



**80, Buxton Road, Congleton,
CW12 2DY.**

**March 2018
V 1.0**



aeon archaeology



Historic Building Record Level 2
Project Code: A0154.1
Report no. 0161



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CW12 2DY.**

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Report no. 0161 v1.0

Historic Building Record Level 2

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Project Code: A0154.1
Date: 7/03/2017
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Alistair Tucker to carry out a level 2 historic building record of a farmhouse and barn to the rear of 80, Buxton Road, Congleton, East Cheshire, CW12 2DY (centred on **NGR SJ 87280 63839**) in advance of conversion and demolition work.

The archaeological recording was completed as part of a planning condition (Planning Reference: 17/2235C). Planning permission was secured by the client for the conversion of the barn into a single dwelling, demolition of a dilapidated farmhouse and the erection of two new dwellings. The following archaeological condition was assigned to the permission:

Condition 5

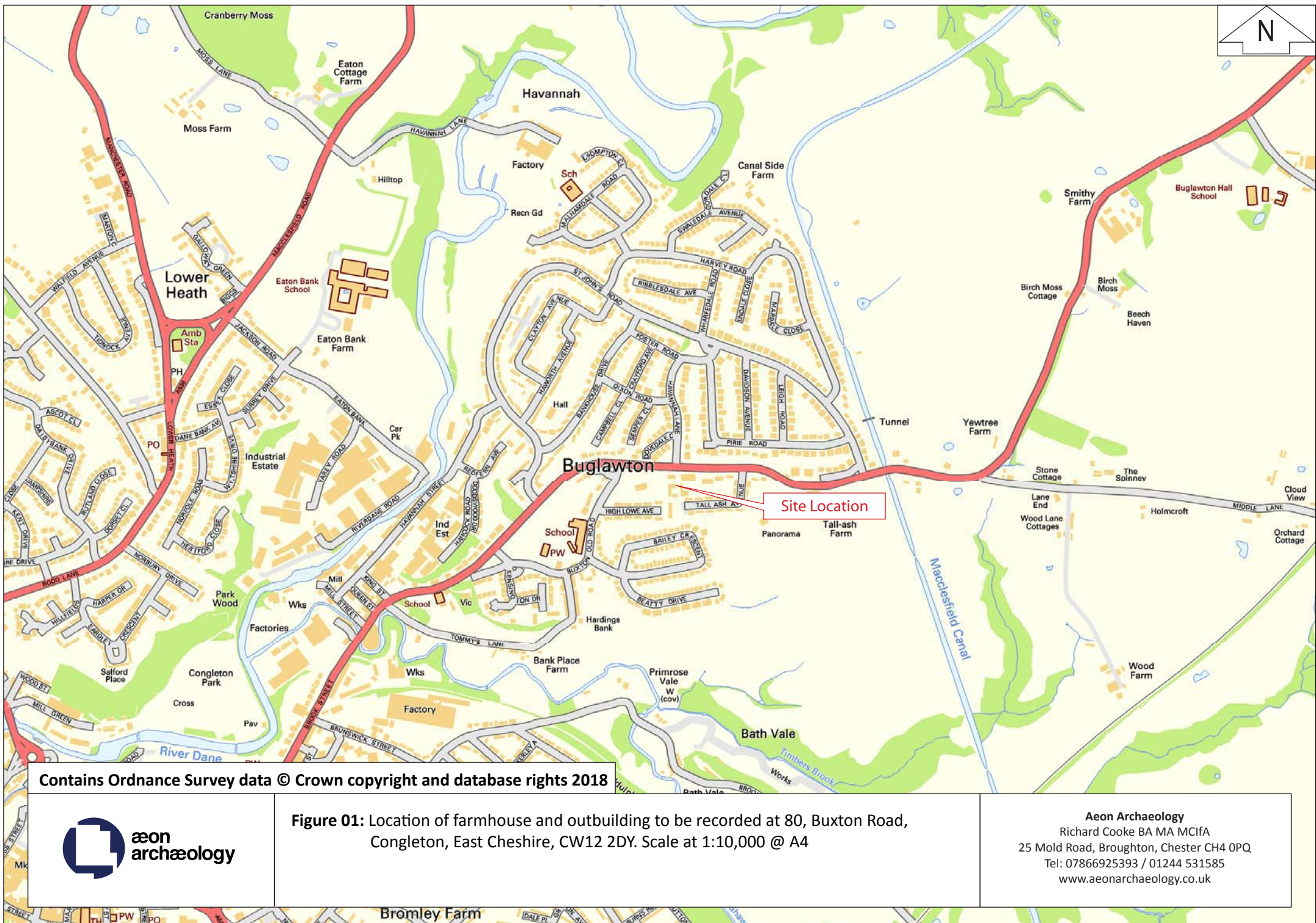
No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason

In line with the guidance set out in Paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015).

The Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service did not prepare a mitigation brief for this project, but requested that a level 2 historic building survey be taken of the building prior to alteration.

This design and all subsequent mitigation conforms to the guidelines specified in English Heritage ‘*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*’ (2016) & Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

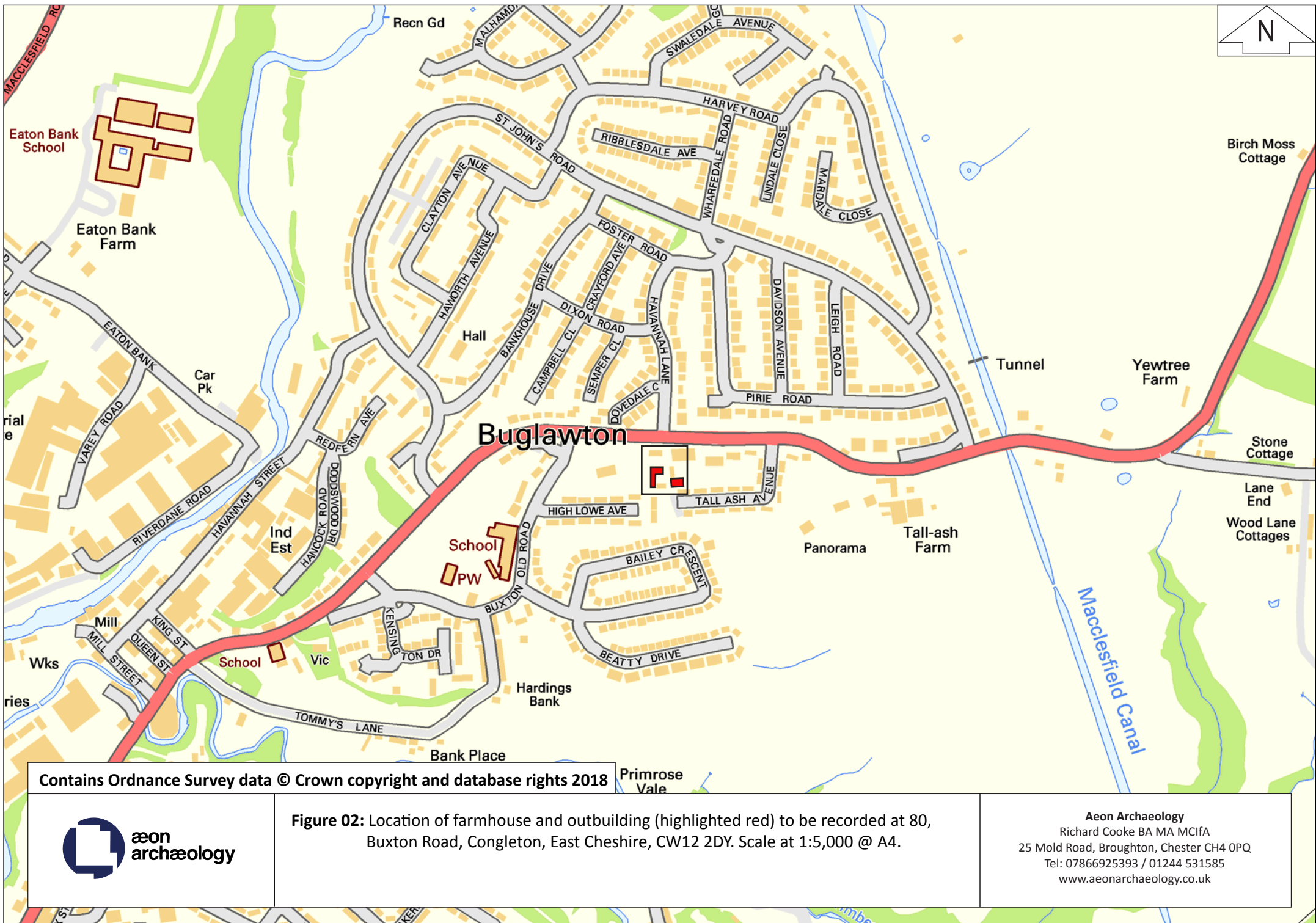


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Figure 01: Location of farmhouse and outbuilding to be recorded at 80, Buxton Road, Congleton, East Cheshire, CW12 2DY. Scale at 1:10,000 @ A4

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Figure 02: Location of farmhouse and outbuilding (highlighted red) to be recorded at 80, Buxton Road, Congleton, East Cheshire, CW12 2DY. Scale at 1:5,000 @ A4.

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2.0 REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Building Record

The requirements were for an archaeological building record of the farm building/homestead and barn building at 80, Buxton Road, Congleton prior to the alteration and demolition works, however should observations or desk-based research suggested the potential for significant features to be encountered during the renovation and site clearance/ground work, the archaeological contractor would make arrangements to undertake any appropriate supplementary recording work during the development. The Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service requested that the building record be roughly commensurate with the English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) **Level 2**.

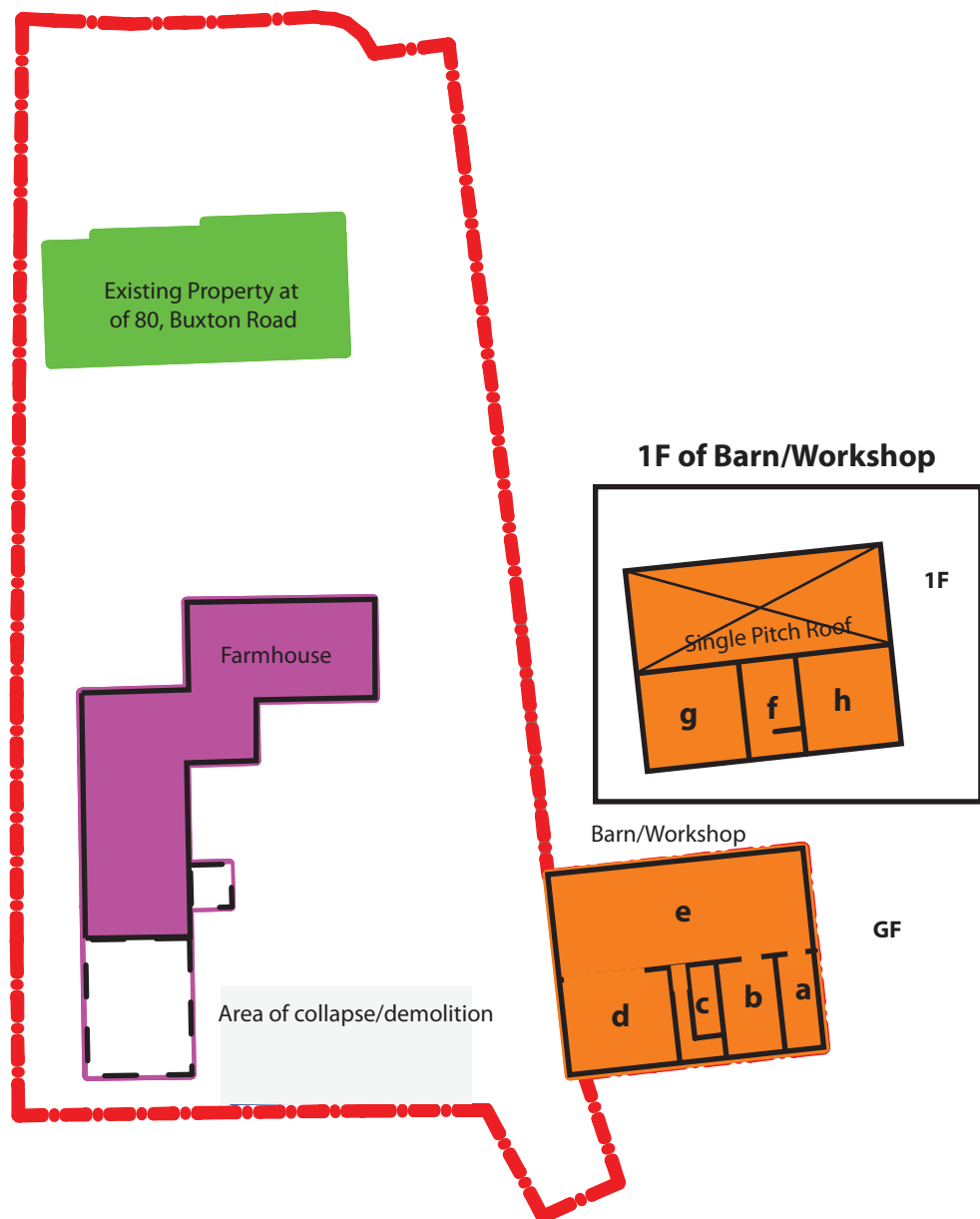
Both the exterior and the interior of the barn were viewed, described and photographed, however only access to the exterior of the farm building/homestead was achieved due to fire damage and the unsafe nature of the structure. The record was to present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based.

The detailed photographic record consists of English Heritage '*Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2016) elements:

written account: 1-3, 6

drawings: sometimes 1, sometimes one or more of 2-7

photographs: 1,2,4



1:20



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3.0 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Level 2 Record

3.1.1 Written Account

The written account included:

- The building's precise location as a National Grid Reference and address form;
- A note of any statutory designation and non-statutory designation;
- The date of the record, name(s) of the recorder(s) and archive location;
- A summary of the building's form, function, date, and sequence of development.

3.1.2 Photographs

The photographic record included:

- A general view or views of the building;
- The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building and give an impression of its size and shape;
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

A Digital SLR (Canon 550D) set to maximum resolution was used throughout.

3.1.3 Drawings

The drawn record included:

- A site plan showing the location and orientation of photographs. This will label all room spaces and indicate any architectural features of note.

3.2 Processing data, illustration, report and archiving

Following completion of the record as outlined above, this report was produced (project number A0154.1) which incorporates the following:

- A copy of the design brief and agreed specification
- A site location plan
- A plan illustrating the location and direction of photographs
- Basic background and relevant historical, descriptive or analytical detail
- A full bibliography of sources consulted
- Illustrations, including plans and photographs, will be incorporated within the report.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORD

Buglawton is a suburb of Congleton, in the south-east of Cheshire. It was a parish and an urban district from 1894 until 1936, when it was incorporated in Congleton borough. The parish church of St John was built in 1841. The area of the former parish includes the hamlets of Timbersbrook, Key Green, Crossley and Havannah plus the Cheshire side of the Cloud (hill).

The Astbury Tithe Map and apportionment of c.1841 records the location of the farmhouse as *Little Lowe Farm* and comprising a homestead and garden owned by Thomas Arnett and occupied by Joseph Allen. The tithe map therefore shows that the farmhouse building was in existence from at least the early 19th century. The barn proposed for conversion does not appear on the tithe map and is not first depicted until the production of the first edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1899 (OS Plan Cheshire, 1899, Six-inch).

The period 1750-1880 has been recognised as the most important period of farm building development in England (Historic Farmsteads: Preliminary Character Statement – North West region, English Heritage 2006, p. 6); the Council for British Archaeology's 'An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England: Volume 2, Research Agenda and Strategy' (Brennand 2007) has indicated that farm buildings are "an important historical research resource" (p. 140), that "there is an urgent need for all local authorities to ensure that farm buildings undergoing adaptation are at least considered for recording" so that "a regional database of farm buildings can be derived and variations across the region examined." (ibid.)

5.0 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

5.1 External description of Little Lowe Farm (Farmhouse building) (plates 1-15b)

The farmhouse building is L-shaped when viewed in plan with the northern range extending east and the southern range to the south. The building is generally orientated north to south and measures approximately 18.50 m long and is 15.30 m wide. The farmhouse building has been subject to a number of additions and extensions; the northern most portion of the building appears to be the primary phase of construction. The larger southern range of the building may represent a secondary phase of construction, although this is not immediately evident as the range collapsed almost in its entirety during a storm in 2015 (pers comm. Tucker, A.) A further subsequent brick addition appears to have been added in the area of the cruck between the two ranges; this area can be said to abut with the northwest corner of the northern building and with the northeast corner of the southern building. Furthermore on the eastern side of the southern building a small porch may have once stood but has since been demolished.

Northern elevation – northern range

The northern elevation of the northern building is roofed with blue-grey slate and blue-grey ridge tiles and measures approximately 9.90m in length. In the eaves a weatherboard has been fixed to the wall and upon this a plastic gutter was fitted but has since fallen, the elevation is also comprised of red brick bonded by mortar. Access to the interior of the building was prohibited by Herras fencing at the time of the site record as the interior of the building was not safe due to previous fire damage and a roof collapse. Located in the centre of the elevation on the ground floor is a single wooden framed doorway, flanking this doorway at either end of the elevation are two further doorways which are also timber framed. The eastern most doorway has two substantial stone lintels above it which support the brickwork, these appear to have been dressed by a stonemason as the lintel exhibits a squared cornice design. To the immediate right of this doorway there is a small rectangular timber framed window with a brick sill, furthermore to the immediate right of this window there may have been another window at an earlier point in time as there is the evidence of a wooden lintel and an opening in the wall, however no window frame timbers remain. To the right of the central doorway on the western side of the elevation there is another single doorway; which permits access to the interior, located above this doorway is a very small window light.

Located in the centre of the upper story of the building is a decorative embrasure in the shape of a diamond, formed from 16 bricks (on end) and 20 subsequent openings forming ventilation holes. The upper story also has two large vertical window openings; these have no window frames or windowsills. Furthermore located either side of the diamond shaped embrasure are four cast-iron wall ties; two to the left of the embrasure and two to the right, these are situated at the level roughly commensuring with the top and the bottom extent of the upper floor windows.

Eastern elevation – northern range

The eastern elevation of the northern range forms the gable end of that structure and measures 5.40m in length. The elevation is comprised of red-brick bonded by mortar with the addition of darker blue bricks near the base of the elevation. Located below the ridge of the roof in the centre of the elevation on the upper floor, there appears to have been a single vertical window with a dressed stone lintel and window sill, however the window has since been bricked up. Located approximately halfway up the elevation are three further diamond-shaped embrasures styled in a similar manner to those in the northern elevation, but these are smaller comprising of only four bricks and 9 subsequent openings forming ventilation holes. Near the base of the

wall there is an attempt at mirroring the diamond design but by the implementation of using blue-bricks to create the same effect. Furthermore the wall looks as if it may have been painted and subsequently rendered in the past; but the render has mostly fallen away and the paint underneath has for the most part flaked away.

The southern elevation – northern range

The southern elevation of the northern building measures 6.40m in length. It has been roofed with asbestos sheets (as opposed to slates on the north) but the same grey blue ridge tiles are present. Just below the roofline there are two small ventilation holes and two of the cast iron wall ties are also visible here. Located approximately halfway up the elevation there are a series of embrasures although these are of a different design to the ones found on the northern and eastern elevations; forming a basic cross shape of five openings. Below these on the ground floor are two identical sized square timber framed windows, furthermore the wall ties are also visible to the upper left of these windows. Apart from this the elevation is featureless.

Brick addition - abutting with the south-western corner of the northern elevation.

The brick addition is rectangular in plan orientated north to south and is approximately 4m in length by 3m in width. It has a single pitch roof which slopes eastward from the southern range of the farmhouse; this was once roofed with blue grey slates but these have since collapsed inward into the brick addition. The structure is comprised of red-brick bonded by mortar and once appears to have been rendered. On the eastern elevation of the addition there is a single square window opening which is now blocked off with chipboard. On the southern elevation there is a single doorway on the left hand side but this has also been blocked off with chipboard.

Eastern elevation - southern building.

The southern building is in very poor state of repair due to having mostly collapsed during a storm in 2015 and this is evident when viewing the eastern elevation. The roof has predominantly collapsed into the structure, with only a very small amount of blue slate and timber work visible at the northern end. A single chimney stack still stands (in a reasonably good state of repair) and is visible in the centre of the remaining elevation; this has been constructed from red-brick bonded by mortar. The entirety of the southern portion of the southern range has entirely collapsed (at the time of this survey) and the remnants appeared to have been stockpiled over its original footprint (the remaining standing elevation was approximately 13.30m in length). The eastern elevation is constructed of red-brick bonded by mortar but this is still predominantly covered with a coarse render. On the upper floor there appears to have been two rectangular wooden windows; the southern most of which is still visible where the northern window opening has collapsed into the structure. On the ground floor there is another identical rectangular window directly below where the northern upper floor window was and below the southern side upper floor window there is a doorway; all of these openings have been blocked off with chipboard. Apart from this the elevation is featureless.

Southern elevation - interior elevation

Following the collapse of the southern portion of the building the remaining up-standing elevation measures approximately 6.6m in length. To either side of the interior elevation the original exterior wall is still visible in collapsed spurs which project to the south, these appear to have been constructed from a double course of red-bricks bonded by mortar. The interior wall itself is also comprised of red-brick bonded by mortar. Located both in the centre of the elevation and near the base of the elevation are two horizontal timbers which have metal fittings attached; these may have once been incorporated into the design of the wall in order

to tether animals or hang gates from. Visible on the right hand side of the elevation is a large crack which runs from the top of the elevation to almost the base. Apart from this the elevation is featureless.

Western elevation - southern building.

This elevation is the longest surviving elevation still visible of the building and is 13.90m in length. This is also in a very poor state of repair and is probably the most unsafe area on site. From this view the roof is not present. The elevation is comprised of red-brick bonded by mortar once more but this has been obscured by ivy for the most part which has compromised the structure by driving out much of the mortar. The southern end of the elevation is dominated by a large opening which may once have been an archway, possibly with a segmental brick or stone archway, however this is no longer present and the elevation in this area appears structurally unsound. Directly above this large opening there was once a square window with a dressed stone windowsill, but this has since been blocked up with chipboard. In the central portion of the elevation two windows are visible. The upper floor window appears identical to that found to the south above the archway, however the ground floor window is much wider (double the size of the one above). These windows have concrete lintels but have been blocked up with chipboard. To the left of the larger ground floor window there appears to have once been a doorway however this has since been bricked up. To the immediate left of this bricked up doorway there is another small rectangular window; this appears to have been a tertiary phase as part of a larger window which has since been bricked up. Below this window there is a dual course of large square dressed stone blocks; situated just above ground level, below which there is an opening which presumably leads to a cellar below. The cellar is currently full of debris and is located in a very unstable section of wall; however it is reasonable this may once have been a coal chute or access chute for storage in the cellar. To the left of this the elevation continues with a substantial (2/3m) of red brick bonded by mortar wall, however this part of the elevation has collapsed at the northern end. This part of the elevation has been partially rendered and attached to this render are cast iron water troughs presumably used to water animal stock on the farm. Apart from this elevation is featureless.

5.2 External description of Little Lowe Farm barn/workshop (plates 16-21)

The workshop is rectangular in plan, orientated east to west and measures 14.20m long by 11.20m wide, furthermore all of its elevations (except for the western wall) form the boundary of the site. The western elevation of the workshop is comprised from red and blue brick bonded by mortar. The roof is of a hipped construction forming a quadruple pitch; the pitch visible from this elevation slopes west and is comprised of grey-blue slates and grey-blue ridge tiles. The northern end of the elevation is much lower in profile than the southern end and this is presumably because this was once an exterior yard that was subsequently converted into an interior space by the addition of brick walls and a metal sheet roof. The southern portion of the building is dual-story and appears to be the primary elevation, with the left-hand side representing a secondary brick addition to the original building. The left-hand side of the elevation is dominated by a large timber garage door, to the right of this there is a single doorway which permits access to Room E. The right-hand side of the elevation has two identical timber framed windows on the ground floor and on the upper floor; these are comprised of 12 glass window panes and have concrete lintels and windowsills. There is a pattern within the brickwork which follows a design correlating to two courses of red bricks followed by two courses blue brick, creating a horizontal stripe pattern on this elevation.

The northern elevation is only partially visible due to bordering on a neighbour's property. The lower portion of the brick addition is visible and this is comprised of red-brick bonded by mortar, apart from this wall is featureless. Visible above this lower wall on the upper story of the elevation there are two circular windows; these windows are equally spaced along the



Plate 01: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - Northern elevation of northern range - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 02: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse -
Eastern elevation of northern range - From the east - 1m scale



Plate 03: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Oblique shot Farmhouse - Southern & eastern elevations of northern range - From the southeast - 1m scale



Plate 04: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - Southern elevation of northern range - From the south - no scale



Plate 05: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - brick addition situated in cruck of the 'L' - From the southeast - 1m scale



Plate 06: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - Eastern elevation of southern range - From the east - 1m scale



Plate 07: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Oblique shot Farmhouse - Eastern and Southern elevations of southern range - From the southeast - 1m scale



Plate 08: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External (internal wall) shot Farmhouse - Southern elevation of southern range - From the south - 1m scale



Plate 09: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Oblique shot Farmhouse - Western and Southern elevations of southern range - From the southwest - 1m scale



Plate 10: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - Northern elevation of southern range - From the southwest - 1m scale



Plate 11: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - Northern elevation of southern range - From the northwest - 1m scale



Plate 12: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External (internal wall) shot Farmhouse - Northern elevation of southern range - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 13: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Oblique shot Farmhouse - Northern and western elevations of northern range - From the northwest - 1m scale



Plate 14: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - Collapsed southern portion of southern range - From the northeast - 1m scale



Plate 15b: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Farmhouse - Northern and western elevations of northern range -
From the northwest - no scale

elevation and have been designed with a dual course of brickwork arranged in a circular segmented border pattern, a timber framed window sits within this aperture, located at the compass points of the window there are four decorative rhomboidal key stones and the window itself is of transom and mullion construction with four glass window panes. The eastern elevation is almost entirely obscured by the neighbouring garden sheds. These sheds are constructed in similar style; red-brick bonded by mortar although they are of a much lower profile than the original building. Only the upper story is visible from the east and there are no windows on this elevation, however the same blue-brick striped pattern observed on the western elevation continues around onto the upper story of this elevation. The southern elevation forms the boundary with another neighbouring property to the south situated on Tall Ash Avenue. The elevation is comprised of red-brick bonded by mortar; however it has been painted white. Apart from this the wall is featureless although substantial.

5.3 Internal descriptions of rooms Little Lowe Farm barn/workshop (plates 22-33)

Ground Floor

Room A.

This room is rectangular in plan, orientated north to south and measures 5.10m long by 2.45m wide. The ceiling is comprised of a shallow single pitch roof with wooden rafters supporting modern metal plastic sheeting. All four of room A's elevations are constructed from red-brick bonded by mortar and subsequently painted white, although most of the paint on the eastern elevation has since flaked away. Also on the eastern elevation there was a doorway which has since been blocked off with modern yellow brick and breeze blocks bonded by mortar. The northern elevation has a single doorway with a timber frame which permits access to room E. The floor is comprised from cut stone flags. The room is currently used as a storage area.

Room B.

This room is rectangular in plan, orientated north to south and measures 5.10m long by 3.80m wide. The ceiling is of exposed sawn wooden beams and the floorboards from the storey above are visible. This room was entirely full of debris and as such was inaccessible. The walls comprise of red-brick bonded by mortar. The floor was obscured by debris however it may be comprised of stone flags. The room is currently used as a store for refuse.

Room C.

Room C is rectangular, orientated north to south and measures 5.10m long by 2.30m wide. The ceiling is comprised of wooden floor joists which support a wooden floor above. Just inside the door on the left there is a wooden built staircase which leads to the upper floor. The walls are all comprised of red-brick bonded by mortar and have been painted white although most of this painted since flaked away. The southern elevation has a single green-painted cast-iron radiator located on the central portion of the wall. The northern elevation has a single doorway on the left hand side which permits access to room E. The floor is comprised of cut stone flags. The room houses the staircase which permits access to the first floor.

Room D.

Room D is rectangular, orientated north to south and measures 5.10m long by 4.60m wide. The ceiling is comprised of wooden floor joists, supporting a wooden floor, which are in turn supported by wooden beams. The walls are of red brick bonded by mortar and painted white although most of the paint has flaked away on the southern and western elevations. The western elevation has a timber framed window with 12 glass window panes located just below the upper floor level in the centre of the elevation. The northern elevation is mainly comprised of a large sliding wooden door; this door is substantial and is apparently suspended from metal runners located in a large wooden ceiling joist. The floor is once again of cut stone flags. The room is currently used as a store and workshop area.

Room E.

Room E is the largest room in the barn/workshop area and may have once been an exterior area that was roofed over. It is rectangular in plan, orientated east to west and measures 14.20m long by 5.80m wide. The ceiling is comprised of a timber rafter and purlin construction; a single shallow pitched roof has been covered with metal sheets and plastic ceiling lights. The northern elevation is comprised from red-brick and blue-brick bonded by mortar and much of this wall has been obscured by ivy growth, it does however appear featureless. The eastern elevation is also comprised of red-brick and blue-brick bonded by mortar, and apart from a bricked up window in the upper right hand corner it is also featureless. The southern elevation of this room represents the main partition wall; forming the other rooms/bays, it is mainly comprised from red-brick bonded by mortar however there are areas of modern breezeblock and plastic sheeting forming the wall.

At the left-hand end there is a single timber framed doorway which permits access to room A; there is a step into this room of three brick courses in height. To the right of the doorway there is an area of plastic sheeting and breeze block work incorporated into the brickwork. To the right of this there is another timber framed doorway which permits access to room B; to the right of this doorway there is a window set above floor level with wooden frames, these frames have no glass present. To the right of this there is a section of red brick wall bonded by mortar and another narrower vertical window with wooden frames, the glass is also absent from this window, however it does have a substantial dressed stone window sill. To the right of this window there is another timber frame doorway this time with a wooden batten door present, which permits access to room C. To the right of this there is a large opening leading to room D which can be partitioned from room E with a large sliding wooden door. The western elevation is dominated by a large timber double garage door and immediately to the left of this there is a single wooden framed door which permits access to the exterior of the building.

The floor is mainly comprised of laid bricks which have been grouted in. Also at the western end of the building located in the centre of the floor space there is a mechanics pit covered over with wooden boards and reinforced metal plates. At the eastern end of the room there are two objects of interest one is a stone cut water trough sitting unattached to the floor. The other is a table mounted circular saw (also unattached) constructed from steel - now rusted. The room is currently used for storage although at some point it may have been a mechanics garage and/or workshop.

First Floor

Room F.

Located at the top of the stairs there is a rectangular room, orientated north to south and measuring 5.10m in length by 3.90m in width. This is a landing or storage area and the ceiling is dual pitched visible to the roof ridge; four horizontal wooden purlins support wooden batons, upon which the slates are hung but does not appear to be original. The walls are comprised of red brick bonded by mortar. The southern elevation appears to have a single large vertical window opening which has since been bricked up. Mirroring each other on both the eastern and western elevations there are two single doorways which permit access to the eastern room (Room G) and the western room (Room H) respectively. The floor is of timber boards.

Room G.

Room G is rectangular in plan, orientated north to south and measures 5.10m long by 2.25m. The ceiling is of a hipped roof construction and a modern steel RSJ has been fitted to support the roof; it is comprised of four wooden purlins supporting wooden batons upon which the slates have been hung. The walls are comprised of red brick bonded by mortar which have been painted white although this is flaking away in most places. Centralised within the

northern elevation there is a circular window; this window been designed with a dual course of brickwork arranged in a circular segmented border pattern, a timber framed window sits in this aperture, located at the compass points of the window there are decorative rhomboidal key stones and the window itself is of transom and mullion construction with four glass window panes. On the western elevation on the left hand side there is a single timber frame doorway which permits access back onto the landing. The floor is comprised of wooden boards.

Room H.

Room H is rectangular, orientated east to west and measures 5.25m long by 5.10m wide. Once again the ceiling is open to the roof space and is of hipped design (see Room G). The walls are comprised of red brick bonded by mortar. On the western elevation there is a square window identical to the one found on the ground floor this has a wooden frame and is comprised of 12 glass panes. The northern elevation has another circular window identical to that found in room G. The floor is comprised of wooden boards.



Plate 16: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Barn - Western elevation - From the west - 1m scale



Plate 17: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Oblique shot Barn - Northern and western elevations - From the northwest - 1m scale



Plate 19: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Oblique shot Barn - Northern and eastern elevations - From the northeast - no scale



Plate 20: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Barn - Eastern elevation - From the east - no scale



Plate 21: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - External shot Barn - southern elevation - From the southeast - 1m scale



Plate 22: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Door to Room A - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 23: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room A - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 24: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room B - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 25: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room B - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 26: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Door to Rooms C & D - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 27: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room C - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 28 Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room D - From the north - 1m scale



Plate 29: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room E - From the west - 1m scale



Plate 30: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room E - From the east - 1m scale



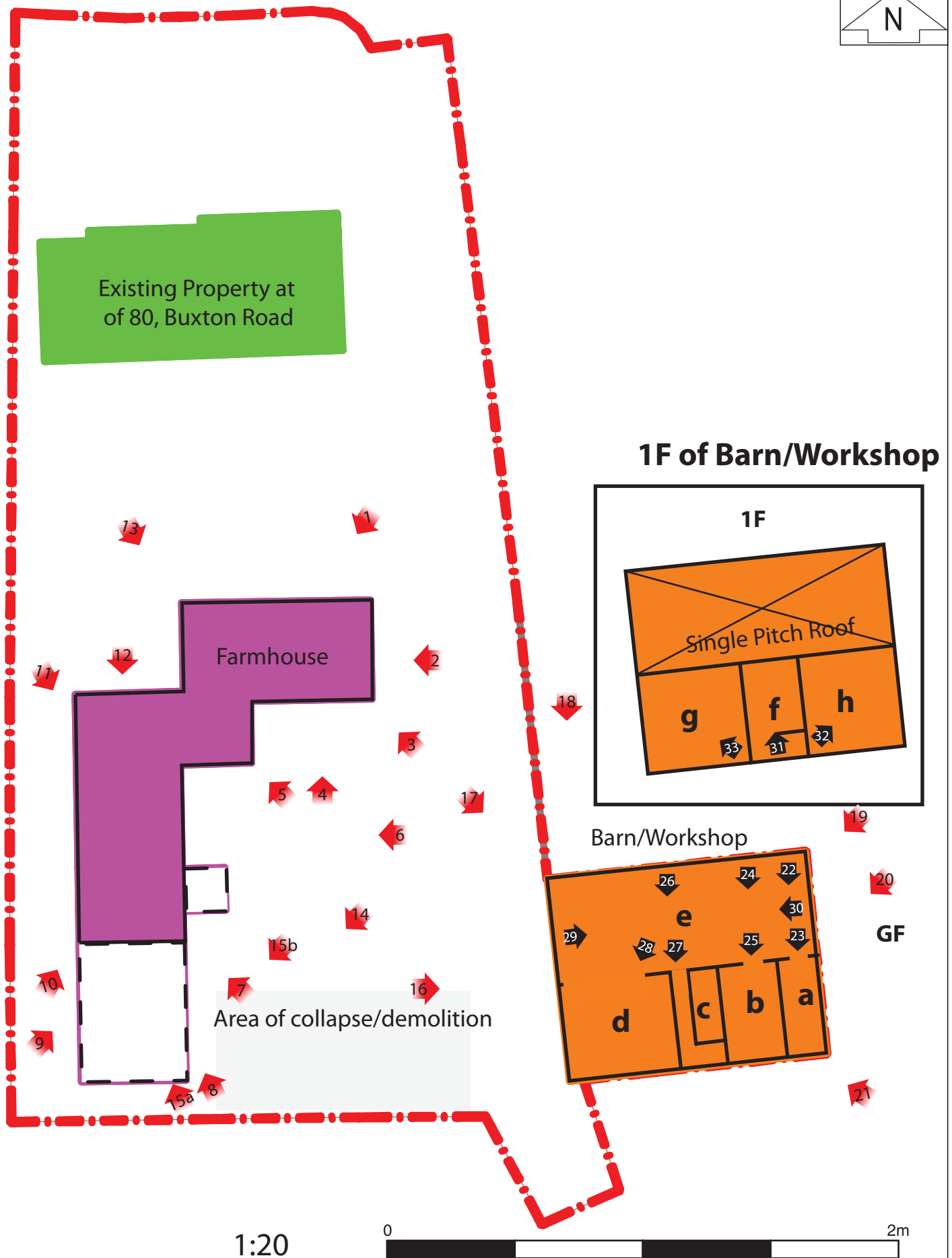
Plate 31: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room F - From the south - 1m scale



Plate 32: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room G - From the southwest - 1m scale



Plate 33: Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton - Internal shot Barn - Room H - From the southeast - 1m scale



1:20



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Figure 04: Plan of Little Lowe House, Buglawton, Congleton showing location of photographic plates. Scale 1:20 @ A4.

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6.0 CONCLUSION

The Council for British Archaeology's '*An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England: Volume 2, Research Agenda and Strategy*' (Brennand 2007) has specified that farm buildings are "an important historical research resource" (p. 140), and that "there is an urgent need for all local authorities to ensure that farm buildings undergoing adaptation are at least considered for recording" so that "a regional database of farm buildings can be derived and variations across the region examined." (ibid.). The level 2 Historic Building Record has been undertaken in response to and further investigation of, this regional research framework.

The buildings represent a farmhouse/homestead building with associated barn and now lost garden. The farmhouse has suffered significant fire damage and the roof space has been open to the weather for some time (especially in the southern range), furthermore the barn appears to have been extended to the north covering over an earlier yard area. The ground and upper floors of the farmhouse were inaccessible but the exterior possesses some characteristic features; the brick embrasures on the north and south of the northern range, the cast iron wall ties running through the building north to south and the evidence of good quality stone masonry on the lintels located above the eastern door on the northern façade of the northern range and above the cellar chute on the western façade of the southern elevation.

The roof of the original barn has been renewed and strengthened recently but the original hipped design is still evident from the exterior. The original yard area located to the north of the barn still has its original brick laid surface although this had been partially truncated by a modern mechanics pit; the windows located on the northern elevation of room E evidence that this was the original exterior wall of the barn and that yard area has been preserved and not covered over in concrete is uncommon.

The historic building record can be seen as having fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition and as such it is recommended that the condition now be discharged.

7.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SJ 86 SE, SJ 86 SW, SJ 86 NE & SJ 86 NW

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British Geological Survey website. www.bgs.ac.uk

