

Archaeological
Building
Recording
Services

**An Archaeological Standing Building Survey.
Barn Farm
Bromley Wood
Abbots Bromley
Staffordshire**

(NGR SK 11018 24054)

On Behalf of Messrs K & M Farrington



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March 2017

Planning Permission P/2014/00297

ABRS Project No 2017-BFAS

**Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
Accession Number 2017.LH.21**

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An Archaeological Standing Building Survey of Outbuildings at Barn Farm, Abbots Bromley Road, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire (NGR SK 11018 24054).

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Summary

This document is an archaeological standing building survey of outbuildings associated with Barn Farm, Abbots Bromley Road, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire (NGR SK 11018 24054), commissioned from Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) by Messrs K & M Farrington in advance of the proposed conversion of the outbuildings to residential use.

Barn Farm is a well-built example of a 19th century Staffordshire farm complex. The “L” shape arrangement is indicative of dairy and cattle rearing built to supply the rapidly industrialising Black Country. Cartographic evidence indicates the buildings were originally built as a field barn soon after enclosure. The farmhouse was built sometime later and a cart shed added.

The buildings were clearly used for dairy production with numerous cattle stalls. It appears that dairying continued on the farm well into the 20th century as indicated by the extensive use of concrete and the construction of a sunken milking floor.

The archive will be deposited with The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number 2017.LH.21.

1. Introduction

Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) were commissioned by Messrs K & M Farrington to undertake an archaeological standing building survey of outbuildings Barn Farm, Abbots Bromley Road, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire (NGR SK 11018 24054 (*Figures 1 & 6*)). Planning Consent has been granted for the conversion of the outbuildings to residential use (P/2014/00297). The buildings are traditionally built agricultural buildings, believed to date from the 19th century, Barn Farm is approximately 2km east - south east of Abbots Bromley. The Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council as advisor to East Staffordshire Borough Council has recommended that an archaeological standing building survey to Historic England Level 2 as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) be carried out prior to any proposed works being carried out. The buildings are not statutorily listed nor are they located within a Conservation Area.

The project was completed in accordance with the Specification for Archaeological Building Recording at Barn Farm, Abbots Bromley Road, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire (March 2015) as issued by the Principal Archaeologist and followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct*, and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2010).

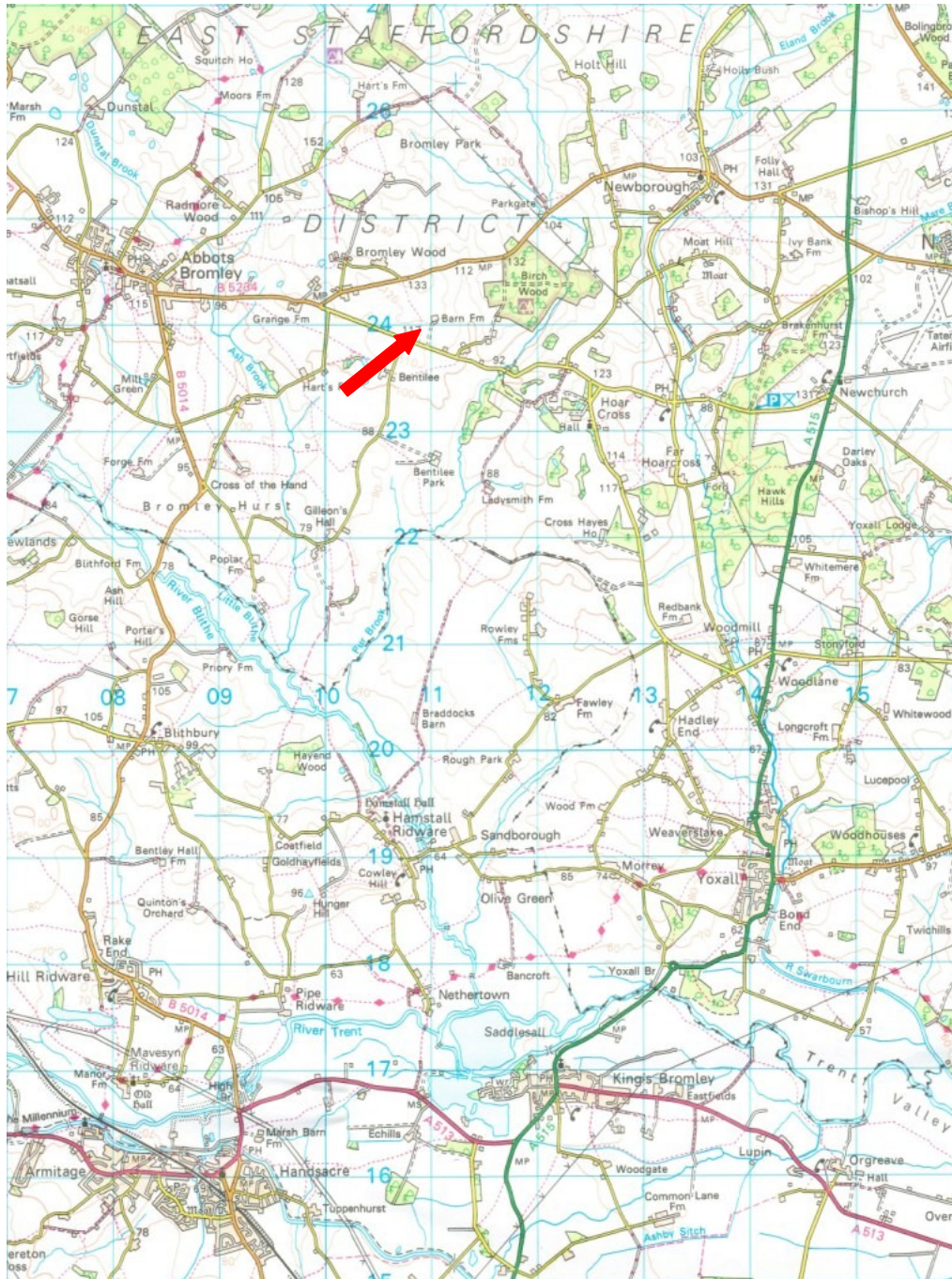


Figure 1
Site Location

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The historic parish of Bromley has confirmed Saxon origins with 10th century charters granted by King Edmund to Wulfsige the Black (AD942) and King Aethelred to Wulfric (AD996). The latter giving details of estate boundaries which are still recognisable in the modern Parish boundaries. A third charter is recorded in Wulfric's will of 1002-4, in which Bromley, is granted to the Benedictine Abbey at Burton upon Trent. It is likely that because of this relationship that the Abbots prefix was added to the Parish name. The village remained the property of the Abbey until the Dissolution 1545. The King then granted Abbots Bromley to Sir William Paget, Clerk of the Signet and Privy Councillor. Following

this the village was known as Paget's Bromley for several centuries, in order to distinguish it from the part of the adjacent parish belonging to the Bagot family, still known as Bagot's Bromley. However, the influence of the Paget Family waned and the name reverted to Abbots Bromley.

Abbots Bromley was enclosed in 1799 and an enclosure map produced (SRO Ref 382/1-3 (Figure 2)). The map records the area of Barn Farm, but does not record any standing buildings. The area of Barn Farm is recorded as large, largely rectangular fields, laid out perpendicular to the principal road alignments, a classic enclosure landscape.



Figure 2
Abbots Bromley Enclosure Map (1799).
(Approximate Location of Barn Farm)

In 1826 a map of the Parish of Abbots Bromley was produced (SRO Ref D(W)1721/2/39 (Figure 3)). The map is the first available accurate representation of Barn Farm. The farm is shown as an “L” shaped range of buildings to the north east of a pond, at this stage there is no sign of a farmhouse. It is likely that the buildings were constructed as a post enclosure out farm. Interestingly, the north–south aligned range appears to be open fronted, this suggests it is likely to be an open fronted shelter shed or cow hovel, attached to another building, possibly a fodder barn. This along with the adjacent water suggests the buildings had a pastoral use at the time.

The map also shows that some additional sub-division of the surrounding fields has taken place since the original 1799 enclosure. These smaller fields again suggest pastoral, rather than arable farming.

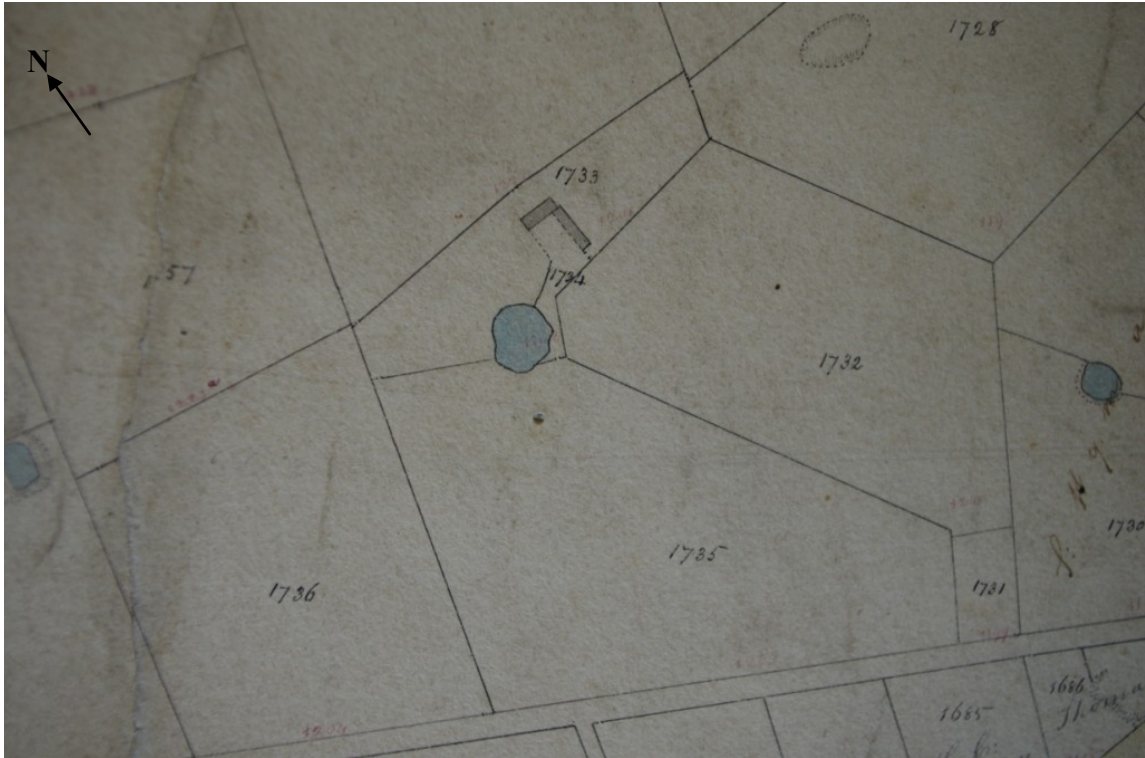


Figure 3
Map of Abbots Bromley parish (1826).



Figure 4
Abbots Bromley Tithe Map (1846).

In 1846 a *Plan of The Township of Abbots Bromley & Bromley Hurst, Parish of Abbots Bromley in County of Staffordshire* (SRO Ref D3924/3/3 (*Figure 4*)) was produced to accompany the tithe award. The map does not contain the same level of detail as the earlier Parish map, but Barn Farm is clearly identifiable, and by 1846 a farmhouse has been constructed. The accompanying apportionment identifies the landowner as Thomas Brooks and that the farm was occupied by Charles Glover. Parcel 918 is identified as house, buildings, yard & garden. The surrounding fields are also identified as pasture (no.s 921 & 922), meadows (no.s 917 & 923) and arable (919). The fields are also named, Long Lands (919) and Far Field (921 & 923) give an idea of the now lost pre-enclosure field names.

There is a single documentary reference relating to Charles Glover for the period. White's History, Gazetteer & Directory of Staffordshire published in 1834 lists a Charles Glover, but interestingly as a Gentleman, it is possible that Glover considered himself a farmer of some status, despite his position as tenant. If accurate, it suggests that the farmhouse may have been built sometime between 1826 and 1834.

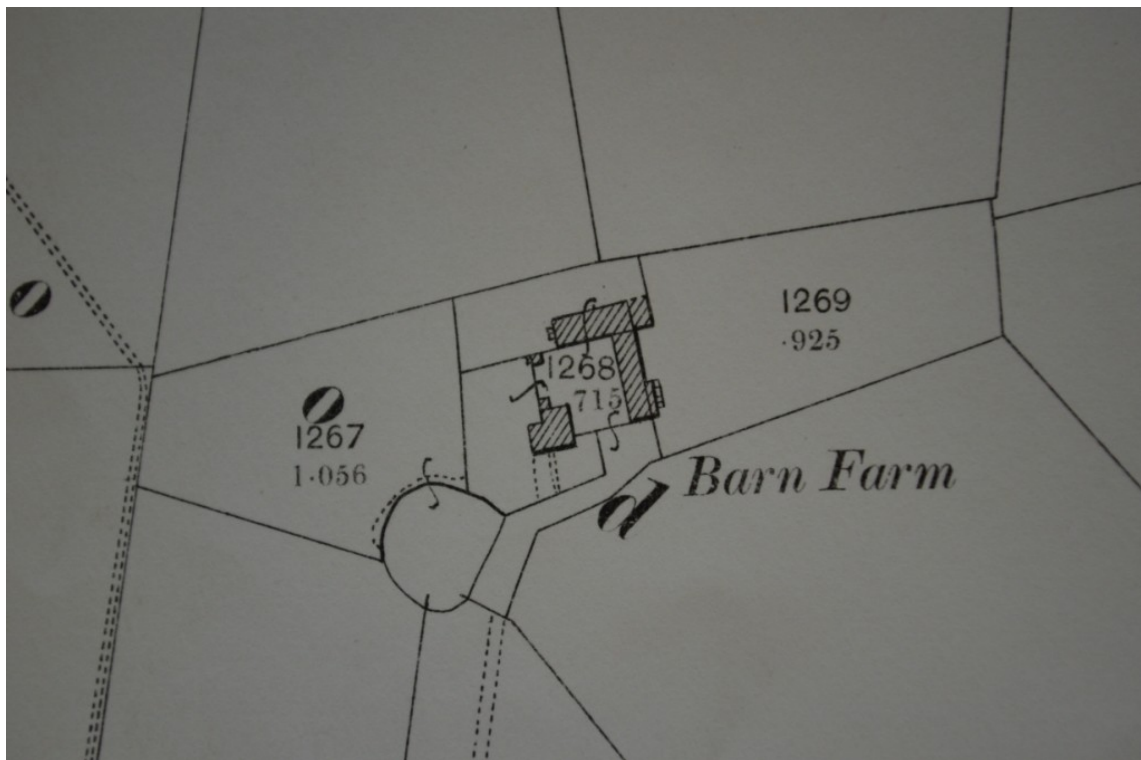


Figure 5
Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1901).
(Sheet XXXIX.11)

The first edition Ordnance Survey covering the proposed development area was published in 1882, there was no re-producible version available at the time of this building recording. The second edition (SRO Ref XXXIX.11 (*Figure 5*)) was published in 1901. It clearly records Barn Farm, largely as it was recorded by the 1846 tithe map. There are, however a number of discernible changes visible, a small, open fronted extension has been added to the north east gable of the northernmost range, in all likelihood a cart shed, cart sheds were normally built facing away from the farmyard in order to prevent animals entering and damaging either themselves or the machinery. A smaller extension has also been added to the eastern elevation of the north – south range, which appears to be no longer open fronted. This

extension appears to be two or three small structures attached to yards, almost certainly pigsties. There is also a much smaller projection on the west gable of the northernmost range; its size and position suggest this may simply be an external stair. The remainder of the modern era Ordnance Survey maps record Barn Farm as it was recorded by the second edition map. The only significant alterations occurred in the mid 1970s with the construction of three large buildings to the north and east of the earlier buildings.

There is, unfortunately only limited documentary evidence available regarding Barn Farm. In 1870 J.G Harod & Co's *Postal & Commercial Directly of Staffordshire* lists a Charles Startin of Barn Farm. In 1912 the farm was occupied by an Earnest Lyons, who was again listed by Kelly's Directory of Staffordshire in 1928, by 1940 Barn farm was occupied by Earnest Lyons junior.

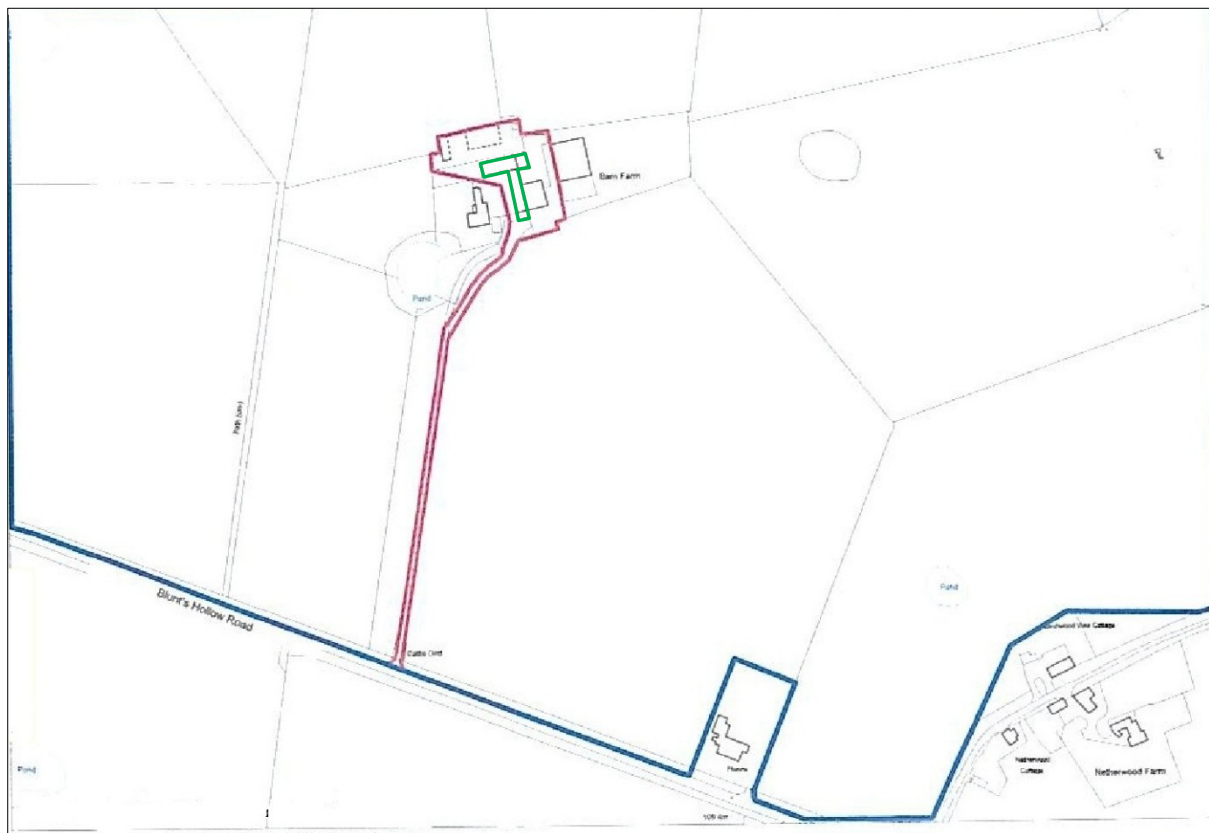


Figure 6
Plan of the Proposed Development Area in Red (Recorded Buildings in Green).
(Provided by client. Not to Scale).

2. Aims and Methodology

The specific objectives of the standing building survey were as follows:

- To provide a comprehensive written, drawn and photographic record of the building prior to the permitted conversion, as it represents upstanding archaeological/historical remains of local, regional or national importance.

- The project report will provide a comprehensive review of the local and regional historical context of the structures recorded by the project, making reference to the appropriate regional research agendas.
- The project will produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to ‘preserve by record’ the buildings in their current form prior to conversion and/or demolition.

Desk-based research included the analysis of readily available documentary and cartographic sources including Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) & Staffordshire Records Office (SRO).

The Historic Building Recording verified existing measured survey drawings (supplied by the client) and completed a photographic (35mm monochrome negative) and written record of the building to the equivalent of English Heritage Level 2. An ordered archive has been compiled and will be deposited with the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) record has been completed.

Orientation: There are two buildings subject to this historic building recording. The buildings are “L” shaped in plan; the long axis is orientated north-north west –south-south east, the shorter axis is aligned west-south west – east-north east (*Figures 6 & 17*), the principal elevations are those facing the yard (west-south west and south-south east); for ease of description this is taken hereafter to be north – south and east - west. Where the terms ‘left’, ‘right’, ‘front’ and ‘back’ etc are used in the report, this is in relation to these principal elevations as viewed from the yard. For the purposes of this historic building recording a letter prefix has been given to each building and a number suffix added for significant partitions where required.

All historic maps are reproduced with north to the top of the page, following Ordnance Survey standards unless indicated otherwise with appropriate north arrow and key.

As far as is known, no previous historic building recording has been undertaken of the building.

The site visit was carried out by Gerwyn Richards on March 16th 2017.

3. Description of the Buildings

3.1 *Building A*

Building A is a linear building of three bays, but originally four built of local handmade red bricks (brick dimensions 9 inch x 2 ½ inch x 4 ¼ inch) laid in a largely stretcher bond with lime mortar under a plain tile roof (*Figure 7*). Both long elevations are largely concealed by ivy growth, the west facing gable has modern granite dust render and evidence of a now lost external stair (*Figure 8*). The east facing gable is largely concealed by the later cart shed (Building C). There is evidence of a blocked threshing door on the principal elevation of (3), the brick infill appears early, suggesting this was an early modification to the building. There is a stone key stone at the top of the arch. The corresponding door on the north facing elevation has also been largely blocked, but in this instance with timber and a cart door has been retained, offset to the east (*Figure 9*). There are a multitude of openings on each

elevation, it is likely that those under arched heads may be earlier and those under flat heads may be later alterations.

Internally, the building is divided into three bays, all appear to be original. There is a blue brick threshing floor in bay (3) as well as original candle niches adjacent to the threshing doors. There are two blocked openings on the eastern wall (*Figure 10*) indicating this easternmost bay was originally part of A. The use of modern bricks in the northernmost opening indicates this was blocked recently. The original purpose of the southern opening is unclear due to its unusually low height.

(2) has four double stalls along the east wall (*Figure 11*), an opening has been inserted into the wall between (2) and (3) in order to provide access to a feed passage. The use of concrete indicates the stalls are 20th century in date as early 20th century legislation encouraged the use of more hygienic concrete for cattle stalls. The ceiling is carried on deal rafters, apparently 20th century in date.

There is no indication of the original use of (1), the floor is modern concrete and the door is a modern replacement, the ceiling is identical to that seen in (2), however there are an additional two rolled steel joist (RSJ) bridging beams (*Figure 12*). One of which is stamped DORMAN LONG IRON AND STEEL MIDDLESBROUGH ENGLAND, a prolific steel maker during the early 20th century.

Access to the first floor is via a timber ladder stair within (3). As with the ground floor the first floor is separated into bays, however the easternmost bay has remained part of A at first floor level. The roof is carried on paired butt purlins, all apparently hand finished, suggesting an earlier 19th century date, supporting the cartographic evidence and suggesting the first floor may be a later insertion. There is no indication of the original use of the bays. The easternmost bay has two blocked openings on the south facing elevation, suggesting that A may pre-date B. There is another blocked opening on the east facing gable, in all likelihood a pitching door blocked following the construction of the cart shed.

3.2 Building B

Building B is aligned north – south abutting the south face of A at its eastern end (*Figure 17*). The building is again brick-built under a plain tile roof (*Figure 13*). There is a clear difference between the bricks used on the principal and east facing elevations, this confirms earlier cartographic sources (Fig. 3) that B was originally open fronted. The bricks on the rear elevation measure 9 inch x 2 ½ inch x 4 inch, suggesting a pre 1850 construction date, those on the principal elevation are a more standardised size of 9 inch x 3 inch x 4 inch suggesting a post 1850 date. There is a modern extension in concrete blocks abutting the southernmost gable.

Internally, the building is divided into four principal bays. The northernmost bay, (1) was originally part of A and now houses a sunken milking floor (*Figure 14*), the wall is carried on a rolled steel joist (RSJ) lintel; again confirming this is not an original opening. There are a further two RSJ bridging beams in (1), again stamped with the Dorman Long name, suggesting they may be contemporary to those seen in A(1).

There are concrete cattle stalls along the rear wall of bays (3) and (4) with a feed passage. All of the internal walls are cement rendered, again confirming the use of the building as a

20th century dairy. The wall between (2) and (3) is modern block work, indicating the building has been recently sub-divided.

The roof is carried on five Queen post trusses (*Figure 15*). Peters (*Vernacular Architecture* (Vol 19, 1988)) suggests that queen post trusses only arrived in Staffordshire in the years immediately preceding 1820, which provides a tentative date, broadly supported by cartographic sources for the construction of the building. However, both cartographic sources and physical evidence indicates the building has been extensively re-modelled, so it would be impossible to state categorically whether the roof is original, or later.

3.3 *Building C*

Building C is an open fronted cart shed abutting the east facing gable of building A (*Figure 17*). The two bay building is brick-built (brick dimension 9 inch x 3 inch x 4 inch) under a Welsh Slate roof (*Figure 16*). The central brick column is built with attractive cant brick reveals.

Cartographic evidence indicates the cart shed is a later edition, first appearing on the first edition Ordnance Survey, the brick dimensions support a later 19th century construction date, as does the Welsh Slate roof. Cart sheds were commonly built with openings facing away from the farmyard, with the intention that animals were less likely to enter the building from the yards and damage either themselves or the machinery.

4. Conclusion

Barn Farm is a well-built and equally well maintained example of a 19th century Staffordshire farm complex. The “L” shape arrangement is indicative of dairy and cattle rearing built to supply the rapidly industrialising Black Country.

Cartographic evidence indicates the buildings were originally built as a field barn soon after enclosure. Such barns were built in isolated sites away from the farmhouse and yard which at the time would have occupied sites within the village. It appears that the farmhouse was built sometime later, probably when the village site was abandoned and farms began to move to less congested sites beyond villages. It is likely that it was around this time the cart shed was added.

The buildings were clearly used for dairy production with numerous cattle stalls and the larger building, A being used for cattle rearing on the ground floor and fodder storage above. It appears that dairying continued on the farm well into the 20th century as indicated by the extensive use of concrete and the construction of a sunken milking floor.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

- 1 A3 permagraph sheet containing plans & notes
- 2 A3 paper plans & profiles.
- 83 B&W negatives & contact sheets
- 2 DVDs containing 83 digital images
- 3 A4 contact sheets
- 3 A4 photo record sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report

The accession number 2017.LH.21 has been issued by Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent. The archive will be deposited in due course.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition.

5.1 OASIS Record Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	UPLOADED AS
OASIS No	archaeol30-279829
Project Name	An Archaeological Standing Building Survey of Outbuildings at Barn Farm, Abbots Bromley Road, Bromley Wood, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire.
Site Co-ordinates	SK 11018 24054
Project Type	Standing Building Recording
Project Manager	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future Work?	No/No
Current Land Use	In Use As Building
Development Type	Residential
Prompt	NPPF
Archive Recipient	Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke on Trent

6. References & Sources

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Brunskill, R.W. 1988 *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*. London

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Historic England. 2006 *The Conversion of Traditional Farm Buildings: A guide to good practice.* London.

Peters, J.E.C., 1988. 'Post-medieval Roof Trusses in some Staffordshire Farm Buildings' in *Vernacular Architecture* Vol. 19, 24-31.

Peters, J.E.C., 2003 *Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings.* Shire Books.

Staffordshire Records Office March 2017

7. Colour Plates



Figure 7
Building A Principal Elevation (Looking North).



Figure 8
Building A West Facing Gable
Showing Evidence of Lost Stair.



Figure 9
Building A North Facing Elevation (Looking South-South West).



Figure 10
Building A(3) Blocked Openings in West Facing Wall.



Figure 11
Building A(2) Concrete Stalls & Feed Passage on East Wall.



Figure 12
Building A(1) General View & RSJ Bridging Beams (Looking North-North East).



Figure 13
Building B Principal Elevation (Looking East).



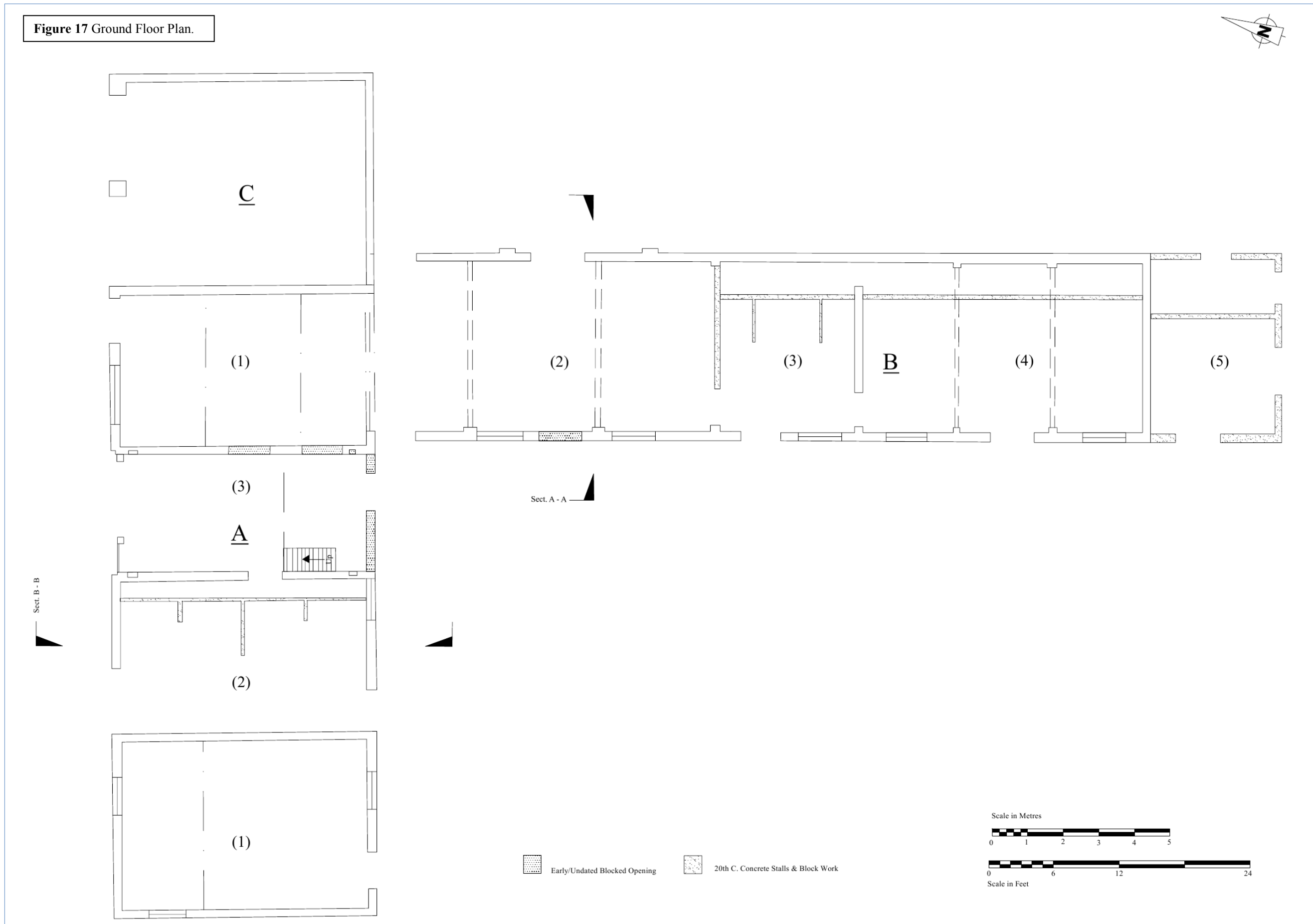
Figure 14
Building B(1) Sunken Milking Floor (Looking North West).



Figure 15
Building B(2) Queen Post Truss.



Figure 16
Building C Principal Elevation (Looking South).



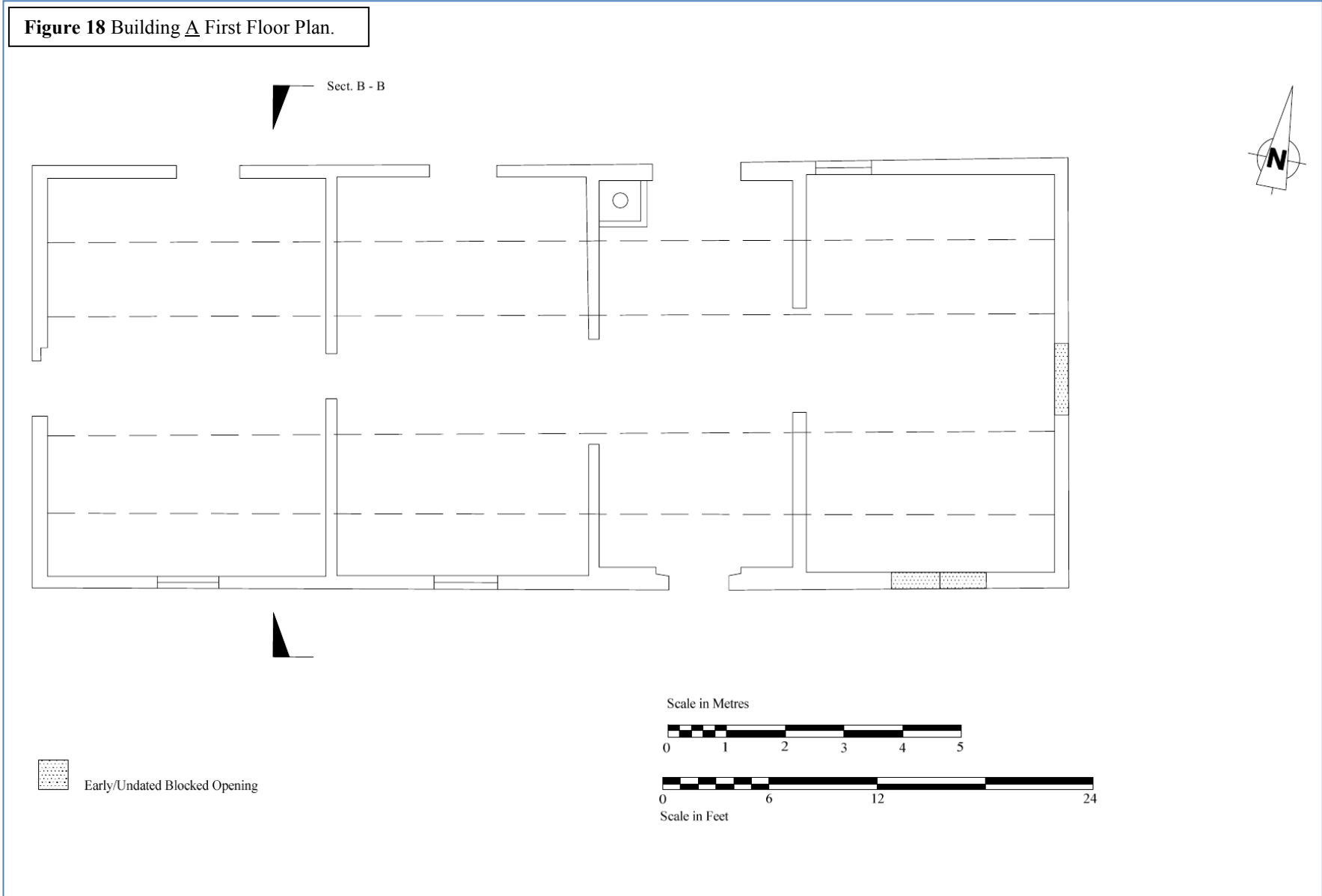
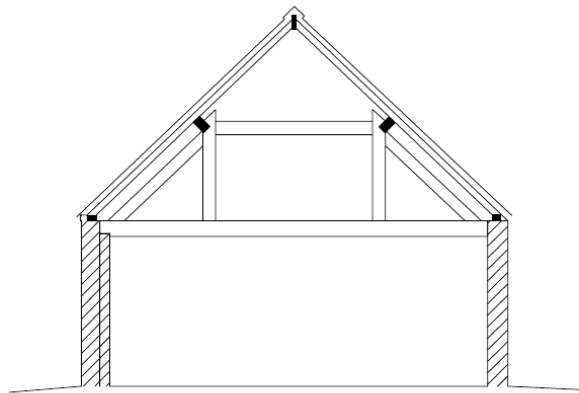
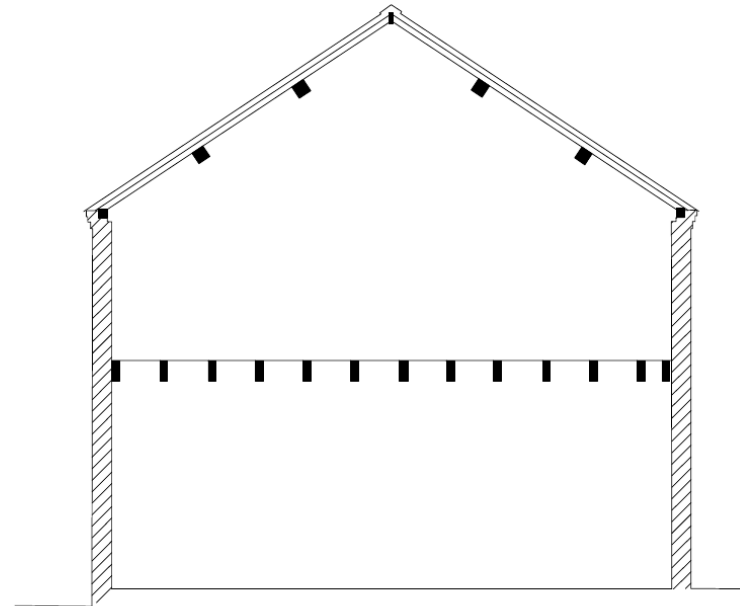


Figure 19 Sections.



Section A - A



Section B - B

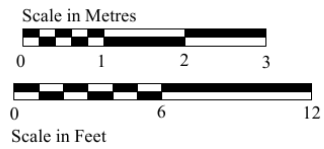
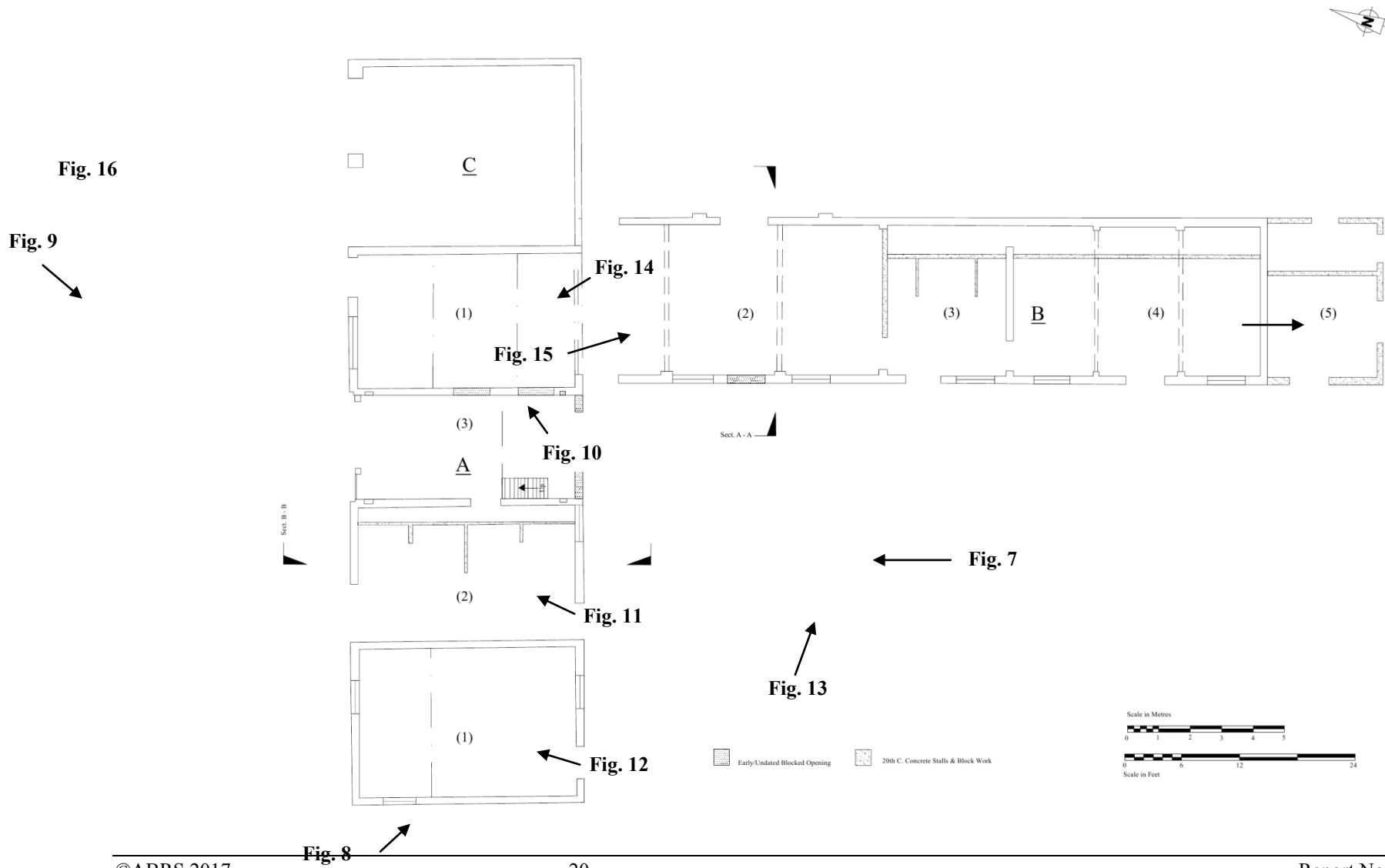


Figure 20 Locations of Photographs Included in Report.



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