005.
 All rights reserved. Licence No. 100050391.





Image: Google Earth, dated 24.07.12

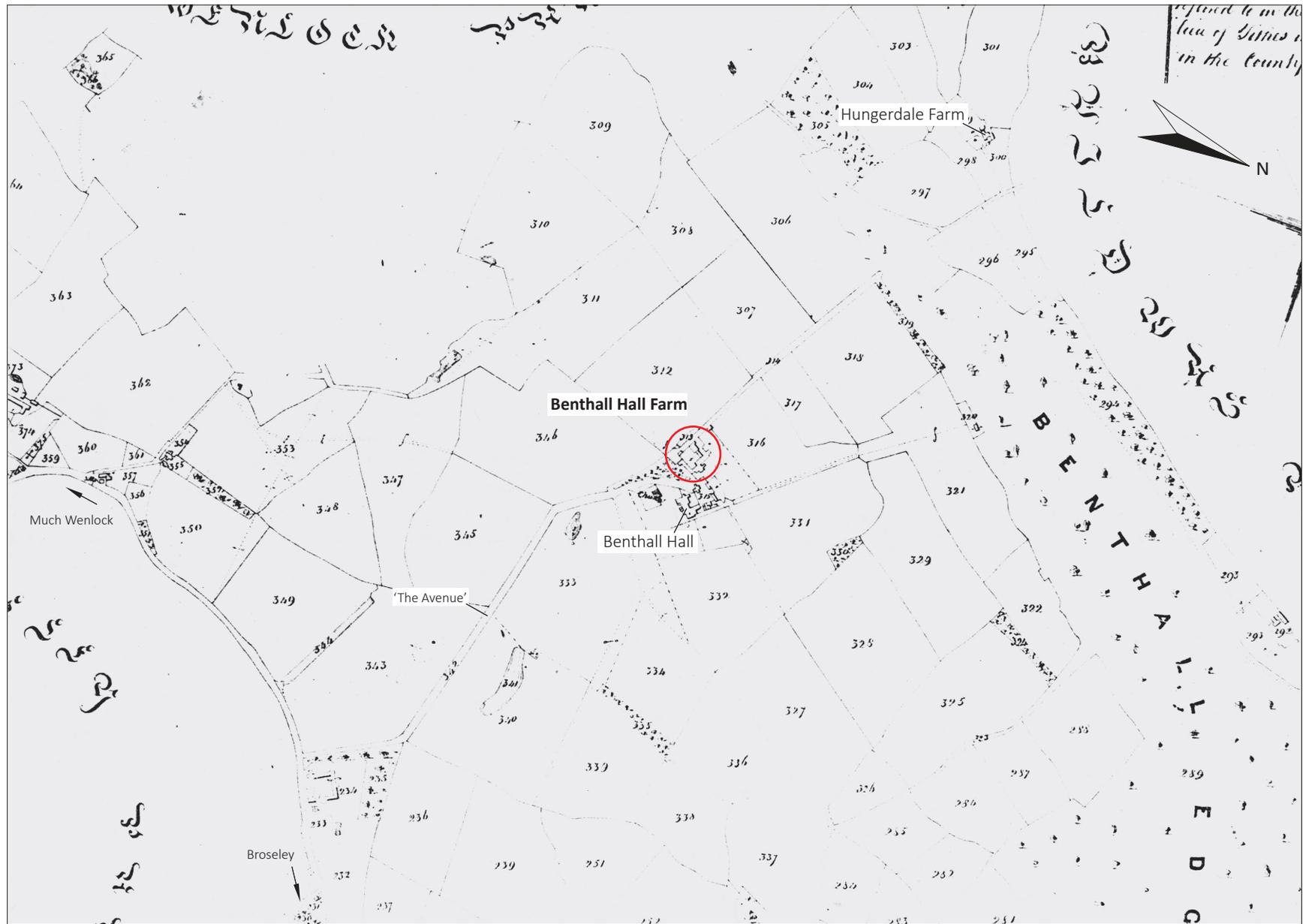




(a) Extract from Joseph Saxton's 'Salopiae Comitatus' of 1577.



(b) Extract from Robert Baugh's 'Map of Shropshire' of 1808.

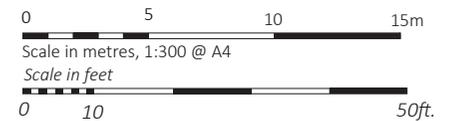
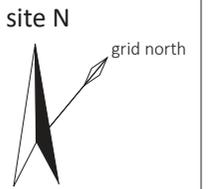


Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990

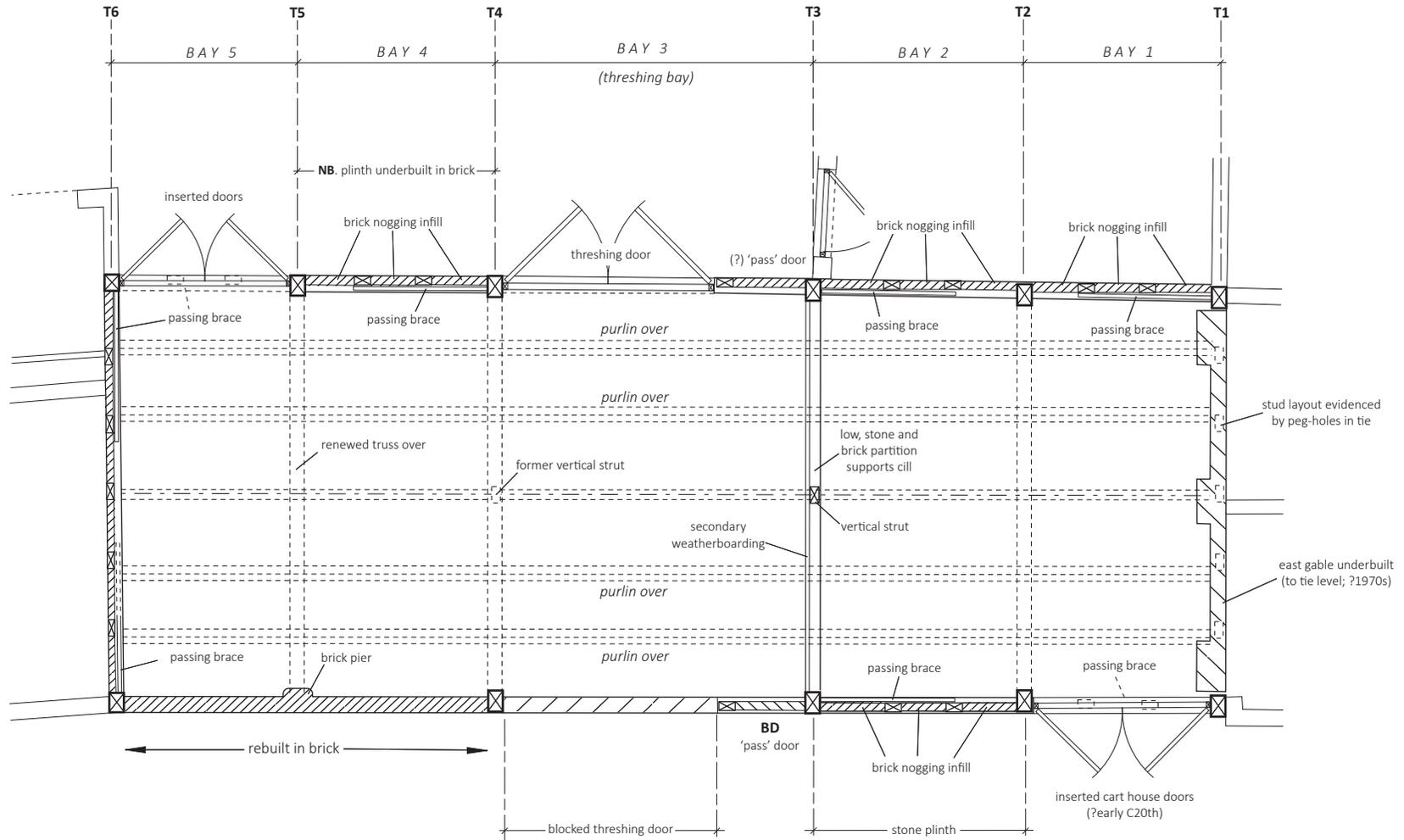
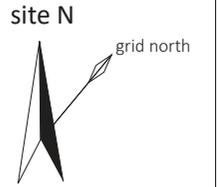
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

KEY TO FARM BUILDINGS

- A** Timber-framed barn
- B** Brick barn
- C** Cow Shed
- D** Stables
- E** Shelter shed
- F** Building incorporating early T/F range
- G** Cartshed
- H** Cartshed / Cow Shed
- I** Cow Shed, latterly Milking Shed
- J** Pis sties
- K** ?
- L** Sties / pens
- M** 20th-century shed
- N** Early-C20th Dutch barn
- N1** modern extension to M



Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



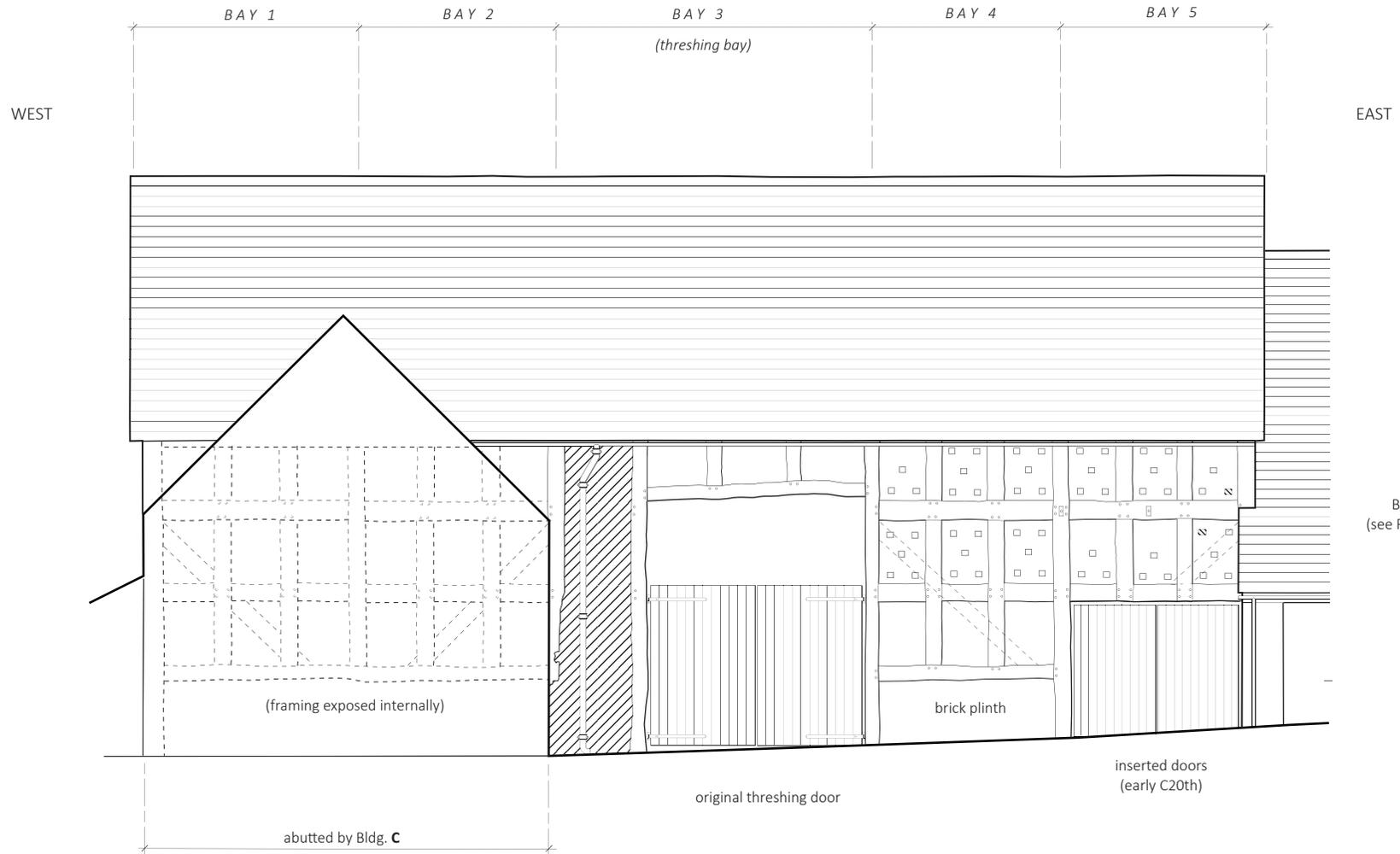
0 5 10m

Scale in metres, 1:100 @ A4

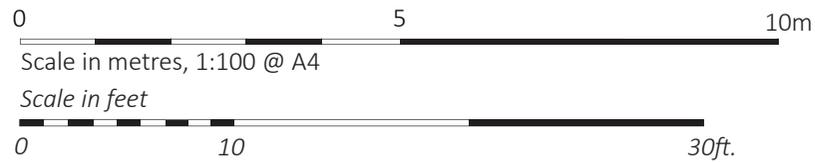
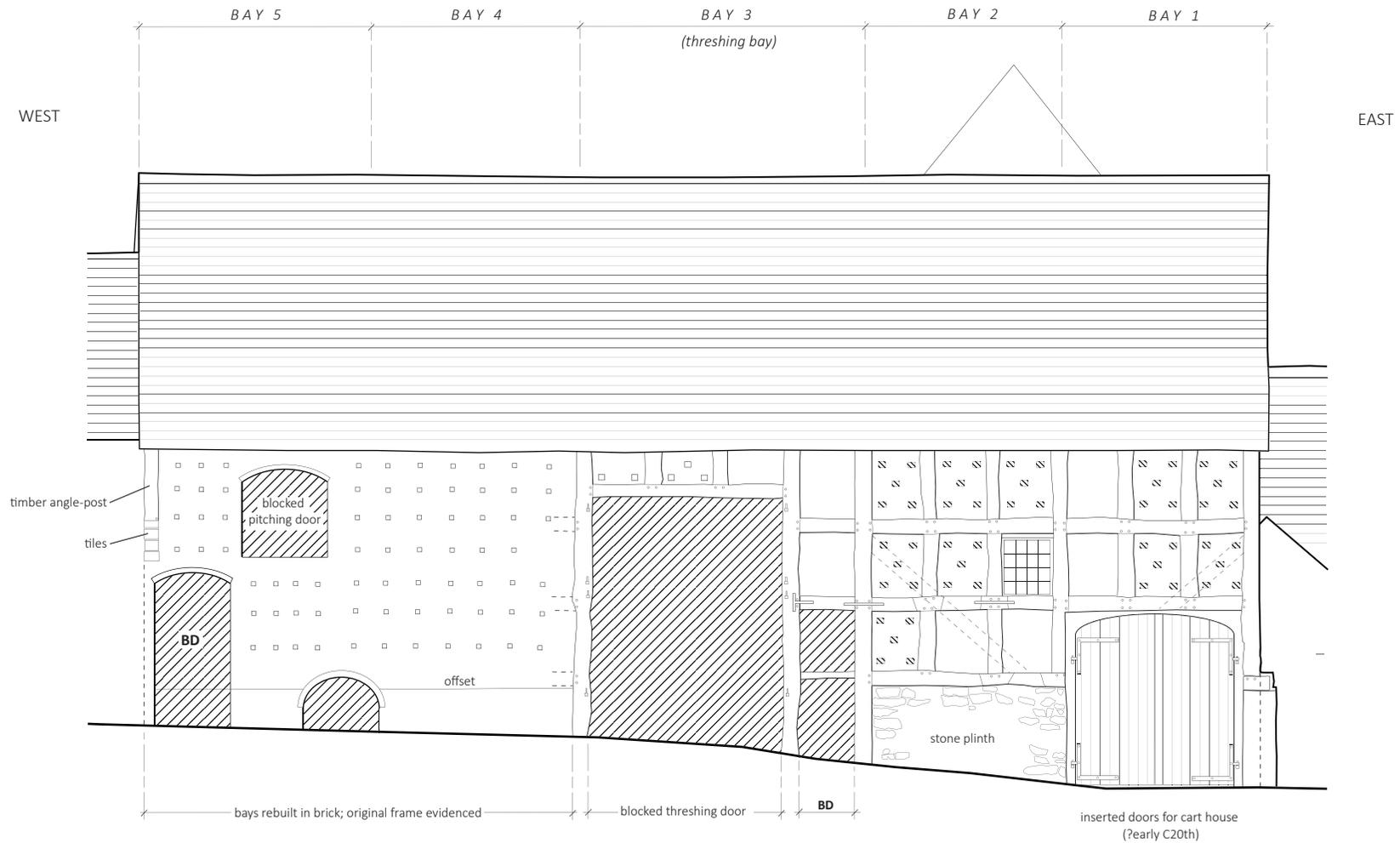
Scale in feet

0 10 30ft.

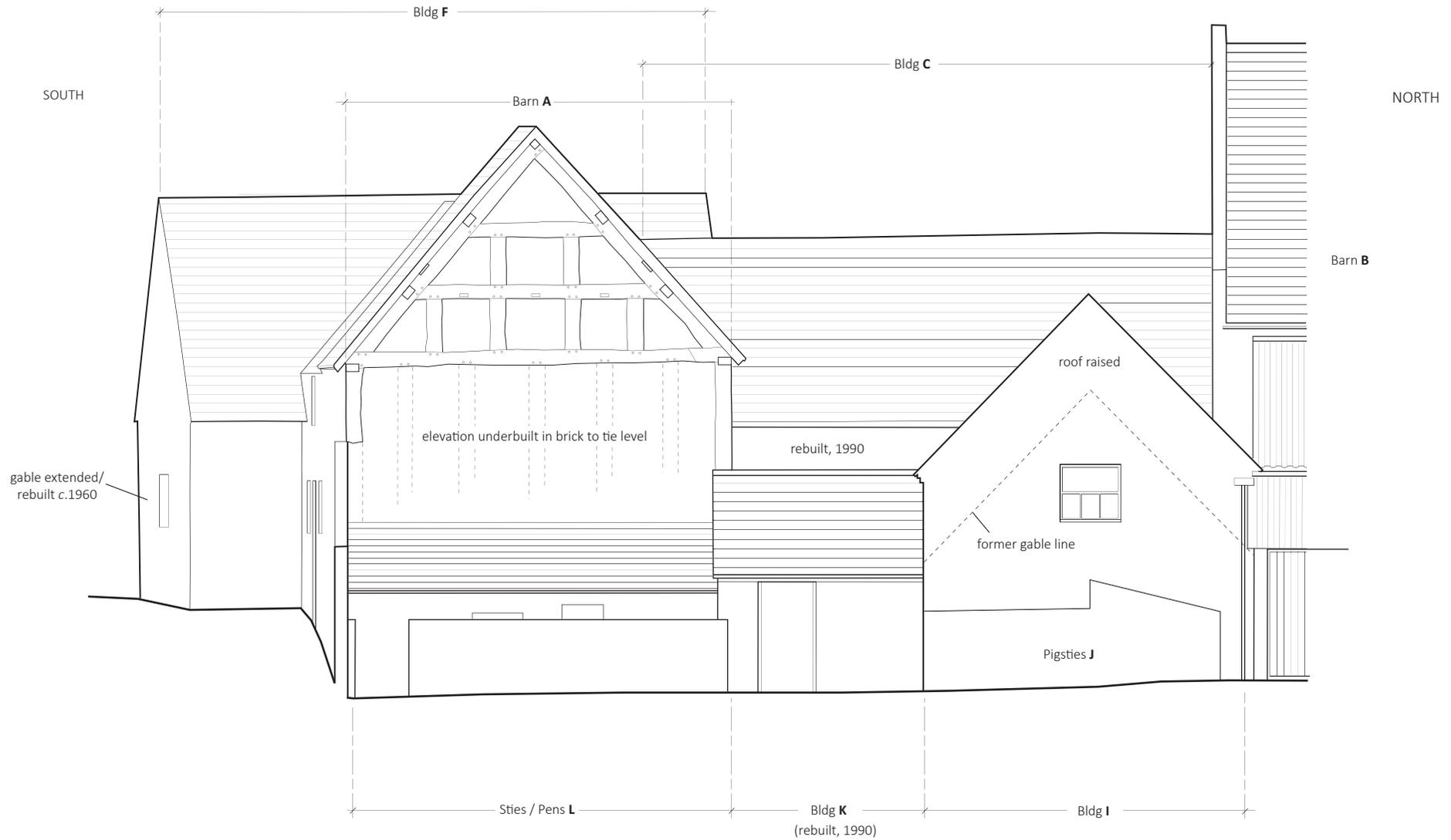
Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



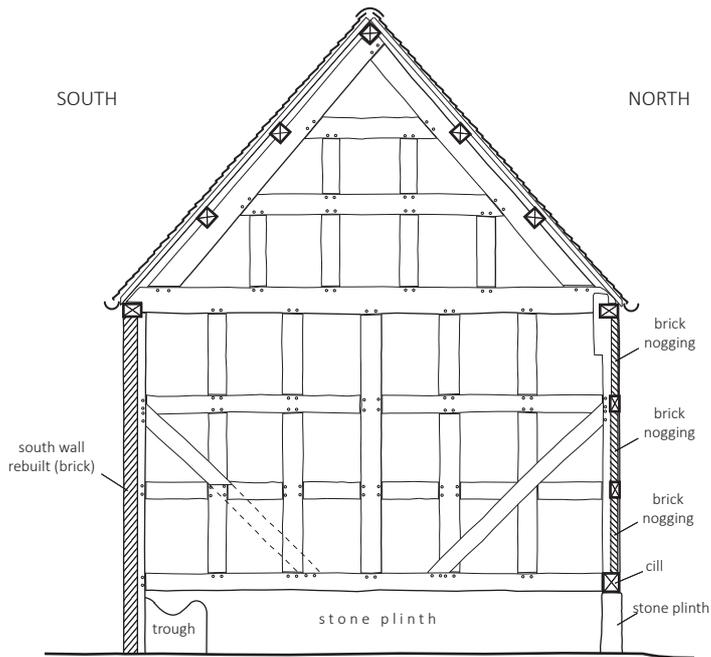
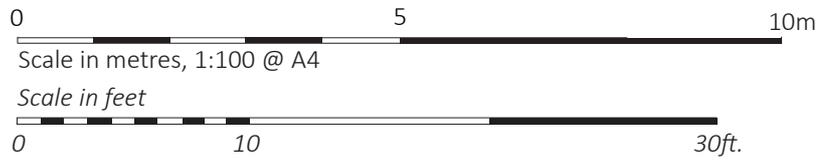
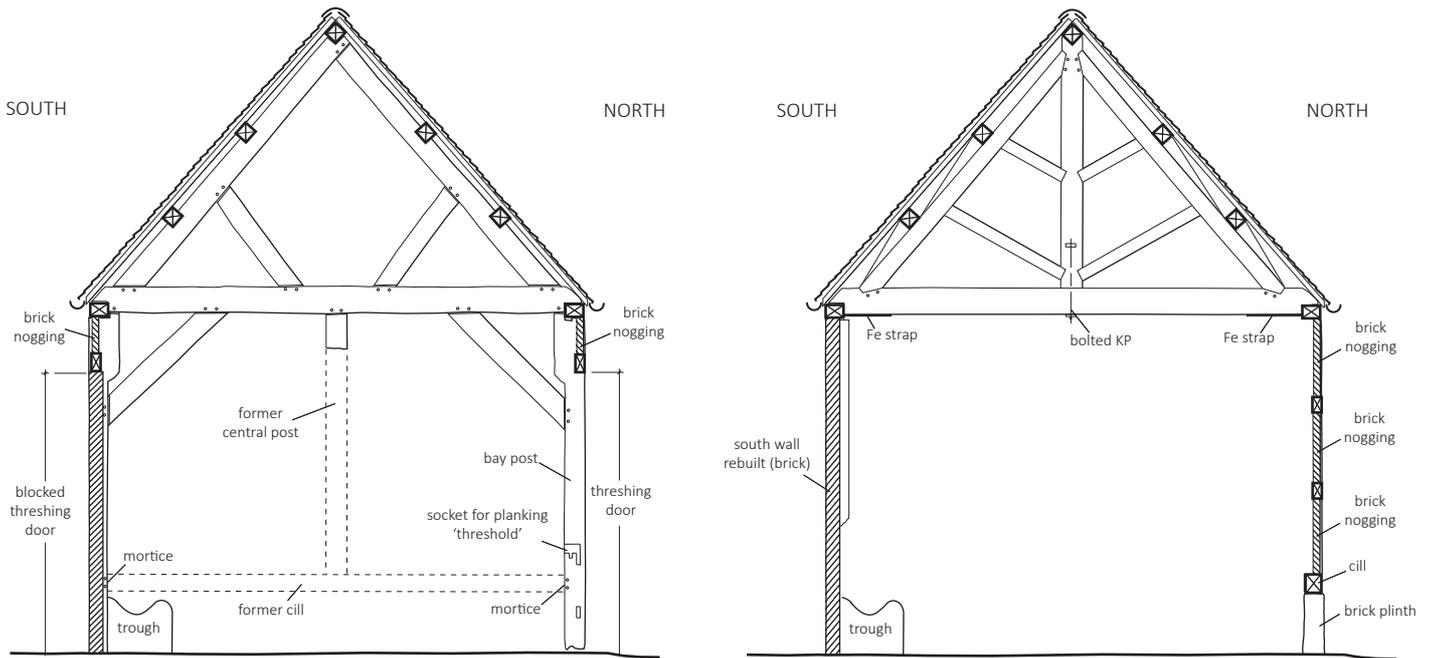
Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

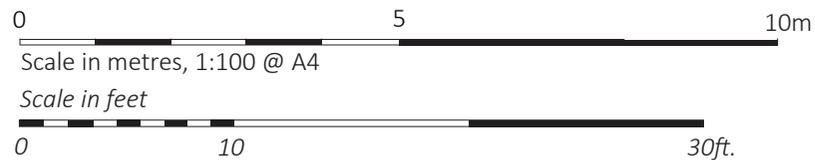
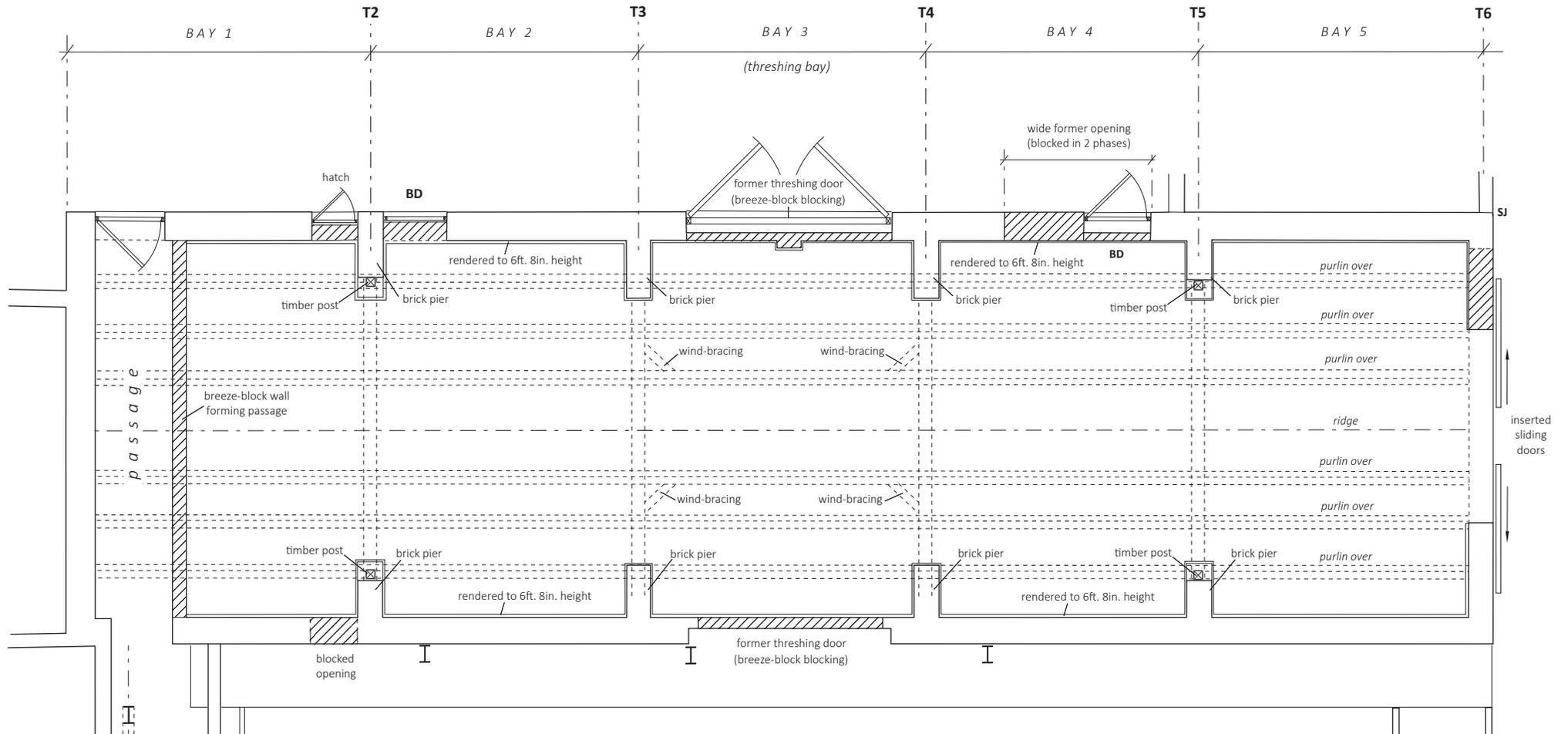
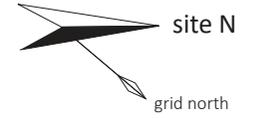


NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

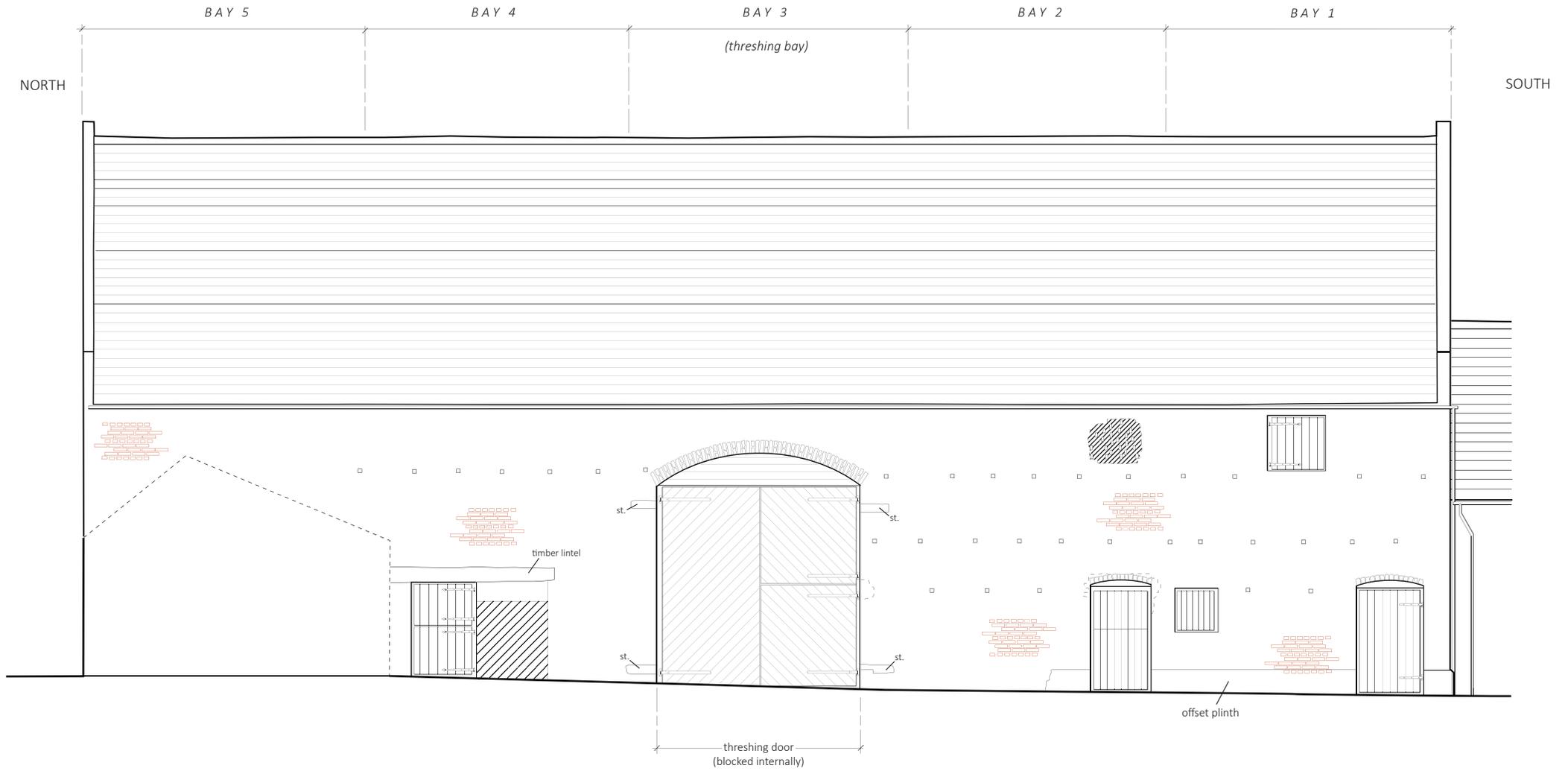


Based partly upon National Trust drawing BE/S3 of 21.01.1990

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



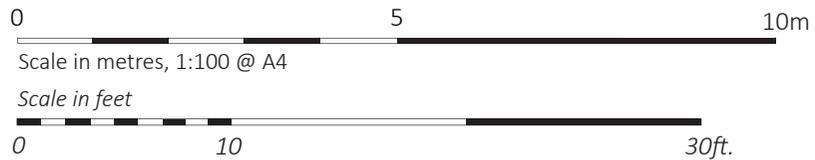
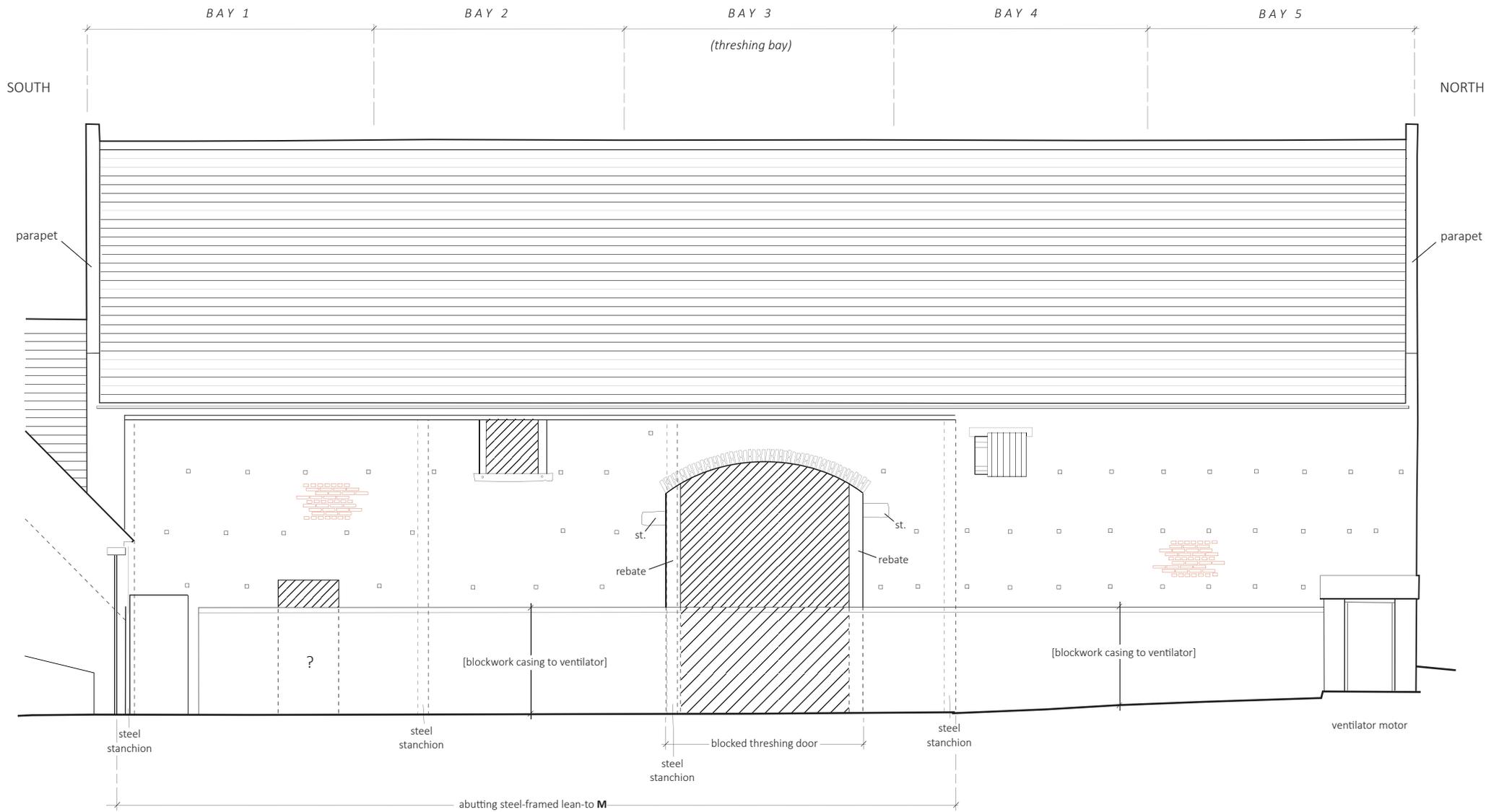
0 5 10m

Scale in metres, 1:100 @ A4

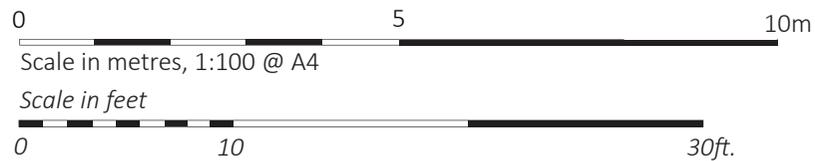
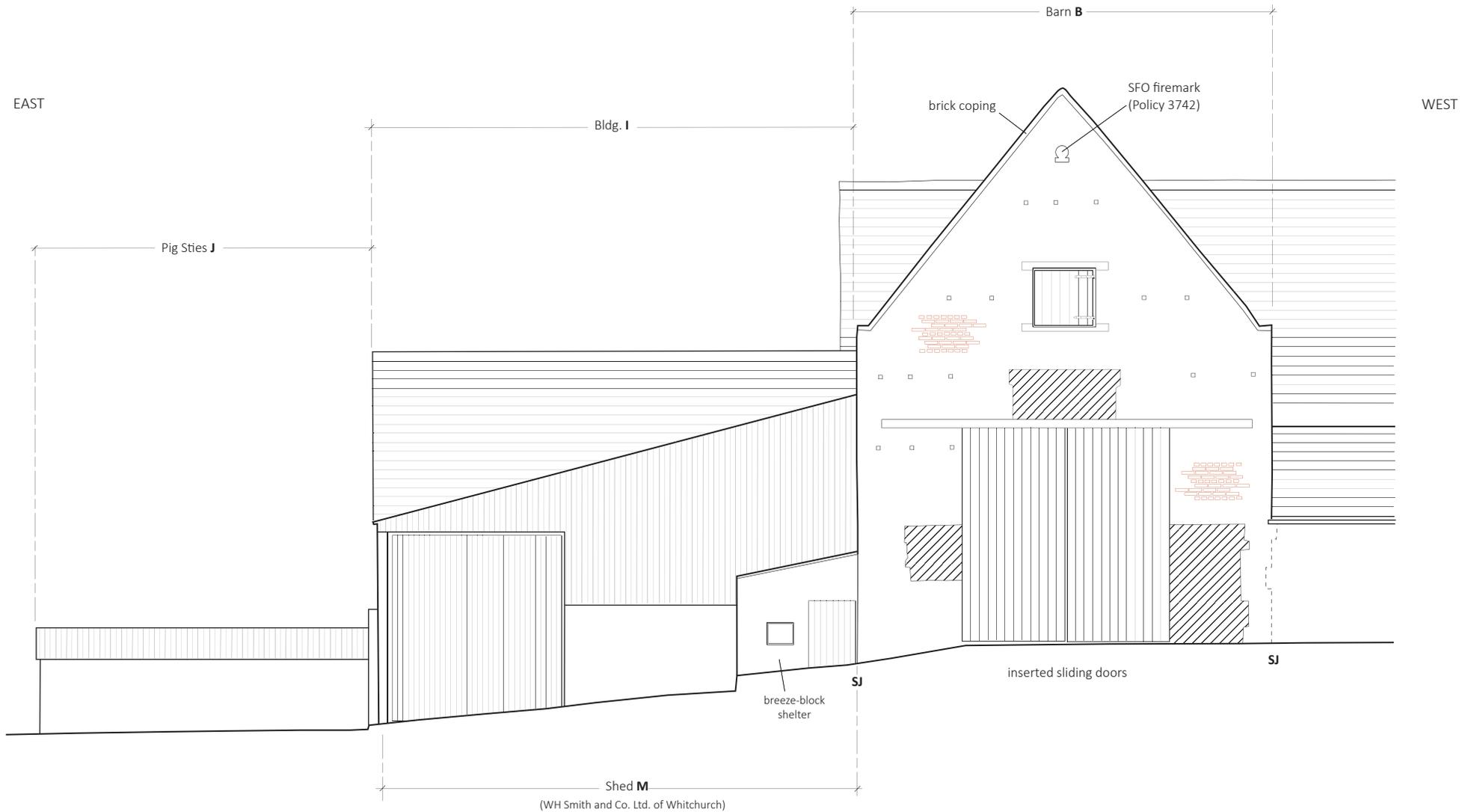
Scale in feet

0 10 30ft.

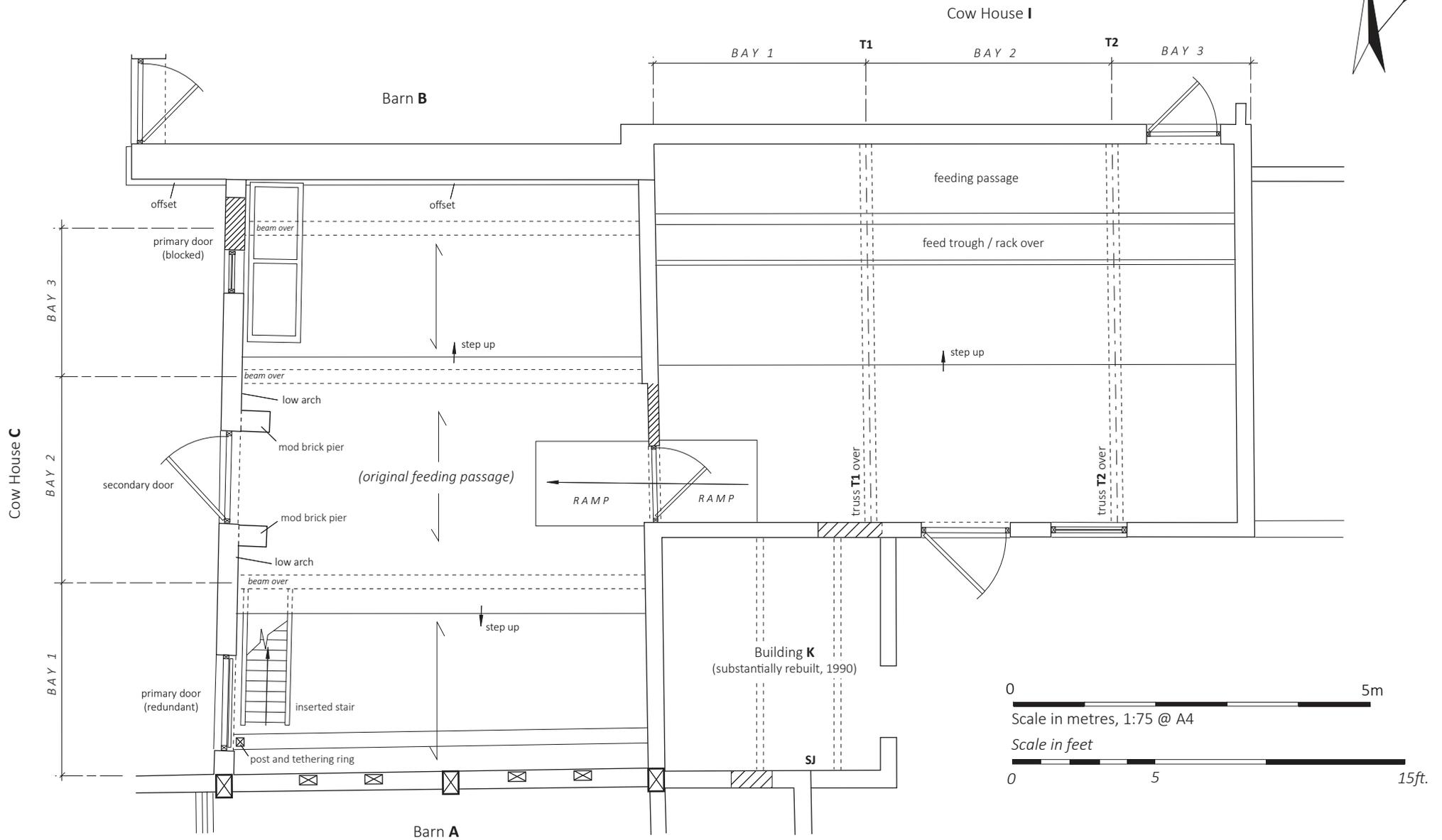
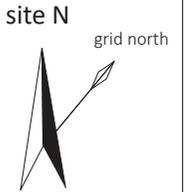
Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S4** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



Benthall Hall Farm
Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire
Figure 17: Buildings C/I, plan

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

NORTH

SOUTH



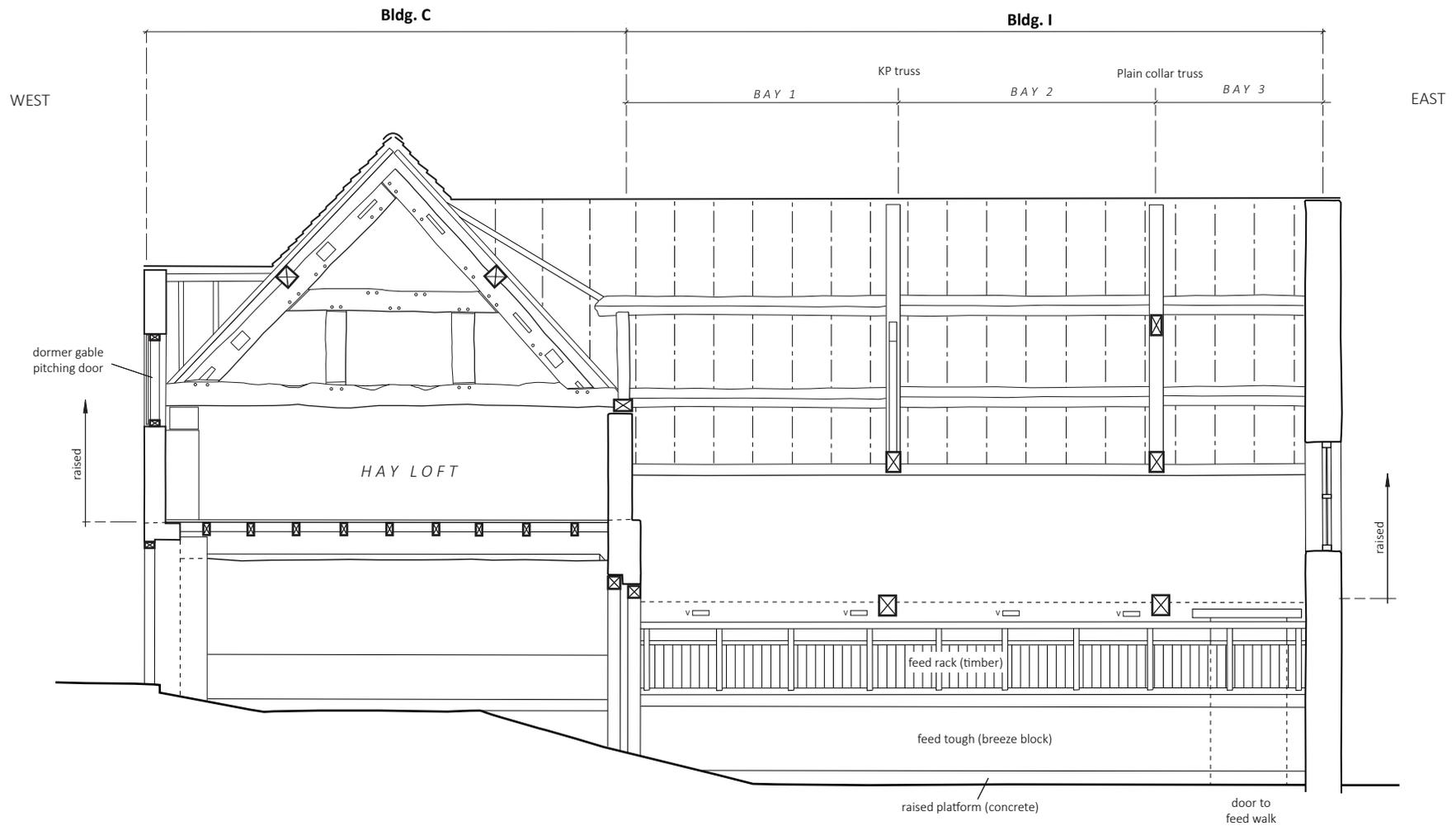
0 5m

Scale in metres, 1:75 @ A4

Scale in feet

0 5 15ft.

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



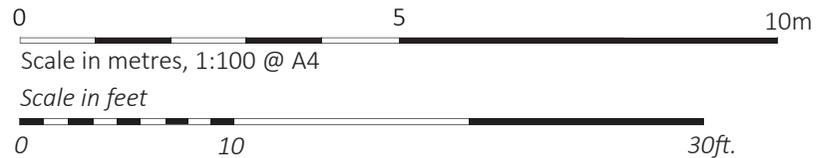
0 5m

Scale in metres, 1:75 @ A4

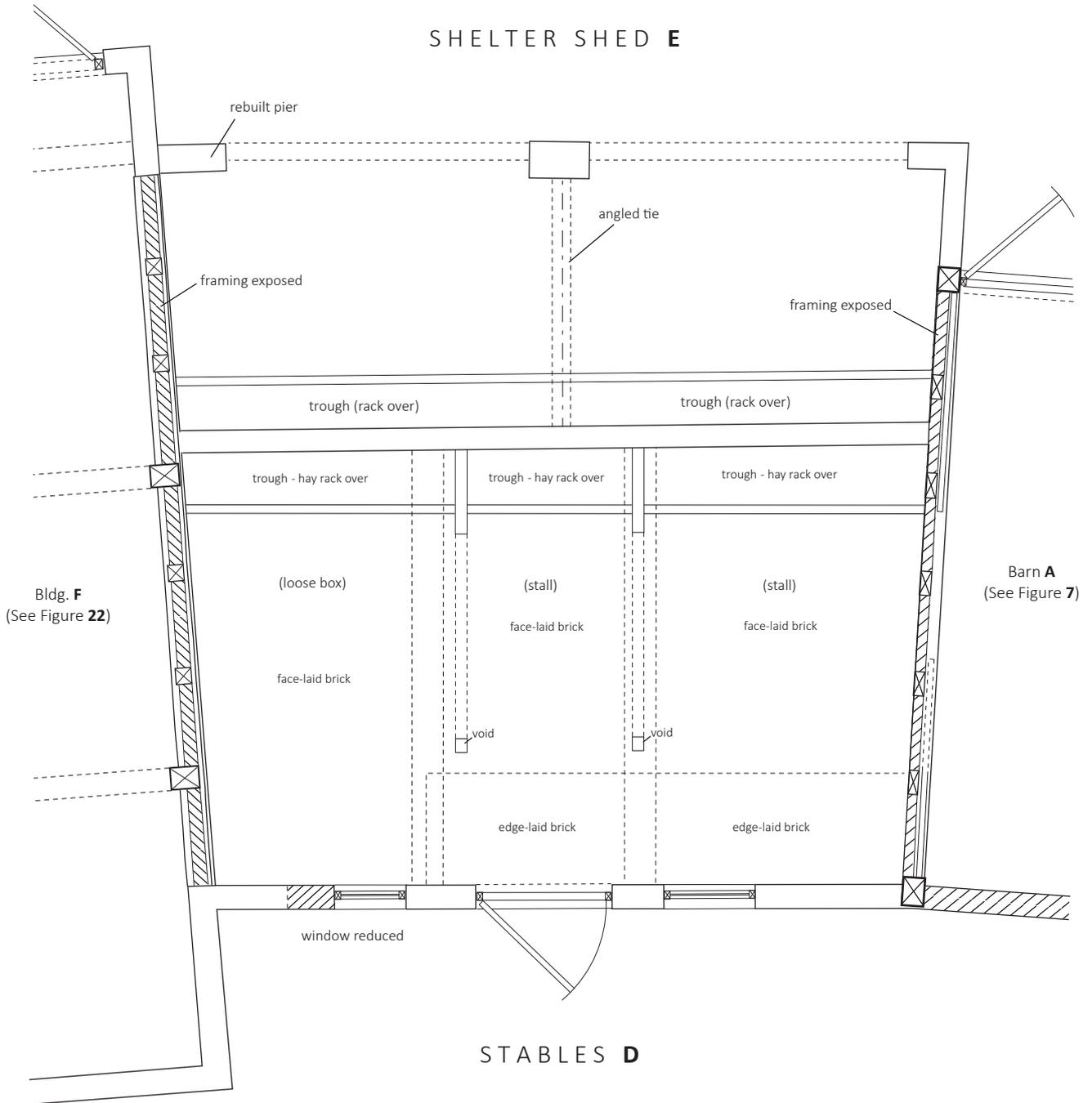
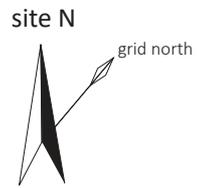
Scale in feet

0 5 15ft.

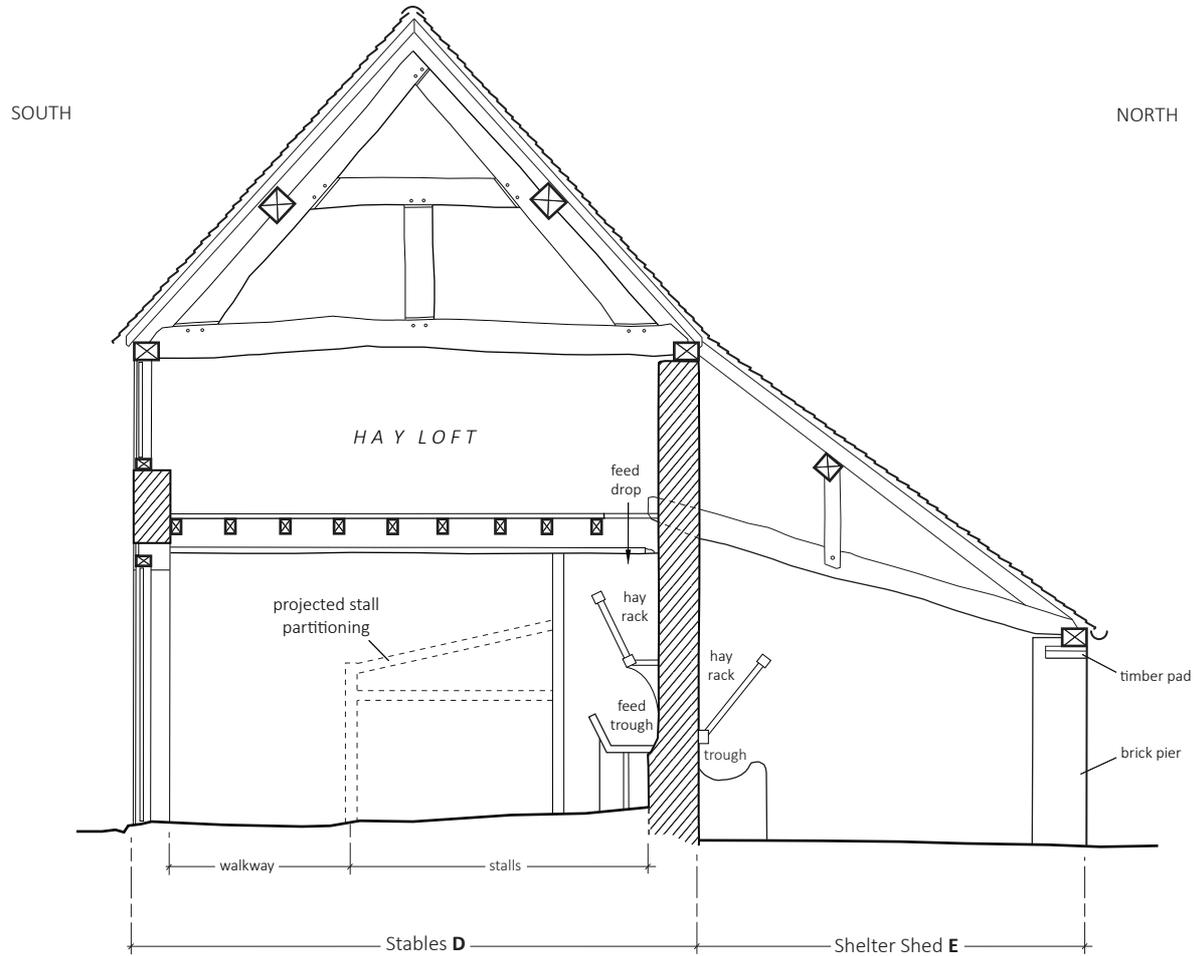
Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S4** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



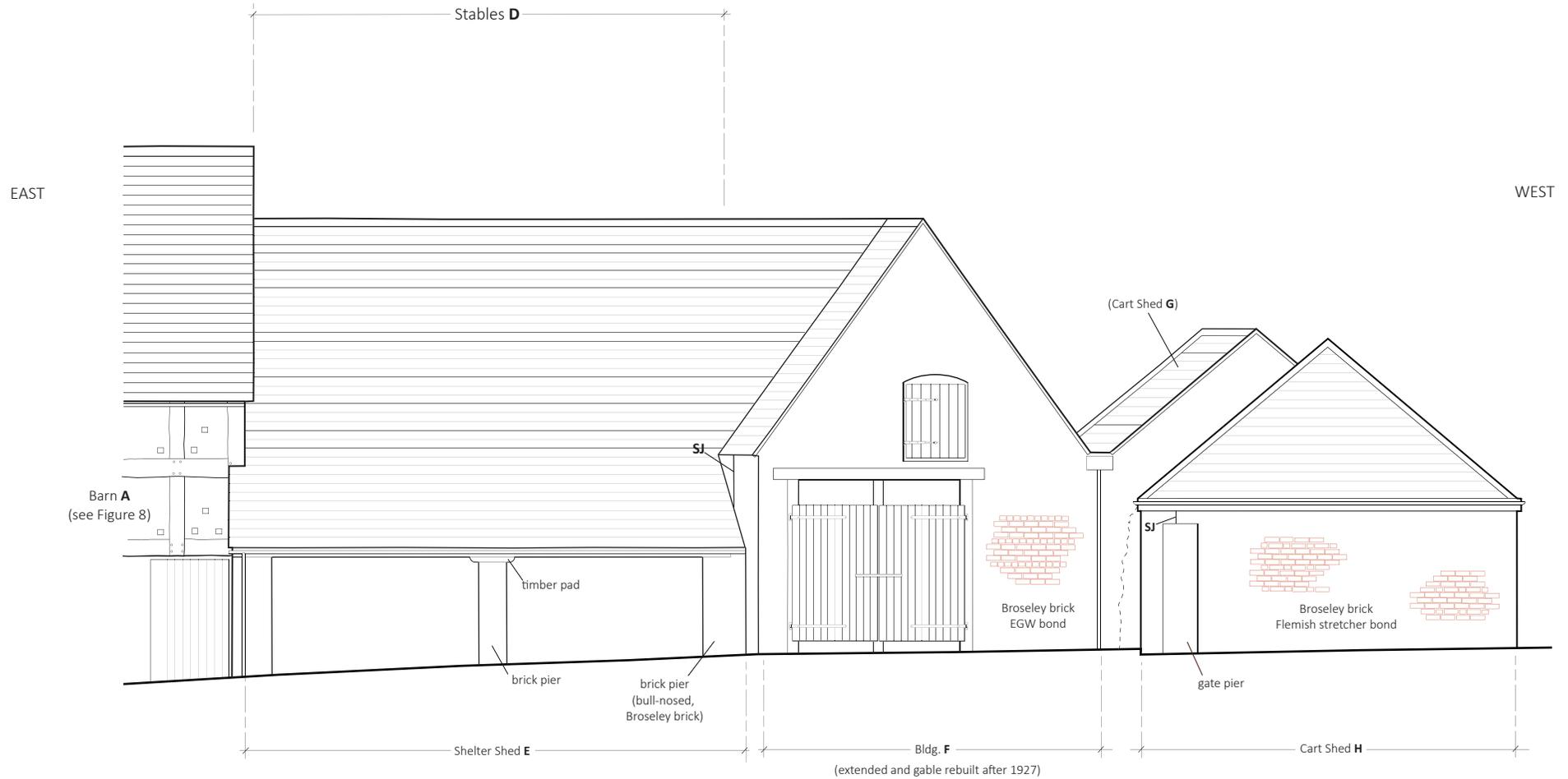
Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



Based upon National Trust drawing **BE/S4** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



0 5 10m

Scale in metres, 1:100 @ A4

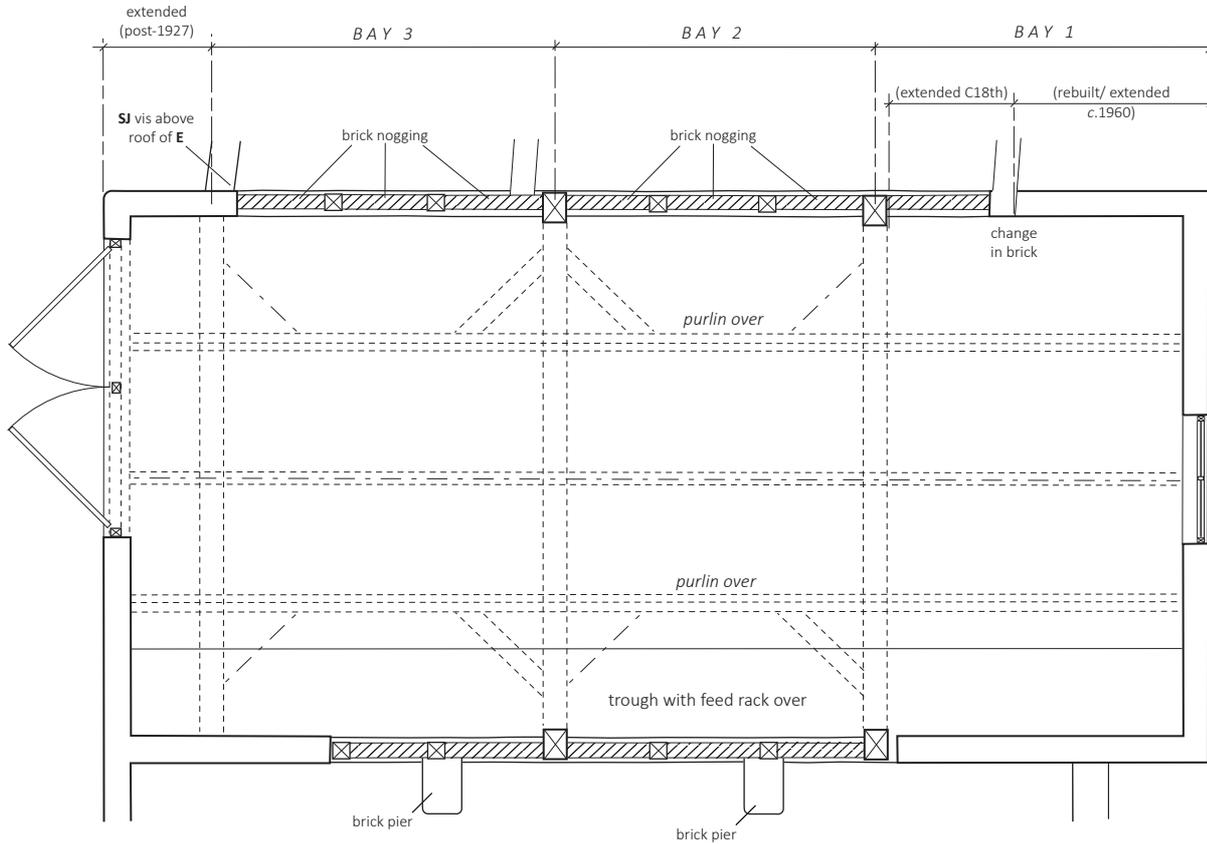
Scale in feet

0 10 30ft.

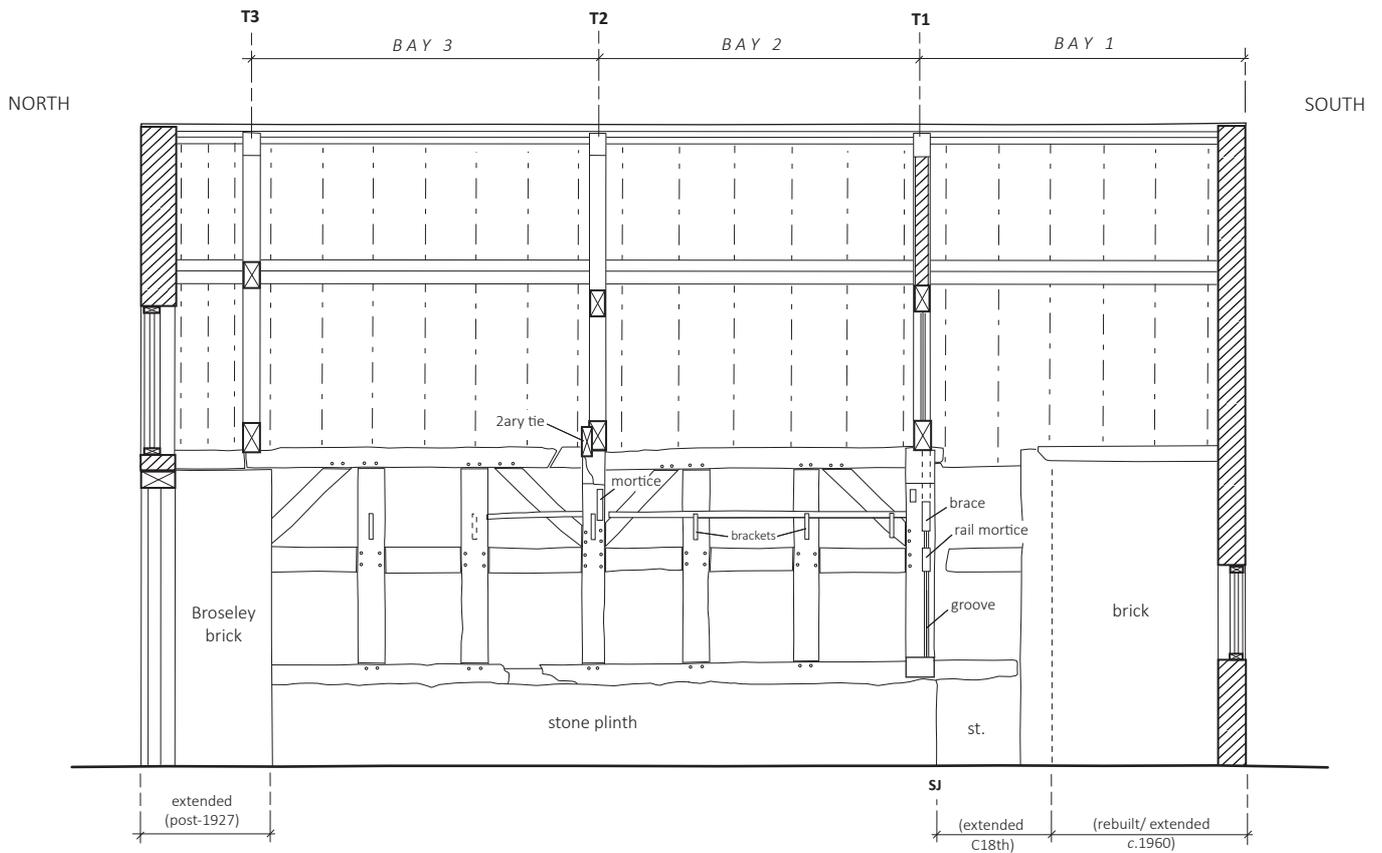
RIC TYLER
MCIFA FGCert. Arch. Hist (Oxf)

Benthall Hall Farm
Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire
Figure 23: Buildings **E**, **F** and **G**; north elevation

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



(a) Plan



(b) Longitudinal cross-section looking east

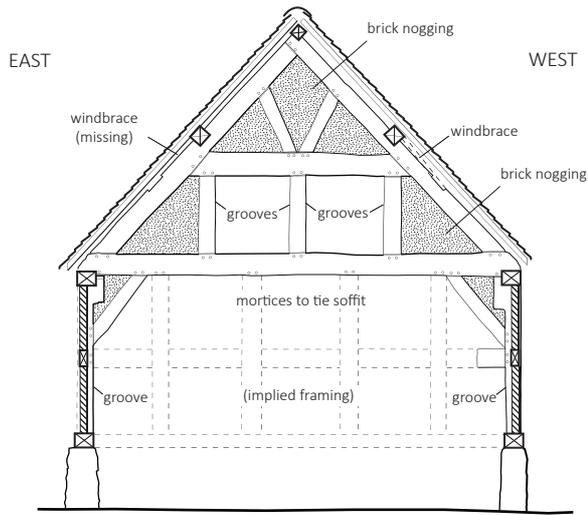
0 5m

Scale in metres, 1:75 @ A4

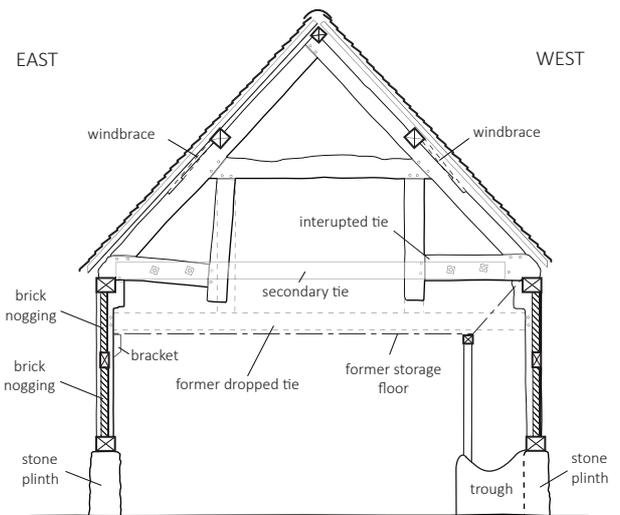
Scale in feet

0 5 15ft.

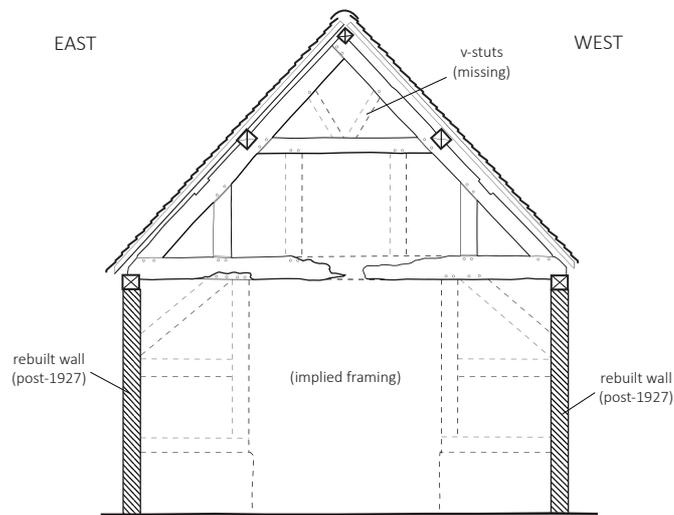
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



(a) Cross section at Truss T1 looking south



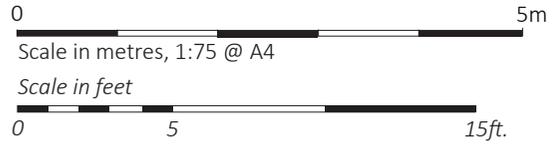
(b) Cross section at Truss T2 looking south



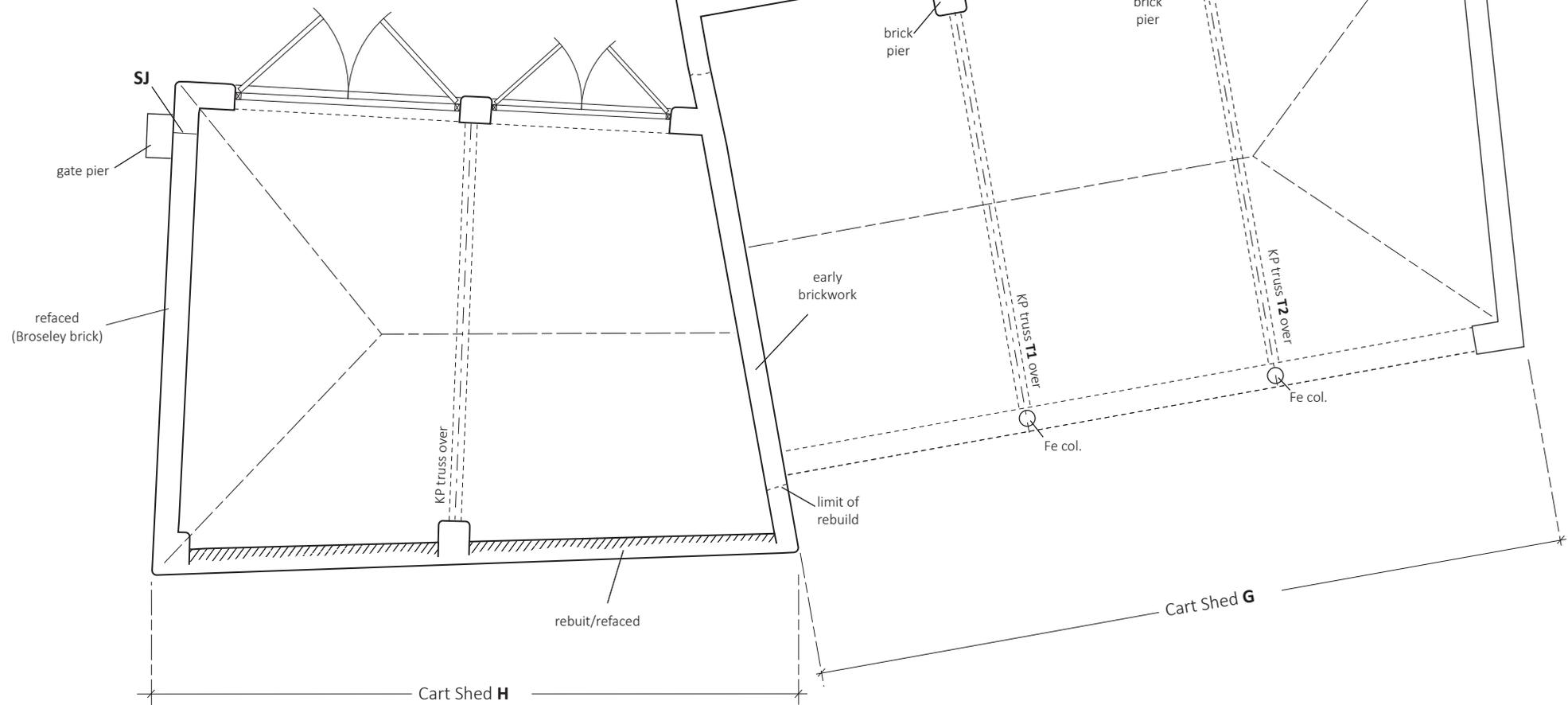
(c) Cross section at Truss T3 looking south



Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

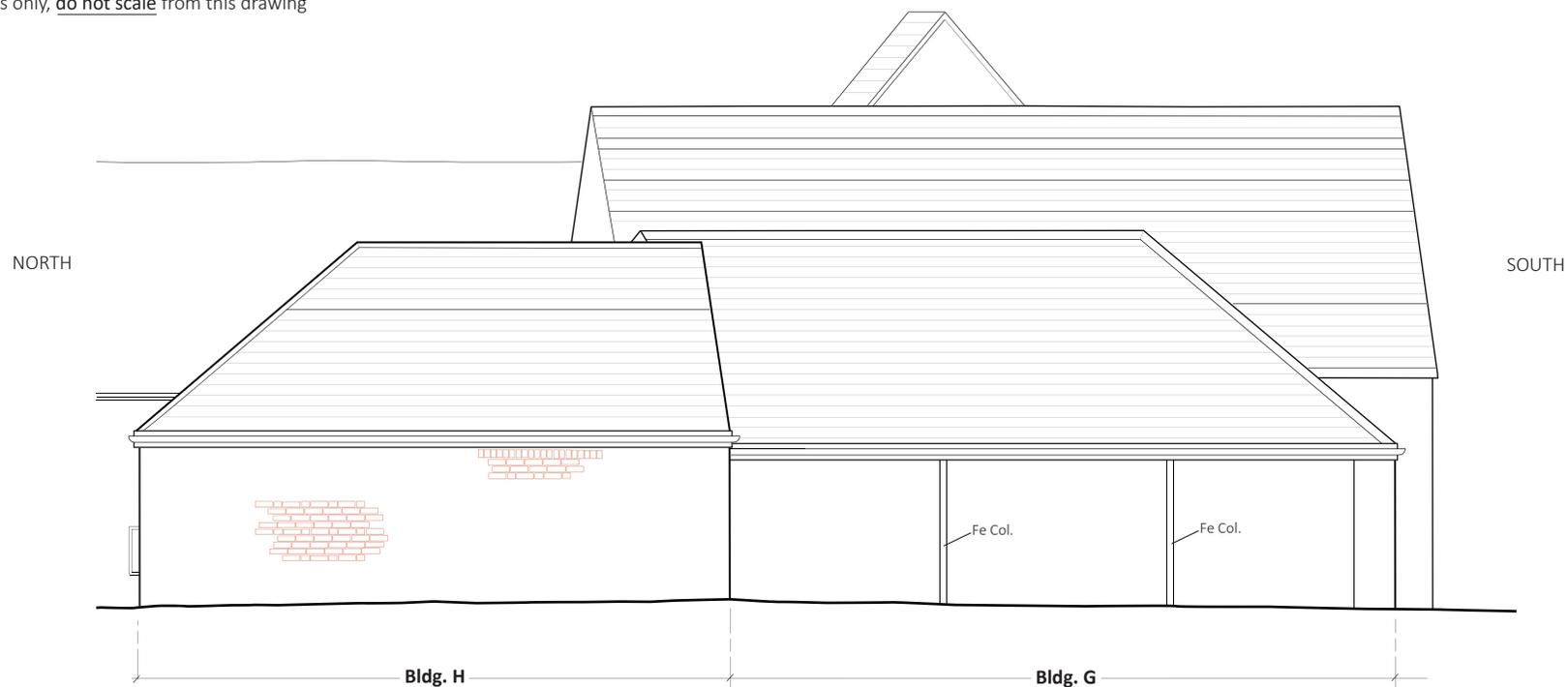


Bldg F (see Figure 24a)

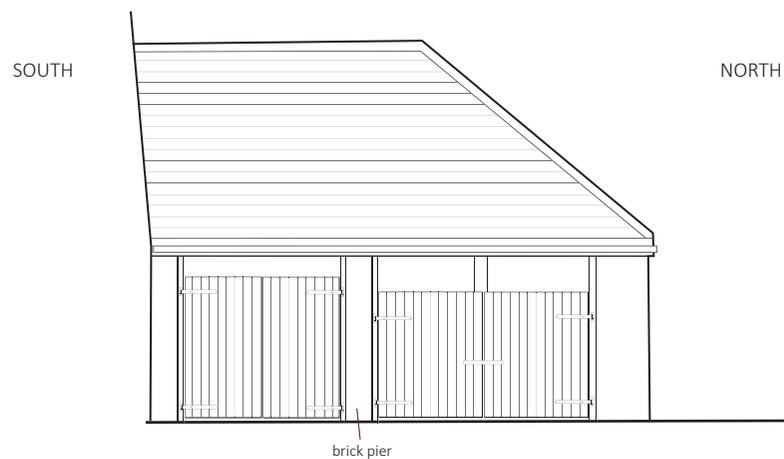


Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S3** of 21.01.1990

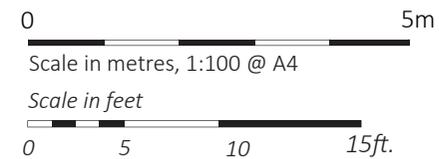
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



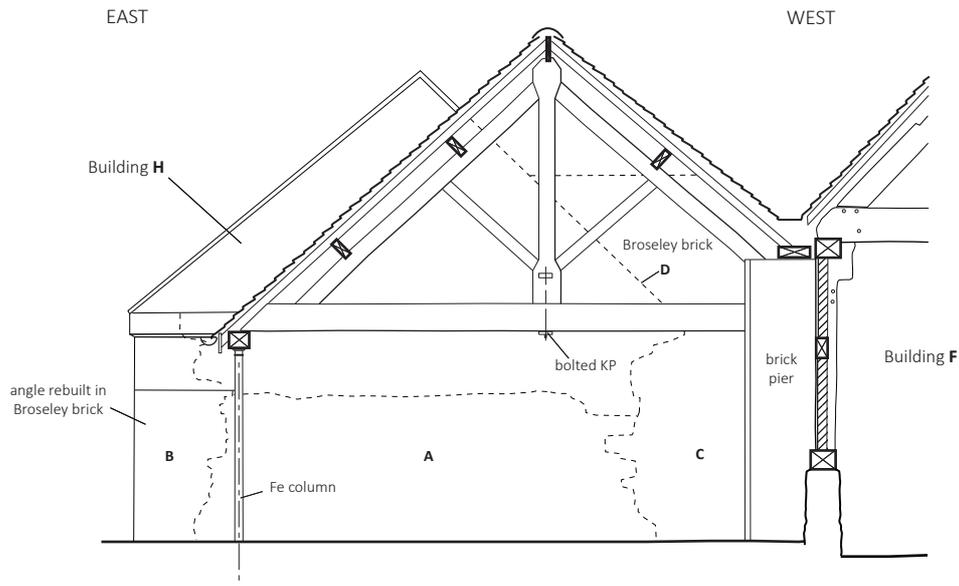
(a) West elevation of Buildings **G / H**



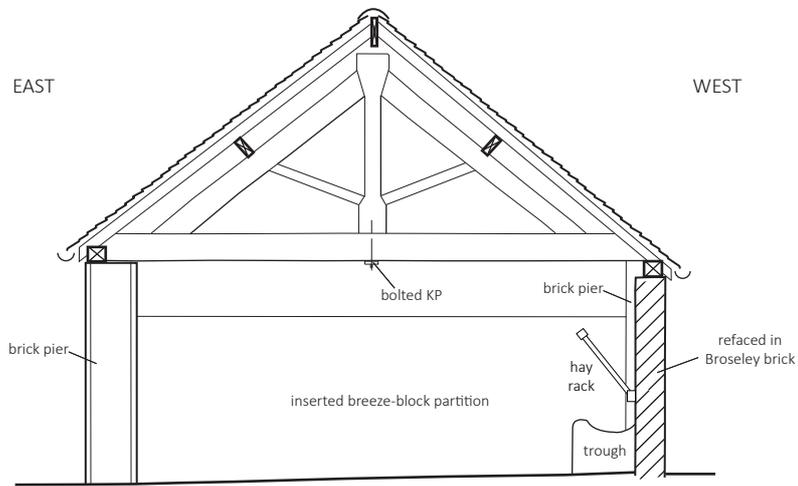
(b) East elevation of Building **H**



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



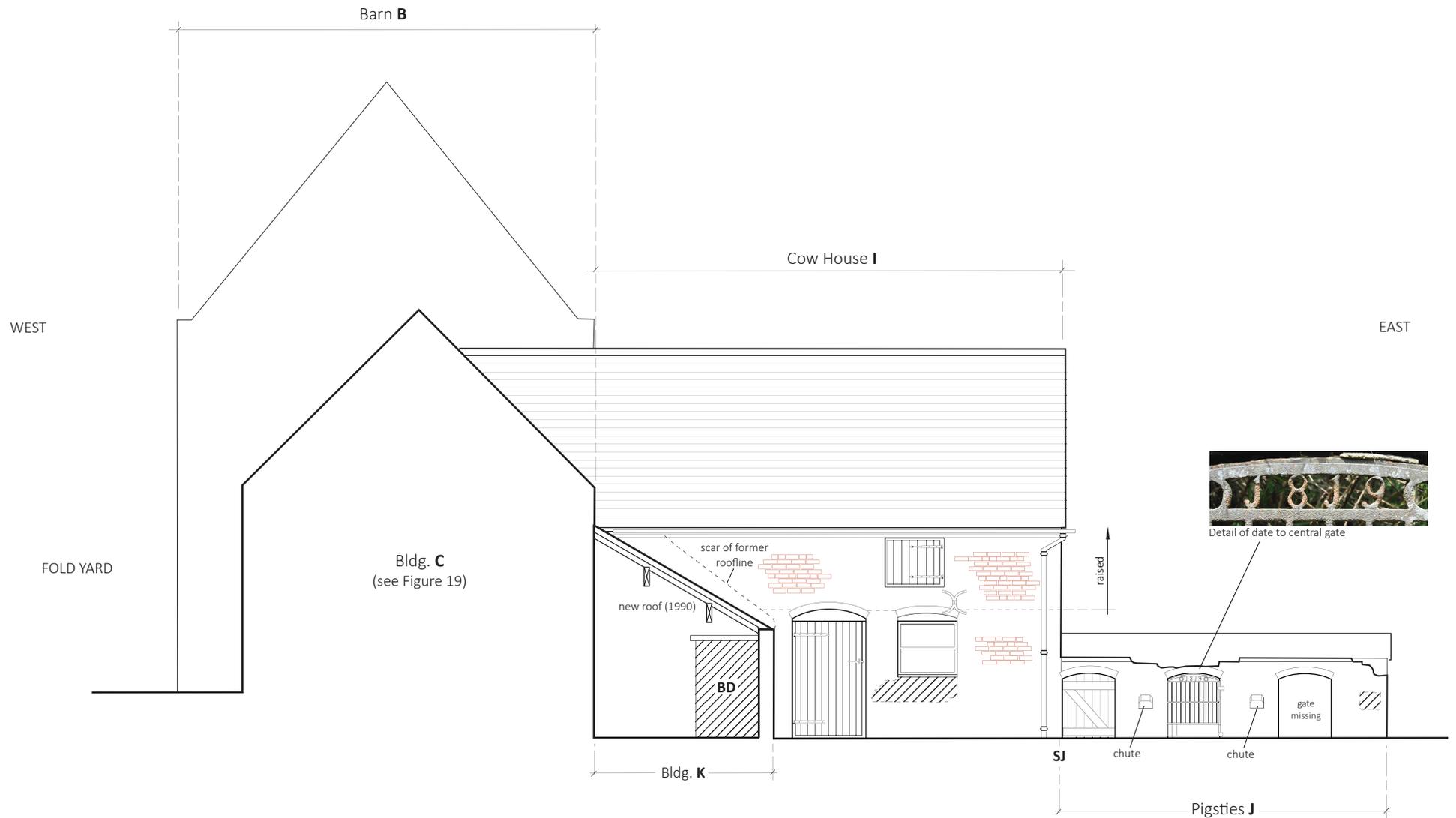
(a) Cross-section of Building G



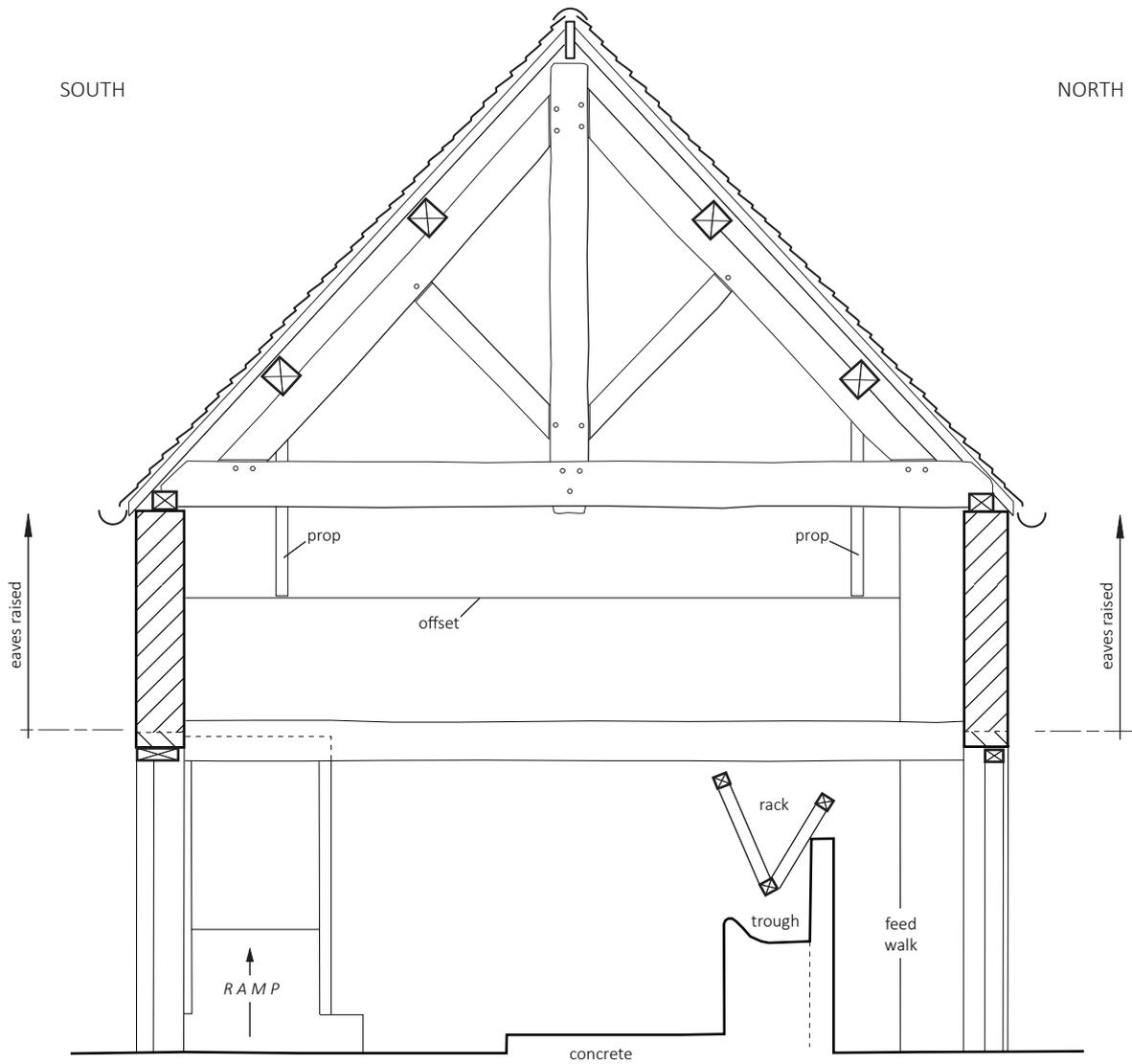
(b) Cross-section of Building H



Based partly upon National Trust drawing **BE/S4** of 21.01.1990
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



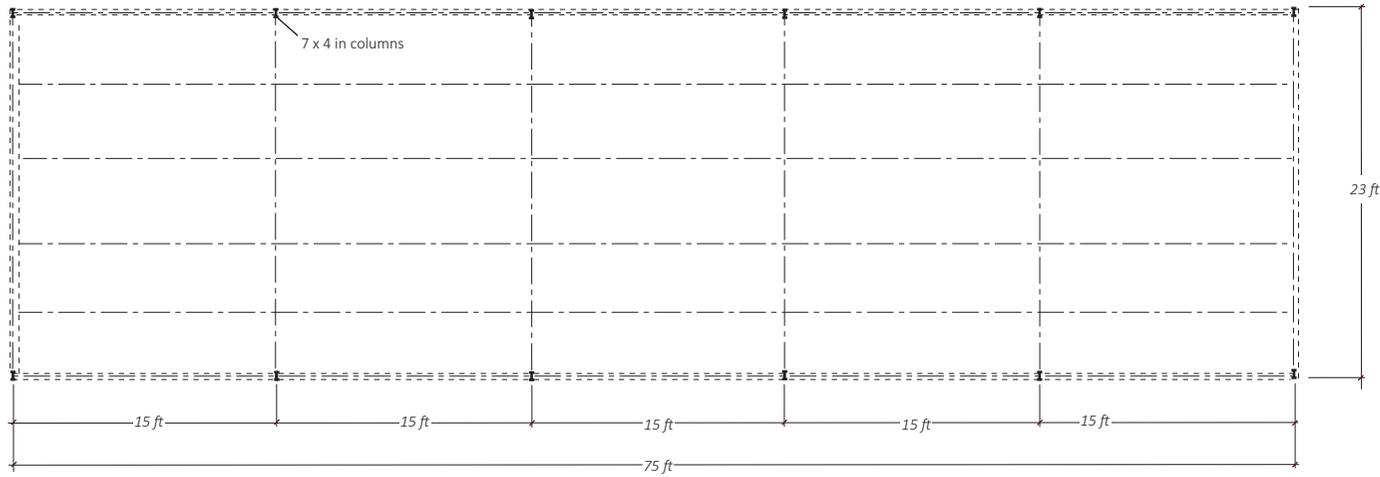
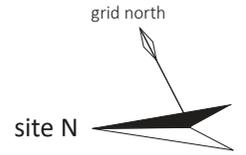
0 3m

Scale in metres, 1:50 @ A4

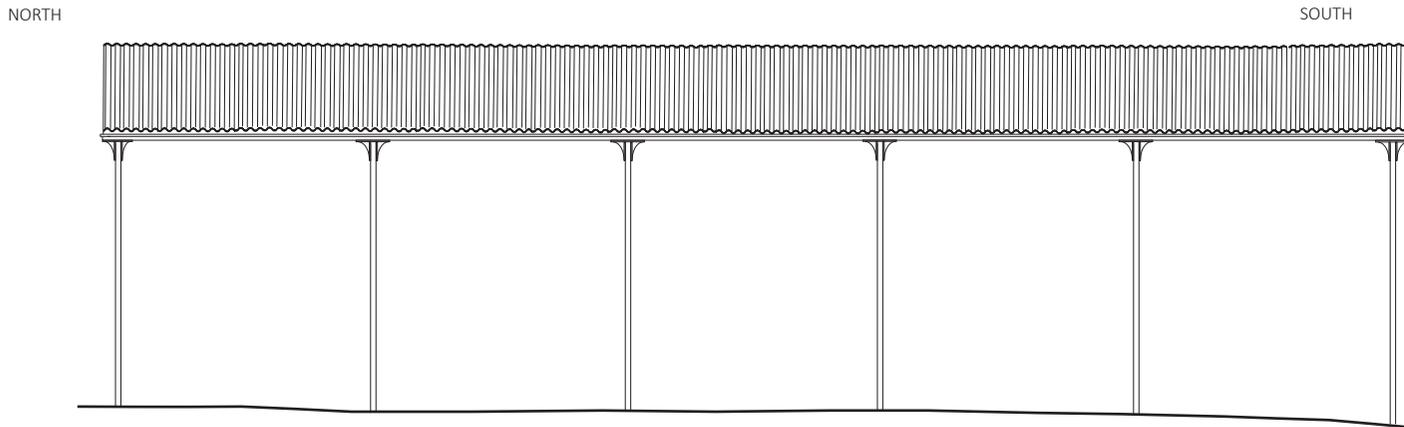
Scale in feet

0 5 10ft.

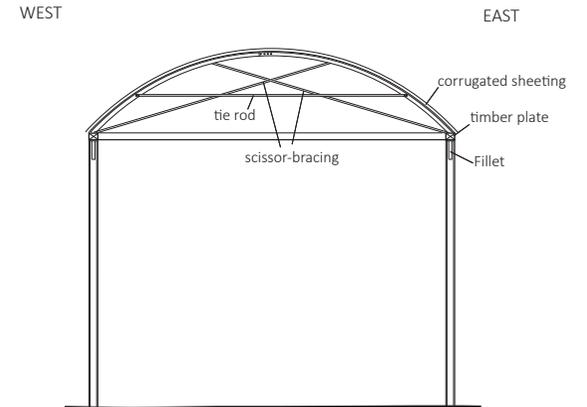
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



(a) Ground Plan



(b) West Elevation



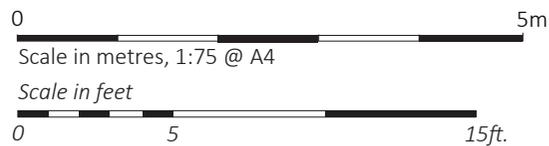
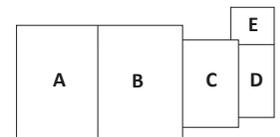
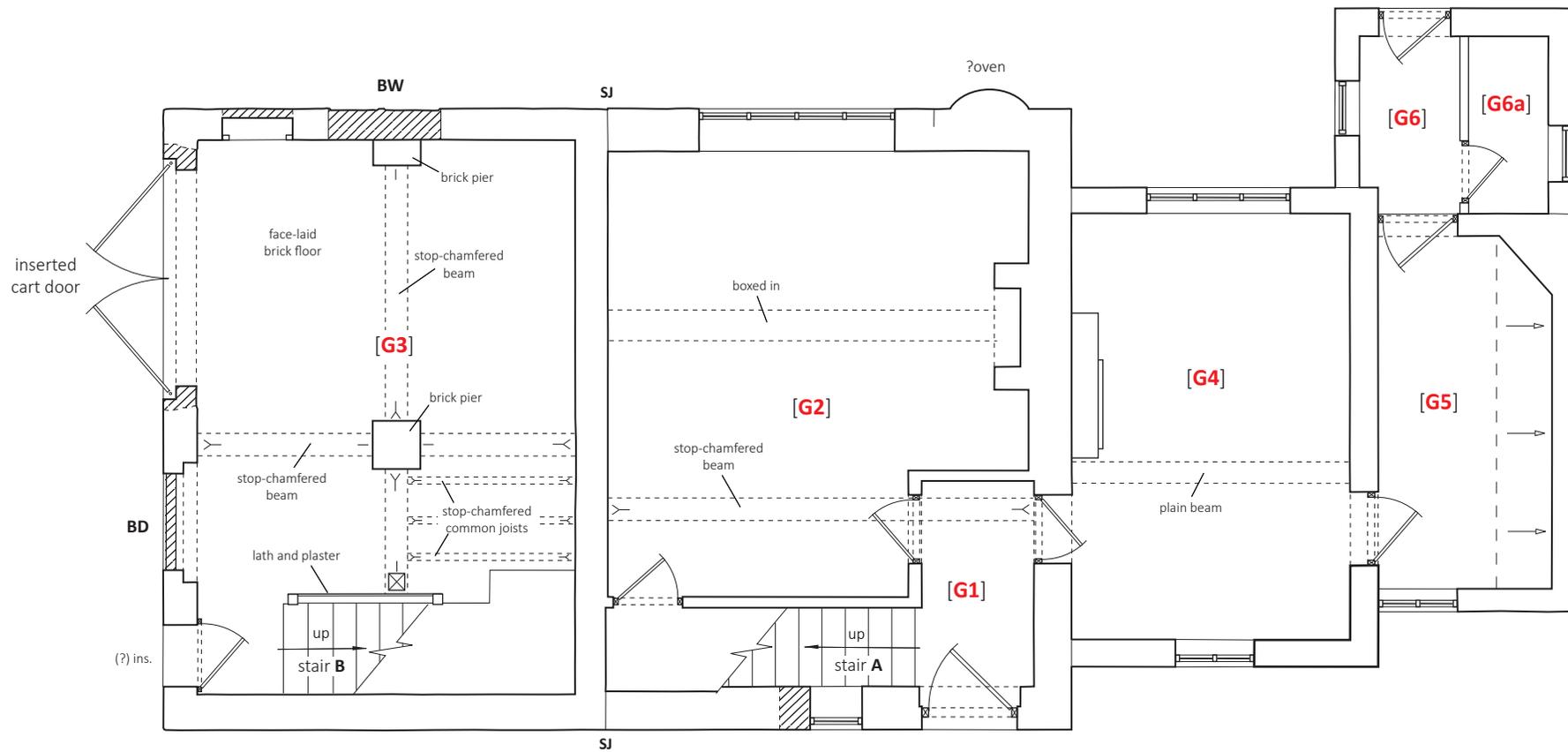
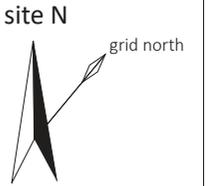
(c) Transverse Cross-Section



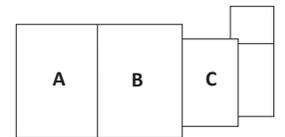
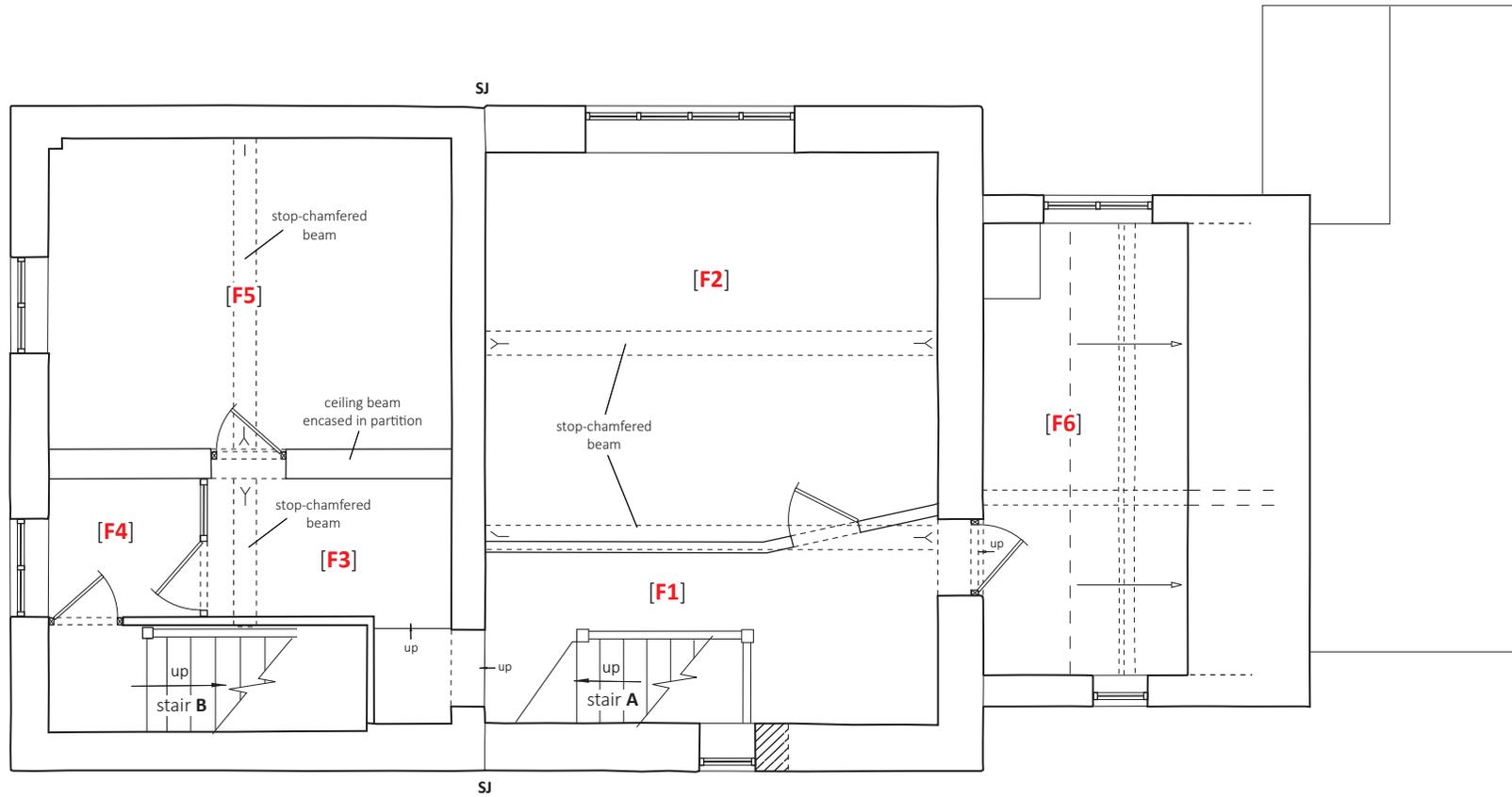
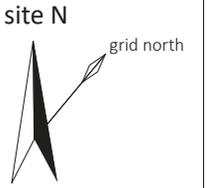
Scale in metres, 1:150 @ A4
Scale in feet



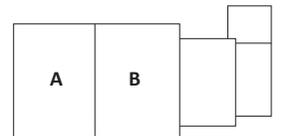
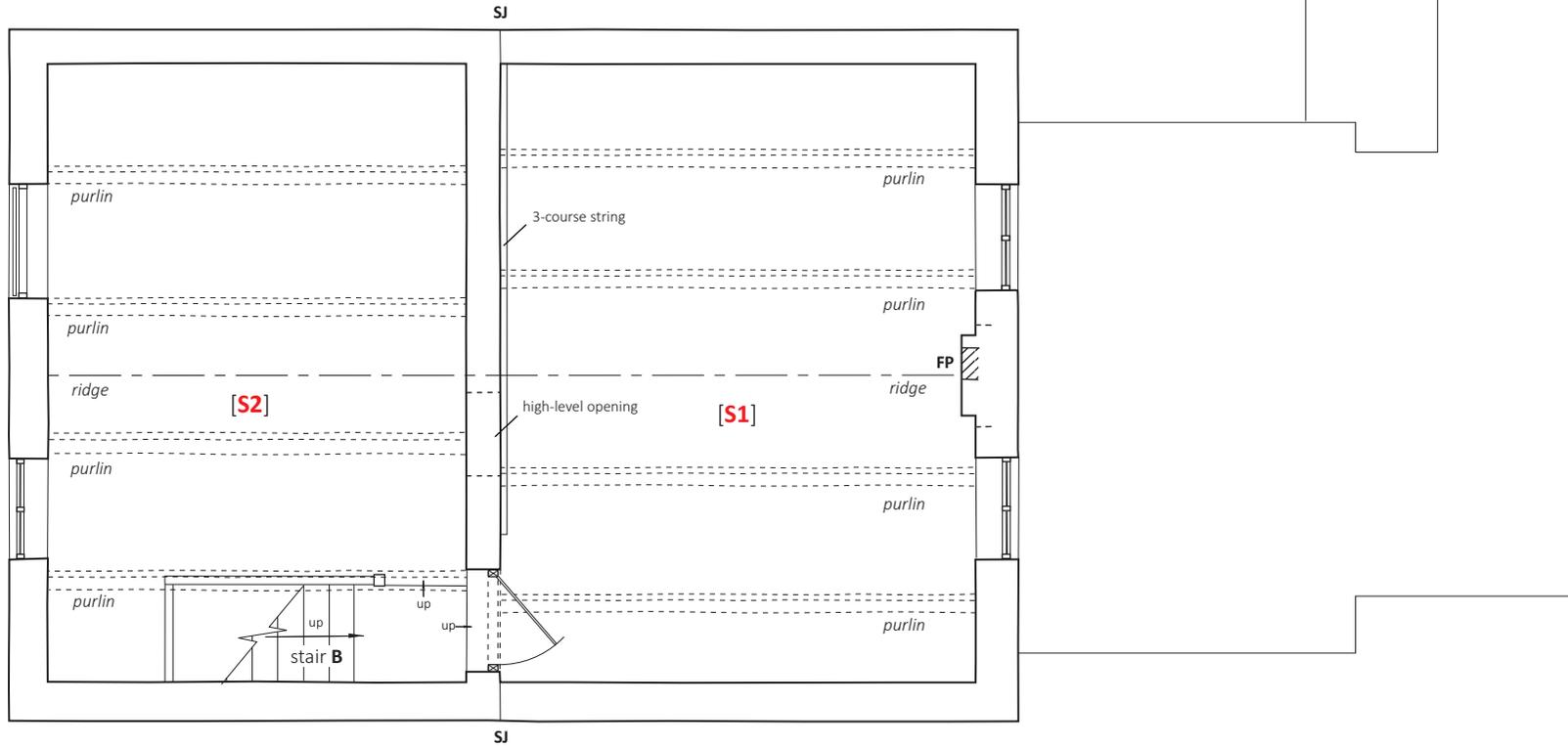
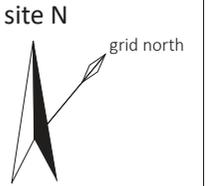
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



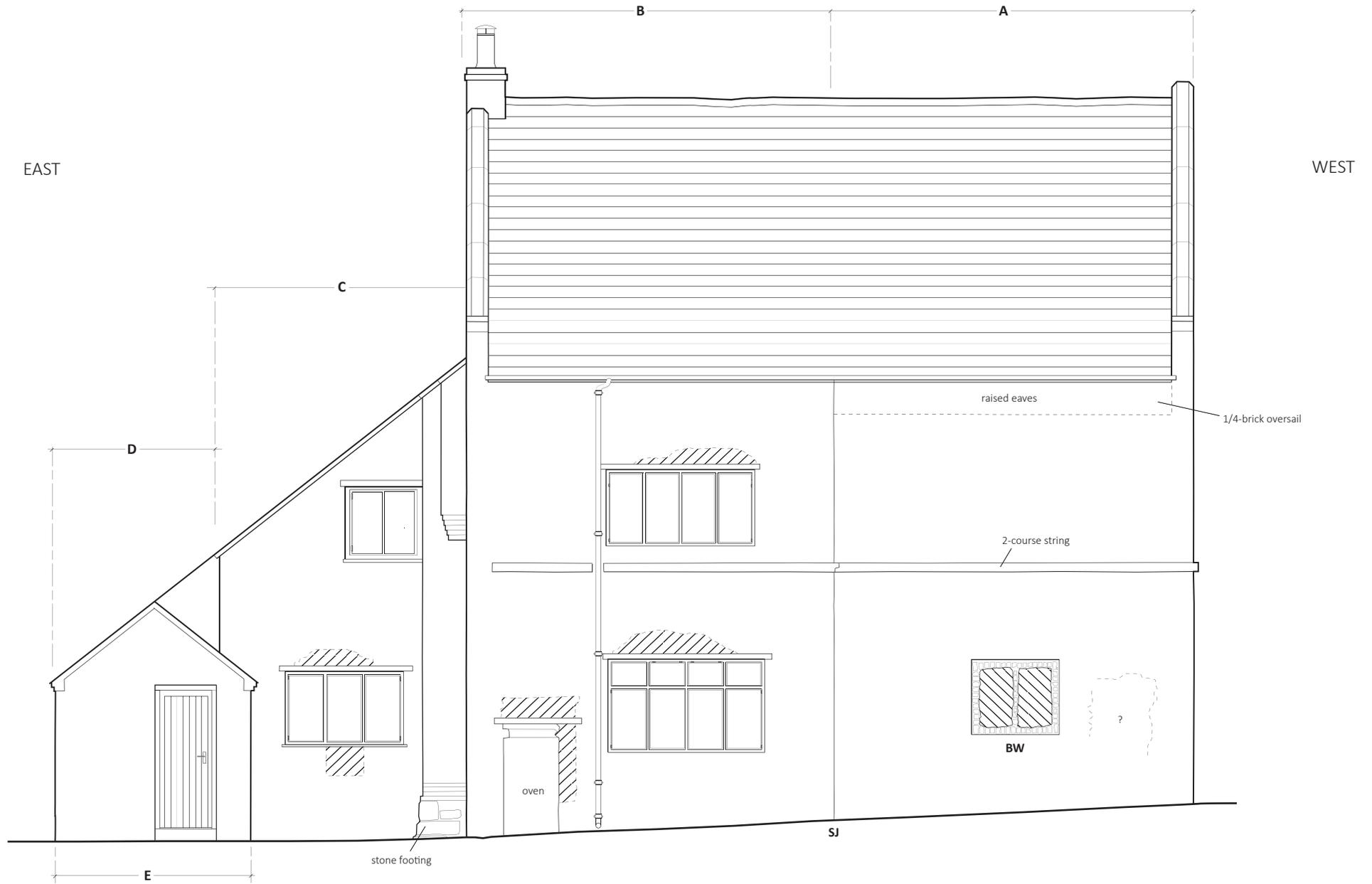
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



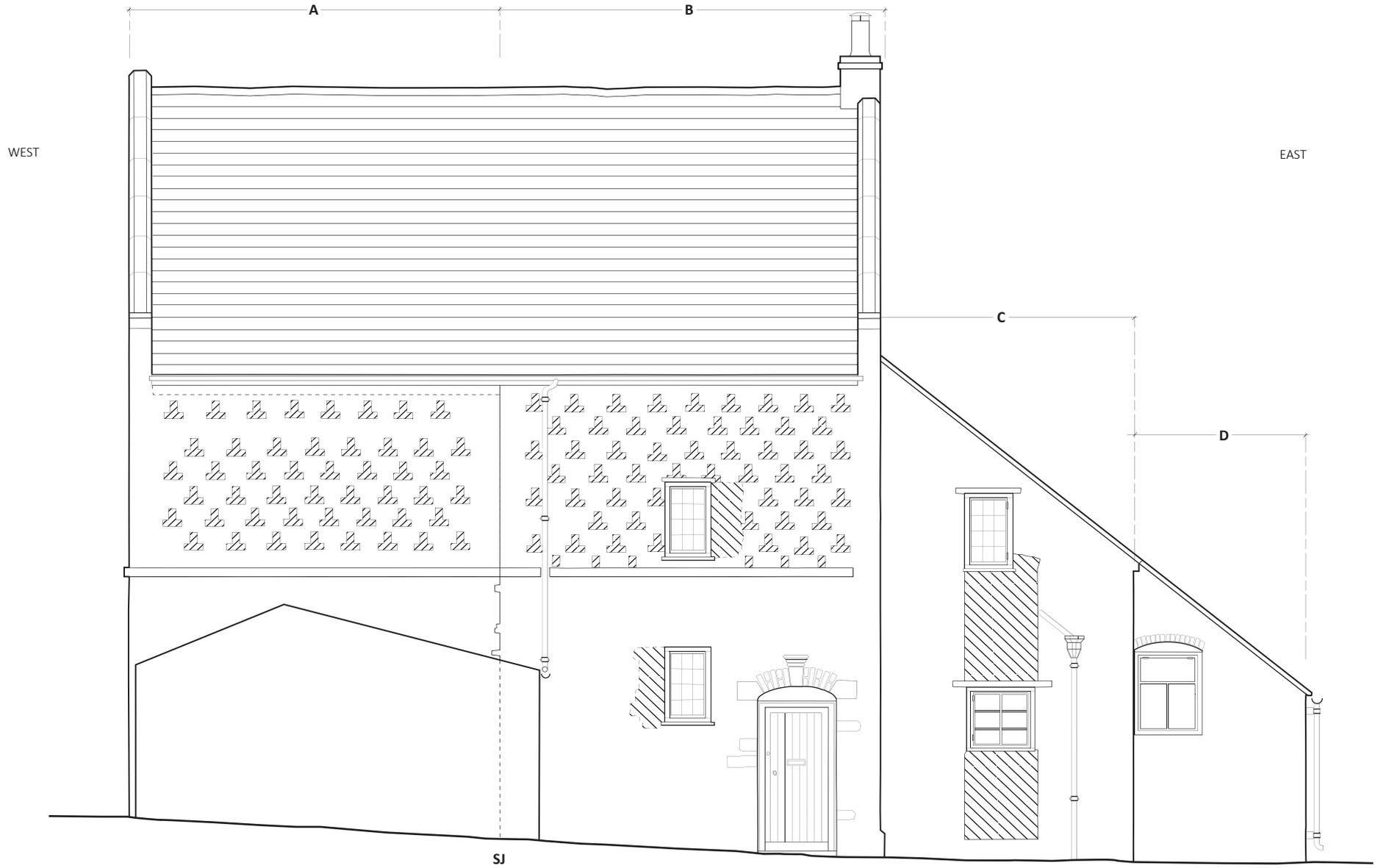
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



0 5m

Scale in metres, 1:75 @ A4

Scale in feet

0 5 15ft.

RIC TYLER
MCIFA FGCert. Arch. Hist (Oxf.)

Benthall Hall Farm
Benthall, Broseley, Shropshire
Figure 36: 'Gardener's Cottage'; south elevation

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



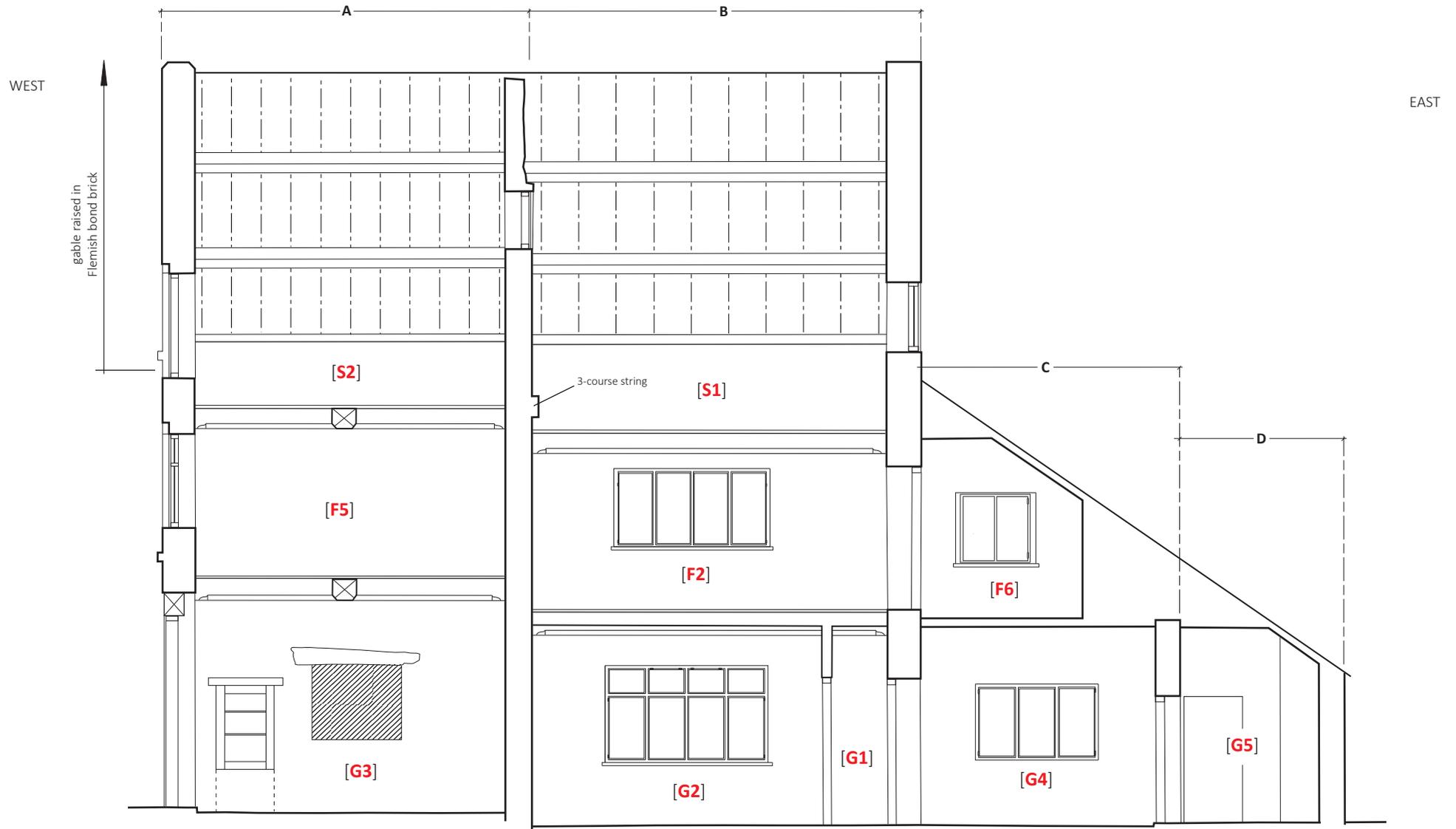
(a) West gable elevation



(b) East gable elevation



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



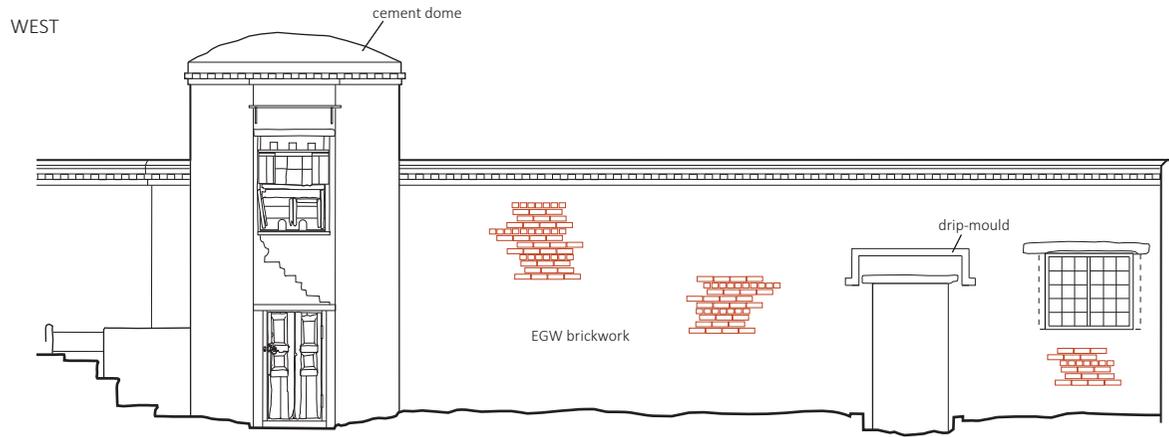
0 5m

Scale in metres, 1:75 @ A4

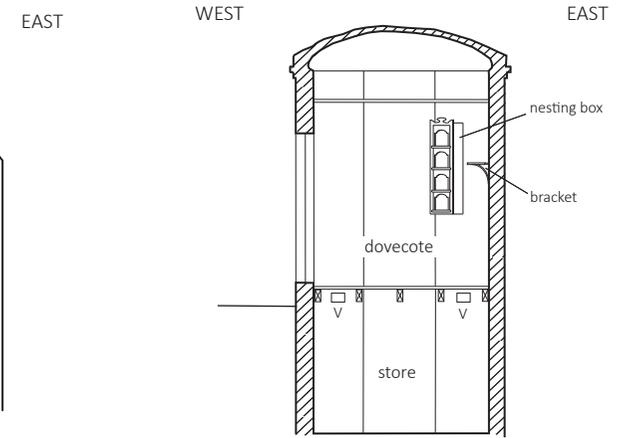
Scale in feet

0 5 15ft.

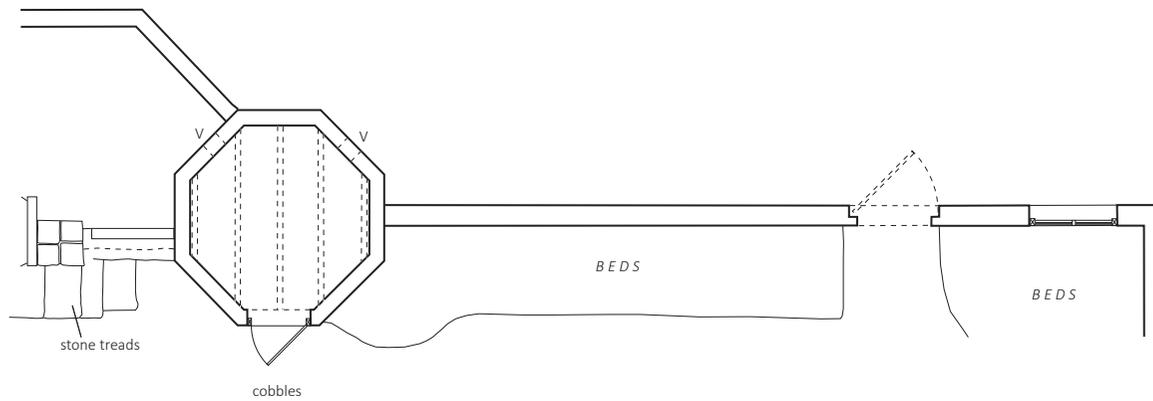
NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



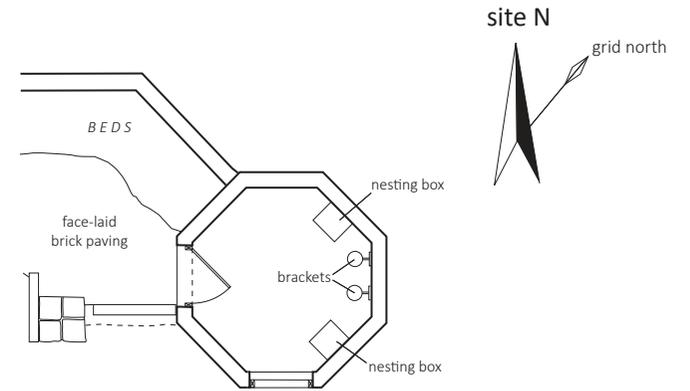
(a) South elevation, to Rose Garden



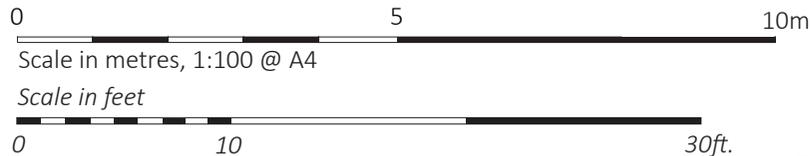
(b) Cross-section looking north

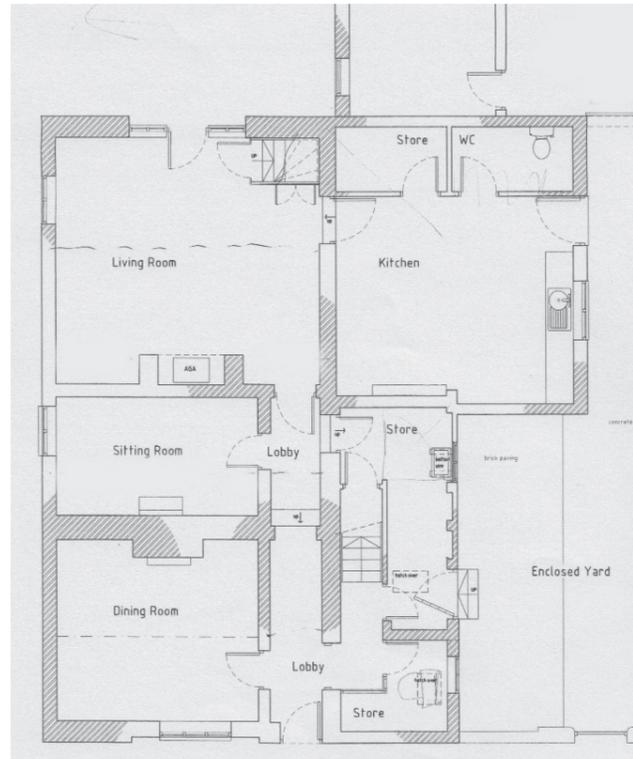


(c) Plan at basement store level

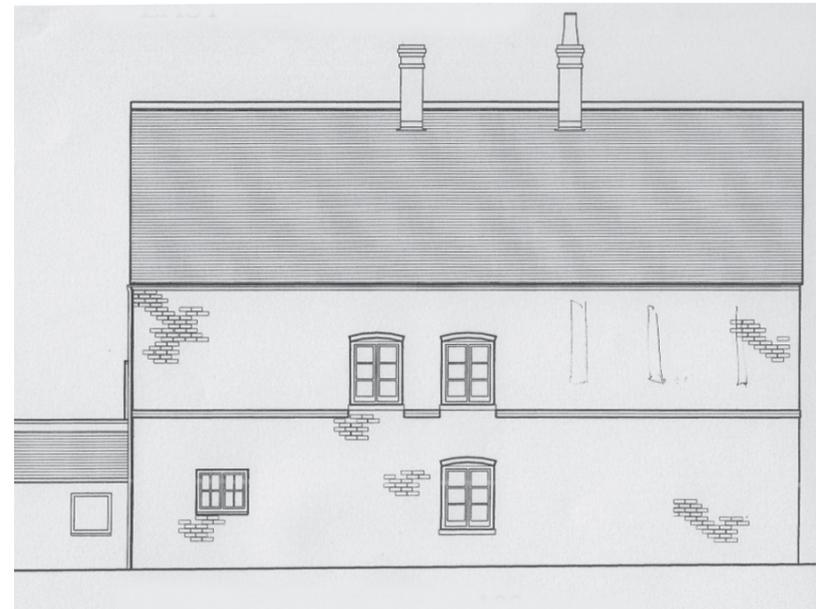


(d) Plan at upper, dovecote level





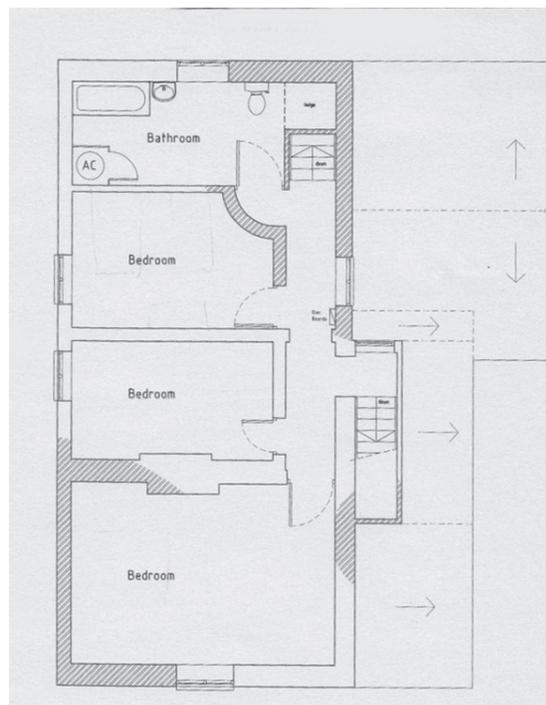
(a) Ground Floor Plan



(c) North Elevation



(e) West Elevation



(b) First Floor Plan



(d) South Elevation



(f) East Elevation

Based partly upon National Trust drawing BE/S3 of 21.01.1990

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

- KEY TO PHASING**
- PHASE I:** early/mid-17th century
 - PHASE II:** early/mid-18th century
 - PHASE III:** mid/late-18th century
 - PHASE IV:** early-19th century
 - Phase V not represented in recorded buildings*
 - PHASE VI:** late-19th century
 - PHASE VII:** early-mid 20th century
 - PHASE VIII:** mid/late-20th century





Plate 1: Barn A, general view (oblique) of north (yard) elevation, looking south-east (Bldg. C to left).



Plate 2: Representative bay of timber-framing atop (under-built) brick plinth (Bay 4, north elevation).

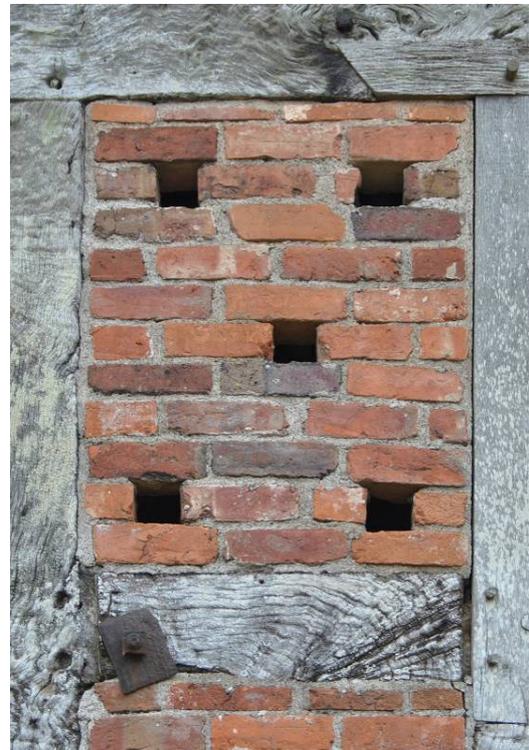


Plate 3: Detail of brick nogging infill with vent holes.



Plate 4: Extant threshing doors to Bay 3 (N).

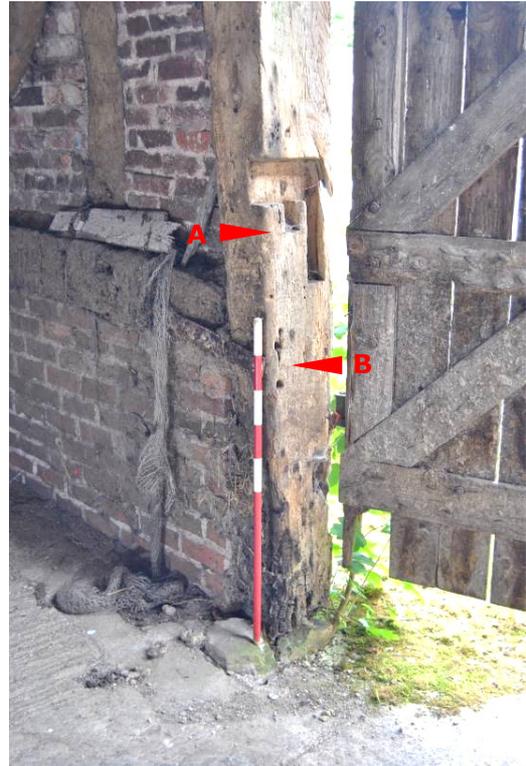


Plate 5: Detail of socket (A) for threshold in bay-post to west side of northern threshing door, note also peg holes (B) for former transverse cill.



Plate 6: Barn A, general view (oblique) of south elevation, looking north-east (stables F to left).



Plate 7: Representative bay of timber-framing atop stone plinth (Bay 2, south elevation).



Plate 8: Blocked threshing door to Bay 3 (S).

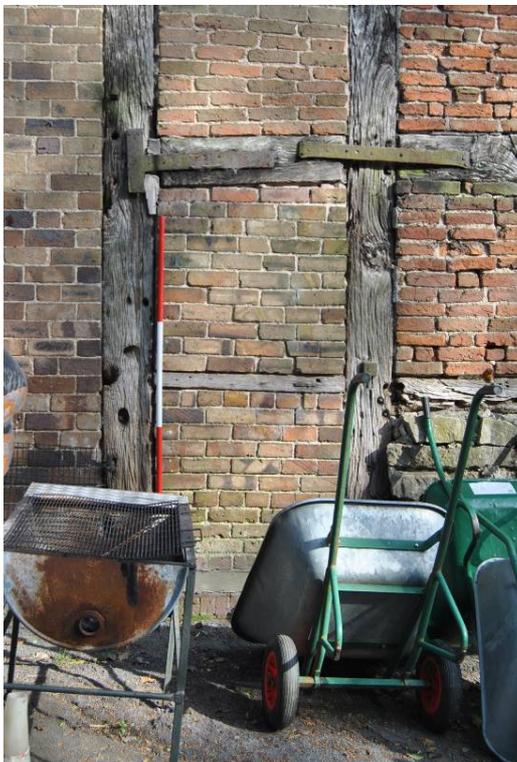


Plate 9: Blocked 'pass' door to east side of Bay 3.



Plate 10: Iron pintles indicating bi-partite doors.



Plate 11: Double doors inserted to Bay 1 of south elevation (?late C19th/early C20th), **NB.** peg holes for former studs to rail.



Plate 12: Brick under-build of Bays 4/5 of south elevation, with vent holes, GF door and 1F pitching hatch (both evidently inserted, blocked in C19th); **NB.** tie beam with pegging for studs and recessed primary angle-post to left, partly obscured by tiles.



Plate 13: Barn A, east gable end, underbuilt beneath tie and with renewed nogging panels above.

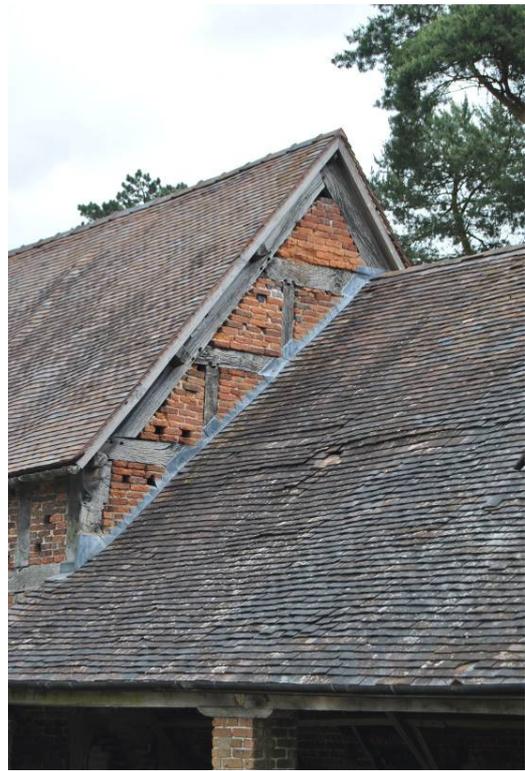


Plate 14: Barn A; west gable visible above roof of abutting shelter shed G.



Plate 15: Bays 4/5 looking south-west.



Plate 16: Detail of passing braces at NW angle (Bay 5).



Plate 17: Primary truss **T4** with raking struts, note cut-off central, vertical stud beneath tie-beam.



Plate 18: Secondary king-post truss **T5**.



Plate 19: Secondary brickwork to Bays 4/5 (S); note inserted feed trough.



Plate 20: Secondary weatherboarding partition at T3 to east side of threshing bay (Bay 3).



Plate 21: Inserted feed-trough to south wall.

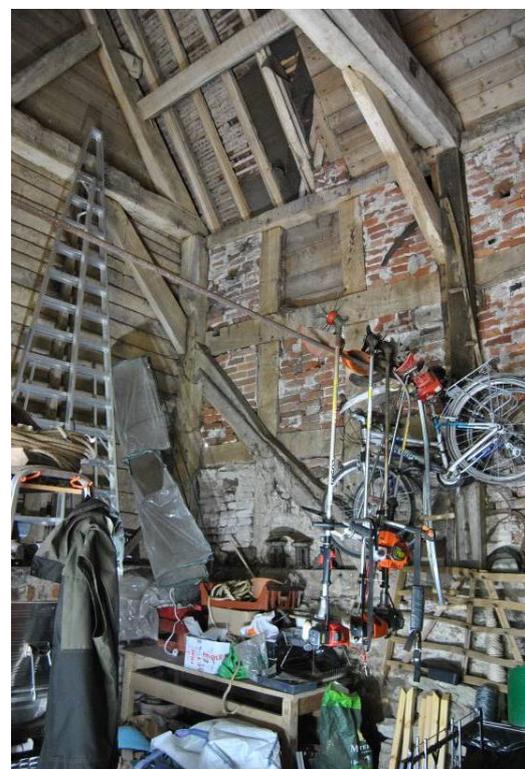


Plate 22: Bays 1/2 looking north-west.

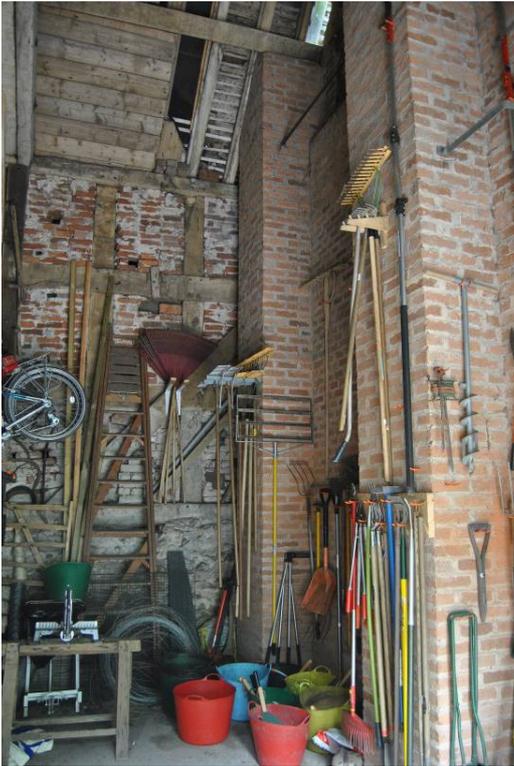


Plate 23: Bay 1 looking north, note underbuilt gable end to right.

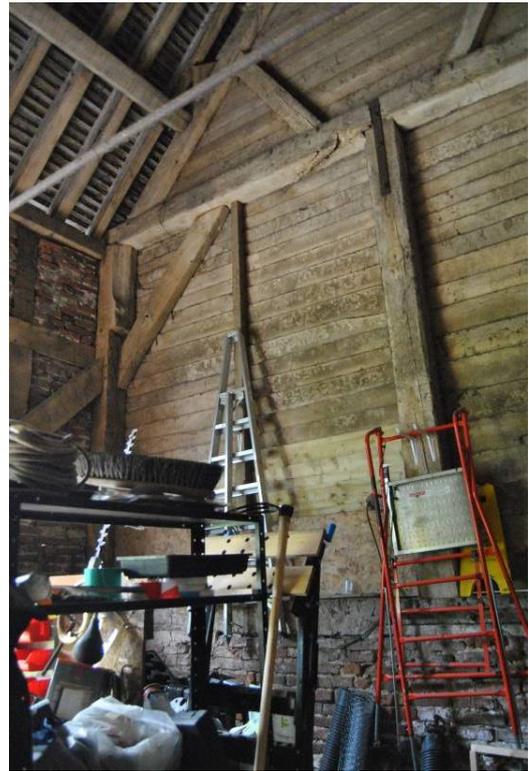


Plate 24: Secondary weatherboarding partition to west side of Bay 2; **NB.** central vertical stud, **T3.**



Plate 25: Low stone and brick transverse wall at Bay 2/3.

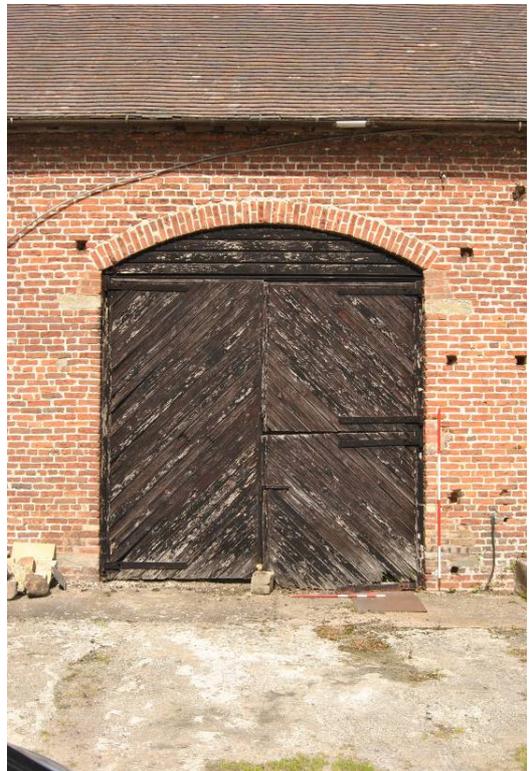


Plate 26: Barn B, threshing door, west elevation, Bay 3.



Plate 27: Barn B, west elevation looking east.



Plate 28: Ground-level opening at Bay 4, blocked in two phases.



Plate 29: Barn B, west elevation, mainly obscured by lean-to shed M.

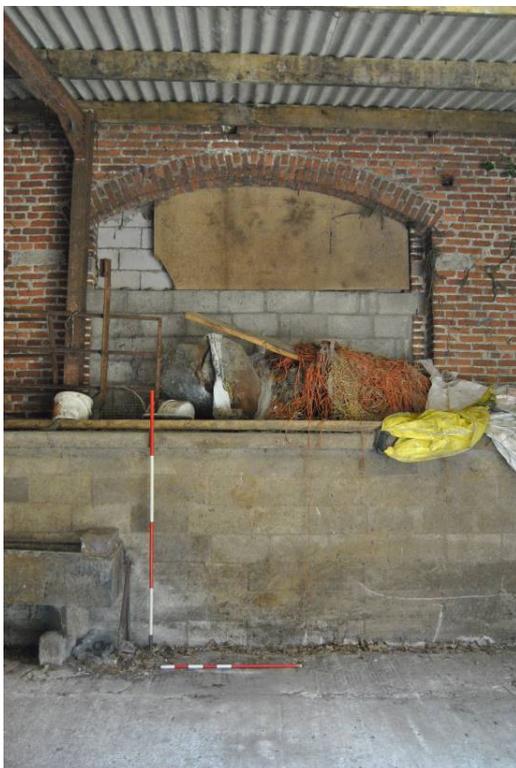


Plate 30: Barn B, threshing door (blocked), east elev. with breeze-block ventilator casing.



Plate 31: Barn B, west elevation (N end) with small breeze-block shelter for grain dryer plant.



Plate 32: Barn B, north gable end with detail of SFO firemark.



Plate 33: Barn B, south gable end above Bldg. C.



Plate 34: Barn B, interior looking south. NB. rendering of lower walls.



Plate 35: Barn B, interior looking north.



Plate 36: Blocked threshing door (E wall).



Plate 37: Breeze-block wall forming enclosed passage to south end of barn **NB.** superimposed hatch openings (blocked) to gable end.



Plate 38: Brick pier at **T3**, west; blocked western threshing door to left.



Plate 39: Variant detail with timber strut/up-brace arrangement at **T5**, west. **NB.** infilled joist sockets at level of render.



Plate 40: Transverse passage to S end of barn B.



Plate 41: Roof over threshing bay, NB. wind bracing to upper purlin and massive timber lintel to threshing door.



Plate 42: Barn B, queen-strut roof truss T4.



Plate 43: Building C, west elevation to yard, NB. rebuilt upper wall (1990).



Plate 44: Building C, northern doorway (blocked).



Plate 45: Building C, central doorway with variant head (remodelled).



Plate 46: Building C, interior looking north. NB. vent holes of Barn B south gable.



Plate 47: Inserted door leading through to Bldg. I to east.



Plate 48: Interior detail of vents, with low-level arch below.



Plate 49: Stone double-sink on brick piers to north-west corner.

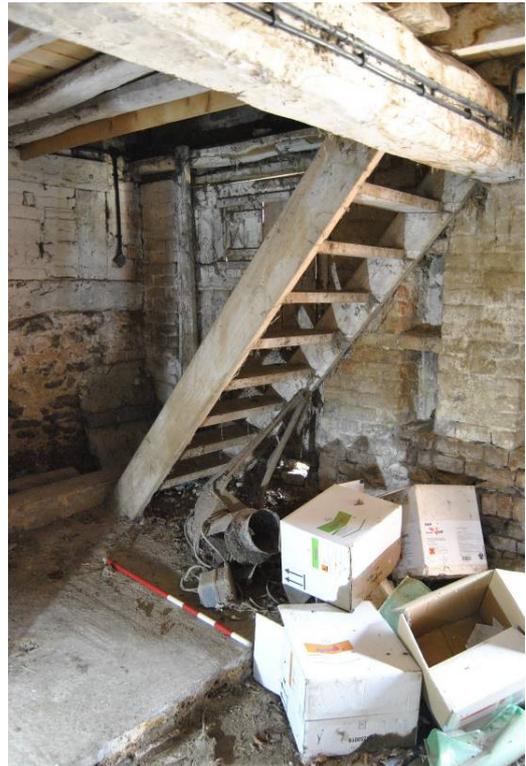


Plate 50: Straight-flight stair rises to loft level at south-west corner.



Plate 51: Surviving (secondary) post and tethering ring to south-west corner at base of inserted stair.



Plate 52: Queen-strut truss to Bldg. C, incorporating much re-used timber.



Plate 53: Timber-framing of Barn A (north elevation, Bays 1/2) exposed at loft level of Building C.

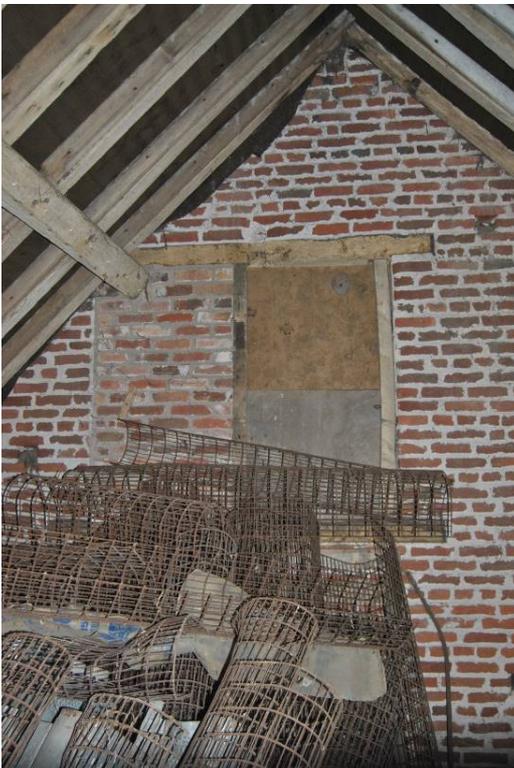


Plate 54: Blocked gable opening of Barn B, visible at loft level of Bldg. C.



Plate 55: Stables D, south elevation.



Plate 56: Stables D, interior looking north-east.

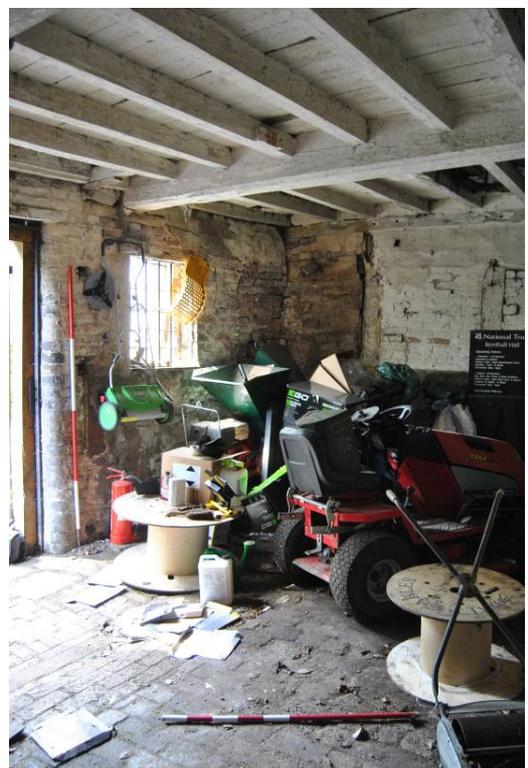


Plate 57: Stables D, interior looking south-west.



Plate 60: Stables D, detail of hay rack and feed trough with (partly) enclosed feed drop from hay loft.

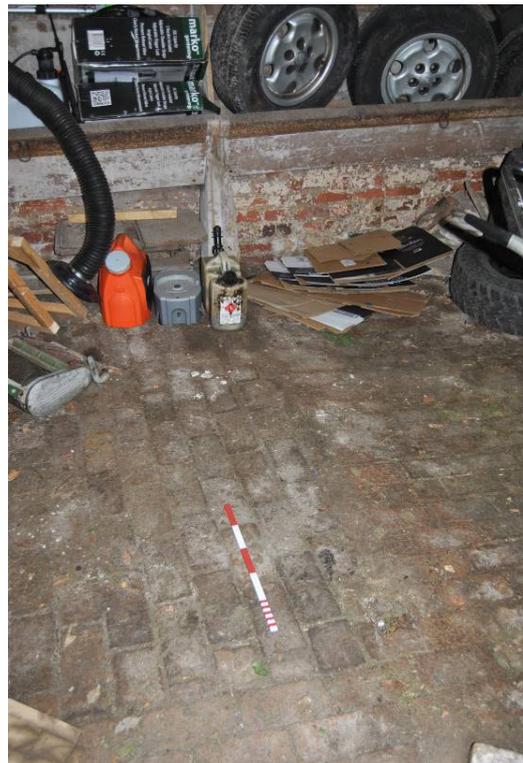


Plate 61: 'Ghost' of former stall partition in brick floor.



Plate 62: Detail of crown-strut roof truss over Stables D
NB. framing of Bldg. F to left.



Plate 63: Upper gable of Barn A, visible at loft level of Stables D.



Plate 64: Shelter shed E looking south, backing on to stable D.



Plate 65: Central brick pier supporting eaves.



Plate 66: Secondary (post-1927) pier to west (contemp. northwards extension of adjacent Building F).



Plate 67: Shelter shed E, breeze-block feed trough and feed rack over.

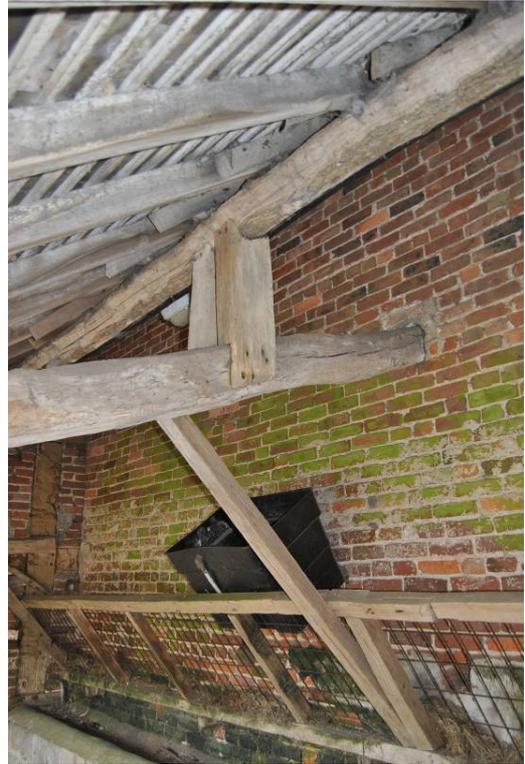


Plate 68: Angled tie with vertical struts supporting longitudinal purlin.



Plate 69: Shelter shed E looking east, timber-framing of Barn A.

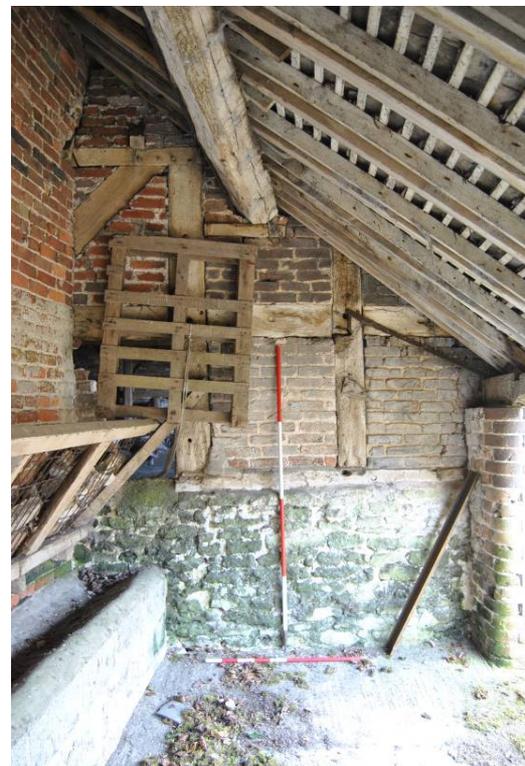


Plate 70: Shelter shed E looking west, timber-framing of Building F.



Plate 71: Fenced stock area before shelter shed **E** (introduced 1902-1927, reduced to current size by 1963).



Plate 72: North gable end of Bldg. **F** to foldyard (extended post -1927).



Plate 73: South gable end of Bldg. **F** (extended/rebuilt c.1960).



Plate 74: Small-square framing of Building F, east wall (composite).



Plate 75: Bldg. F interior looking south-west with relic timber-framing to east wall.



Plate 76: Bldg. F interior looking north.



Plate 77: Building F, southern truss T1 (south face) with rendered brick-nogging infill.



Plate 78: Building F; central, interrupted tie-beam truss T2 (north face) with secondary tie beam bolted on.



Plate 79: Building F, northern truss T3 (north face).



Plate 80: Breeze-block trough and feed-racks over.



Plate 81: Detail of two phases of feed-rack.



Plate 82: Detail of upper loft floor, integral to earlier phase of feed rack.



Plate 83: Cart shed G (right) and Building H (left), west elevation, general oblique view looking north-east.



Plate 84: Late-19th/early-20th-century, 3-bay cart shed **G**, looking north-east.



Plate 85: Detail of cast-iron column supporting eaves.

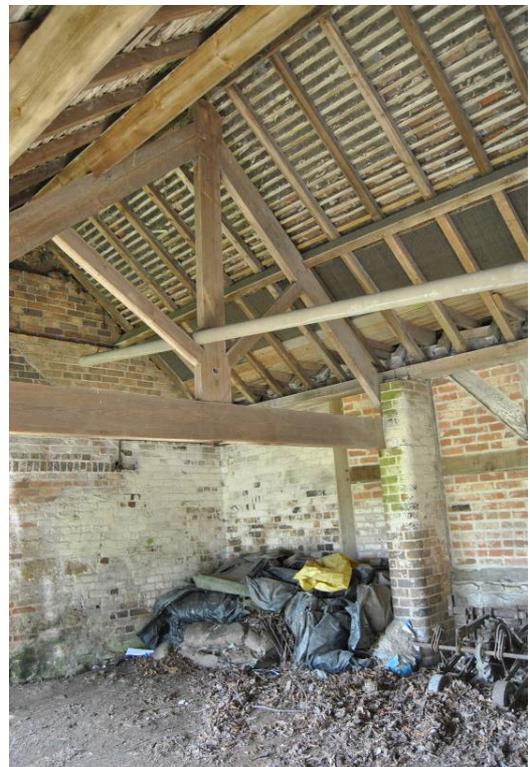


Plate 86: Cart-shed **G**, KP roof truss.



Plate 87: Timber-framing (much repaired) of Building F, exposed to rear (east) side of cart shed G.

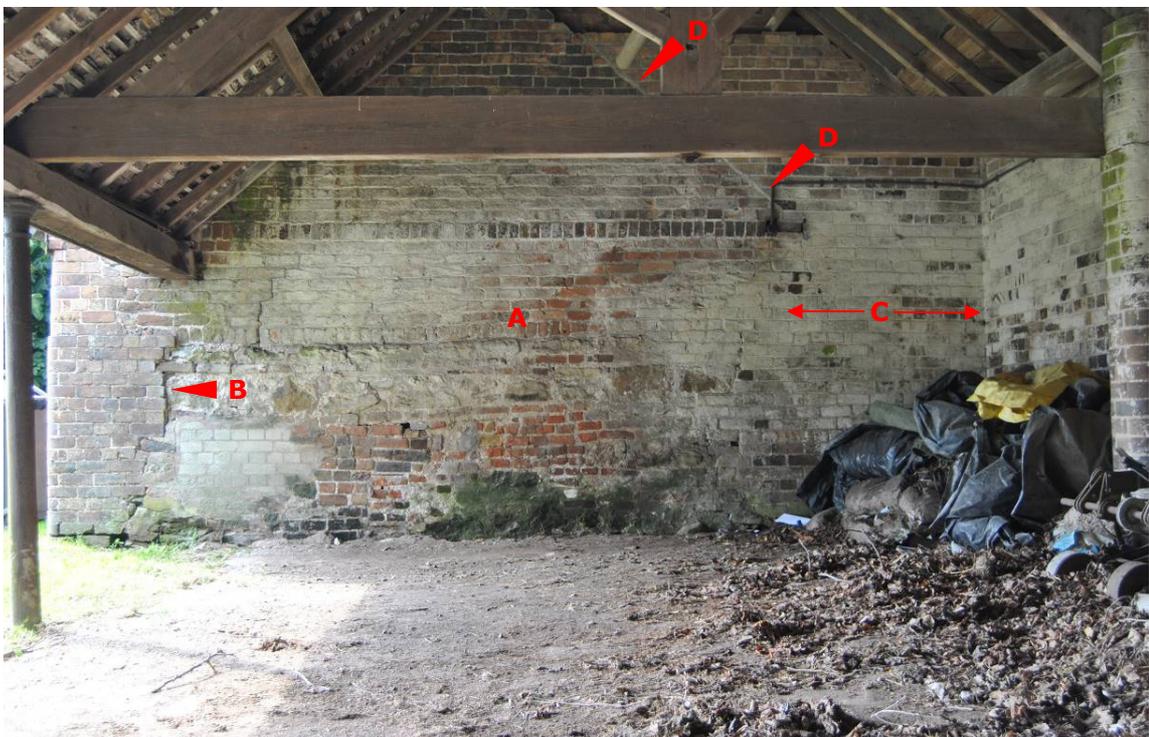


Plate 88: Cart Shed G; multi-phase brickwork of north wall incl. (A) limit of rebuild and (B) former gable of Building H.



Plate 89: Building H, east elevation to foldyard.



Plate 90: Building H, oblique view looking south-east.



Plate 91: Building H, interior, north-west angle.



Plate 92: Building H, roof truss and inserted partition.



Plate 93: Subsidiary yard to east of Barn A, incl. pigsties L.



Plate 94: Building I, south elevation, note clear change in brickwork at c.7½ft. above ground level (marked with arrow).



Plate 95: Building I, east gable showing clear change in brick evidencing raising of upper storey.



Plate 96: Building I, interior looking west. **NB.** vertical struts rising from offset in wall supporting west end of lower purlins.



Plate 97: Building I, interior looking east.

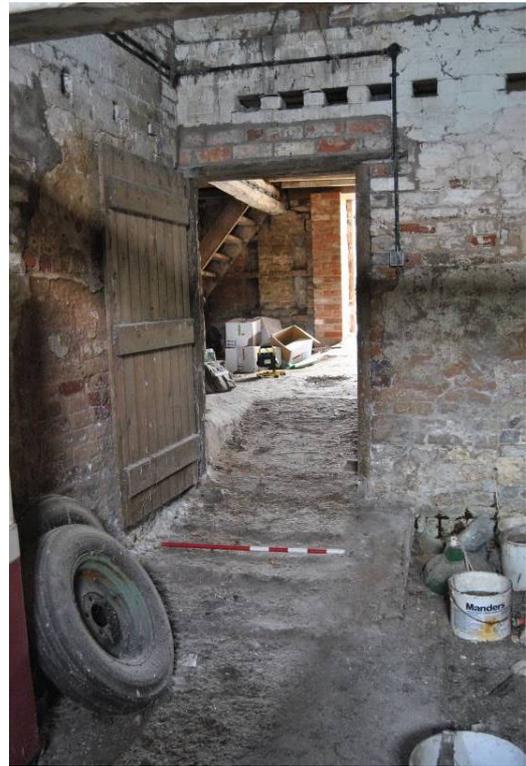


Plate 98: Connecting door (inserted) between Bldgs. I and C (NB. discrepancy in floor levels).



Plate 99: Trough and feed rack.



Plate 100: Tethering bar and ring.



Plate 101: Building I, KP truss T1.

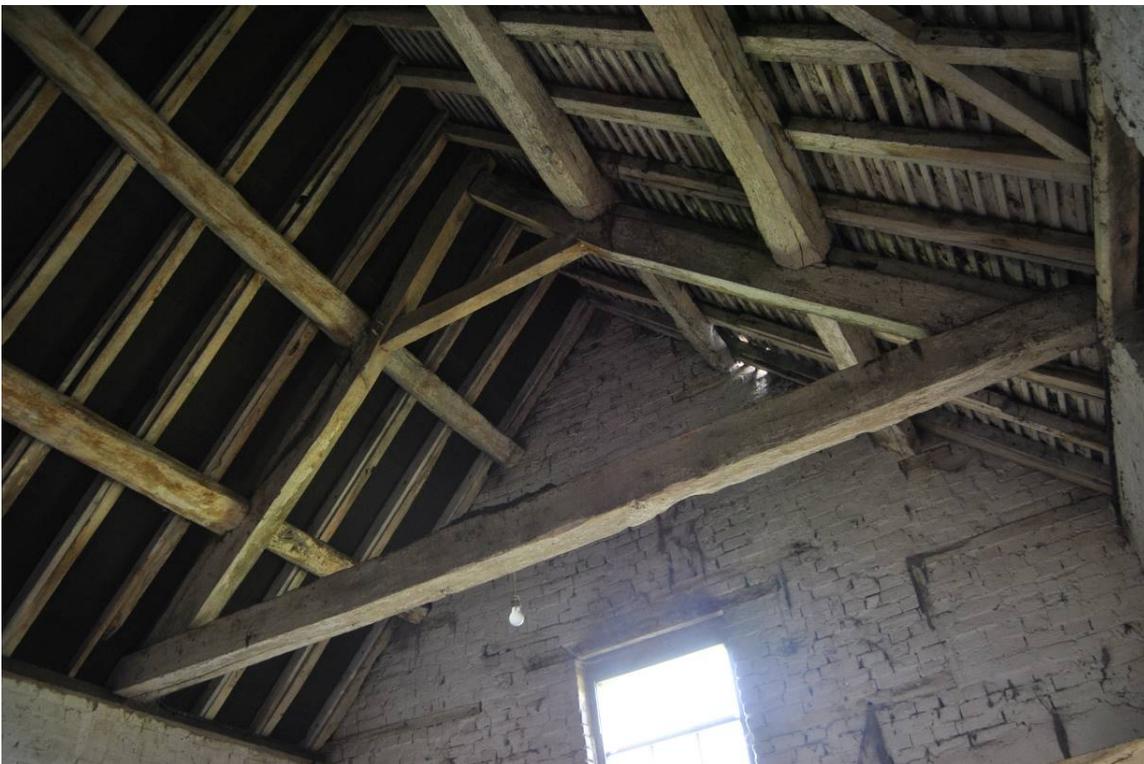


Plate 102: Building I, truss T2.



Plate 103: Pig sties J looking north-east (outlet wall).



Plate 104: Central sty with original iron gate and angled feed chute.



Plate 105: Detail of iron gate, dated '1819'.



Plate 106: Detail of iron feed chute.



Plate 107(a): Bldg. K looking north-west.



Plate 107(b): Similar view, Sept. 1990 during extensive reconstruction.



Plate 108: Pens / sties L with outlet wall (partly collapsed), looking south-west.



Plate 109: Reduced doorway to southern inlet.

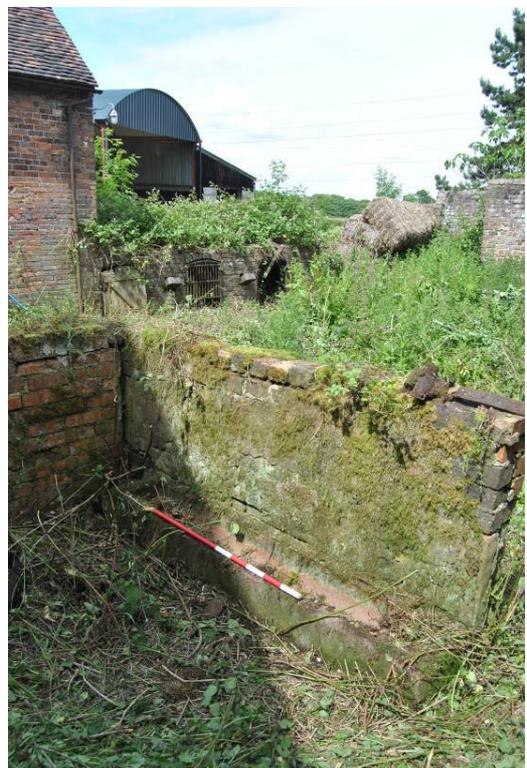


Plate 110: Feed trough within southern outlet.



Plate 111: Western jamb of former gateway.



Plate 112: Building M, interior looking south-west.



Plate 113: Building M looking south with inset of maker's plate (WH Smith and Co. Ltd. of Whitchurch).



Plate 114: Early-20th-century Dutch Barn **N** looking south-east.



Plate 115: Early-20th-century Dutch Barn **N** looking north, with later extension **N1** to right.



Plate 116: 'Gardener's Cottage'; oblique view from NW.

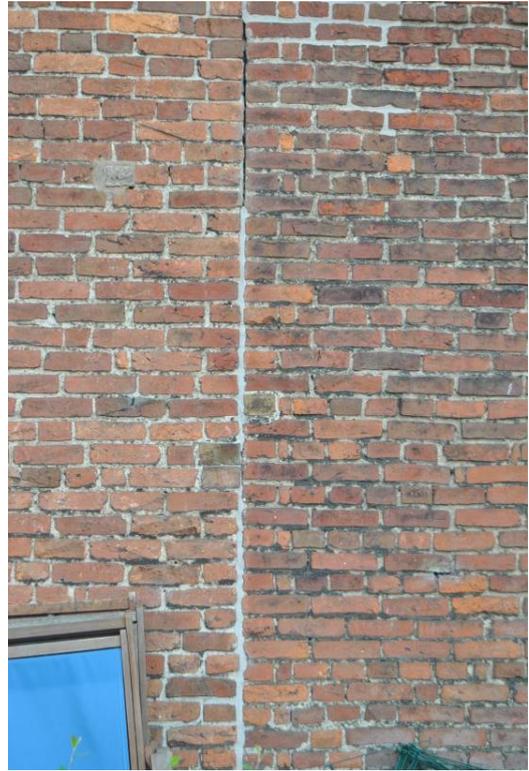


Plate 117: Clear vertical straight-joint in north elevation.



Plate 118: 'Gardener's Cottage'; north elevation with early structure **A** to right and **B** to left with later, pent-roofed extension **C** (19th century) to extreme left.



Plate 119: Ground floor blocked window with chamfered-brick surround and central mullion, central to early block A.



Plate 120: Curved wall of probable former bread oven.



Plate 121: 19th-century, pent-roofed extensions C/D to east end of range with porch E (left) of c.2000.



Plate 122: Gardener's Cottage, Core A/B, south elevation.



Plate 123: Door onto section A.



Plate 124: Modified window openings.



Plate 125: West gable end.



Plate 126: Blocked primary door.

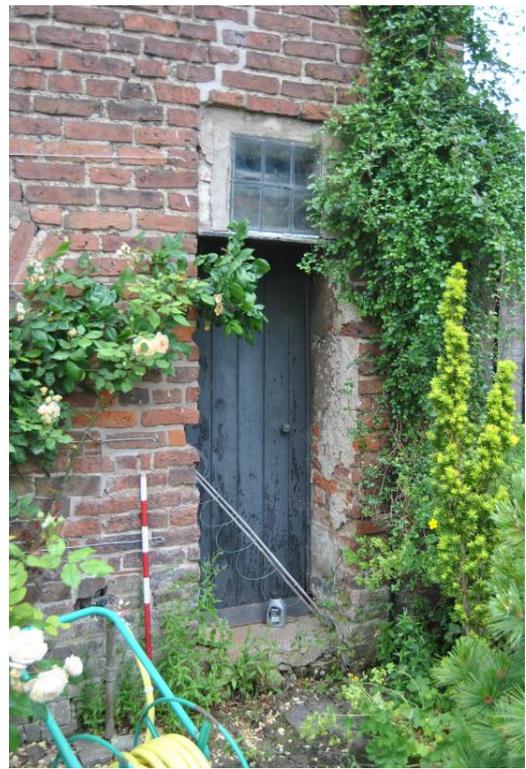


Plate 127: Southern door (inserted/adapted).



Plate 128: Inserted carriage doors to north side of range.



Plate 129: Detail of blocked vents at first-floor level.



Plate 130: Detail of first floor window NB. queen closers to right hand jamb (arrow).



Plate 131: 'Gardener's Cottage'; south elevation.



Plate 132: Modern brick pier supports intersection of chamfer-stopped ceiling beams.



Plate 133: Chamfer-stopped ceiling beam over [G3].



Plate 134: Chamfer-stopped common joists exposed above SE quarter of [G3].



Plate 135: Lath and plaster wall enclosing stair B.



Plate 136: Representative modernised interior; room [G2] looking north-west



Plate 137: Chamfer-stopped beam over [G2].



Plate 138: Sample 4-panel door.



Plate 139: Stair B rising from 1F – attic, looking east.
NB. cut-off longitudinal ceiling beam (arrow).



Plate 140: Plank and baton door between [S1/2].



Plate 141: Three-course former eaves band to east wall of block A, visible at floor level within [S1].



Plate 142: Room [S2] looking west.



Plate 143: Room [S1] looking west with raised party wall rendered to level of lower purlin.



Plate 144: Dovecote (left) and boundary wall to Rose Garden (foreground), looking north-east (compare inset at §.7.17.5).

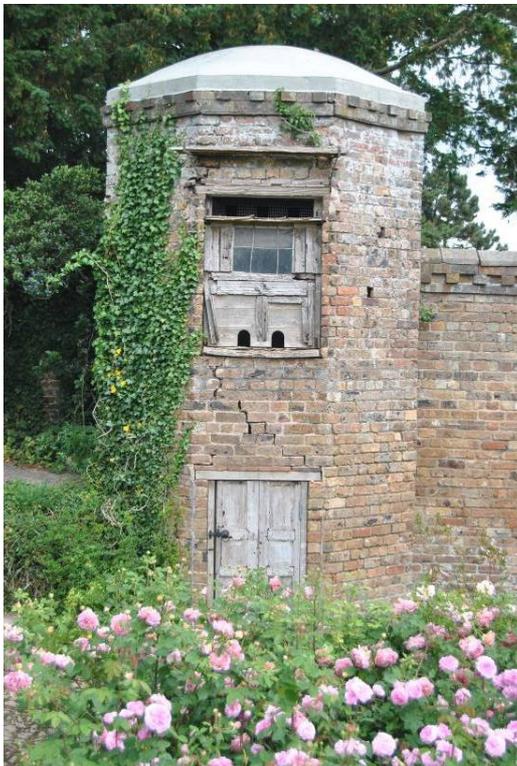


Plate 145: Dovecote, south elevation.

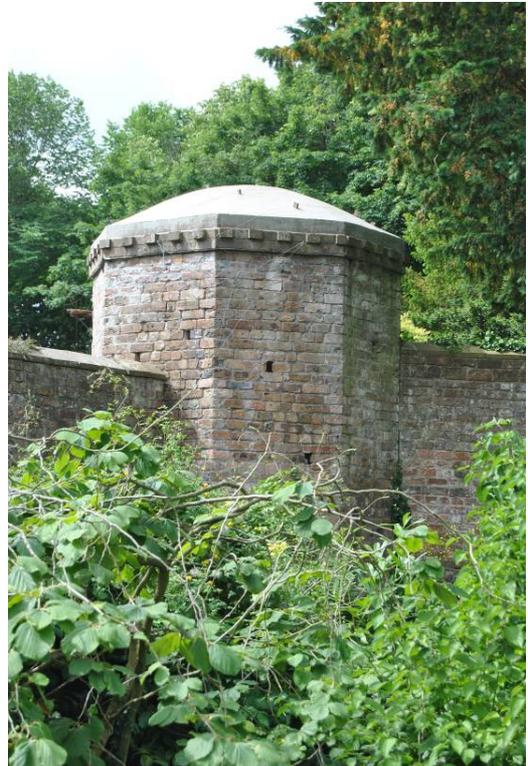


Plate 146: Dovecote from north-east.



Plate 147: Door to basement store, south elevation.



Plate 148: Detail of applied stiles, rails and fielded panels.

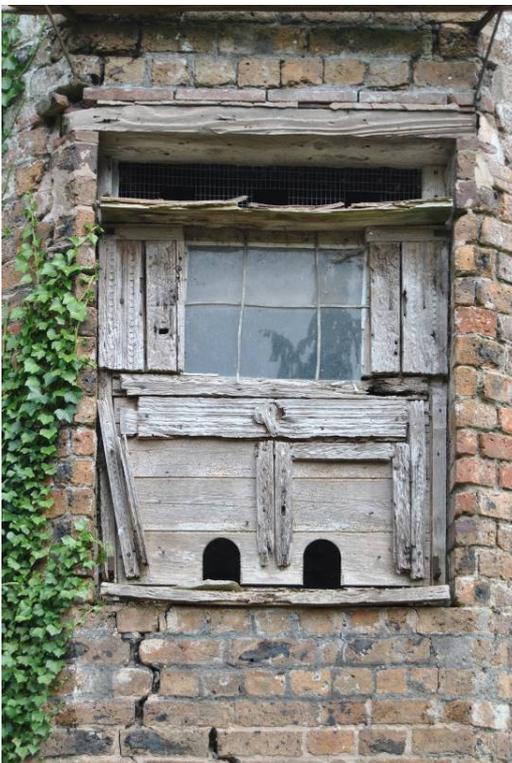


Plate 149: Upper level 'window' to south elevation.

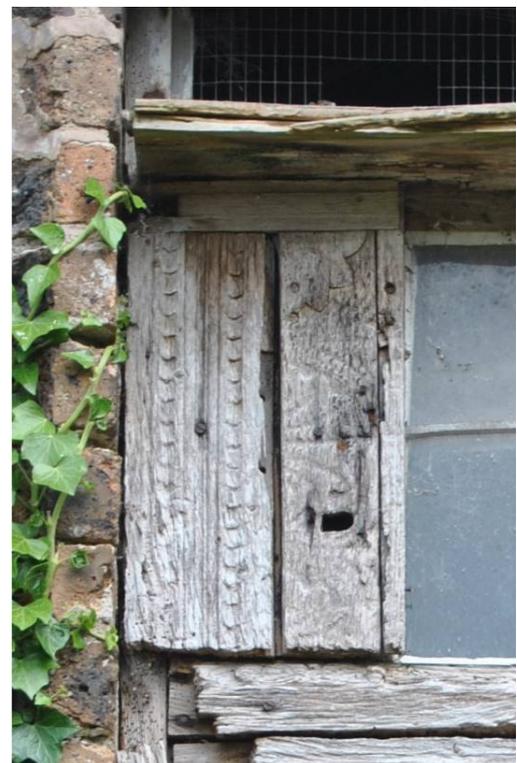


Plate 150: Detail of re-used carved elements.



Plate 151: Basement store, looking north.



Plate 152: Door in west wall serving main room.



Plate 153: Main room looking east.



Plate 154: Detail of nesting box.



Plate 155: Detail of wall-mounted bracket.

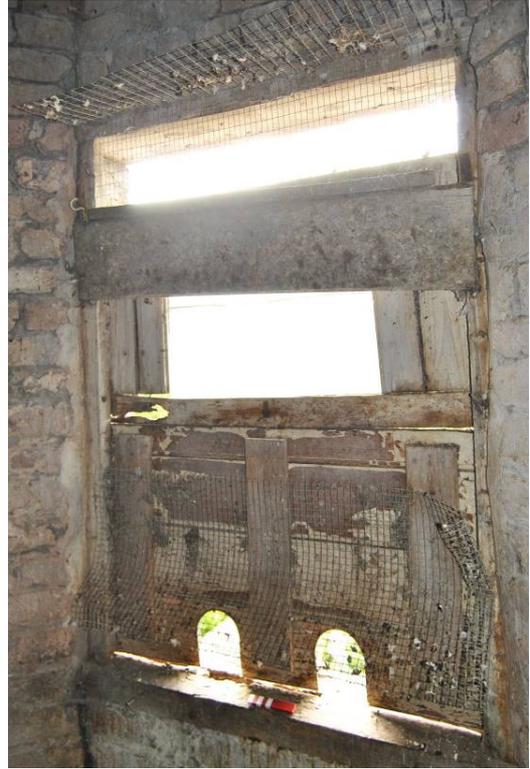


Plate 156: Interior of main 'window'.



Plate 157: 'Farmhouse'; general, oblique view from south-east.



Plate 158: Former cart entrance to ground floor of west gable end.



Plate 159: Blocked ventilation slits to upper west gable.



Plate 160: East gable end with upper ventilation slits and ground level cart entrance (obscured by hedge).

APPENDIX B: Register of Project Photographs

NB: All photographs taken with Nikon D3000 digital SLR camera, 10 mega-pixels. Photos highlighted in **BOLD** are reproduced as plates within the current document.

Photo No.	Plate No.	Subject	Orientation	Date	Photographer
DSC_0001*	6	Barn A , south elevation (oblique) looking north-east (landscape)	→ NE	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0002		Barn A , south elevation (oblique) looking north-east (portrait)	→ NE	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0003*	12	Barn A , south elevation, Bay 5	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0004*		Barn A , south elevation, Bay 4	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0005*	8	Barn A , south elevation, Bay 3 (blocked threshing doors)	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0006*	7	Barn A , south elevation, Bay 2	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0007		Barn A , south elevation, Bay 1	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0008		Barn A , east gable end	→ W	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0009		Barn A , east gable end	→ W	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0010		Barn A , east gable end	→ W	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0011*	93	Barn A , south elevation (oblique) looking north-east (portrait)	→ E	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0012		Barn A , south elevation (oblique) looking north-east (portrait)	→ E	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0013		Barn A /Shelter Shed E looking south-east	→ SE	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0014		Shelter Shed E /Bldg. F , yard elevation, looking south	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0015*	14	Barn A , west gable end visible above Shelter Shed E	→ SE	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0016		Barn A , north elevation looking south	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0017*	1	Barn A , north elevation looking south	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0018		Barn A , north elevation, inserted doors at Bay 5	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0019*	2	Barn A , north elevation, Bay 4	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0020	4	Barn A , north elevation, Bay 3 (threshing doors)	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0021		Junction of Barn A and Building C	→ SE	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0022*	15	Barn A , interior looking west	→ W	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0023		Barn A , interior – west gable end framing detail	→ W	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0024		Barn A , interior – west gable end framing detail	↑	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0025*	16	Barn A , interior – north-west corner	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0026		Barn A , interior – truss T5 (renewed)	↑	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0027*	18	Barn A , interior – truss T5 (renewed)	↑	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0028*	17	Barn A , interior – truss T4 (original)	↑	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0029		Barn A , interior – truss T5 , south wall post	→ SW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0030		Barn A , interior – truss T5 , south wall post with straight brace to tie	↑	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0031		Barn A , interior – south elevation, Bays 4/5	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0032*	19	Barn A , interior – south elevation, Bays 4/5 (oblique)	→ SW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0033		Barn A , interior – south elevation, Bays 3 (infilled threshing door)	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0034*	21	Barn A , interior – modern feed trough to south side	→ E	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0035*	20	Barn A , interior – weatherboard infill beneath truss T3	→ E	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0036		Barn A , interior – wall post to west side of threshing floor (S side)	→ SW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0037*	5	Barn A , interior – wall post to west side of threshing floor (N side)	→ NW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0038		Barn A , interior – north elevation, Bay 4	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0039		Barn A , interior – north elevation, Bay 5	→ NW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0040*	3 (crop)	Barn A , detail of vent holes in brick nogging panel infill	detail	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0041		Barn A , interior – Bays 1/2 looking north	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0042*	22	Barn A , interior – Bay 2 looking north-west	→ NW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0043		Barn A , interior – Bay 1 looking north	→ N	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0044		Barn A , interior – Bays 1/2 looking south	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0045		Barn A , interior – Bay 2 looking south	→ S	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0046		Barn A , interior – east gable end, rebuilt in brick	→ E	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0047*	23	Barn A , interior – east gable end, rebuilt in brick (oblique)	→ NE	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0048		Barn A , interior – truss T2 (original)	↑	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0049*	24	Barn A , interior – weatherboard infill beneath truss T3	→ SW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0050*	25	Barn A , interior – low wall to east side of threshing floor	→ NW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0051		Barn A , interior – low wall to east side of threshing floor	→ SW	12.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0052*	55	Stables D , south elevation	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0053		Stables D /Bldg. F , south elevation (oblique)	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0054		Stables D , south elevation	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0055		Stables D , south elevation; reduced window opening (W)	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler

DSC_0122*	94	Building I , south elevation	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0123		Building I , oblique view looking north-west	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0124		Building I , oblique view looking north-west	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0125		Building K looking west	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0126		Building K looking west	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0127		Building K looking west	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0128*	108	Sties / Stalls L looking south-west	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0129		Building K looking north-west	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0130*	111	Jamb of former opening in southern bounding wall of subsidiary yard	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0131		Jamb of former opening in southern bounding wall of subsidiary yard	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0132		Sties / Stalls L looking south-west	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0133		Sties / Stalls L looking west	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0134		Sties / Stalls L looking west	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0135*	107a	Building K looking north-west	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0136		Building K looking north-west	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0137		Scar of former roofline above Building K	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0138		Collapsed section of outlet wall, Building L	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0139		Door to northern inlet, Building L	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0140*	109	Door to southern inlet, Building L	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0141		Doors to sties / stalls L	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0142		Trough to southern outlet, Building L	Detail	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0143*	110	Trough to southern outlet, Building L	Detail	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0144		Subsidiary yard area to east of Barn A	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0145		Subsidiary yard area to east of Barn A	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0146		Subsidiary yard area to east of Barn A	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0147		Ranges to south side of main foldyard (A/E/F)	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0148		Ranges to south-east angle of main foldyard (B/C/A/E/F)	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0149		Ranges to south-east angle of main foldyard (C/A/E)	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0150*	27	Barn B , yard elevation looking east	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0151*	157	'Farmhouse' looking north-east	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0152		'Farmhouse', west gable end	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0153*	158	'Farmhouse'; blocked cart entrance to west gable	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0154*	159	'Farmhouse', ventilation slits to west gable end	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0155		'Farmhouse', blocked window to attic level of west gable end	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0156		'Farmhouse', string detail at NW angle	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0157		'Farmhouse', string detail at NW angle	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0158		Western bounding wall of foldyard with cart house H	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0159		Western bounding wall of foldyard	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0160		Western bounding wall of foldyard (detail)	Detail	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0161*	72	Building F , north gable end	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0162		Buildings F and H , oblique view	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0163		Building F , north gable end (oblique)	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0164		Building F , north gable end	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0165		Building F , interior looking south	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0166*	75	Building F , east wall (timber framing); oblique view	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0167		Building F , east wall (timber framing); oblique view	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0168		Building F , east wall (timber framing); north end (1)	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0169*	74	Building F , east wall (timber framing); (2)	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0170*		Building F , east wall (timber framing); (3)	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0171		Building F , east wall (timber framing); south end (4)	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0172		Building F , southern wall post, T1	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0173		Building F , northern wall post, T1	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0174		Building F , east wall, south end; straight joint	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0175*	76	Building F , interior looking north	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0176*	77	Building F , truss T1	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0177		Building F , truss T1	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0178		Building F , truss T1	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0179		Building F , truss T1 ; redundant mortices to tie soffit	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0180		Building F , truss T2	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0181		Building F , truss T2	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0182*	78	Building F , truss T2	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0183		Building F , truss T1	↑	14.06.17	R Tyler

DSC_0247*	37	Barn B interior, enclosed transverse passage at Bay 1	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0248*	35	Barn B interior, looking north-east	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0249		Barn B interior, looking north-east	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0250		Barn B interior, looking south	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0251		Barn B ; small structure over corn dryer plant	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0252*	160	'Farmhouse', east gable end	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0253*	31	Barn B ; north-east angle	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0256		Barn B ; small structure over corn dryer plant	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0257		Shed M looking south	→ S	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0258*	113	Shed M looking south-west	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0260*	112	Shed M ; interior looking south-west	→ SW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0261*	30	Barn B , east elevation; blocked threshing door at Bay 3	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0262*	114	Dutch Barn N looking south-east	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0263		Building I , east gable end	→ W	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0264*	29	Barn B and shed M looking north-west	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0265		Barn B and shed M looking north-west	→ NW	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0267*	115	Dutch Barn N and extension N1 looking north-east	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0268		Dutch Barn N and extension N1 looking north-east	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0269		Shed M , makers plate 'WH Smith and Co. Ltd., Whitchurch'	Detail	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0270		'Gardener's Cottage' seen from Dutch Barn N	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0271		Barn B and Dutch Barn N looking south-east	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0272*	88	Cart Shed G , interior looking north	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0273*	87	Timber-framing of Building F (much repaired), visible within Bldg. G	→ E	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0274*	86	Cart Shed G interior with KP truss T1	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0275		Cart Shed G ; bull-nosed Broseley brick pier	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0276		Cart Shed G interior with KP truss T2	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0277		Cart Shed G interior; stepped brick corbel supporting southern wall plate	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0278		Timber-framing of Building F (much repaired), visible within Bldg. G	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0279*	85	Cart Shed G ; cast iron column supporting western plate	→ SE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0280*	84	Cart Shed G ; open western elevation	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0281		Cart Shed G ; south-western angle	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0282		Cart Shed G ; open western elevation	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0283		Cart Shed G ; open western elevation	→ NE	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0284		Building H ; rebuilding at SW angle	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0286		Cart Shed G , interior; phased development evident at north wall	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0287		Cart Shed G , interior; phased development evident at north wall	→ N	14.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0288*	83	Buildings H and G , west elevation	→ E	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0289		Buildings H and G , west elevation	→ NE	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0290		Cart Shed G ; open western elevation	→ E	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0291		Building H , west elevation (refaced)	→ E	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0292*	90	Building H , north-west angle	→ SE	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0293		Building H , north-west angle	→ SE	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0294		Barn B ; fire-mark to north gable apex	↑	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0295*	46	Building C , interior looking north	→ N	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0296		Building C , interior looking north-west	→ NW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0297		Building C , interior; doorway (secondary) to foldyard	→ W	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0298*	49	Building C , interior; original doorway (blocked) with sink	→ NW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0299		Building C , interior; original doorway (blocked) with sink	→ NW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0303*	48	Building C , interior; blocked vents and GL arch to west wall	→ W	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0304*	47	Building C , interior; doorway (inserted) to Building I	→ E	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0305		Building C , interior; timber-framing of Barn A exposed to south	→ SW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0306*	50	Building C , interior; inserted stair at Bay 1 (W)	→ SW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0307		Building C , interior; inserted stair at Bay 1 (W)	→ SW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0308*	51	Building C , interior; post and tethering ring at Bay 1 (W)	→ SW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0309		Building C , loft; QS truss looking north-west	→ NW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0310		Building C , loft; QS truss looking north-west	→ NW	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0311*	52	Building C , loft; QS truss looking north-east	→ NE	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0312*	54	Building C , loft; blocked window of Barn B	→ N	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0313		Building C , loft; stair rising at SW corner	↓	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0314*	53	Building C , loft; timber-framing of Barn A to south	→ S	16.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0317*	96	Building I , interior looking west	→ W	16.06.17	R Tyler

DSC_0383		Dovecote, general view looking south-west	→ SW	26.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0384*		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, east end	→ N	26.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0385*	124 (crop)	'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, east end	→ N	26.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0386		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, west end	→ N	26.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0387*	123	'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, east end; detail of door	→ N	26.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0388		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, east end; detail of window	→ N	26.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0389*	125	'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0390*	128	'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; inserted double doors	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0391*	126	'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; blocked door	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0392*	127	'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; door to south	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0393*	129	'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; blocked vents (1F)	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0394*	130	'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; 1F window (N)	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0395		'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; 1F window (S)	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0396		'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; 2F hatch (N)	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0397		'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; raised parapet	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0398		'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; south-west angle	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0399		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, west end (oblique)	→ NE	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0400		'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end; door to south	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0401*	119	'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation, west end; blocked window	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0402		'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation, west end; blocked window	→ SW	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0403		'Gardener's Cottage', detail of blocked window	Detail	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0404*	116	'Gardener's Cottage', general view looking south-east	→ SE	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0405*	118	'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0406		'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation, west end	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0407		'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation, east end	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0408		'Gardener's Cottage', general view looking south-west	→ SW	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0409*	121	'Gardener's Cottage', extensions to east end looking south	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0410		'Gardener's Cottage', modern porch extension	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0411		'Gardener's Cottage', extensions to east end looking south	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0412		'Gardener's Cottage', extensions to east end looking south	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0413		'Gardener's Cottage', north-west angle	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0414*	117	'Gardener's Cottage', SJ between eastern and western halves	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0415		'Gardener's Cottage', SJ between eastern and western halves	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0416		'Gardener's Cottage', extensions to east end looking south	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0417*	120	'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation, east end, projecting oven(?)	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0418		'Gardener's Cottage', stone footings at NE angle	↓	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0419		'Gardener's Cottage', stone footings at NE angle	↓	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0420		'Gardener's Cottage', stone footings at NE angle	↓	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0421		'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end with inserted double doors	→ NE	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0422		'Gardener's Cottage', western gable end with blocked vents	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0423		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, east end	→ N	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0424*	122	'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, oblique view	→ NW	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0425		'Gardener's Cottage', SJ between eastern and western halves	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0426		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, east end; 1F window and blocked vents	→ N	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0427		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, east end	→ N	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0428*	131	'Gardener's Cottage', eastern extensions, looking west	→ W	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0429		'Gardener's Cottage', south elevation, attic level windows	→ W	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0430		'Gardener's Cottage', north elevation, patching at west end GF	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0431		'Gardener's Cottage', SJ between eastern and western halves	→ SE	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0432	136	'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G2] looking NW	→ NW	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0433		'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G2] looking SW	→ SW	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0434		'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G2] door to under-stair cupboard	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0435*	137	'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G2] looking NE	→ NE	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0436		'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G2]; chamfer stopped beam	Detail	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0437		'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G4] looking N	→ N	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0438		'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G4] looking S	→ S	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0439		'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G4] looking SW	→ SW	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0441*	338	'Gardener's Cottage' interior; [G1] looking E	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0442		'Gardener's Cottage' interior; detail of chamfer stopped beam	↑	27.06.17	R Tyler
DSC_0444*	139	'Gardener's Cottage'; Stair B 1F → attic	→ E	27.06.17	R Tyler