

Fristling Hall, Stock, Essex. Description and analysis of the farm buildings
at Fristling Hall. Surveyed 09 11 and 06 12 2011. CBC 10/01780/FUL.



Page | 1

Location of Fristling Hall in the middle of open countryside NW of Stock.



Fristling Hall naming the principal buildings.

Location

Fristling Hall is located at the end of a long drive off Swan Lane to the NW of the centre of Stock. Among the buildings is a Listed granary at NGR. TL6798700061. The site is a large farm complex with an Essex Double Barn attached to an organic accretion of buildings around a

building known as the Dairy but which is internally equipped as a piggery. These buildings form the NW range. Parallel, across a wide drove way to the SE, is a second range with a two storey granary, open-shelters and closed stables. A number of buildings contain bird cages. The granary is the only building which exhibits characteristics earlier than the late C18th. The granary is Listed as 'C18th and earlier' and internally has a C17/18th frame.

Page | 2



The Granary at Fristling Hall. BJHC 2011.

Listing description reads:

STOCK . 719/0/10089 . SWAN LANE. 07-JUN-06 THE GRANARY AT FRISTLING HALL . II .

A three bay, two storey C18 and earlier granary with single storey outshot to rear (south), timber framed on a red brick plinth laid in English bond, and clad with weather boarding. The west gable end has C19 framing and the catslide roof has a C20 corrugated metal covering. The facade faces north and has a central door with C20 window opening and casement frame above. A shuttered opening to the right of the door has C18 round-end strap hinges.

The interior studwork is primary braced and of substantial scantling. The chamfered bridging beams have lambs tongue stops. The roof truss comprises tie beams with collar, raking struts and staggered purlins. Most of the frame is pegged and there is widespread use of mortice and tenon joints. In addition, there are face halved and bladed scarf joints to the wall plate, with C18 iron strapping at each corner of the building.

A C18 and earlier granary with some C19 and C20 alterations, associated with a C16/17 barn and C19 farmhouse and outbuildings. Although granaries are numerous in the country, the survival of a substantially complete C18 and earlier timber framed example is of special interest. Listing NGR. TL6798700061.

The Double Essex Barn has a brief Listing: STOCK SWAN LANE. 5213. Barn to the north of Fristling Hall. TL 60 SE 12/880. Grade II. A Cl6-Cl7 timber-framed and weather-boarded barn of 10 bays, with 2 gabled entrance .bays. Roof tiled. Listing NGR: TL6797900089.

The buildings are recorded to discharge a planning condition monitored by Essex County Council on Chelmsford Borough Council application 10/01780/FUL.

Page | 3

The buildings under study to EH Level 3 are:

1. The Granary. Page 4.
2. The Double Essex Barn. Page 16.
3. The Dairy. Page 32.

The other buildings are recorded to EH Level 1.

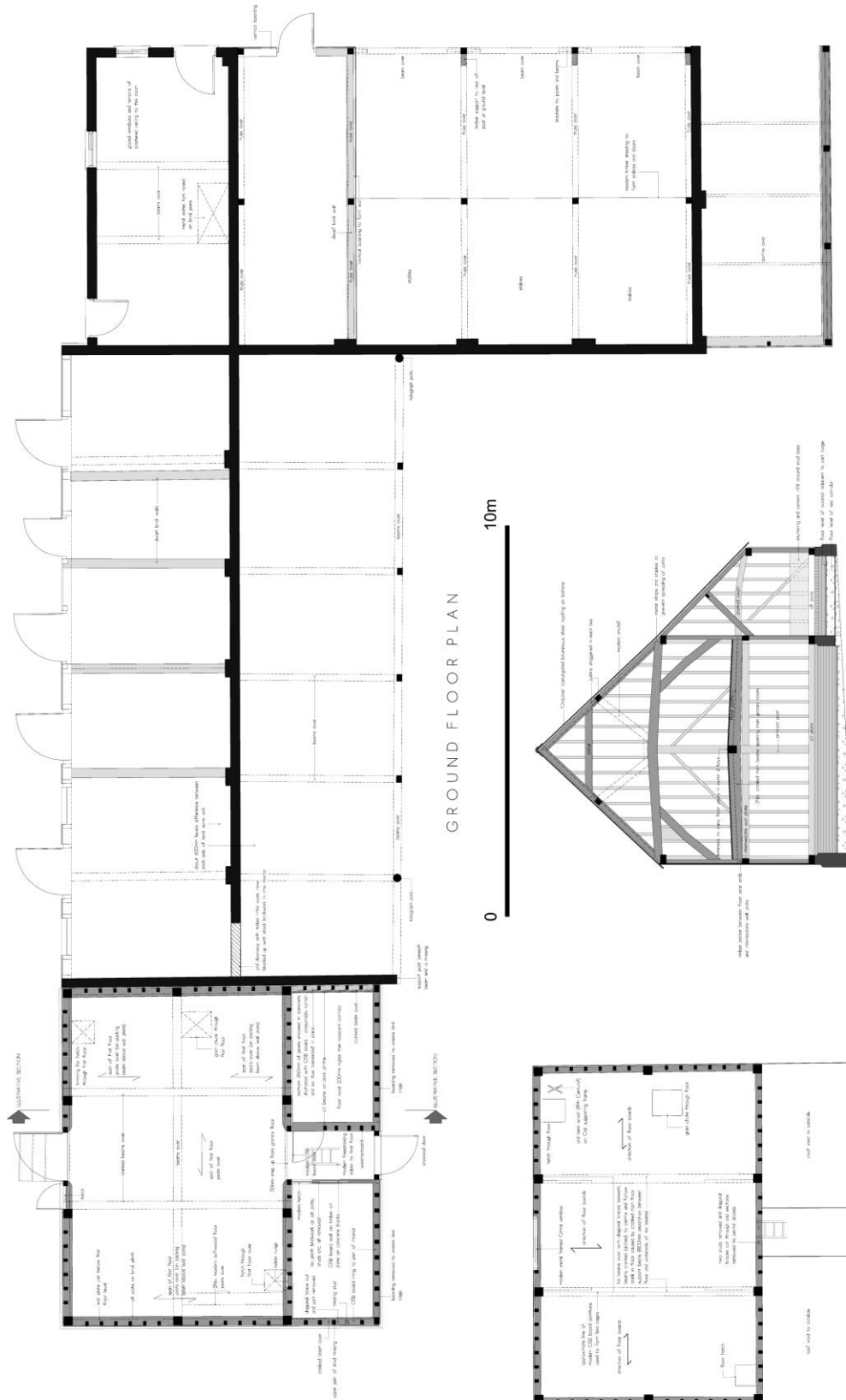
4. The Granary Stables. Page 46.
5. The Tack Room and Shelter. Page 48.
6. The Barn Stables (Livery). Page 53.
7. The LC20th Stables (Livery). Page 64.

It is worth noting that Fristling Hall is highly documented as to its history but none of the histories give evidence for the age or development of the buildings. There are two papers currently published on the internet:

1. *Farming in the 18th & 19th Centuries with reference to Fristling Hall and Crondon Park in Stock, Essex, UK* by Joy Leighton, 1982. This contains useful photographs taken in 1982.
2. *Origins of Stock* by Charles Phillips, undated but recent.



The Granary with attached Stables. Looking SE.



Plan and section through the Granary produced by The Planning and Design Bureau. 2010.

1. The Granary - External Description.



Page | 5

The north elevation of the Granary.

North Elevation.

The Granary is a 3 bayed, 2 storey timber-framed building clad with weather-boards of which nearly all are L20th replacements. These are characterised by their washed out and mouldy appearance, having been cold tar brushed long ago. They are bandsawn and fastened with French nails. There are some earlier hot-tarred boards under the eaves fastened with wrought iron nails. One has fallen exposing the scantling timber studs.

The frame sits on a deep plinth of 60x110x225mm red and purple bricks with creased faces, soft arrises, no pressure lines and no frogs. There are 13 courses exposed up from the ground to a moulded coping and then 2 more courses. The bricks are bedded in a beige sandy mortar in English bond. The quoins have no closer bricks and the door opening has closers on one side only implying it has been widened.

The roof is clad with LC20th - C21st corrugated fibre sheets with one translucent plastic one to light the upper floor. The roofing, sometimes called 'Onduline' is a 'tough lightweight corrugated roofing material manufactured from bitumen saturated organic fibres under intense pressure and heat, available in four colours'. It is commonly used on small chicken houses and the like. The rainwater goods are black plastic.

There is a central, inserted C20th casement with single top-light and one opening frame to light the upper floor. The central split stable style door to the ground floor is made up of a recycled sign depicting an appeal thermometer for the local church dated 1996 with a welded grid for the upper leaf. Photo follows.



The central door into the Granary. The small hatch is specifically mentioned in the Listing.

Besides the main door is a small hatch door at head height. This is a 2 board gate and ledger construction with unmatched wrought iron pintles with spoon terminals. The timbers are nailed and clenched. However the opening can be seen inside to be inserted in the C20th so while the door appears older it is not in-situ.



The western elevation is boarded with one tiny opening.

Western Elevation.

The western elevation is clad with C20th boards and presents the profile of a gabled end with a catslide roof to the south. There is no distinction in the cladding and the boards run across the two forms. A number of boards are missing and reveal the timber frame to have diagonal bracing with nailed interrupted studwork. There is a single small opening into the outshut. The roof is finished with narrow verge boards.

Page | 7



Catslide roof and outshut rooms used as bird rearing houses.

Southern Elevation.

The southern elevation reveals the timber-frame of two outshuts separated by a narrow lobby into the rear of the Granary. The frames are of diagonally braced interrupted studwork fastened with chisel shanked wrought iron nails. The timbers are numbered throughout on the exterior with a race knife using a tagged number system. The numbers are identical to that used on the main frame and show the building was originally built with the outshuts.



Timbers numbered XXIItag and XXIItag adjacent in the same frame.



The framing of the easternmost outshut.

The cladding is bandsawn LC20th weather-boards and 3-4 runs have been deliberately removed to create light and ventilation. The frame has then been chicken wired on the inside to create bird cages for game birds such as pheasant. Unfortunately this has allowed the weather into the frame causing it to rot prematurely. The studs all appear to be oak.



The interiors of the west (LHS) and eastern outshut bird cages.

The interiors of the bird cages are unremarkable except that the main frame retains its original weather-boards fastened with wrought iron nails. The dividing corridor is also boarded with these but the door to the exterior is a LC20th piece of plywood sheet. The western opening into the western outshut is badly positioned as the diagonal brace has been pointlessly severed to achieve it.

1. The Granary - Internal Description.



Page | 9

Looking E inside the Granary on the ground floor. Frame and floor is oak.

The Granary is composed of an oak timber frame with diagonally braced walls with nailed interrupted studwork. The braces are confined to the panels above the mid-rails and connect the storey posts to the mid-rails. The studs are cut on a module of 3x4in, set on edge and pegged into the horizontal members at 17in centres. The principal storey posts are 8x9in in section and chamfered with runout stops. The mid-rails are 7x5in. The front and rear doors have original 5x5in jambs with mortices for drop bars.



The central bay looking south at the rear door. Note added wall plates for the joists to sit on.

The floor is unusually framed by resting the two main transverse 10x13in deep joists on the mid-rails and dovetailing them sideways into the storey posts. This means the common joists which are 3x5in set at 17in centres cannot sit on the mid-rails. In the central bay the common joists are axial between the main joists. In the end bays there is a bridging joist tenoned into the central storey post and the common joists are transverse. A secondary plate has then been clout nailed to the interior of the studs for the common joists to sit on.



The NE corner with trimmer beam for a ladder hatch.

The main joists (and the tie-beams above them) are chamfered with cyma stops and have a pronounced camber which the boarded floor follows. This may be a considered design feature to allow the grain to fall to the outside of the floor when stored above. The floor has two properly framed ladder hatches in the NE and SW corners and the hand cleaved rungs of the ladders remain wrought iron nailed to the frame. One or two are modern replacements.

The eastern wall is lined at waist height with softwood weather-boards acting as the backing for a full length manger. The retaining brackets for a hay rack also remain nailed to the north and south walls and the base rail, drilled for the spokes of the rack, remains in place nailed along the wall. The western wall has a similar arrangement but much less has been retained. Evidently the lower floor was used as a stable. The moisture must have affected the floor above as at both ends the first two pairs of transverse common joists have been replaced with 2x4in softwood timbers.

Of note are many taper burn marks near the two doorways showing that the building was occupied at night.



The upper floor has been divided into bird cages and an office. Looking NW.

The upper floor has tongue and grooved pine boards that are rotted in places where bird feeders and waterers have been positioned. The area is divided into three units. The westernmost bay is closed off and ceiled with OSB (Oriented Strand Board) into a windowless office with a C20th four panel half glazed door. The central bay has a large aviary built of OSB, bird wire and with ground level opening panels. OSB is a LC20th/C21st product. The rest of the floor is open.



Interior of the office. Looking NW then NE.

The office has been boarded out entirely except for the north wall where there is a recess. This is however not a window but a modern cabinet with a drop front. Only the principal timbers are visible including a long curving spandrel to the cambered tie-beam on the north side. The southern one has been removed to insert the doorway. The room is considered as an office because it has a large desk in it and there are pictures on the wall. It could just as well have been an incubator room. There are abandoned electric cables for light and power. The OSB panels are printed with the date 06 MAY 1995.



Grain hoist in the NW corner.

In the open area there is a cable hoist positioned in the NW corner over the ladder trap. Maldon Iron Works Co Ltd is cast into the housing. The support structure is cut from reused machined timbers and held together with carriage screws and French nails. Also the adjacent eastern wall has a few runs of applied pine boards wrought iron nailed to them to seal the interior. The other studs do not have any nail holes so it is likely the floor was divided into discrete grain bins when originally in use.



The frame has been sawn through to create a door revealing the carpenter's marks.

The upper floor is currently reached by a ladder to the rear of the building in the corridor. To create an opening the frame has been sawn through and two studs removed. The severed braces have oxidised to the same colour as the rest of the frame so it was probably done a long time ago. Revealed on the exterior of the frame is a series of carpenter's marks made with a race knife and tagged in the same way as those seen on the exterior of the outshuts. The exterior boards have fallen off and some lie in the roof void.

Roof Structure.



Page | 13

Offset butt purlin roof with original collar but added raking struts.



Looking upwards to the N in the easternmost bay at the butt purlin roof.

The roof is an offset butt purlin roof where the tenons pass right through the principal rafters. The 3x4in rafters are set on edge, birdsmouthed on the top-plates and pegged into the purlins at 13in centres. The upper rafters are all paired and pegged at the apex. The 5x6in principal rafters are pegged into the top of the 6x8in cambered tie-beams. The truss is braced with a collar double pegged into the principal rafters. The tie-beams are braced with long curving 3x8in spandrels. See photo page 10.

Page | 14

Further support has been added in the form of raking queen struts. These are 2.5inx8in softwood and are French nailed and not pegged in place. There are short retaining wedges holding them in-situ.

The frame is numbered on the trusses where the principal rafters meet the collars and the tie-beams. The spandrels are also marked. The trusses are numbered in order II, III, east to west.



Forelock bolt through the scarf joint. Milled iron strap-work on the tie-beam. Looking NW.

The top-plate has a face halved and bladed scarf joint visible adjacent to the tie-beam II which is reinforced with a wrought iron forelock bolt with butterfly collar. All the tie-beams are secured with dovetails and a milled wrought iron strap with square staple and clout nails.

Carpentry and Timber Marks, Apotropaic Marks and Grafitti.

The exterior of the frame is marked on every visible timber using a race knife and a tagged number system to denote which side of the building the timber should go. The style and cut of the numbers is consistent throughout and indicates the building was erected as we see it today. The raking queen struts are not numbered and are nailed softwood and therefore much later. The only timber marks were those printed on the OSB partitions and refer to a manufacture date of 06 MAY 1995 and is marked the Ainsworth Lumber Co.

Page | 15



M scored on tie-beam II and W or VV scored on the boards in the rear lobby. Enhanced.

There were two possible apotropaic marks. The tie-beam II was marked with a very fine blade with the letter M and a few random vertical strokes. The centre of the beam was also marked with an upward facing arrow so lightly it was not possible to photograph. However this was a carpenter's mark.

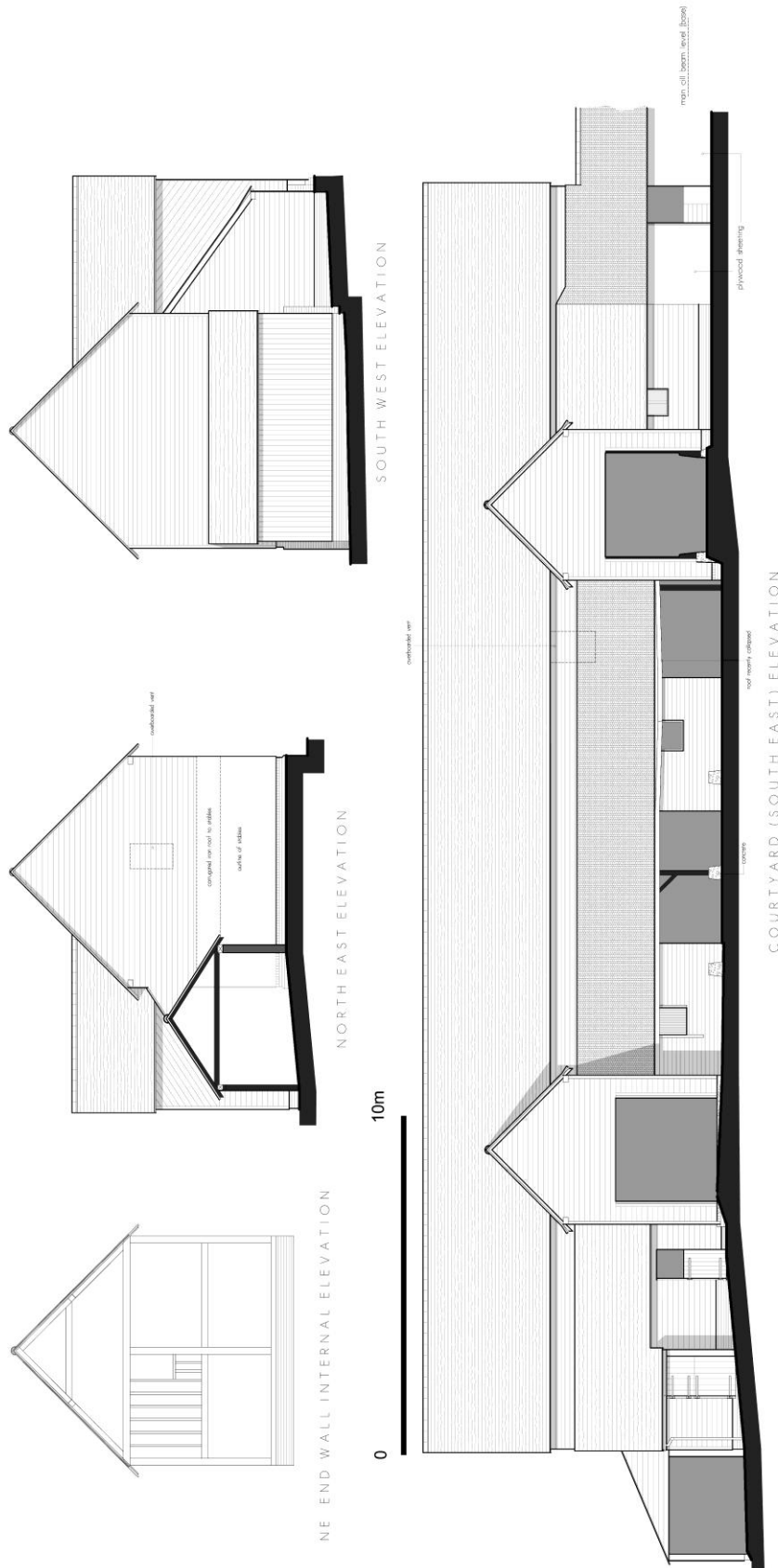
Down in the rear lobby to the east side at head height was marked the letter W. It was scored however as two overlapping V's. Both these represent Marian marks invoking the protection of Mary or the Virgin of Virgins. The practice of marking buildings to keep out witches was commonplace until the C18th but it was also revived in the MC19th and many marks must date to then.

Fixtures.

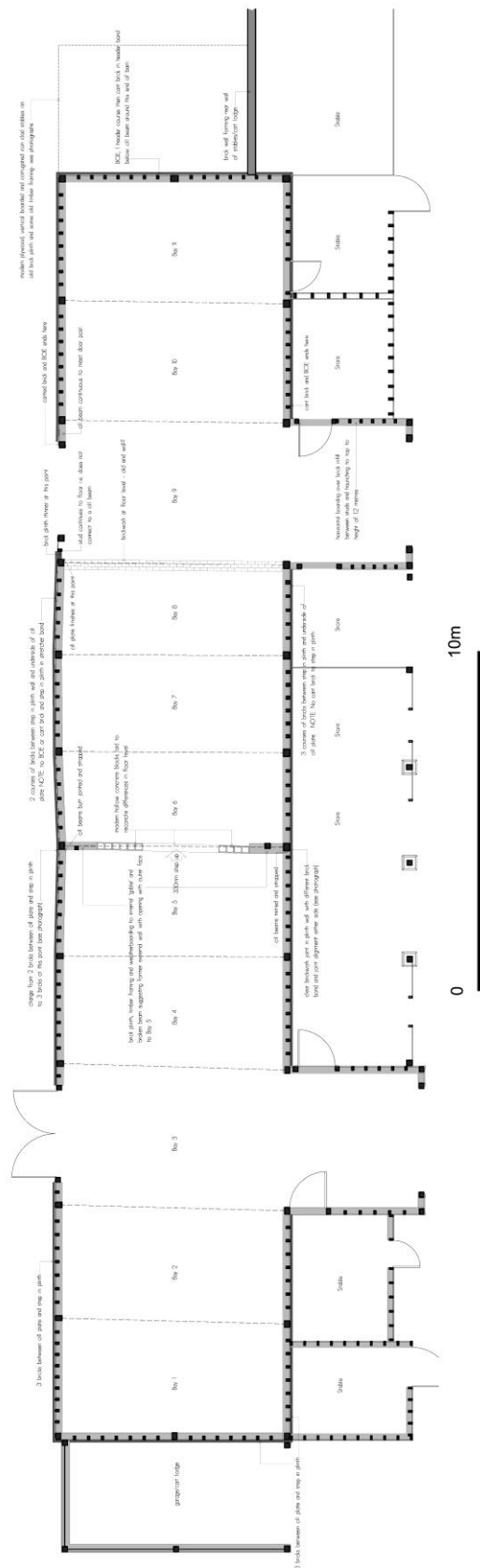


Grain chute marked with weights. Close up of the grain hoist.

The only fixtures left relating to the use as a granary are a timber grain chute still marked up in chalk with the sack weights and the grain hoist.



The Double Essex Barn elevations by The Planning and Design Bureau. 2010.



The Double Essex Barn elevations by The Planning and Design Bureau. 2010.

2. The Double Essex Barn - Description - External.



Page | 18

The southern elevation of the Double Essex Barn.

Southern Elevation.

The Double Essex Barn as its name suggests has the appearance of two barns connected together with two midstreys porches with half height doors (which are now missing). The Barn has outshots flanking its entire length positioned either side and between the porches.

While the Barn is roofed in plain clay tiles these have grey slate and pantile roofs and are later additions. Presently they are all in parlous condition with one collapsed and the others unsound. Their last use was as stables to a large Livery.

The Barn has 11 bays (not 10 as in the Listing) and there is a partially dismantled partition wall between bays 5 and 6 (from the W). The midstreys occupy bays 3 and 9. The timber frame is clad in 12in boards fastened with wrought iron nails. The frame is stood on a continuous plinth of red, 65x110x220-225mm hand-made bricks with creased and smooth faces, crisp arrises, and diagonal pressure lines. They are bedded with beige-white lime mortar in English bond. The quoins are finished with queen closers.

The porches have leap slots worked into the door jambs (both back and front) and indicate clearly that both midstreys were used for thrashing and winnowing. Both porches have been reclad with LC20th weather-boards fastened with French nails and are a characteristic silvery colour.

The southern outshot is built against the west side of the midstrey porch and can be accessed through a door in the side of the porch. The timber-frame is clad in C20th boards and sat on a brick plinth of the same bricks and form as the main barn. The outshot is divided into two stalls, each with a C20th split stable doors with mild steel pintle and T-strap hinges.

The plan is staggered so that the westernmost stall projects further south than the other and is a later addition. The floor levels are stepped to follow the fall of the ground. The common roof is of 12x24in grey slates and only the western half has a painted metal gutter and cast iron downpipe. Photo follows.



The westernmost outshut divided into two horse stalls.



The central outshut is in a parlous state and half has collapsed.

The central outshut is a timber-framed shelter that was originally open its full length, divided into 6 bays by braced posts. The first two bays from the west have been framed and boarded in the LC20 to form a stall. The two central bays remain open-sided as a useful shelter and the remaining bays have collapsed. The weather-boarding is LC20th. The roof is clad with C19th pan-tiles. The scantling roof is possibly elm but certainly not oak.



The northern outshut obscured by the John Deere tractor.

The northern outshut is nestled between the midstrete porch and the first bay of the Barn Stables. It can only be entered from inside the midstrete porch. The roof is clad in 12x24in grey slates and the walls have LC20th weather-boards. There is a small central C20th window. The interior of the room is lined with horizontal tongue and grooved kick-boards showing this was also a stable. Therefore the window represents an earlier door opening.



The western elevation with a lean-to garage.

Western Elevation.

The western elevation presents the gabled end of the Double Barn in poor condition with boards missing and the nailed, interrupted studwork revealed. Most of the boards are C20th but there are a few older ones picked out by their darker colour. The apex has been left open and this is probably deliberate to aid ventilation.

Page | 21

A large lean-to garage is attached to the lower flank of the Barn. It has a C19th scantling timber-frame clad with vertical boards on horizontal battens. The plinth has been rebuilt. The wall has a single central post implying a two bay building originally open to the west and later converted to a garage (or implement shed).



The rear of the Double Barn. The wall is of C19th bricks.

Northern Elevation.

The northern side is effectively the rear of the Double Barn. The yard is closed off with a C19th brick wall with bell-shaped copings. The Double Barn has two half-height rear midstre doors in poor condition. The weather-boarding is hot-tarred and nearly all of the older type. There are patch repairs mostly highlighted by the green mould growing on them. A large number of boards have fallen off due to the failing of their wrought iron fixings. The two easternmost have recent cladding.

The roof is continuous and of clay peg tiles. The brick plinth has at least 21 visible courses of red, 65x110x220-225mm hand-made bricks with creased and smooth faces, crisp arrises, and diagonal pressure lines. They are bedded with beige-white lime mortar in English bond. The quoins are finished with queen closers as already described. There is a coped course two bricks down from the frame which sits on a soldier course.



The western end of the northern elevation.

The midstrete door retains the upper leaves of a pair of C19th vertically boarded, edge-moulded, tongue and grooved, gate and ledger doors. They are hung on wrought iron pintles and constructed with clenched wrought iron nails. There is a similar hatch door high up in Bay 1 (from the W). Below, the threshold has a C20th boarded leap laid across it.



Vertical break in the weather-boarding. Framed hatches with C19th door remaining.

Between Bays 5 and 6 there is a vertical break in the weather-boards but not the plinth.



The eastern end of the Double Barn has been reclad in the C20th.

The last two bays to the east have been clad in LC20th softwood and the doorway infilled with a marine ply construction to reduce it to a pedestrian door with side lights. This has mostly failed.



The Double Barn seen adjacent to the Dairy (left).

Eastern Elevation

The eastern gable end has been clad with C20th boards. There is a ramshackle timber-framed lean-to with a corrugated iron roof which was originally an open-sided shelter. The sides have been boarded with vertical weather-boards and odd bits of marine ply to form a sheep house which was still occupied at the time of the survey.

The Double Essex Barn - Description - Internal.



Page | 24

Looking east inside the Double Barn. Unusually, all the tie-beam retain their spandrels.

The Double Barn has 11 bays with midstrey porches in Bays 3 and 9 from the W. The bays are defined as the distance between the principal posts supporting the tie-beams. The bays are not equal in width. The barn is divided into two distinct sections typified by a change in the wall framing at Bay 5. Bays 1,2, 4 and 5 are all exactly 11ft across (centre to centre on the posts) while the midstrey, Bay 3 is 13ft across. Bays 6 and 7 are 9ft across but Bay 8 is a narrow 8ft 2in. The midstrey, Bay 9 is the standard 13ft to match the other but Bays 10 and 11 are 11ft 6ins and 11ft 10in across.

The Double Barn is divided by a brick plinth at Bays 5/6 giving two cells of 56ft and 63ft long and each 24ft wide. The porches are 33ft (west) and 35ft. Again all measurements centre to centre on the posts.

While the frame is divided at the same point it also changes character at Bays 10 and 11 and care should be taken not to presume that a younger barn has been added straight onto an older one. There is nothing in the frame to suggest the Barn was not built as a Double Barn from the first.

The walls are framed in softwood with some reused oak and some elm. Each wall panel is divided by a mid-rail and above and below there are straight studs cut mostly to 3x4in set at 15in centres. Some are ¼ poles. The design varies along the barn. Bays 1 to 5 have offset mid-rails (i.e they are housed out of line in the principal posts) and only the upper panels have two diagonal primary braces. The western gable end has V braces above and below the mid-rail. Photos follow.



The framing of Bays 1 and 2 on the south side. V braces above the offset midrail only.



Bays 6, 7 and 8 on the south side. V braces above and below the in-line midrails.

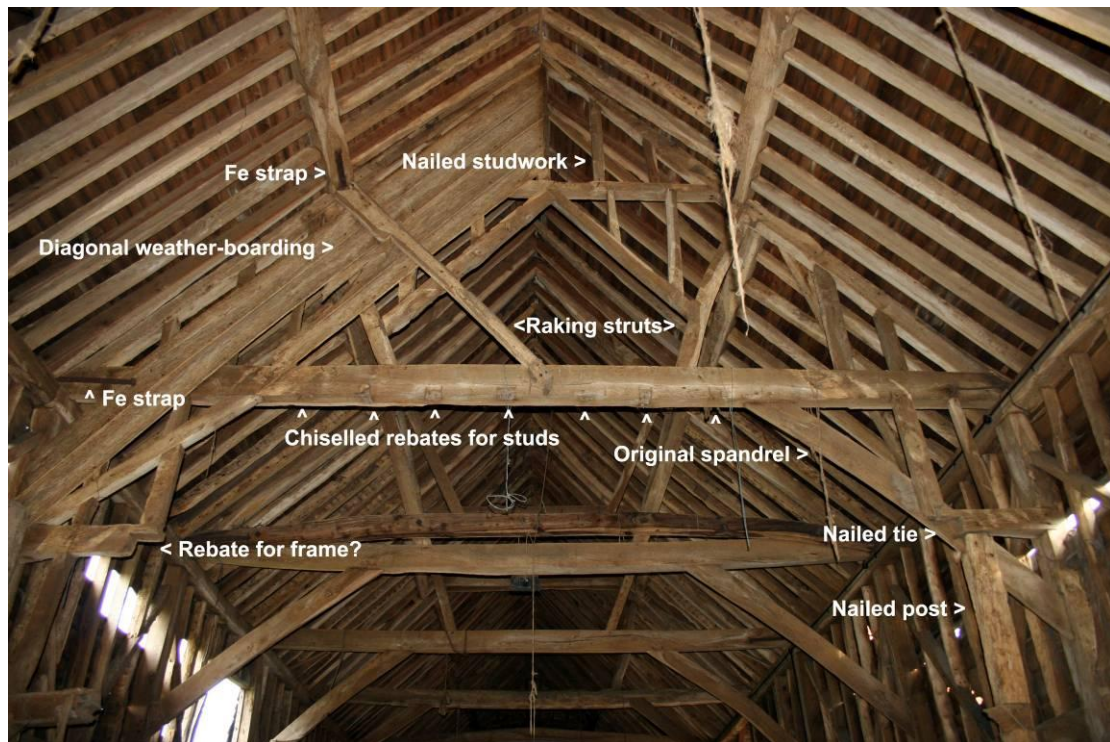
Bays 6, 7 and 8 have V braces above and below the mid-rail which is in-line along the frame. This section also has many more $\frac{1}{4}$ poles than the rest. Bay 8 also has trimmer beam for an opening which has been boarded over with the old 12in boards. Bays 10 and 11 have only V-braces above in-line mid-rails. The eastern gable end also follows this pattern.



Bays 10 and 11 on the south side. Diagonal braces above the in-line mid-rail.



The eastern gable end has only two braces and a hatch opening only recently blocked.



The timber partition above the plinth. Looking E.

The barn is divided by a brick plinth which is butted against the continuous plinth to the timber-frame. Made of very similar bricks and mortar it is probably contemporary with the other plinth. The framing above is quite complicated and it is suggested it represents the end wall of one of the original cells. There are a number of reasons why this is not so.

The tie-beam retains its original spandrel on the south side, the northern one being a nailed in replacement. There are no mortices in the underside of the tie-beam but rather a series of chiselled rebates to nail studwork to. The upper section (above the tie-beam) bears no resemblance to the fully framed gabled ends but rather is a construction to allow weather-boards to be nailed diagonally across the apex.

The extra weight of the structure has required reinforcement from two mismatched raking struts and the addition of strapwork to the butt purlins. Most obvious of all is that the top-plates which are fully pegged into the unjowled principal posts pass right across them.

The lower structure is reinforced with a second inner post nailed to the spandrel on the south side and one now lost on the north side. There are short horizontal struts dovetailed into the principal posts but nailed to the spandrels. These have cut-outs that suggest door or hatch frames.

The Midstreys.

The midstreys are identical in form and construction and both have doorways on both sides to allow entrance into the outshuts. The panels are V braced above the mid-rails but not below to allow the 3ft wide frames for the doors. Both midstreys have had the full height door frames reduced by inserted studwork and horizontal trimmers. Photos follow.



The western midstrey looking south. The original doorway has been reduced with studwork.



The eastern midstrey looking south detailing the roof construction.

The midstreys both have neat clasped side purlin roofs with rafters nailed to a ridgepiece. The collars are also nailed rather than joined. Additional horizontal corner struts have been added to stiffen the top-plates.



The western midstre door on the west side. The eastern midstre door on the east side.



The western midstre door on the east side.

The doors in the western midstre are of interest because they are an original pair. Both are constructed of unequal vertical boards, wrought iron nailed and clenched to four horizontal ledgers. Each has a Woodstock lock box retained with large slot headed screws or square headed bolts.

The western one has been rehung as it opens inconveniently inwards and has a number of ragged slots cut through it for several keyholes. It also has several interesting marks carved into it. The other does not have a key hole on the inside but there is also a twisted wrought iron latch hook to hold it closed.

The remaining door in the north of the eastern midstre is a C20th vertically tongue and grooved, gate and ledger lightweight door hung on mild steel T-straps



Offset butt purlin roof with tenoned collars and nailed ridgepiece. Truss 2 centre looking E.

The Roof Structure.

The roof is an offset butt purlin design where the rafters are pegged into the purlins which are offset (sometimes called joggled or staggered) between the principal rafters. This design feature strengthens the structure. The whole roof is clad with tongue and grooved boards beneath the clay tiles. The rafters are paired, on edge and nailed onto a thin ridgepiece. The principal rafters have long straight collars. These are tenoned and pegged in Trusses 1 to 5 and lapped and nailed for the rest. There is a double collar nailed on Truss 8.



Truss 6 has an additional tie-beam bolted on. Looking E.

Trusses 5, 6 and 7 have pegged and nailed raking queen struts to support the sagging principal rafters. These are of either straight machined timbers or waney scantling. Truss 6 has an additional softwood tie-beam with a pronounced upward curve. This is bolted across the earlier raking struts and tied in with iron L-ties.

Carpentry and Timber Marks, Apotropaic Marks and Graffiti.



Page | 31

Well crafted letter T alongside poorly scratched R. Graffiti by RHOD.



Carved profiles on the midstrey door along with the letter W or VV. Enhanced.

The graffiti in the Barn seems confined to the western midstrey. Here there is a well carved letter T on the wall boards which is probably Victorian. Next to this is poorly scratched the letter R. Further along is the boldly scored name of RHOD. The western door has several caricatures also scored in the same way and probably by the same hand and these are C20th. There is a modern copy of the letter T done in an idle hour in a 1970's font.

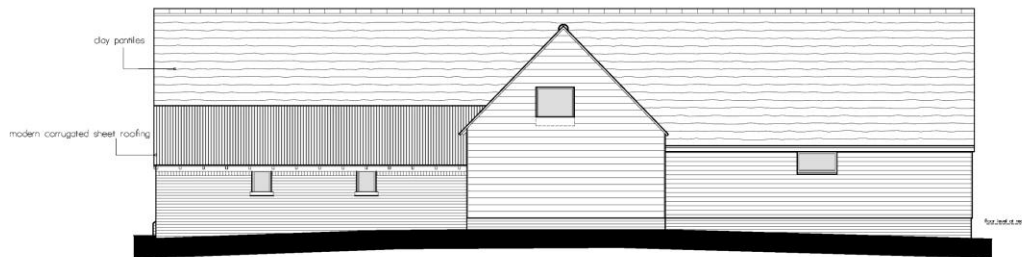
There is also however the letter W or VV scored on the door as well as a small scribed circle with a dot in the centre. These represent apotropaic marks associated with firstly, the Virgin Mary and secondly, the beneficent all seeing eye, looking after the contents of the Barn. These must date to the MC19th.

Fixtures.

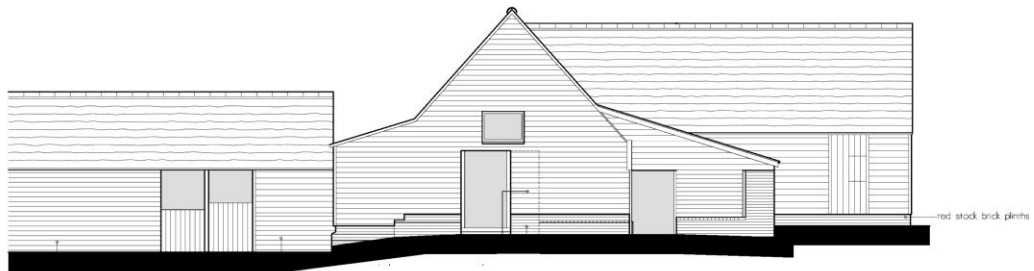
The Double Barn retains no original fixtures. There is a small area of disrupted floor that shows that once there was an asphalt dressing floor in the eastern midstrey. Although now all laid to concrete it is likely the whole barn would have been floored this way.



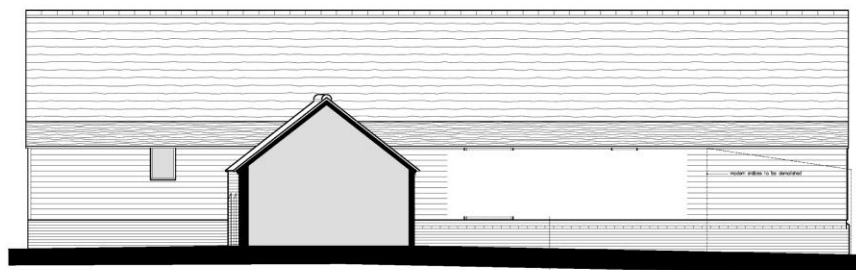
WEST



EAST



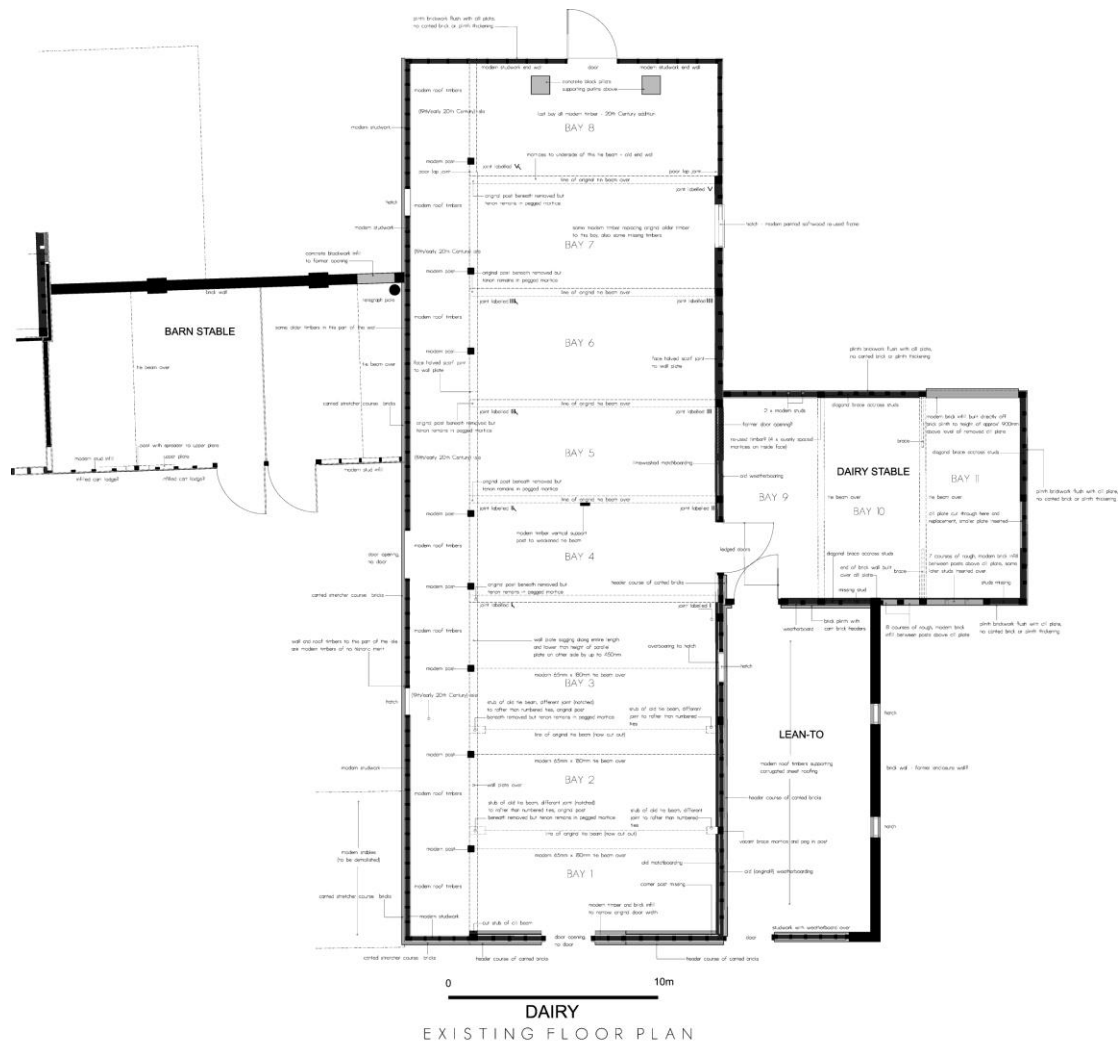
EAST



WEST

0 10m

The Dairy. Elevations by The Planning and Design Bureau. 2010.



The Dairy - plan by The Planning and Design Bureau. 2010.

3. The Dairy - Description - External.



Page | 34

The front (south) facade of the Dairy. The building has been widened to the west and a lean-to added to the east springing off an older wall.

South Elevation.

The south elevation presents the gable end of a tall narrow timber-framed and weather-boarded building that has been widened to the west by adding a lower brick plinth and additional framing. The step in the plinth is quite clear. The original plinth is constructed of orange 60x105x225mm handmade bricks with creased faces and soft arrises set in beige sandy lime mortar. The building also has a large added lean-to to the east with a flanking wall of similar bricks.

The extended portions have plinths of larger 70x110x225-30mm orange and purple bricks with creased faces and sharp arrises. There are a number of repairs in grey cement. The plinth indicates that the now off-centre doorway was originally central to the gable and below the C20th casement. There are queen closers to show the extent of the original build to the east but the rest has been disrupted by rebuilds.

Apart from the very top two boards at the apex all the 7in weather-boarding is LC20th fastened with French nails and long ago treated with cold brushing tar. The main roof and extension are clad with C20th style roman tiles and has a cement rendered dry verge. The extension is of corrugated asbestos with timber barge boards.

Central to the building, projecting to the east is large gabled timber-framed 3 bayed unit (the Dairy Stable) fitted with a blocked off pedestrian door replaced with a small hatch (see following photo) and clad in older, now failing weather boards. The roof is of the same roman tiles and the valleys are finished with untarnished lead. Most of the elevation is hidden inside the lean-to where there is a doorway between the units.



The east elevation from the SE.



The east elevation.

East Elevation.

The eastern elevation has the central gabled end of the 3 bay unit projecting from the main range which is of 8 bays. To the south is the brick flank of the lean-to fitted with two original openings, signified by closer bricks but with modern makeshift frames and rough boarding.

There are two inserted C20th frames, one off-centre in the gable and one in the northern flank of the main range. The window frames are for drop leaf or basculating windows but the frames have been removed. The frame in the flank of the main range is top hung and has an aluminium catch and stay. All the frames are netted without glass.

The weather-boarding on the gable is much thicker and deeper at 10-12in than the 7in boards and is likely to be the original, being fixed with wrought iron nails and later retacked with French nails. The brick plinth is consistent with that of the main range but much repaired.

The roof of the gable and the main range is clad throughout with C20th roman tiles in imitation of pantiles. The roof undulates quite noticeably which usually denotes the lack of a ridge piece.



The southern elevation has a central doorway and window.

Northern Elevation.

The northern elevation is a reflection of the south one and is clad with C20th boards. There is a central doorway with a LC20th split stable softwood door made to a traditional gate and ledger pattern. The leaves are hung on badly rusted mild steel pintles secured with hex head bolts. The window frame above is for a drop leaf or basculating window but the frame has been removed.

The extension to the west has a later brick plinth but the LC20th boards run right across the junction.



The western flank is in very poor condition. Extreme left.

Western Elevation.

The western elevation is hidden by the two ranges of stables. To the north the interrupted studwork frame is clad with early boards in poor condition which carry through inside the Barn Stable.



The western wall of the Dairy inside the Barn Stable (left) and the Modern Stable.



The section visible in the stable yard is in poor condition and shored up.

The wider tarred boards can be seen in the horse stalls inside the Barn Stable and the Modern Stable which form the Livery courtyard. The timber is in poor condition having suffered from water ingress and being chewed by bored horses. The section exposed has failed very badly and is blocked off with a variety of old gates and corrugated metal sheets. The roof of the extension is badly bowed allowing in rainwater and rotting the frame. The pitch of the roof is near flat which is very unsuitable for roman style tiles.

3. The Dairy - Description - Internal.

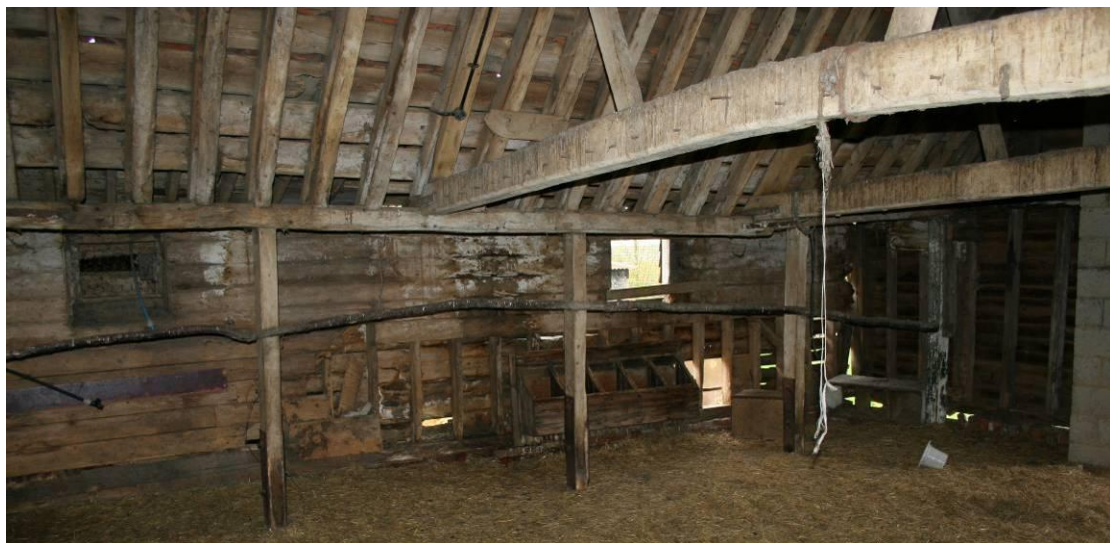
Although the building is called the Dairy there are no fixtures to suggest that it has recently been used for this purpose. The building is divided by its original tie-beams into 8 bays. These tie-beams sit over the principal posts in the fully framed eastern wall but they do not coincide with those in the western wall. Here all the original studwork has been removed and the area opened to the western extension.

Page | 38



The southern half was last used as a horse standings - previously a piggery. Looking NW.

At present the main range is divided by a mesh partition into a three bay bird rearing cage to the north (Bays 6-8) and a four bay piggery to the south (Bays 1-4). Bay 5 is an open area representing a cross-walk from the west to the east. In the piggery the first two original tie-beams (from the S) have been sawn off and three modern softwood ones added in.



The northern half of the Dairy was used to keep game birds. Looking NW.



The piggyery looking SE. The cambered beam is original the others added later.

The piggyery is a M-LC20th construction with a poured concrete floor with waste gullies. On either side there are floor level ceramic troughs divided by short timber partitions. There remains a few sliding rails with short chains to secure the pigs while feeding. Everything is set in grey cement. The walls are patched with modern boards where they have been damaged by the animals. It would seem the piggyery went out of use and a Livery was established at the farm and there are tethering rings and a notice in chalk on a sheet of marine ply not to steal the hay. There are chalk written name plates for the horses.



The bird cage looking SE. The tie-beam was originally the end wall.

The bird cage retains some nesting boxes and some long poles nailed across the wall post for roosting. The floor is still strewn with straw and there are a few large feathers about.



Victorian ironwork reinforcing the western plate.

The vertical posts supporting the western plate have LC20th fish plates at their bases set into the concrete but the rest of the ironwork is Victorian in design. This ironwork is typified by its flat section and simply bent and twisted form. Earlier blacksmiths would have upset (thickened) these bends to prevent fatigue failure. By the MC19th the properties of the iron were better understood and the sections thinned out. The same can be said of the timber-studwork and that in the western wall of the extension is made of nailed interrupted scantling which may have been robbed out from the earlier wall.

The use of fish-plates (two straps either side of a failing joint) and the round headed machine made clout nails also point to a M-L19th intervention.



The undersides of the western plate (left) and the northern most tie-beam.

At the same time as the western wall was dismantled so was the original northern one and an extra bay added. The northernmost truss has the remains of torn out studs in its soffit matching those in the plate. There is also a wider central mortices with double pegs. The wrought ironwork securing the new bay is of the same form as the rest and so it can be concluded it was all done as one remodelling episode.

The Roof Structure.



Page | 41

Offset butt purlin roof similar to the Double Barn and the Granary. Looking N, Truss 1.

The first seven bays are roofed with an offset butt purlin roof with pegged on-edge 3x4in rafters set at 14in centres. There is a combination of oak and elm. The principal rafters are 5x6in in section and the purlins are 8x6in and like those in the Granary the tenons pass right through the principal rafters which are reinforced with long collars. The collars are either centre-tenoned or lapped and nailed. The rafters are nailed onto a ridgepiece but pegged into the purlins.



The southernmost sawn off tie-beam retains the principal rafter.

The five original tie-beams (not including the sawn off stumps) are numbered I to V (S to N) and tagged on the west side. The stumps were retained because the principal rafters are pegged into the top of them. Birds-mouthed struts have been added to support the sagging purlins.



Page | 42

The added bay (right) has remarkably different rafters and no mortice for a side purlin. Looking SW.

The bay added to the north has softwood rafters from the plate to the apex and there are no butted side purlins. Instead there are narrow nailed on purlins. It can also be noted how many of the earlier rafters are peppered with nails in their flanks are in fact reused from an older roof. The roof is boarded right across with 12in widely spaced boards to give strength and provide ventilation. The visible battens are LC20th.



The Dairy Stable looking E. The cambered beams are similar to those in the main range.

The Dairy Stable.

To the east has been added a large 3 bay timber-framed gabled cell last in use as a stable. The frame of interrupted nailed studwork has been butted against that of the main range and secured with serpentine wrought iron ties. The brick plinth is very similar to those composing the extension rather than the earlier build. The floors are a mix of flagstones and concrete.



The western wall panelled as a stall with a wooden feed box in the corner.

There are sections of C20th brickwork set in cement used as noggin in the south wall and in general the interior is damaged in line with the use as a stable. There is a wooden feed box in the NW corner and the walls are patched and boarded to form a stall. There is also the base of a brick wall in the floor which corresponds with the shadows in the timberwork.



Doors leading to the main range (right) and the Outshot

There are two large vertically boarded, edge-moulded doors with four ledgers that are French nailed. The Suffolk latches and screwed on pintle hinges are mild steel so these doors must be EC20th.



The roof is very similar to the main range and marked up in the same way.

Roof Structure.

The roof shares many characteristics with the main range. There are two cambered tie-beams, chamfered with runout stops supporting raking queen posts to the purlins. The easternmost tie-beam is supported on curving spandrels pegged into the unjowled posts cut from reused timbers. The tie-beams, spandrels and pegged collars in the trusses are numbered using the same style as the main range. Alongside each on-edge rafter is the sawn off end of a ceiling joist.



Looking N into the Dairy Outshot. Modern partition. Elm roof.

The Dairy Outshot

The Dairy Outshot is a lean-to building sprung off the east side of the main range. The west wall is composed of red/orange 60x105x225mm handmade bricks with creased faces and soft arrises set in beige sandy lime mortar. It has two properly finished windows which imply it was always a building and not just a handy wall.

The interior has a concrete floor and very modern makeshift partitions. The west wall is clad with heavy boards and the weight of everything indicates the bulkier animals were kept here. There is a modern timber partition with a curious cut -out which is probably for entrapping sheep for treatment.

The roof is supported on short struts between the central purlin and the two straight sawn elm tie-beams with are retained with wrought iron L-ties.

4. The Granary Stables. Description.



Page | 46

The southern elevation of the Granary Stables. Currently used to shelter sheep.



The northern elevation of the Granary Stables. There are six divided into five stalls.



The brick spine wall has an interrupted studwork partition installed above. Stall 1.

The Granary is a double sided building with a central brick spine of red, 65x110x225mm, soft reds set in a gritty white mortar. The spine is to the height of the eaves line and above this the wall is finished with diagonally braced, nailed interrupted studwork with many sawn $\frac{1}{4}$ poles. The brick spine is buttressed to support the elm tie-beam of the stables on the north side but those on the south side are set into the brickwork. Each end of the building is walled in the same bricks.

Page | 47

The roof is of genuine pantiles and there are no remaining rainwater goods. The bays on the south side are open but have been divided with C20th marine ply and OSB boards and there are the remains of metal mesh from where the bays were closed off as bird cages. They are currently used as temporary sheep shelters. A few nesting boxes and feeders remain.



Riven log partitions form the stalls.



Internally the stalls are divided by timber partitions nailed to the tie-beams and clad with riven logs fastened galvanised French nails. The floors are of poured concrete with carefully formed drainage channels.



The doors are all C20th but reuse Victorian hardware.

The weather-boards are all circular sawn and fixed with French nails. The split stable doors are also C20th but retain some older fixings in the form of twisted iron hasps and forged catches and latch arms. One has the incised cross of Saint Andrew (the Saltire Cross) which was a popular apotropaic mark, revived by the Victorians. Exact replicas are available today but the amount of wear and corrosion indicates they are genuine. However they are all screwed or bolted in place and the mild steel reversible hinges are a C20th pattern.

5. The Tack Room and Shelter.

The Granary Stable is connected at the eastern end to a brick built Site Office/ Tack Room and a large open Shelter detailed following.



Page | 48

The Shelter and the Tack Room from the east.



The north elevation of the Tack Room. Note the extended spine wall is much higher.

The Shelter and the Tack Room are divided by a very tall red brick wall which is added to the end of the Granary Stables. The Tack Room is a self-contained brick built unit with doors and windows to the east and north. The north door is inserted as there are no queen closers and the mortar is different around the jambs. The bricks are 65x110x225mm, with creased faces and sharp arrises set in a beige powdery mortar.

The building has been almost doubled in size since the original build and there is a column of closers to show the original quoin directly adjacent to the north window. Both windows are C20th 6 pane casements with brass fittings and mild steel hinges. The roof is tiled with pantiles which on the eastern side are black glazed - a popular style in the LC19th.



Inside the Tack Room looking E.



Inside the Tack Room looking W.

The interior of the Tack Room is rather derelict. The ceiling was finished with riven lath and plaster of which much has failed and the roof has badly bowed. The two elm tie-beams have raking struts to support the central purlin. There are fittings to show a horse called Jonjo was recently kept here. The LC20th cupboard and bookcase indicate this was a tack room.



Up in the apex is a huge lead water tank fixed on heavy, nailed supports.

The only early fixture is a huge lead water tank fixed up in the apex of the roof sending a pipe out to the north where it can be seen on the outside. In the wall below is a buttress which represents the limit of the earlier shorter, building.



The opposite side of the spine wall within the shelter. The truss is nailed to the brickwork.



The northern bay of the Shelter is divided off with LC20th vertical boards and studwork.



The interior of the shelter has been divided into horse loose boxes in the LC20th. Looking NW and SE.

The Shelter is a very large structure with three enclosing brick walls and open to the east. There are no openings in the brick wall which is built of red 65x110x225mm bricks in white mortar in Flemish bond. The interior has been divided up in the LC20th into loose boxes and the northernmost bay (of 3 bays) has been closed off with LC20th studwork and vertical boarding.

The roof is constructed of machined softwood. The simple trusses are supported with central posts and have central V braces and raking struts to meet the purlins. There are no rafters. Instead there are heavy duty battens clad with softwood boards counter-battened to accept 12x24in grey slates.



Tacked on the southern end of the Shelter is a LC20th lean-to.



The rear (western) side of the shelter and leant-to.

Added to the southern end of the Shelter is a simple LC20th lean-to constructed of a simple frame clad with vertical boards and roofed with corrugated iron. It is stood on a red brick plinth bonded with cement. In character it is very much like the Garage and the LC20th Stables whose description follows.

6. The Barn Stables. (Livery).



Page | 53

The Barn Stables was open-sided until turned into stable in the LC20th. Looking NE.

The Barn Stables is a 3 bay building with a northern wall composed of red 70x110x220-30mm bricks set in beige sandy mortar. As built it was open-sided to the south and served as a cow byre. The bays have been panelled in with a variety of LC20th salvaged materials including marine ply and tongue and grooved boards to form three horse stalls. The work is of the poorest quality.



The western and central stalls. The LC20th door leads into the Double Barn. Looking NW.

The westernmost stall is formed in the crook of the Double Barn and there is a LC20th vertically boarded door into Bay 10 of the Barn. There are no other remaining doors and all the details are LC20th. The roof rests on the buttressed wall and on capitalised posts on the open side. The rafters are riven and nailed onto a ridgepiece. Unusually there are no purlins, collars or original struts. The battens are C20th but reused. The nibbed pantiles are also reused. Photo follows.



Detail of the Barn Stable roof. Looking W.



Horse graffiti in the style of Thelwell. Blocked off doorway. Both in the easternmost stall.

There is a blocked doorway in the NE corner of the easternmost stall that has been closed off with medium density blockwork and Flettons. It is likely there was a cross-walk here as the tie-beam is placed rather unnaturally away from the wall as though to form a corridor. Apart from modern galvanised tethering rings and an aluminium hoop for a feed net there are no fixtures.

Graffiti from Kelly and Lauren are cartoon pictures of horses and there are some chalked instructions to David to take out Bunt as Wendy's not coming. The floor is thick in cow manure and straw.

7. The LC20th Stables (Livery).



Page | 55

The modern stable is a simple shed. Looking NE.



The modern stable has four stalls. Looking E.

The modern stable is a simple bolted together timber-framed building sitting a plinth of red/orange 70x110x225mm bricks set in grey cement. The exterior is clad with vertical weather-boards fixed with French nails. The roof has a slight pitch down to the south and the over-sailing corrugated iron has no gutters. The north side is clad with marine ply and the one remaining leaf of a split stable door is also of marine ply.

The stall are devoid of features and have long been out of use. There are small notices warning against tethering the horses to the building - presumably they may tear it down. The westernmost stall is still in use as a tack room but it is not a secure room as the upper door is missing.



Inside the third stall from the west.



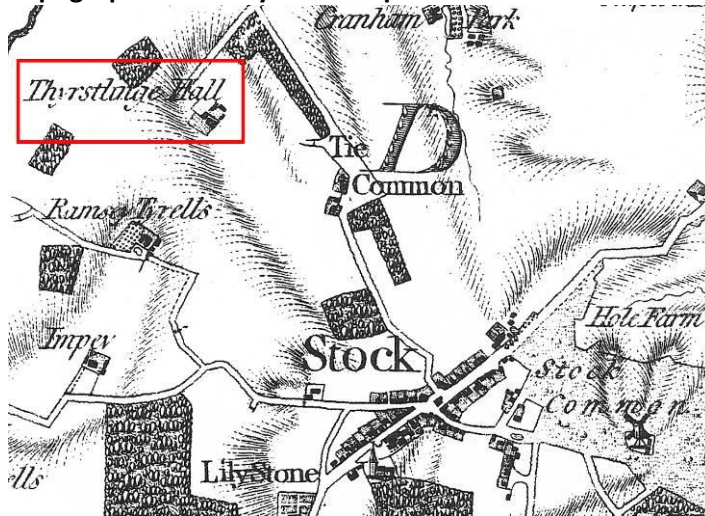
Inside the tack room. Now used as a store.



This completes the descriptions. It can be noted that the Garage, LC20th Stables and the lean-to on the shelter are all of the same modern construction using materials only commonly available in the very LC20th. OSB (Oriented Strand Board) in particular has only become common in the last 10 years superseding chip and fibre board and being cheaper than marine ply is now used to sheathe most buildings.

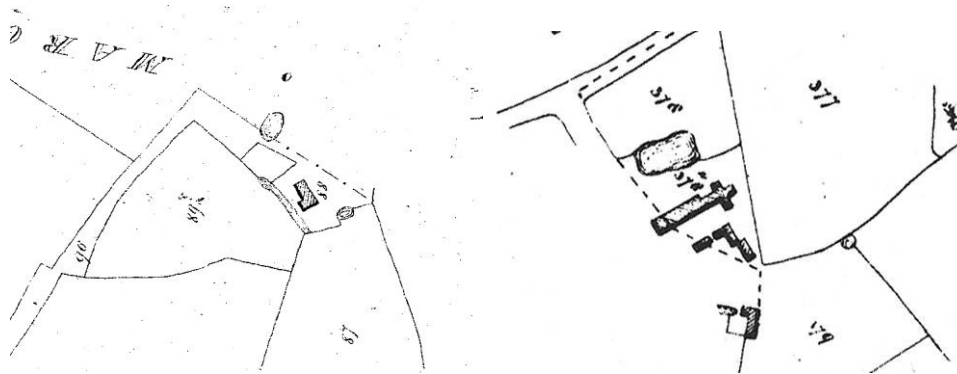
Where there are phone numbers chalked on the walls they all have the 01 prefix that was added on PHONE Day on the 16th April 1995. Most are mobile numbers which have only become commonplace in the last 15 years or so. The freshness of the chalk suggests the Livery closed down quite recently.

Topographical Survey from Maps



1777 Chapman and Andre's Map of Essex.

Thyrstlinge Hall (probably a spelling error) is shown as a large enclave of buildings within enclosed grounds reached by a lane from the NW or from across the way from Tie Common. The disposition of the buildings and their form is not very similar to that of today.

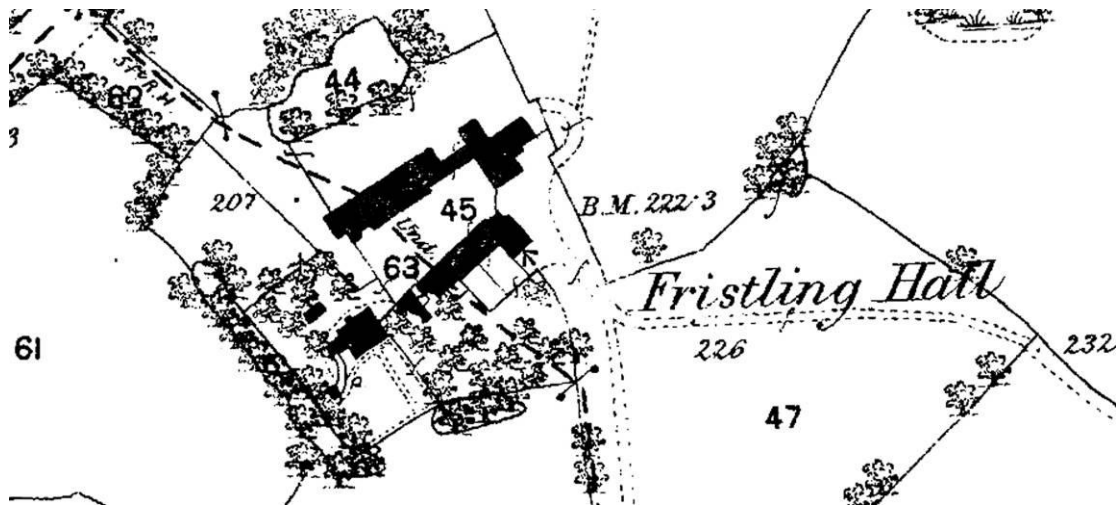


1841 Tithe Award Maps for Buttsbury ERO D/CT 65 (left) and Stock ERO D/CT 336a

The Tithe Maps for Stock are notoriously difficult to interpret because the parish of Buttsbury runs right through the middle of the parish of Stock. Not only that but both award maps are not drawn with north uppermost. Fristling Hall is shown on the Tithe Award for Stock and Buttsbury but the drawings do not easily connect due to different scales and standards of drawing.

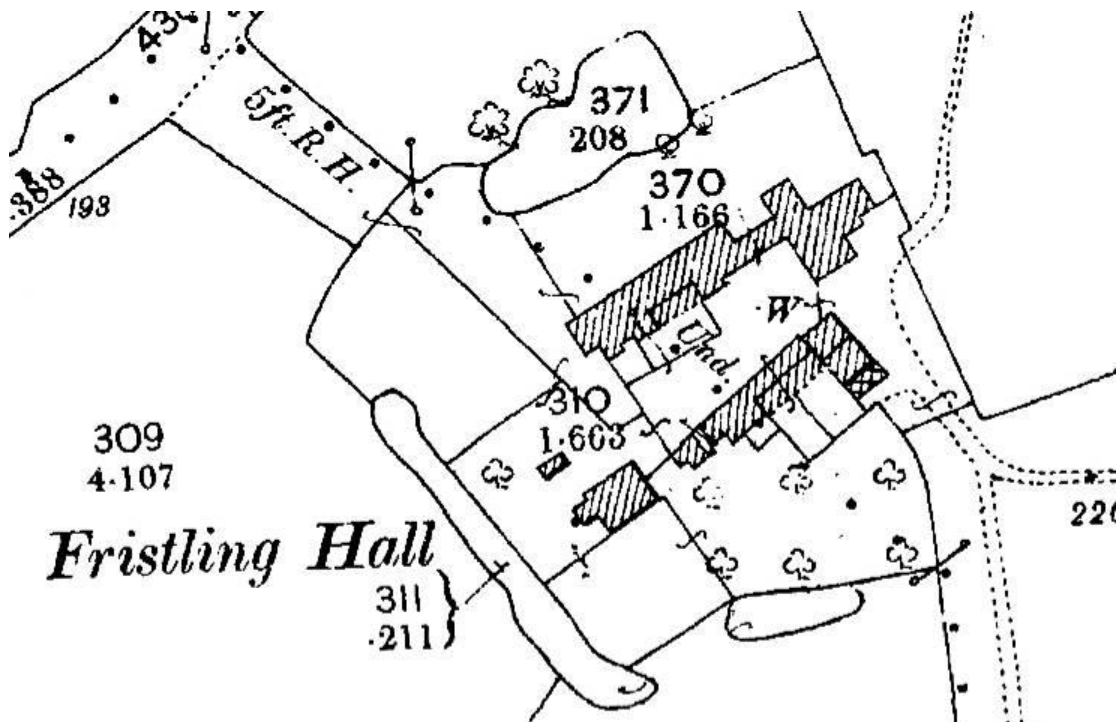
The disposition of the buildings is similar to today and the plan of the Double Barn, Dairy and Granary can be easily identified. The other buildings are not in the same layout and are likely to have been altered or replaced later. The current farmhouse, claimed to have been built in 1851 and the upper floor added for the Wilson family in 1886 (Joy Leighton, 1982) is indicated by its predecessor.

The land was owned by William Henry Francis, Lord Petre and occupied by Thomas Bridge. The land is cultivated in equal measure as arable and pasture.



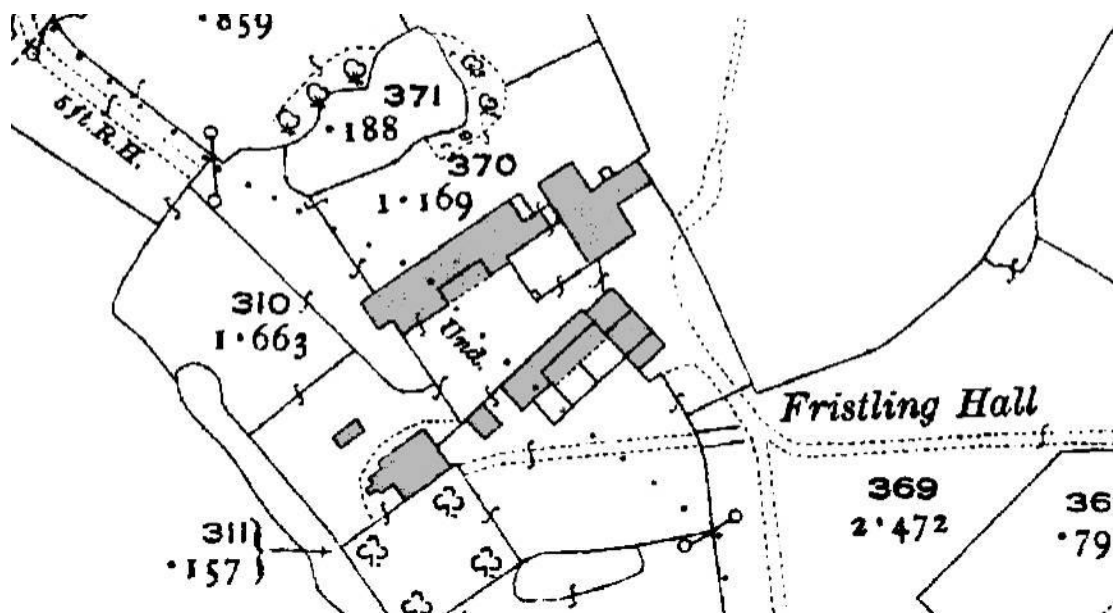
1874 First Edition OS Map

By 1874 The plan of the site is very similar to today. The Double Barn has an outshot between the midstreys, another on its western end where the Garage is today and the Barn Stable is in place. The Dairy has a very similar footprint but there is an addition small unit on the eastern side. The Granary and its Stables are in place and the Tack Room is shown as a smaller unit. The area occupied by the Shelter has a much smaller building in place.



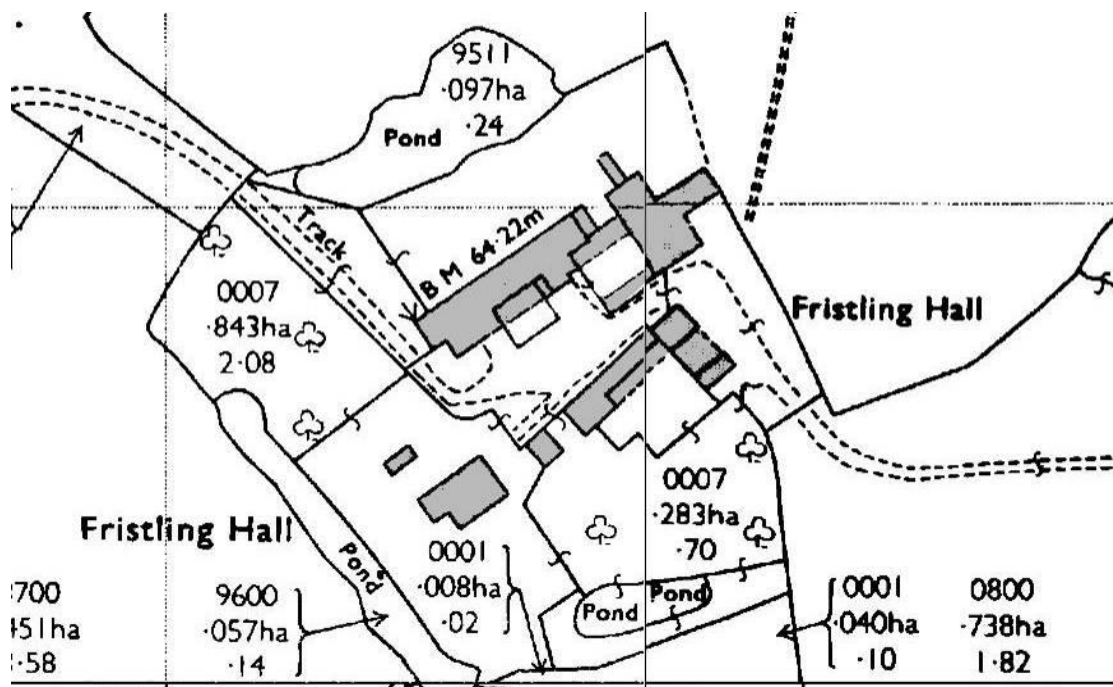
1896 Second Edition OS Map

By 1896 there is little change but the mapping convention of using dashed lines allows us to identify the open-sided buildings. There is now a greenhouse within the footprint of the Shelter and the Tack Room has expanded. There is an open-sided shelter on the south side of the Granary Stables corresponding to the current building. The large number of fences suggest a stock control and animal husbandry. A well W is marked in the centre of the site.



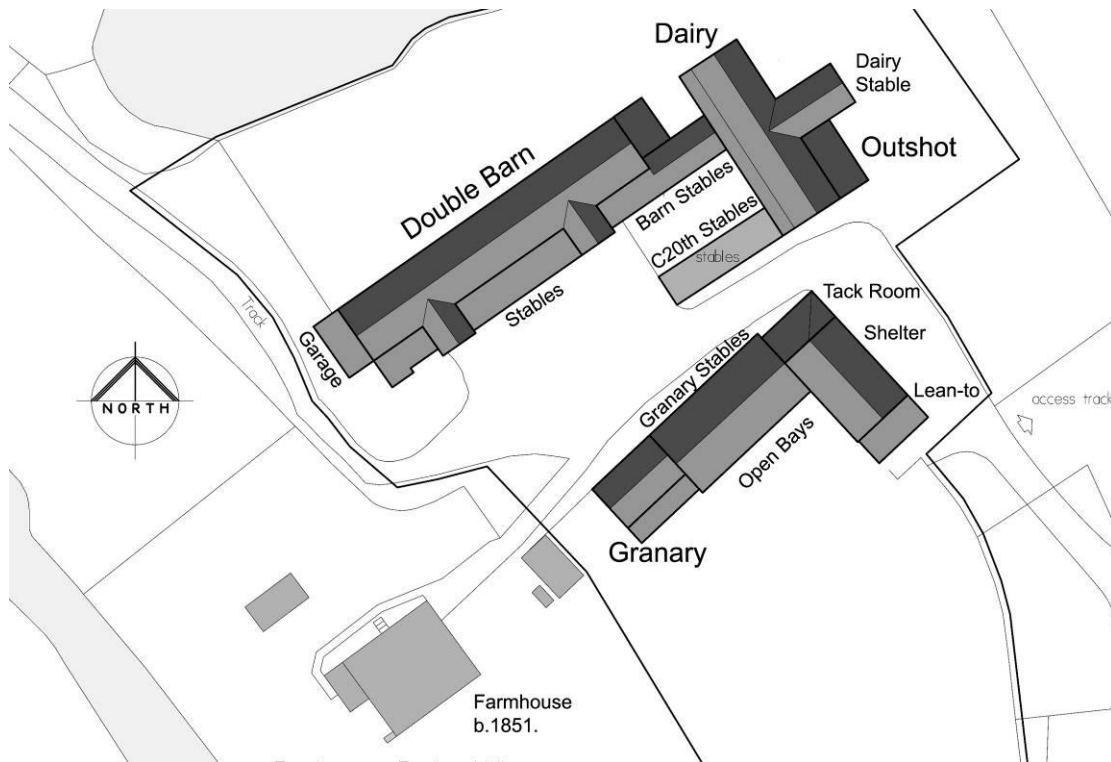
1923 OS Map.

By 1923 there are small changes to the outshots on the Double Barn and the loss of a unit from the east side of the Dairy. An extra bay coinciding with the lean-to on the south end of the Shelter has appeared. There appears to be a mapping error which has carried through from the earlier plan showing the Tack Room as much larger than it is. Effectively the Tack Room has been combined with the adjacent bay of the Shelter.



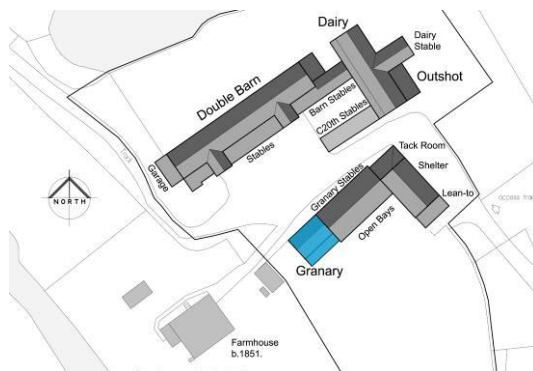
1965 -71 OS Map.

By 1971 the C20th Stable range has appeared as an open-sided shelter. The Shelter is also shown as open-sided. There is an additional unit added to the north side of the Dairy.



2011. Fristling Hall site as planned by The Planning and Design Bureau.

Phasing and Discussion.



Phase 1 - C18th



Inset - Chapman and Andre's 1777 Map.

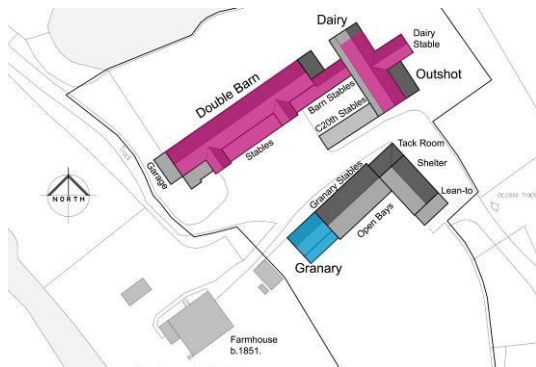
Of all the buildings only the Granary remains in its original form as a correctly framed timber-framed building fully numbered throughout and consistent in design and materials. It was built as a two storey, three-bayed building with and integrated outshot under a catslide roof to the south. There are central doorways linking front and rear and two ladder hatches into the upper floor in opposite corners. There was almost certainly a first floor door or lucam where the modern casement is today on the northern side.

The roof is fully framed with on-edge rafters pegged into offset butt-purlins and also pegged at the apex. All the tie-beams have a distinct camber leading to the floor also having a fall to the walls. This would have been useful in containing the grain stored above. The main joints are reinforced with wrought iron ties made in the style of the C18th with upset curves. There is also a forelock bolt securing a face halved and bladed scarf joint in the top-plate.

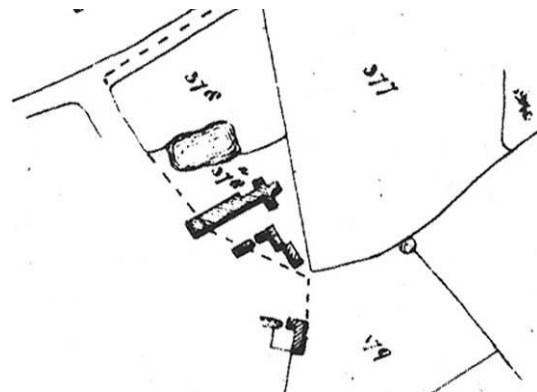
The wall framing indicates the MC18th introducing the use of nailed interrupted studwork stiffened with pegged in primary braces. The exterior of each member is numbered using a bolster and from this it can also be deduced that the outshot to the south is an original feature as it is numbered through in an identical fashion.

The flooring of the first floor is somewhat enigmatic, as though it was an afterthought. On regular frames the joists are tenoned within the main joists and rest on the mid-rails. Here the heights are incorrect and it has been necessary to nail on separate plates to the studwork to support the joists in the end bays. The transverse joists sit on the mid rail and are dovetailed into the sides of the principal posts. The randomness of this suggests a lack of skill on behalf of the carpenter - a feature that becomes more pronounced in vernacular building as the C18th progresses.

Page | 61



Phase 2. C1800 - 1839.



Inset - Tithe Award 1839.

The earliest map of Fristling by Chapman and Andre produced in 1777 is unfortunately not very helpful. A double compound is shown with at least 5 large buildings but their correspondence with the current ones is slight. One of them must be the original house and the other the Granary but the detail is poor and the orientation is doubtful. The next available map, made for the Tithe Award in 1839 clearly shows the Double Barn, the Dairy and the Granary. The Granary Stables, Tack Room and Shelter are not shown in their present configuration.

Notwithstanding the lack of map evidence, the construction detail of the timber buildings does not place any of them much before c.1800. The Double Barn is a typical construction of the turn of the C19th and it is constructed from a mix of reused frames, oak, elm and softwood all set upon a continuous plinth of c.1800 bricks. Great long barns such as this, referred to in contemporary literature as 'double barns' were erected to configure the farm to a layout suitable for large scale grain production.

Recent archaeological evidence from Holyfield Farm, Waltham Abbey (Hillman-Crouch, BJ. 2010) shows that earlier barns were dismantled, moved and re-erected as new larger buildings. The format of the Double Barn suggests that two barns were dismantled, reworked and then built into a single structure. The new structures incorporate nailed interrupted studwork, timbers secured with iron ties and mismatched frames. Also the bays tend to be of different sizes but nearly always whole measurements in feet.

The Double Barn was then divided after it was erected and the outshots added on the south side as animal shelters and secure stores. As such the doorways in the midstreys flanks and a couple of the doors are original features.

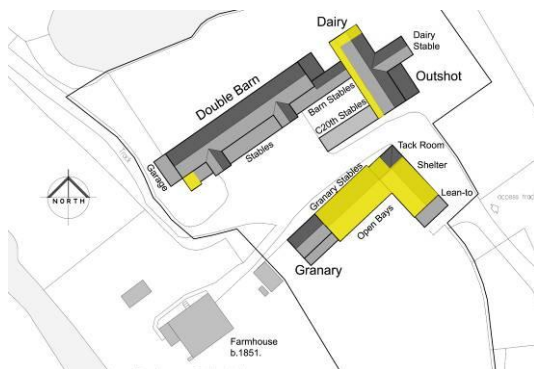
The Dairy has all the same hallmarks of this process. The frames are a combination of old and new, oak and elm timbers, some marked up from an earlier build. Like the Double Barn, the Dairy is a bespoke building created for a certain process important at the time. Internally there are no fittings to betray its original use and it has been altered many times since it was put up.

Page | 62

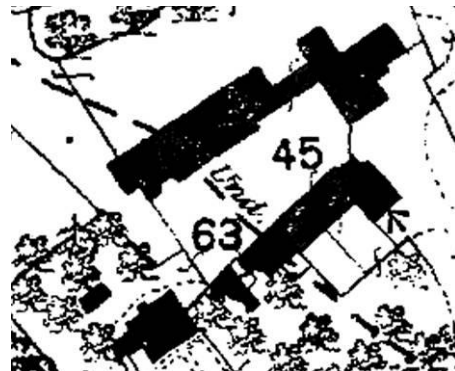
The wall heights, at just about 7 feet, and hence the tie-beams are unusually low and it may have simply been divided into byres and stables. The early tie-beams have the same camber as those in the Granary and may indicate a similar building was taken down and reused to build the Dairy. The northern bay, the western extension and eastern outshot were all added later.

The Tithe Map indicates that the Barn Stables was in place by 1839 and certainly the brickwork and the riven rafter roof are typical of this period. Low quality timber buildings using brick spines or carcasses become popular in the EC19th and are commonplace by the advent of High Farming which is often cited as beginning in the 1840's when the term is first deployed.

The Granary Stables, Tack Room and the Shelter were erected later as they do not appear on the map.



Phase 3. 1839-1874.



Inset. The 1874 Ordnance Survey map.

During the period of High Farming, Fristling Hall undertook another redevelopment as comprehensive as that of around c.1800. The Dairy was significantly altered by widening it on the western side and adding an extra bay to the north end. A lean-to Outshot with a brick outer skin fitted with two windows was added to the eastern side and the interior boarded out to protect the frame of the Dairy. Such a heavy duty construction implies the building had to be strong to withstand abuse from heavy animals.

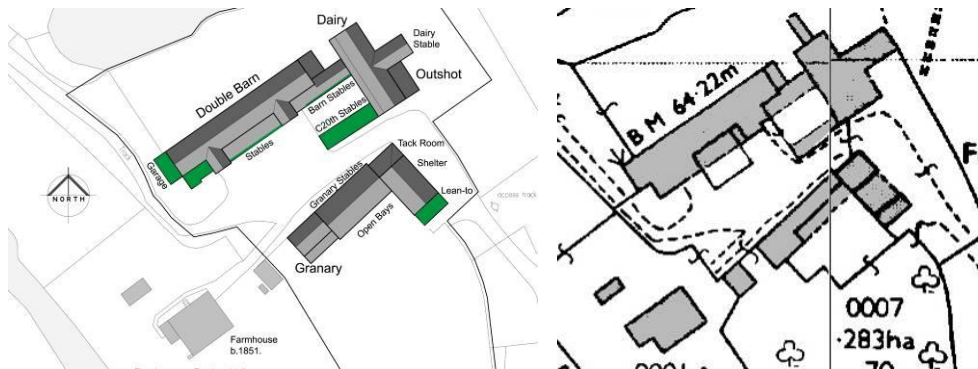
All these changes were made using wrought iron ties of a pattern peculiar to the Victorian era when the understanding of building materials was greatly enhanced and documented. They understood about material strength and undertook rigorous scientific tests. As a result timbers became thinner and ironwork more slender and simpler.

At the same time the range of buildings between the Granary and the Shelter were removed and replaced with structures that sprung off a tall brick spine with interrupted studwork partitions. The studwork is vernacular but all the key timbers are machined softwood.

The Tack Room may have been an afterthought making uses of the two brick gables to create a small office, half the size of the present one. Its position guards the approach of the site from the east. However by 1896, the time of the next OS survey, it had been extended and a water tank installed in the roof, perhaps fed from the well shown in the farmyard.

Page | 63

The OS map also shows a small building added onto the SW corner of the Double Barn but while the plinth may date to this period the rest of the frame is modern.



Phase 4. 1896 to 1971. The C20th.

Inset - 1965-71 OS Map

In the C20th the material changes to the site include the erection of the Garage, the Lean-to to the Shelter and the LC20th Stables. The Shelter was also sub-divided into horse stalls and the other shelters ranged against the Double Barn were closed in and converted to stalls too.

An earlier building preceded the Garage and is indicated on the 1874 OS map but there is no trace of this open-sided shelter. The Lean-to was preceded by a greenhouse shown on the 1896 OS but not on the 1923 edition. The current building is a LC20th makeshift affair.

Between 1923 and 1965 (at the earliest) the C20th Stable appeared as an open-sided shelter. The current building has been heavily repaired in the last 10 years having been boarded in with marine ply and OSB (Oriented Strand Board).

The southern half of the Dairy was outfitted as a Piggery with a concrete gullied floor and ceramic feeding troughs. The galvanised water pipes above suggest a period in the 1960's or 70's for the conversion. Latterly the area has been used as a horse standings for a riding school/ livery. The northern half has been used to house game birds and the Granary and Granary Stables were both netted to contain and rear birds.

Significance.

Fristling is mentioned by Philip Morant in his *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex*, (published in two volumes between 1763 and 1768) as being in the Domesday Book. Thyrstlinge Hall is shown on the Chapman and Andre Map of 1777, the Tithe Award map of 1841 and all the subsequent Ordnance Survey maps. The Listings associate a date with the Granary in the C18th and earlier and the Barn as being 'A C16-C17 timber-framed and weather-boarded barn of 10 bays'.

Page | 64

However the fabric analysis of each building and the site as a whole indicates that all the buildings with the exception of the Granary date from the period of the Napoleonic Wars or later. That is 1799 to 1815 and beyond. These buildings comprise elements robbed out from earlier dismantled buildings carefully reconstructed and developed into the new buildings required at the time.

Later these buildings were incorporated into the High Farming concept developed in the 1840's - 'To house valuable stock, preserve its manure and promote greater efficiency in the working of the greater complexities of the system, new buildings in new configurations were required. Implements of unprecedented complexity and dedication to single tasks became increasingly common and steam power invaded, first the barn and eventually the field.' (Mingay, GE. 1991).

The later buildings have a brick spine or carapace as a common denominator. This is stronger, more durable and by the mid Victorian period just as affordable as timber-frames. The farm is a typical example of the development of an Essex farm that was consumed by the rush to convert to grain production as a result of the Napoleonic War grain embargoes around the year 1800 and continued to flourish by embracing new technology and the buildings to house them.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the owners of Fristling hall, Mr and Mrs Sharp, for engaging me to record the buildings. I also thank their agents, Barry Powell and Stewart Rowe for their valuable input and the production of the drawings. I also acknowledge Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Team for his help and advice.

Bibliography

Joy Leighton published an account of Fristling Hall with photographs in 1982. This is contained in her paper: *Farming in the 18th & 19th Centuries with reference to Fristling Hall and Crondon Park in Stock, Essex, UK* which is now uploaded to <http://www.stock.org.uk/farming/index.htm>.

Page | 65

Details of the history of Fristling are also outlined in *Origins of Stock* by Charles Phillips. Also uploaded onto the internet at <http://www.stock.org.uk/history/origin-theory.htm>

Fristling is mentioned by Philip Morant in his *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex*, (published in two volumes between 1763 and 1768) as being in the Domesday Book.

Alcock et al. *Recording Timber-framed buildings: an illustrated glossary*. CBA Reprint 2008.

Lord Ernle (Prothero). *English Farming Past and Present*, 1st-5th edition. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1962. First published London: Longmans, Green & Co. 1912.

Hillman-Crouch, Barry. *Watching Brief on Excavations at the Barn at Holyfield Farm, Holyfield, Waltham Abbey, Essex*. June -July 2009.

G. E. Mingay, B. A. Holderness, Michael Edward Turner. *Land, labour, and agriculture, 1700-1920*. Published London 1991.

G. E. Mingay. *Victorian Countryside*. New Edition 2000.

G. A. T. Middleton. *Modern Buildings, Their Planning, Construction And Equipment Vol6*. The Caxton Publishing Company. 1921.

**ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD
ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name/Address: Fristling Hall, Swan Lane, Stock, Essex.	
Parish: Stock	District: Chelmsford
NGR: NGR. TL6798700061	Site Code: SKFH11
Type of Work: Historic Building Recording	Site Director/Team: Barry Hillman-Crouch
Date of Work: 06 12 2011	Size of Area Investigated: 100x100m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/A	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHER Nos:
Final Report: Fristling Hall, Stock, Essex. Description and analysis of the farm buildings at Fristling Hall. Surveyed 09 11 and 06 12 2011. Barry J Hillman-Crouch MStPA DipFA BSc HND.	
Periods Represented: C18th - C20th	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Several buildings were recorded as part of a C19th farmyard.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Granary - C18th timber-framed two storey, two bay granary with integrated rear outshot. Fully framed and numbered. Pegged studwork with primary bracing on upper floor. The roof is fully framed with on-edge rafters pegged into offset butt-purlins and also pegged at the apex. All the tie-beams have a distinct camber leading to the floor also having a fall to the walls. Unusually flooring where the heights are incorrect and it has been necessary to nail on separate plates to the studwork to support the joists in the end bays. The transverse joists sit on the mid rail and are dovetailed into the sides of the principal posts. 2. Double Essex Barn - c1800. The Double Barn is a typical construction of the turn of the C19th and it is constructed from a mix of reused frames, oak, elm and softwood all set upon a continuous plinth of c.1800 bricks. Comprises 11 bays split 5/6 by an inserted partition. Two midstreys porches to the south. Contemporary outshots along the southern flank. 3. Dairy - although known as the Dairy the last use was as a piggery and horse standings. Contemporary with the Double Barn c.1800. Composed of reused frames from a C18th building. Extended to the west in the Victorian era by removing the studwork and adding a flat-roofed aisle suitable for animal troughs. Also extended by one bay to the north and a further outshot built to the east. All Victorian work. 4. Granary Stable, Tack Room and Shelter. Conjoined buildings erected between 1839 (Tithe Map) and 1874 (OS Map) as a part of a Victorian High Farm. The Tack Room was doubled in size by 1896 and installed with a large lead water tank. 5. C20th Stables. Basic unit erected between 1923 and 1965 but heavily remodelled in the LC20th and again very recently. Used as part of a Livery business. 	



Previous Summaries/Reports: *Farming in the 18th & 19th Centuries with reference to Fristling Hall and Crondon Park in Stock, Essex, UK. Joy Leighton. 1982.*

Author of Summary: Barry J Hillman-Crouch
MStPA DipFA BSc HND.

Date of Summary: 18 01 2012.