



# **Archaeological building recording at Floyds Farm, Greatworth Northamptonshire October and November 2015**

Report No. 15/223

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Illustrators: Amir Bassir  
James Ladocha



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Floyds Farm, Greatworth  
Northamptonshire  
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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

|                           |   |                                    |  |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>    |   | <b>Oasis No. molanort1-233826</b>  |  |
| Project title             | Archaeological building recording at Floyds Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire  |                                    |  |
| Short description         | A programme of archaeological building recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton on the 10th October 2015 for Mr T J and Mrs A G Griffiths. It is proposed to demolish and construct of a new dwelling on the same site of the former 19th century cowshed and pigsty at Floyds Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire. A programme of archaeological observation and recording was also undertaken on the 30th November 2015 during the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits around the property. No archaeological deposits or finds were found. |                                    |  |
| Project type              | Archaeological building recording and observation and recording   |                                    |  |
| Site Status               | -   |                                    |  |
| Previous work             | -   |                                    |  |
| Current land use          | Buildings not in use  |                                    |  |
| Future work               | unknown   |                                    |  |
| Monument type and period  | 19th century cowshed and pigsty   |                                    |  |
| Significant finds         | -   |                                    |  |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |   |                                    |  |
| County                    | Northamptonshire  |                                    |  |
| Site address              | Floyds Farm, Greatworth   |                                    |  |
| OS co-ordinates           | SP 55267 42288  |                                    |  |
| Area (sq m/ha)            | 107.25sqm   |                                    |  |
| Height aOD                | 155m aOD  |                                    |  |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |   |                                    |  |
| Organisation              | MOLA Northampton  |                                    |  |
| Project brief originator  | South Northamptonshire Conservation Officer   |                                    |  |
| Project Design originator | MOLA Northampton  |                                    |  |
| Director/Supervisor       | Yvonne Wolfram-Murray   |                                    |  |
| Project Managers          | Amir Bassir   |                                    |  |
| Sponsor or funding body   | Mr and Mrs Griffiths  |                                    |  |
| <b>PROJECT DATE</b>       |   |                                    |  |
| Start date                | 10/10/2015  |                                    |  |
| End date                  | 30/11/2015  |                                    |  |
| <b>ARCHIVES</b>           | <b>Location<br/>(Accession no.)</b>   | <b>Contents</b>                    |  |
| Physical                  | MOLA Northampton  | -                                  |  |
| Paper                     | Store   | Site records (1 small archive box) |  |
| Digital                   |   | Client report PDF                  |  |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>       | Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)   |                                    |  |
| Title                     | Archaeological building recording at Floyds Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire  |                                    |  |
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# **Archaeological building recording at Floyds Farm, Greatworth Northamptonshire October and November 2015**

## **Abstract**

*A programme of archaeological building recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton on the 10 October 2015 for Mr T J and Mrs A G Griffiths. It is proposed to demolish the barn and pigsty and then construct a new dwelling on the same site at Floyds Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire. A programme of archaeological observation and recording was also undertaken on the 30 November 2015 during the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits around the property. No archaeological deposits or finds were found.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

MOLA was commissioned by Mr T J and Mrs A G Griffiths to carry out archaeological building recording at Floyd's Farm, Greatworth, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 55267 42288, Fig 1) on the 10 October 2015. It is proposed to demolish the buildings ahead of the construction of a new dwelling (Planning reference: S/2015/0471/FUL) for residential use. On the 30 November 2015, a programme of observation and recording was carried out during the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits.

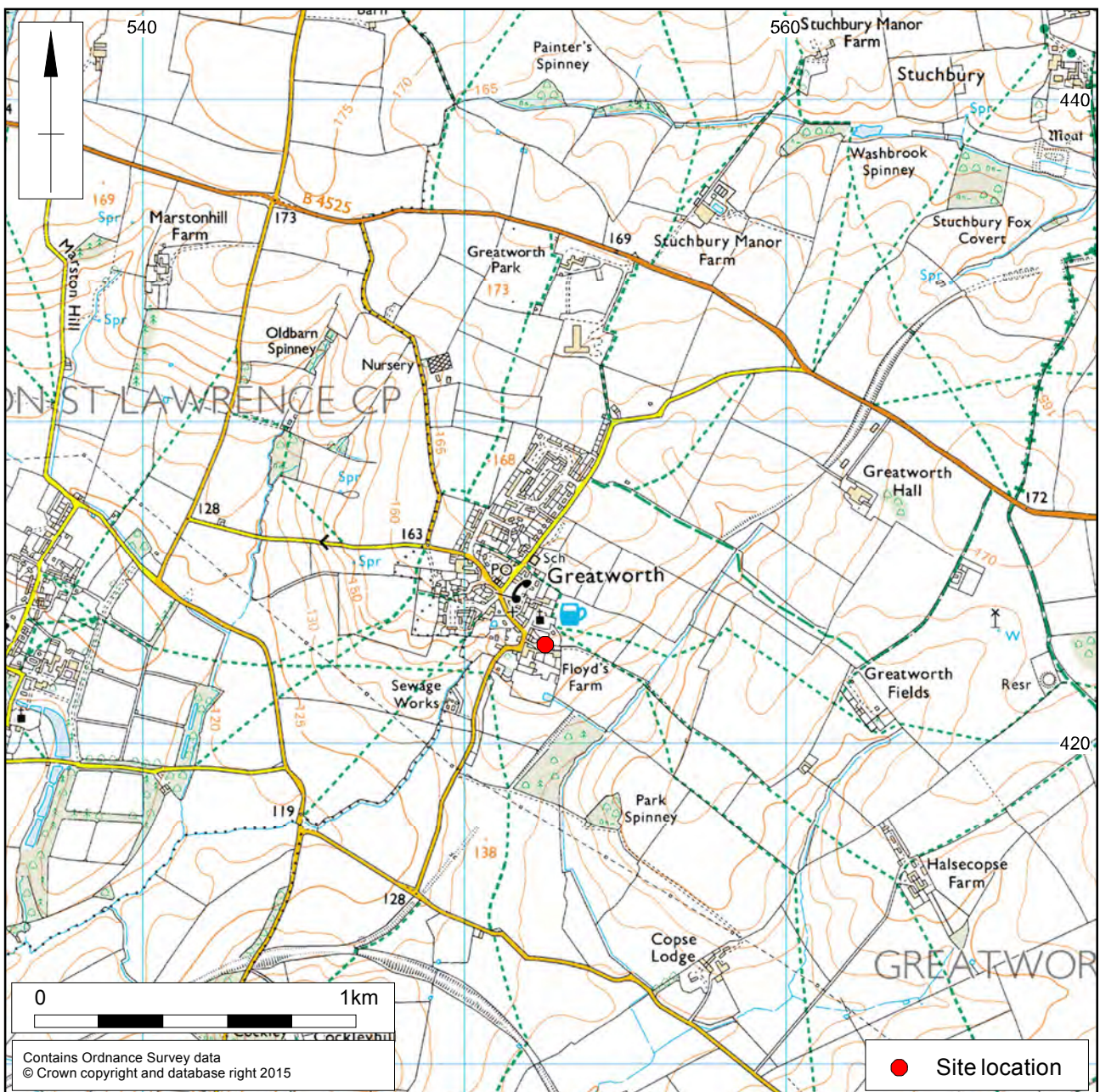
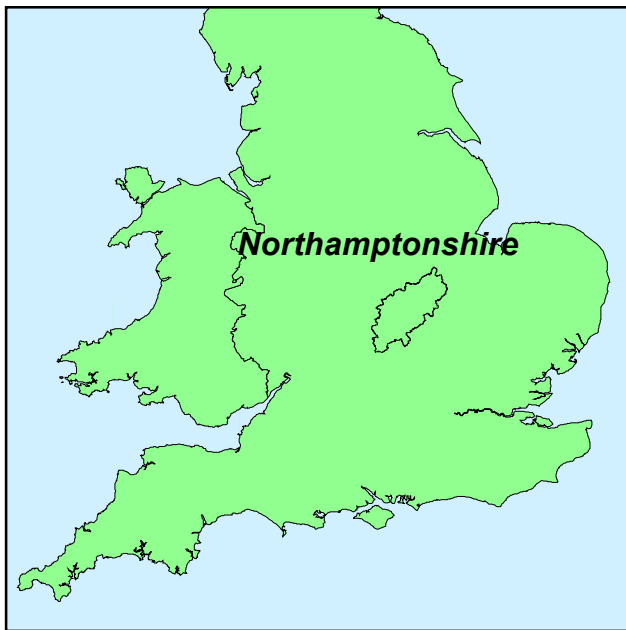
The work was required by the South Northamptonshire Conservation Officer to record and investigate the structures in the development area prior to their alteration, concealment or loss during conversion. A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by MOLA Northampton (MOLA 2015).

MOLA is a Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) registered organisation and all works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a), the *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (CIfA 2014b), and the *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014c). All works also conformed to the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (HE 2015a).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location**

The village of Greatworth lies 5.5 miles north-west of Brackley. Floyds Farm is located at the south-east edge of Greatworth, Northamptonshire, a short distance to the north-east of Greatworth Manor, and to the south of the 13th-century St Peter's Church. The farm falls partly within the Greatworth Conservation Area, but the buildings are not listed and the barn to be surveyed falls outside of the conservation area. The site is situated at c155m aOD and the underlying geology comprises the Northampton Sand Formation.



Scale 1:20,000

Site location Fig 1

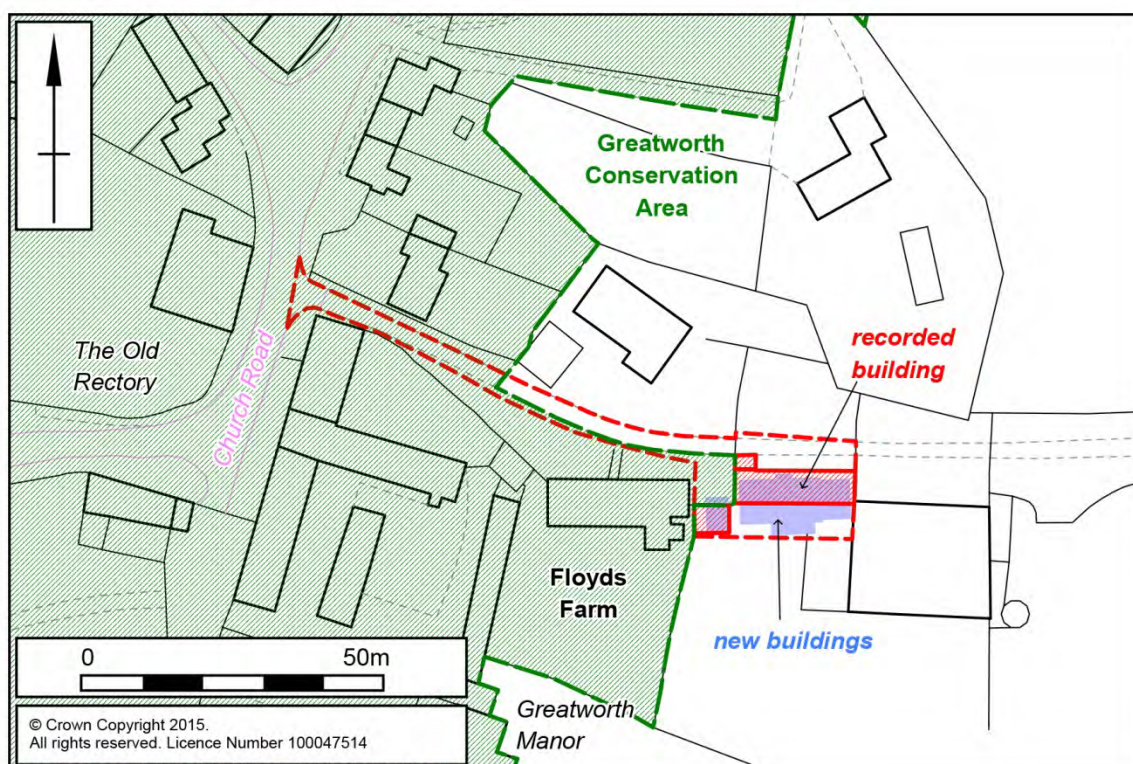


## 2.2 Historical and archaeological background

The remains of Bronze Age enclosures are recorded as cropmarks c0.7km to the south-east of the site. There are unstratified Neolithic/Bronze Age flint scatters (MNN 18394; MNN 18303) and Roman pottery scatters (MNN 18302; MNN 18305; MNN 19391) and possible locations of Roman settlements (MNN 303) have been recorded around the periphery of Greatworth (Brown 2011).

The deserted medieval villages of Stutchbury and Halse survive as earthworks to the north-east and south-east of Greatworth. South-east is the site of a possible medieval deer park (MNN 300). The parish church of St Peter lies to the north-east of the site and was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, added to in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (MNN 8267).

To the south of the site is Greatworth Manor (MNN 11370), and the site of a late medieval/post-medieval manor house (MNN 18306). Floyds Farm (MNN 161905), which is not listed, likely dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and lies on the edge of the conservation area of the village, the barns are outside of this area (Fig 2).

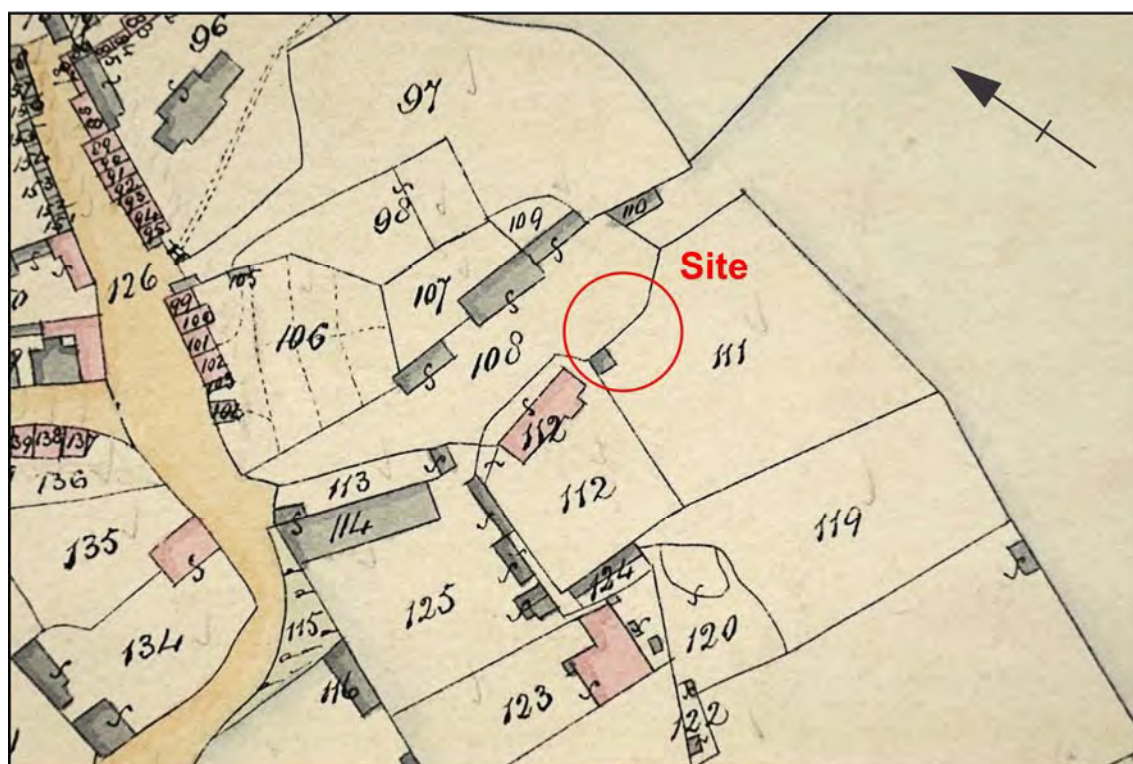


Plan of the recording area Fig 2

## 2.3 Historical map evidence

The 1845 Tithe Apportionment map (Fig 3) depicts the current farmhouse with a number of barns or stables located adjacent to the current trackway to the north. A smaller, square building (the pigsty) is depicted at the corner of the adjacent field to the east of the farmhouse. The barn to be recorded is not shown on this map but is present by the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882 (Fig 4). Aside from the addition of this structure, the site seems to have changed little in this period. The Ordnance Survey map of 1900 (not reproduced here) shows a number of subdivisions within the farmyard, with squared enclosures to the south and north of

the barn. Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the buildings to the north of the recording area were demolished between 1950 and 1979/80.



Tithe Apportionment map of 1845 Fig 3



First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882 Fig 4



### 3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objective of Level 2 building recording is to provide a descriptive record of an extant structure, often before demolition or conversion, where the building is known or strongly suspected to retain limited historic significance. The work provides a basic record in accordance with the HE document of 2015 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (HE 2015b). Level 2 provides conclusions regarding the building's development and use but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based.

A measured plan and a section were produced together with a comprehensive photographic survey. This was completed to ensure the preservation through record by showing the buildings in their present state prior to demolition. The photographic record was maintained in monochrome film and high quality digital camera

### 4 THE BUILDING RECORDING

The surveyed buildings comprised a barn and a pigsty, situated east of the main farm building, Floyd's Farm.

#### 4.1 The Barn

The barn is roughly orientated east to west, with the front of the building facing north. It is constructed principally of roughly-coursed limestone, bonded with light brown lime mortar. The limestone is probably of local origin (Figs 5 to 9). The fully exposed roof structure reveals common rafters, purlins and truss supporting a roof of corrugated sheets, a chimney was present until recently on the eastern elevation. The first two rooms have a dirt floor, whilst the cow house has a floor laid in concrete. A strip of concrete runs externally along the northern side of the entire building.

The southern rear wall is skinned with brick laid in a rat-trap bond, exposing the shiners and rowlocks. The rowlocks protrude into the stonework (Figs 10 and 11). The bricks measure c230mm x 120mm x 80mm. A roughly-coursed stone wall, butted against the brick skin, divides the barn into two parts, the smaller western part is again sub-divided by a brick wall.

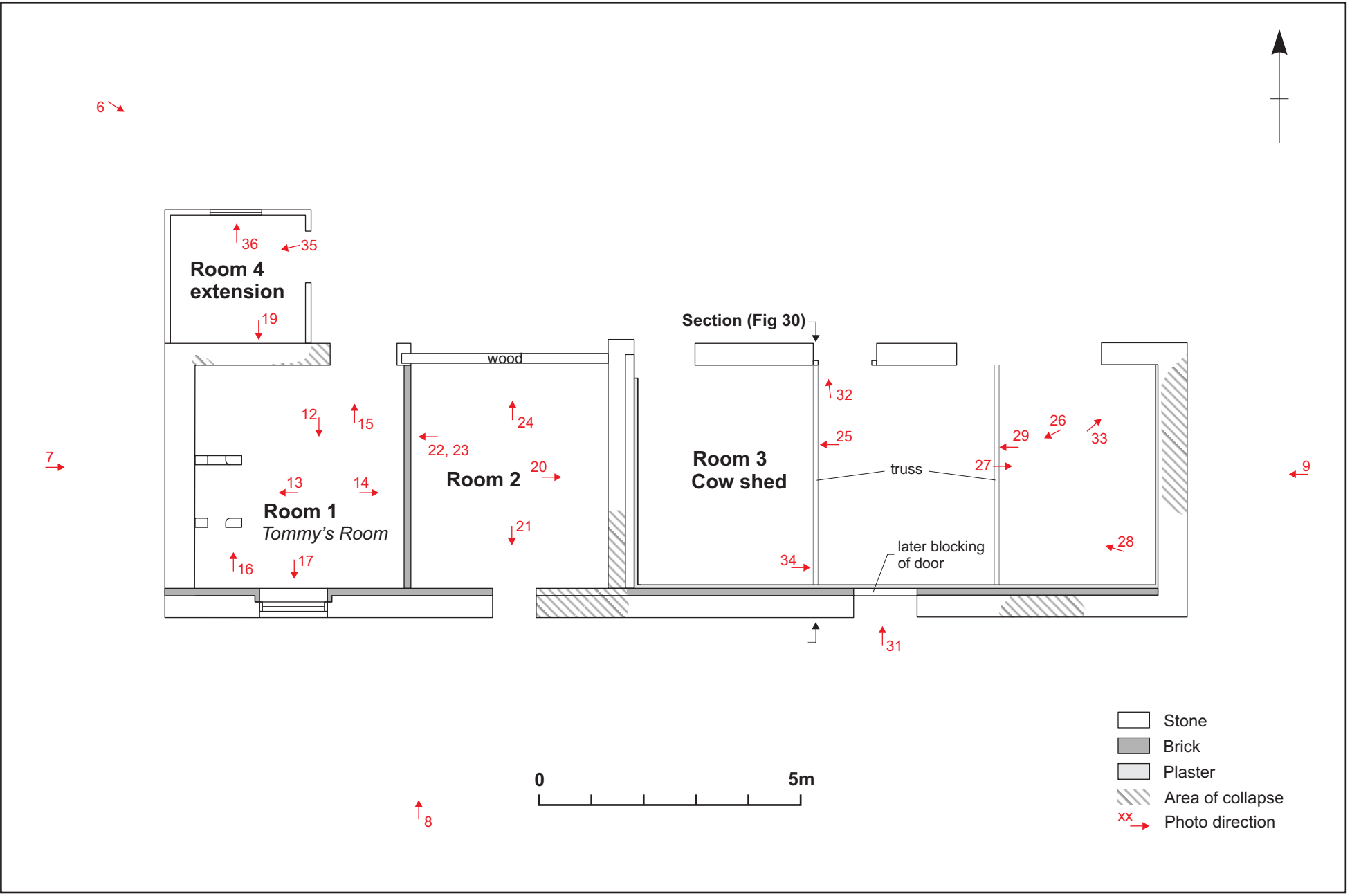
#### ***Room 1 - Tommy's Room***

Room 1, referred to as '*Tommy's Room*' by the current owners, is the most westerly room (Figs 5, 12 to 15). A brick fireplace was constructed against the western wall, possibly a later addition (Figs 16 and 17). Internally a layer of lime mortar is partially surviving up the chimney. There is very little soot internally, externally or on the wall, there is some reddening of the stone in the wall. The fireplace, alongside all the walls, is whitewashed. At the base of the fireplace some brick is still in place. Bull-nosed bricks were utilised on the sides to form the gaps, the northern gap is partially blocked.

The window present in the rear is wooden with bars on one side surviving (Fig 18). The later, eastern, dividing wall is constructed in brick laid in a single skin of stretcher bond with two wooden beams running through it at the lower part of the wall and one under the gable (Fig 14). The northern, stone wall is partially missing with a tree trunk around the entrance. Externally there is decorative ironstone band (Fig 19), there is no indication of it appearing on any of the other external walls.

Scale 1:100

Plan of surveyed building Fig 5





The cowshed and extension, looking south-east Fig 6



Room 1 and extension, looking east Fig 7





Room 1 and cowshed, looking north Fig 8



The barn, looking west Fig 9





Internal brick rat-trap bond on the southern wall Fig 10



Collapsed area showing the rowlocks protruding into the stone work Fig 11





Room 1, looking south Fig 12



Room 1, looking west Fig 13





Room 1, looking east Fig 14



Room 1, looking north Fig 15





Side view of fireplace, looking north Fig 16



Brick base of fireplace Fig 17





Window in Room 1 Fig 18



Ironstone band in the external wall of Room 1, looking south Fig 19

## Room 2

The central room, Room 2, is an open space and serves currently as a route through to the south of the barns (Fig 5). The eastern wall has partially collapsed towards the rear of the room. It is butted against the southern wall with some stone keyed into the rear wall and the gap between the top of the stone and the roof has been in-filled with brick (Fig 20). The rear, southern wall has a central gap currently providing access to



the rear of the building. The sides have partially collapsed, no indication of woodwork of a door survive (Fig 21). The western brick wall, stretcher bond with lime mortar, is whitewashed from the lower wooden beam upwards (Figs 22 and 23). The front, northern wall is absent, except a pile of stone to the west suggesting it would have been stone (Fig 24).



The eastern stone wall, looking east Fig 20



The southern wall, looking south Fig 21





Western brick wall, looking west Fig 22



Detail of brick wall of western wall in Room 2 Fig 23



Northern elevation showing part of the roof structure, looking north Fig 24

### ***Room 3 - the cow shed***

The cow shed occupies the eastern and largest part of the part of the barn (Fig 5). The walls are brick and stone covered on the western, southern and eastern walls with a thin plaster up to a height of 1.39m (Figs 25 to 27). There is some plaster on the northern wall in the north-eastern corner otherwise it is bare stone (Fig 28). The plastered walls are also whitewashed, and on the rear wall there is whitewash underneath the plaster.

The open roof structure reveals the trusses comprising the tie beam spanning the barn with the principal rafters supported by two struts and held together by an iron tie rod (Figs 29 and 30).

The door in the southern elevation is partially bricked up with a single skin of brick (stretcher bond), leaving a gap for a window. The gap between the wall and the roof, along with the window is filled with concrete blocking (Figs 26 and 31). In the northern elevation are three openings. The central opening has wooden jambs for a door remaining, the western opening has metal brackets inserted in the floor indicating that here was also a door, the eastern opening is the largest (Figs 28 and 32).

No original fixture and fixings survive before the refurbishment. The space was fitted out with a concrete floor with dung channels to drain liquid towards the north-eastern corner (Fig 33). Along the southern wall was a shallow concrete trough, the feeding would have been from the rear. At the time of the survey, the majority of the more recent fixtures have been removed leaving a metal railing in the centre and two handlebars fixed to the wall at either end of the trough (Figs 25, 27 and 34). A tap remains in the drainage channel in front of the eastern wall (Fig 25).





West wall of cow shed, looking west Fig 25



Southern wall of cow shed, looking south-west Fig 26





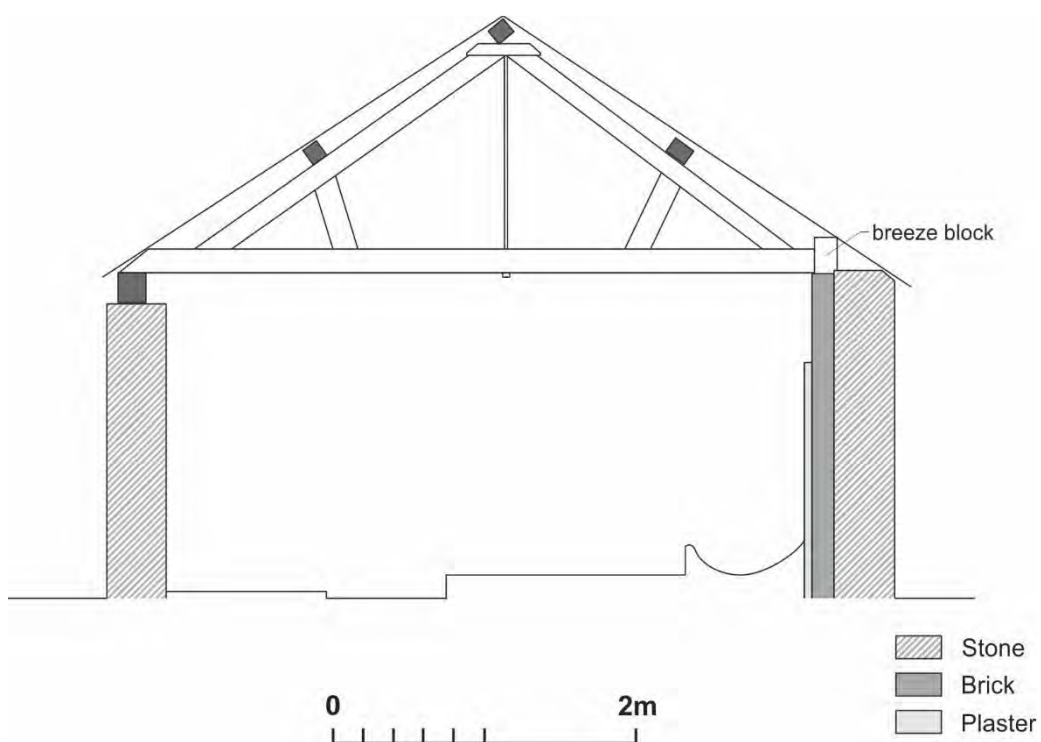
Eastern wall of cow shed, looking east Fig 27



Northern wall of cow shed, looking north-west Fig 28



Open roof structure, looking west Fig 29



Section of barn Fig 30





The blocked door in the cow shed      Fig 31



The doorjamb in the cow shed      Fig 32





Dung channel with drain to the outside Fig 33



The trough with metal railing remaining Fig 34

**Room 4 - the extension**

A small lean-to extension has been built onto the north-western corner by 'Tommy's Room' (Fig 5). It comprises three walls constructed of concrete blocks, the room c 2.7m by 2.6m. All walls, including the stone wall, are plastered and painted white (Fig 35). A metal framed window is in the northern wall, access is on the eastern side (Fig 36). Metal brackets and water-pipe are the only remains of any fixtures or fixings that may have been present.



Room 4, looking west    Fig 35



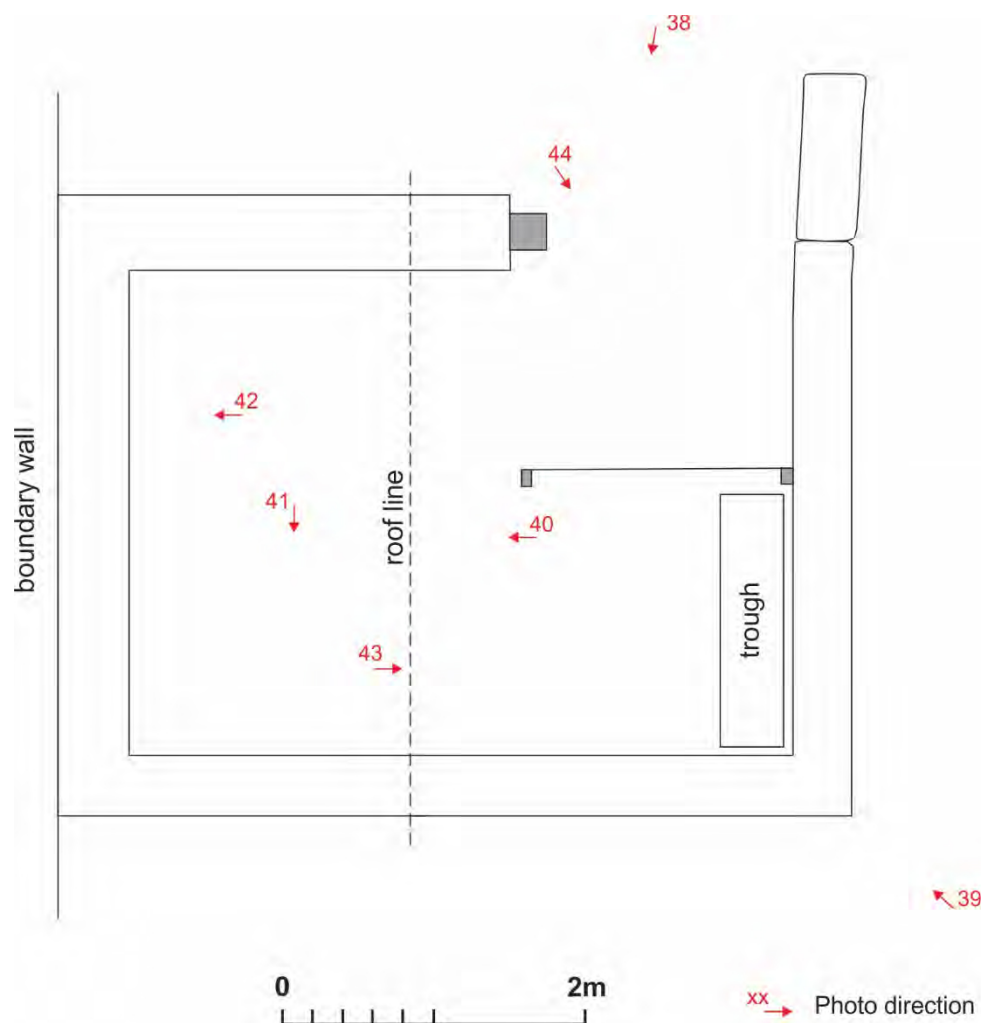
Room 4, looking north    Fig 36



## 4.2 The Pigsty

The pen-and-run pigsty is situated between the barn and the farm building (Fig 37). It comprises a low-roofed pen with a space divided by a corrugated sheet to provide runs. At the time of the survey the ivy and trees had been freshly cut back to expose the building.

The pigsty is principally constructed of roughly-coursed limestone bonded with lime mortar, the top of the walls were capped with a row of bricks and stone coping. The south-western corner is formed with bricks and bricks were used for repairs (Figs 38 to 42). The floor of the pen comprises soil, and corrugated metal sheeting supported by timber rafters and purlins provides shelter (Fig 41). A corrugated metal sheet supported by two wooden posts divides the run in front of the pen. A metal trough was in the south-western corner (Figs 43 and 44).



Plan of the Piggery Fig 37



The pigsty, looking south-west Fig 38



The pigsty, looking north-east Fig 39





The pen, looking west Fig 40



The pen, looking south Fig 41





The pen, looking west Fig 42



The run, looking east Fig 43

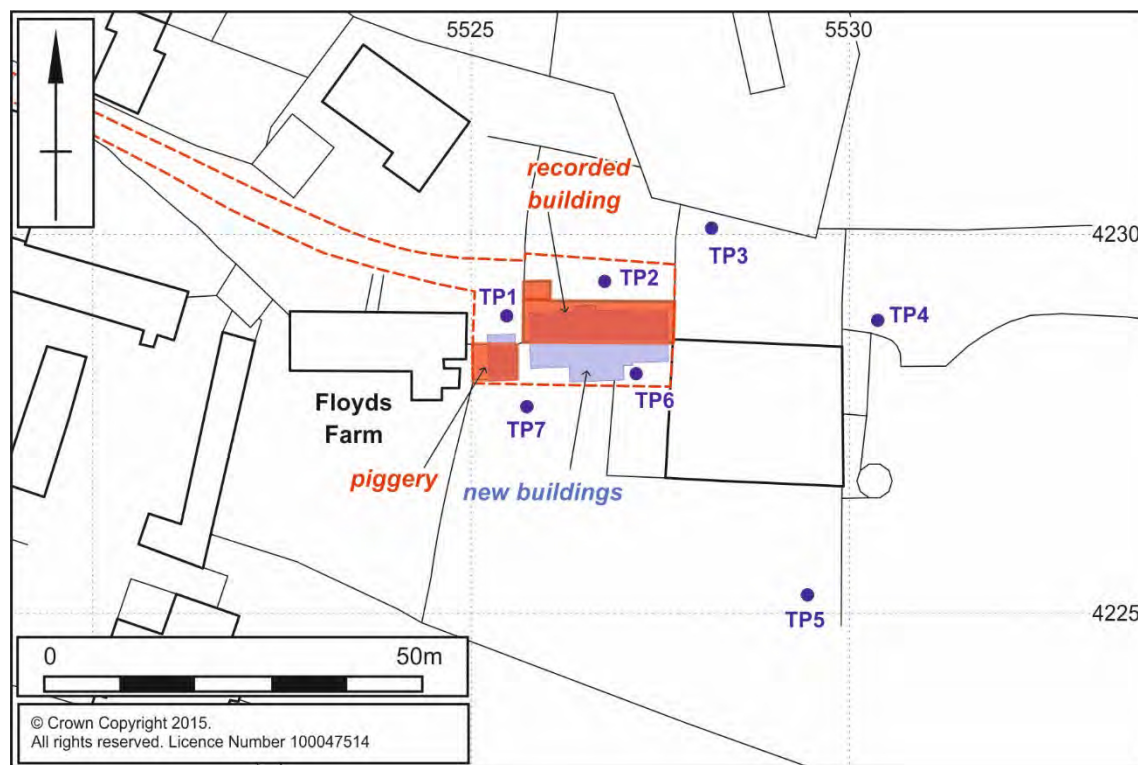




The run, looking south-east    Fig 44

## 5 OBSERVATION AND RECORDING OF GEOTECHNICAL TEST PITS

A programme of observation, investigation and recording was carried out during the excavation of seven geotechnical test pits (Fig 45). These were recorded in accordance with the guidelines detailed in the MOLA *Archaeological Fieldwork Manual* (MOLA 2014). The record was supplemented by an annotated general site plan. A photographic record was maintained comprising digital photography and Black and White film.



The locations of the geotechnical test pits Fig 45

The natural geology, encountered between 0.42m and 0.25m deep, comprised mid orange-brown stony sand overlying bedrock (Northampton Sands). To the south, in Test Pit 3 and Test Pit 4, mid grey clay was visible in the pit (Oxford clay). The natural was disturbed and truncated.

In Test Pit 1, 0.42m of dark grey-brown loam mixed with stone, gravel and netting overlay the natural. Some of the stone came from the collapsing section of wall from the pigsty (Fig 46). Test Pit 2, outside the barn, had 0.27m make-up layer comprising gravel, sand and brick fragments (Fig 47). Test Pit 3 was located under a tree, but the soil was not disturbed by root activity. A mixture of dark grey-brown loam and tarmac chipping overlay the natural to a depth of 0.30m (Fig 48). In the location of Test Pit 4, under a thin layer of grass the made-up ground comprised brick and tile fragments, sand and gravel (Fig 49). Under a thin layer of grass the stratigraphy of Test Pit 5 also revealed a made-up layer, 0.34m deep, comprising dark grey-brown loam with brick and concrete fragments (Fig 50).

Test Pits 6 and 7 were located close to the barn on the southern side. The stratigraphy at both locations revealed subsoil overlying the natural geology, measuring 0.13m and 0.17m in depth. The topsoil was a dark brown-grey loam, measuring 0.12m and 0.25m in depth (Figs 51 and 52). The subsoil and topsoil showed some disturbance and the natural was deeper than expected (*pers comm* Geologist 30.11.2015).





Test Pit 1, looking north-west Fig 46



Test Pit 2, looking north Fig 47





Test Pit 3, looking north-west Fig 48



Test Pit 4, looking south-east Fig 49





Test Pit 5, looking south Fig 50



Test Pit 6, looking south Fig 51





Test Pit 7, looking south Fig 52

## 6 DISCUSSION

The pigsty was of the typical pen-and run type. The pigsty is of an earlier date than the barn, it is present on the Tithe Apportionment map from 1845, whereas the barn first shows up on the first edition Ordnance Survey map from 1882. The pigsty may be of similar age to the farmhouse, which dates to the early 19th century. Pigs were left to forage in woodland, supervised by a swineherd, until the early 18th century when they became part of the dairy farm as they could consume the by-products (Woodforde 1983).

Having been built in the second half of the 19th century the barn possibly may not have had a hay loft, as it was recommended at the time to make the buildings more sanitary (Woodforde 1983). The brick skin may be part of the original phasing as it is keyed in and appears to be part of the construction method. Brick was often used as an internal skin to stone buildings as it provides more sanitary conditions than the stone wall. The barn possibly initially comprised two parts, Room 3 the cow shed and the western part, which was possibly later sub-divided by a brick wall (Rooms 1 and 2). Room 1 had a fireplace later installed for the farm workers. At this time the space between the stone wall and roof was also in-filled by brick and the door in Room 3 blocked. The blocking is later than the brick skin. The original fixtures were replaced in the 20th century, of which only the concrete flooring and trough survive. The addition of Room 4 is also of the 20th century along with the blocking of the gap of the rear wall with the roof by breeze blocks.

The geotechnical test pits revealed a truncated and disturbed stratigraphy. At the rear of the building, Test Pits 6 and 7, the bedrock was at a lower depth than anticipated. This may suggest that the area was quarried for stone used in the construction of the barn. Other buildings to the south of the barn have been demolished and may account for the rubble found in Test Pit 5.

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