

**WHITELAND BARN,  
SULEHAY ROAD,  
YARWELL,  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

**NGR REF: TL 05606 97696**



***HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING LEVEL 2***

**JUNE 2020**

**UID-NUMBER: ENN109900**

**PREPARED BY CHRISTER CARLSSON**

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## **Summary**

*A Historic Building Recording Level 2 was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants at Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire between 3 and 4 June 2020. The building recording revealed much new information about the former farm complex, even though many alterations had occurred in the buildings over the last 200 years. The walls of the original 19<sup>th</sup> century barn have largely remained intact, and the structure contained a number of well-preserved architectural features, such as doors, windows and wooden trusses. A number of secondary buildings, mostly animal sheds, were also recorded along the south and east sides of the former barn yard.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A Historic Building Recording was conducted of the former Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire (NGR: TL 05606 97696) (Figures 1-3) in accordance with *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practise* (Historic England 2016) and *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (CIfA 2014) as well as discussions with Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor at Northamptonshire County Council.
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014). All relevant CIfA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning Permission has been granted (18/02313/FUL) for a new development at the Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire. The proposed development entailed the conversion of the old barn complex into a modern 4 bedroom dwelling, including parking and landscaping works.
- 2.2 The whole site comprised an area of approximately 0.18ha at an average height of *c.* 56m AOD. The proposed development site was located in a field south of Sulehay Road and west of the village of Yarwell. The geology of the site comprised River terrace Deposits over Blisworth Limestone Formations (British Geological Survey).
- 2.3 The site was situated within an area of archaeological significance, as defined by the Northamptonshire County Council HER. Therefore, a Historic Building Recording Level 2 project was required prior to any construction within the site. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by East Northamptonshire Council.

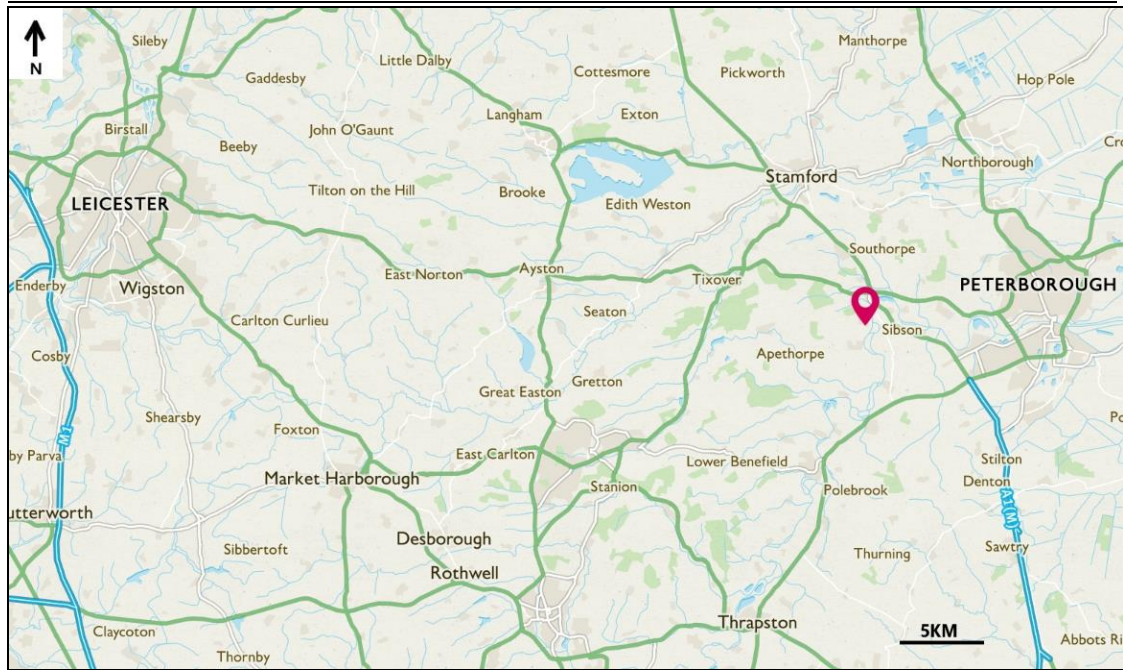
### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The proposed development site was located about 1 mile west of the village of Yarwell in Northamptonshire. The site consisted of a former barn complex, which probably dates from the first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with later extensions and additions. The site once belonged to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century listed building Whitelands in Yarwell.
- 3.2 The main barn was a well-preserved example of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century stone building and contained, as such, a large number of interesting architectural details and technical solutions typical for barns from this period. The proposed development will include the removal of key components within the building, such as windows, doors and walls, and the documentation of these features were essential to keep a comprehensive record of the old barn complex for the future.

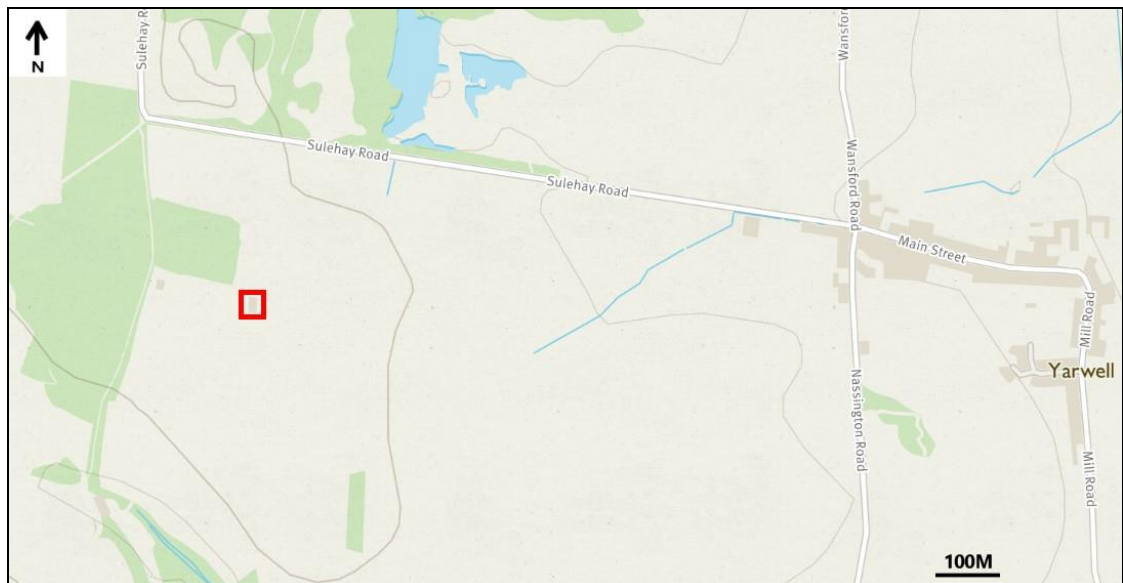
### **4 AIMS**

- 4.1 The aims of the Historic Building Recording project were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
- Gain information about the heritage assets of the former barn complex;
  - Provide detailed information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;
  - Inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
  - Define the sequence and character of activities in the former barn complex, as reflected by the documented features;
  - Interpret the buildings within their local, regional, and national archaeological context.
- 4.2 The project also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: *Archaeology Framework for the East Midlands* and *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).
- 4.3 Specifically, the following investigative aims were accommodated in the programme of archaeological work:
- \*characterisation of the site in the broader landscape;
  - \*characterisation of the activities identified on the site;
  - \*characterisation of changes affecting land-use through time

**Whitland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording**



*Figure 1. The location of Yarwell in England. (OS maps reproduced with Licence Nr Ordnance Survey 0100031673).*



*Figure 2. The Site Location west of Yarwell. (OS maps reproduced with Licence Nr Ordnance Survey 0100031673).*

## Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording

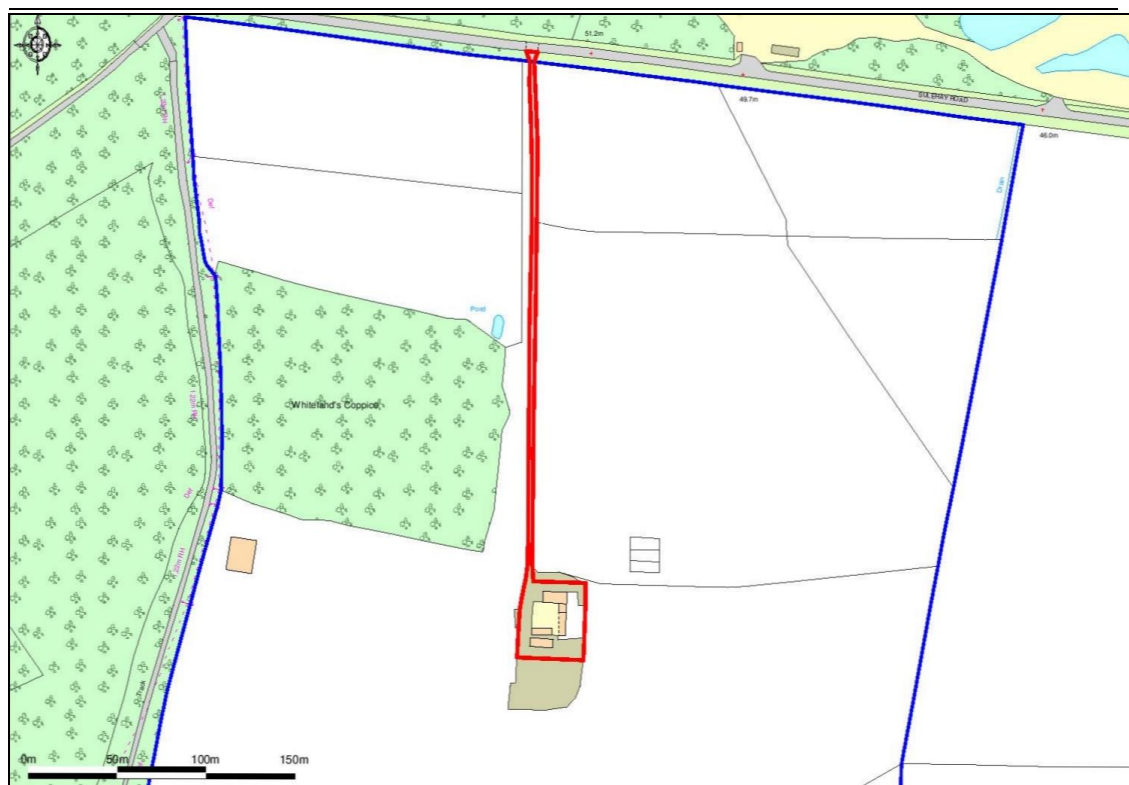


Figure 3. The Site Outline. (OS maps reproduced with Licence Nr Ordnance Survey 0100031673).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Historic Building Recording

The archaeological programme included the production of a LEVEL 2 illustrated historic building record (HBR). The work followed the requirements for a Level 2 documentation project. This included a full photographic documentation and an adequate survey of the standing structures prior to their alterations. The building recording complied with the 2016 Historic England document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practise*. The following elements of recording were carried out:

**-Drawn Record:** Sketched Plans, Elevation Drawings and more Detailed Drawings of specific details.

**-Photographic Record:** The film used for the building recording was a conventional black and white film, as well as digital photos, for inclusion in the site archive. The photographic record consisted of the following information:

-A general view or views of the building in its wider setting or landscape.

## **Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording**

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-The external appearances of the building. A series of oblique views to show all external elevations of the building, and to give an overall impression of its size and shape.

-The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

-Any external or internal detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the design of the building, development and use, with photo scales where appropriate.

-Any dates or other inscriptions; any signs, makers' plates or graffiti which contribute to an understanding of the building.

-Any contents which have a significant bearing on the history of the building.

-Photos of maps, drawings, views and photographs present in the building and illustrating its development or that of its site.

**-The Written Record:** The recording of the building provides locational information, together with context descriptions, analysis and interpretation. The Written Record follows Historic England's standards and act as a complimentary source of information together with the photographic documentation of the building.

-The precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference.

-A note of any statutory designation (that is, listing, scheduling, Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, conservation area).

-A contents list; a list of illustrations or figures.

-A longer summary statement. This account summarises the forms, functions, dates and sequences of building. The names of architects, builders and owners will be given if known. Its purpose is to fully describe the history of the building.

The HBR of the building includes a schematic plan of the building, a photographic record of the building's external and internal appearance, along with any external or internal detail, relevant to the building's design, development or use and which does not show adequately on general photographs.

Internally, the proposal resulted in the removal or relocation of features which are important to the legibility of the circulation and to the dating of different elements. These were all recorded in their original locations, with measured drawings and/or close-up photographs showing architectural/functional detail of features to be lost/moved- ledged & braced and doors to be relocated and beams, windows, staircases etc that will be removed as a result of the proposal.

Removal of architectural elements and any other revealing works required to assess current constructional detail that may expose areas of historic fabric were monitored by the archaeological contractor and included within the report.

The written record includes details of the building's form, function, date and sequence of development. In addition, a discussion of published sources relating to the building and its setting, an account of its history as given in published sources, an analysis of historic map evidence and a critical evaluation of previous records of the building, where they exist.

The HBR overall includes a suitable level of documentary research, including consultation with HER-records, to set the results in their geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context.

## **6 RESULTS**

### **Written Record and Older Maps**

- 6.1 The former barn complex at Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell is first showing on maps from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the earliest OS map of Yarwell from about 1885 an L-shaped structure can be seen within the plot (Figure 4). This structure is likely to consist of the main barn, which is still standing in northern parts of the site, as well as the stone- and wooden animal shed along the eastern side of the plot.
- 6.2 An OS map from the next year shows a similar L-shaped structure (Figure 5), and by studying some of the later OS maps of Yarwell, from about 1901 to 1977, it is possible to trace changes in the layout of the farming complex over the next 75 years.
- 6.3 By 1901, when the next OS map of Yarwell was printed, the farming complex seems to have been expanded with an additional wing in the south, so the complex has been given a U-shape (Figure 6). This wing is likely to be identical with the brick structure that still stands along the southern side of the site today.
- 6.4 In the Post-war period the OS map from 1952 shows a similar U-shaped layout of the complex as on the 1901 map (Figure 7), and the site appears to have changed very little by the time the next OS map of Yarwell was printed in 1977 (Figure 8).
- 6.5 No written inscriptions or signs have been found anywhere inside the barn complex during the historic building recording that can tell us something about the origins of the buildings. The barn complex once belonged to the listed 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century building Whitelands in Yarwell, but this farm seems to have no preserved written archive. An attempt to trace down the names of architects involved in the construction of the barn complex remained unsuccessful.



Whitland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording

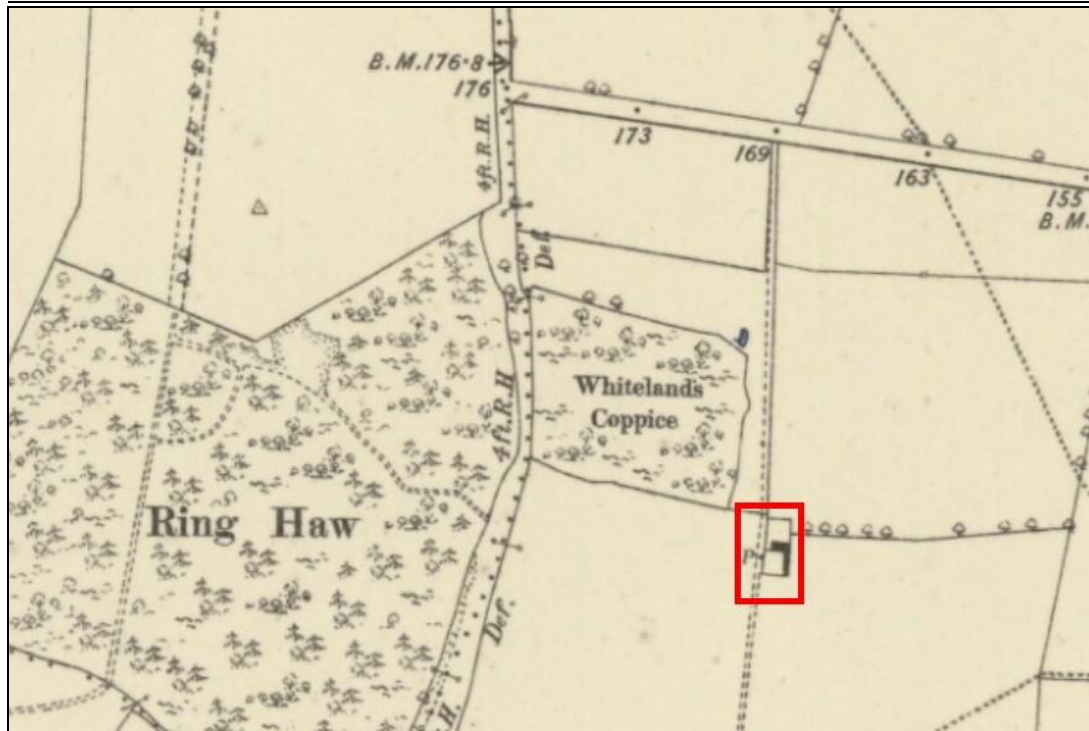


Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map of Yarwell from 1885 with the site marked out.

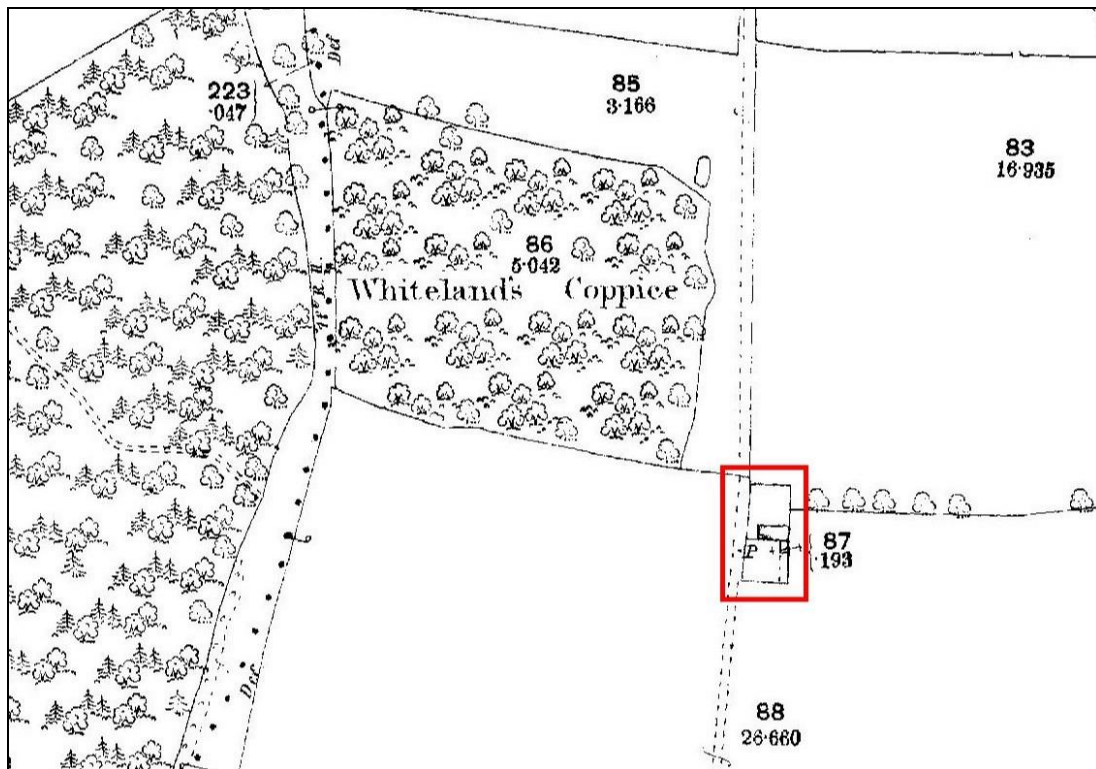


Figure 5. Ordnance Survey map of Yarwell from 1886 with the site marked out.

Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording

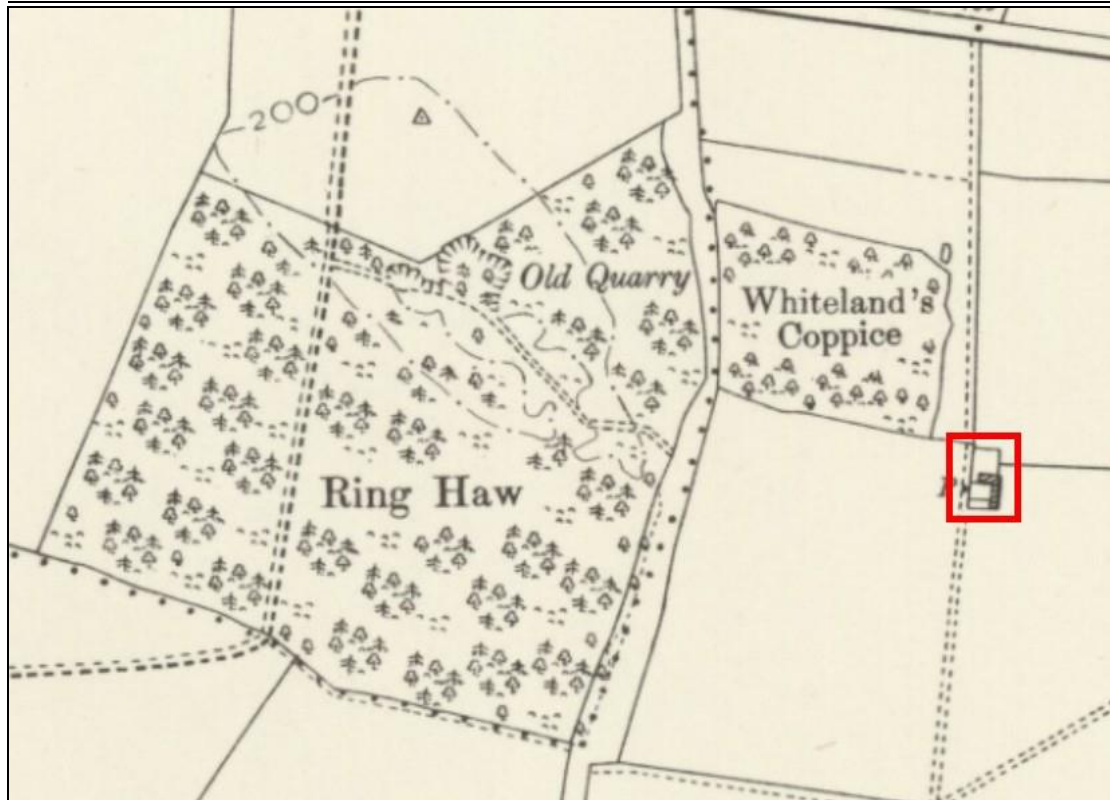


Figure 6. Ordnance Survey map of Yarwell from 1901 with the site marked out.

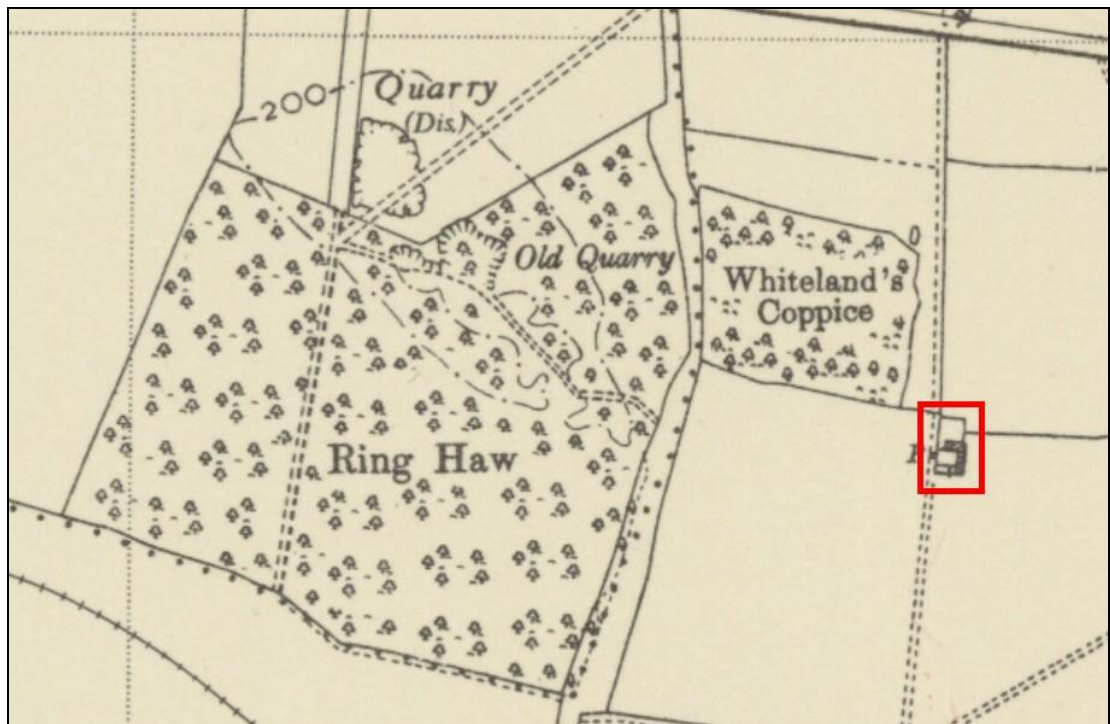


Figure 7. Ordnance Survey map of Yarwell from 1952 with the site marked out.

## Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording

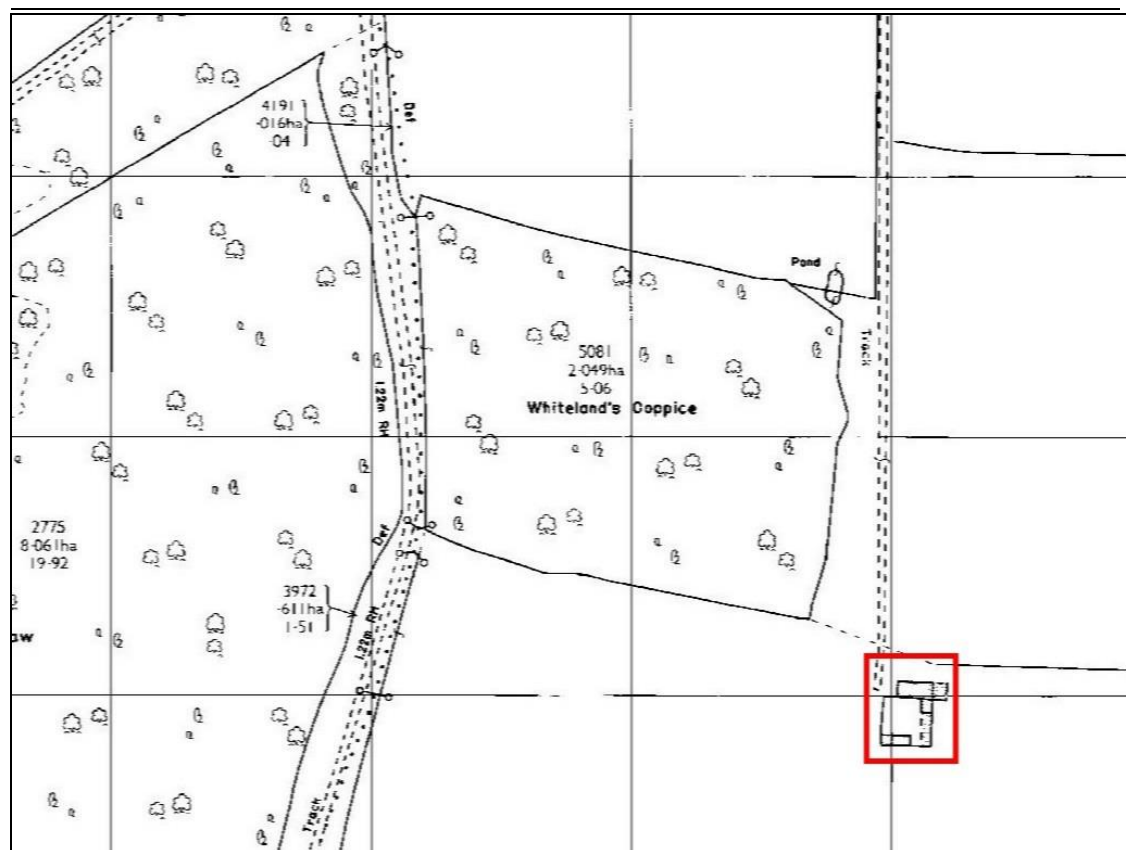


Figure 8. Ordnance Survey map of Yarwell from 1977 with the site marked out.

### Building Recording

- 6.6 The former barn complex at Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire is a good example of a well-preserved farm unit from the first part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. South of the original barn a number of secondary brick-, stone and wood structures, mainly consisting of various animal sheds, have been erected against the old stone enclosure wall of the barn yard (Arrows on the site plan towards the end of the report show the location and direction each photo was taken from, and colours are showing the various building phases).

### The Main Barn

- 6.7 The core building of the complex appears to be a rectangular stone barn, with corrugated sheets covering the roof in the northern parts of the site. It is an open one-room structure with visible wooden trusses which is about 13m x 6m large and about 8m tall inside (Figure 9-12).
- 6.8 The barn has been erected with nicely dressed ashlar and particular attention has been given to the corners of the building, where finely cut stones have been used in a geometrical pattern. It seems as some of the cornerstones have

been re-used in the barn, and may therefore come from another building, as at least one of the stones had strange looking holes in the surface (Figure 19).

- 6.9 There are a number of openings in the outer stone walls of the barn; windows and doors as well as loading hatches. In the south wall the original door of the barn is located. It is about 1.5m wide, 3m high and has a wooden lintel which appears to be original (Figure 20).
- 6.10 In the south wall there are also two ventilation holes, or narrow windows, with a design that goes back to much earlier architectural traditions in the way they remind of arrow slits in medieval castles (Figure 21).
- 6.11 The north wall of the barn had two similar ventilation windows and also has two 1.5m x 1.5m large loading hatches that are clearly secondary, as they appear to have been cut through the original masonry of the structure. Both loading hatches have wooden lintels and may be an early 20<sup>th</sup> century design. The north wall also has a secondary, and clearly modern, 3m x 3m large wooden door with a concrete lintel (Figure 10). The gable ends of the main barn have no openings, such as doors or windows.
- 6.12 Internally the main barn had a secondary concrete floor of 20<sup>th</sup> century design. There were traces of a thin layer of plaster along all walls inside the barn. This layer stretched up to about 2m on all walls around the entire structure. Modern graffiti could also be seen on some walls (Figures 22 and 23).
- 6.13 During the investigation of the main barn a flying drone was used in order to get closer to structures and details located high up inside the barn. Through this technique it was possible to take photos of the upper sides of all the trusses, and a few squared and round holes, that did not fit in with the present roof design, were identified in this way. This may be an indication that the beams have been re-used in the barn, and that they originally come from another building (See drone photos below).
- 6.14 The fact that the original beam slots for the trusses had been blocked up throughout the barn, and that all trusses had been moved upwards by ca 0.5m, is a further proof that the original roof design of the main barn has been altered at some point (Figures 24 and 25).

Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording



*Drone photos from inside the main barn. Holes were identified on the upper sides of the wooden trusses, indicating that the beams may have been re-used in the barn.*

### **The Stone- and Wooden Animal Sheds in East**

- 6.15 The eastern range of the barn complex was taking up the entire east side of the barn yard and was about 18m x 4.5m large. This structure was probably built in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As it clearly existed when the first OS map of Yarwell was printed in 1885. However, the range is clearly younger than the main barn in the north as the masonry of the two buildings is not linked together, and there is a clear joint between the two building bodies.
- 6.16 Even if the whole eastern range may be dated to the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the oldest part of the range consisted of a 4m x 4.5m large, and almost quadratic, stone room. It is likely that this room is the first attempt to build a range along the eastern part of the site, and the room is of a higher architectural quality than the rest of the eastern range. For some reason the rest of the range is built in a less accurate way, as if the original plans were altered during the construction (Figure 15).
- 6.17 The walls of the eastern range consists otherwise of a mix of stone and wood, while the roof is covered entirely by red 20<sup>th</sup> century roof tiles. It seems as the eastern and southern walls of the structure may partly consist of the old enclosure wall that once stretched around the whole site. All windows and doors of the eastern building range are located in its west wall. The wooden doors appear to be original from the second part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.18 Internally the building has been divided in two parts by a thin wooden plank wall, which runs in an east-west direct through the centre of the structure. The building has clearly filled the function of being an animal shed as wooden feeding racks were at the time of the investigation preserved along the entire length of the building (even if parts were missing). The whole range has a 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete floor and the wooden beams in the roof construction appear to be original (Figures 32-36).

### **The Brick Animal Sheds in South**

- 6.19 The brick animal shed along the southern side of the barn yard was the only structure within the site that was made of bricks (Figure 17). The structure is not shown on the earliest maps of the site, but first appears on the 1901 OS map. This indicates that it is the youngest structure within the site. The northern and eastern walls of the building were entirely built of machine-made bricks, while the southern and western walls were partly consisting of the older stone enclosure wall that once surrounded the site.
- 6.20 The building consisted of two separate parts, where the eastern part was slightly larger. The whole structure measured ca 11m x 7m, had a roof of red 20<sup>th</sup> century roof tiles and a 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete floor. The doors and windows were all located in the northern wall. The windows had safety hatches of cast iron with narrow slits for ventilation. The doors appear to be the original wooden doors.

- 6.21 Internally the brick building had preserved wooden feeding racks for animals along the southern wall (partly taken away), and the wooden roof beams seems entirely to be from the time of the erection around the year 1900. Modern graffiti could be seen on some of the walls (Figure 26-31).

### **The Enclosure Wall**

- 6.22 An up to 1.5m high and 0.5m wide enclosure wall was still visible along the western and southern sides of the barn yard. This wall is likely to be an original feature, which once surrounded the whole site in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A wall is shown in this location on some of the earliest maps of the barn complex.
- 6.23 The animal sheds in east the south had been built up against this wall, so the enclosure wall filled the purpose of being an outer wall in these later structures (Figure 9-13). A part of the enclosure wall has recently collapsed in the north west corner of the site. This break showed that the wall had been constructed of natural stones from the area, which had been mixed with a yellow lime mortar (Figure 18).

## **7 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The Historic Building Recording of the former Whiteland Barn complex at Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire, which was carried out by Independent Archaeology Consultants in June 2020, indicated that a large part of the original structure is still standing. The core building appears to consist of a rectangular early 19<sup>th</sup> century stone barn, with later brick-, stone and wood structures located to the south and east of the barn yard. The brick structure in the south is showing for the first time on the 1901 OS map.
- 7.2 Internally the barn complex had preserved a large number of interesting features, such as doors, windows and wooden roof beams. It became clear that the roof structure of the original barn in the north must have been altered at some point. The original beam slots in the outer stone walls of the main barn had been blocked up, and the trusses moved upwards by ca 0.5m.
- 7.3 Due to the use of a flying drone it was possible to take photos of the upper sides of the trusses. It then became clear that the trusses had a number of circular and squared holes, that did not fit in with the present roof structure. This is another indication that the roof of the main barn has been altered at some point. It remains unclear whether the original trusses have used when this alteration was carried out, or if old wooden beams have been brought in from elsewhere. Because of the unexplained holes in the trusses, however, it is possible that they were in fact brought in from another building.
- 7.4 The other two main structures of the complex, located along the eastern and southern sides of the barn yard, had a slightly lower architectural quality than

the main barn. They appeared to have been erected in greater haste, maybe when there was a need for them due to an increased focus on animal breeding. As both structures have clearly filled the functions of animal sheds, with preserved wooden feeding racks along the outer walls, they could indicate a shift in use of the site from originally being a place for storing the harvest to a place where animals were kept and fed.

- 7.5 It is felt that the Historic Building Recording has contributed with a comprehensive record of the former barn complex, and that the history and development of this rural unit has been fully understood.

## **8 ARCHIVE**

The archive consists of the following:

### Paper Record

The project Brief

Written Scheme of Investigation

The photographic and drawn records

The project report

The primary site records

The archive is currently maintained by Independent Archaeology Consultants.  
The archive will be transferred to:

The archaeological collections at Northamptonshire County Council

## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Archaeology Framework for the East Midlands and English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (1997)*

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## Photos



*Figure 9. The barn complex from west.*



Figure 10. The original barn from north.



Figure 11. The barn complex from east.



*Figure 12. The barn complex from south.*



*Figure 13. The old enclosure wall continued into the brick building in the southern part of the site. This suggests that the brick structure is of a later date.*



*Figure 14. The original barn and the later stone extension from southwest.*



*Figure 15. This stone extension of the original barn was possibly built during the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Photo from west.*



*Figure 16. A partly wooden animal shed had been preserved along the original enclosure wall. The structure likely dates from before the year 1900. Photo from west.*



*Figure 17. This brick structure along the southern side of the barn yard was the youngest building within the site, and is first showing on the 1901 OS map. Photo from east.*



*Figure 18. A part of the old stone enclosure wall had collapsed in the north west corner of the site. Photo from south east.*



*Figure 19. The original barn from the 19<sup>th</sup> century contained a few re-used stones. This particular stone could be from an older church or farm building in the area. Photo from west.*



*Figure 20. The main door leading into the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn. Photo from south.*





*Figure 21. The narrow ventilation windows in the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn are based on a much older design, and almost reminds of arrow slits in medieval castles. Photo from south.*



*Figure 22. The interior of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn consisted of one large room. Photo from west.*



*Figure 23. The interior of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn. Photo from east.*



*Figure 24. The wooden trusses of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn had at some point been replaced, or at least moved upwards by ca 0.5m, as the blocked up original beam slots were visible throughout the barn. Photo from south.*



*Figure 25. Another blocked up original beam slot in the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn. Photo from north.*



Figure 26. The brick animal shed along the southern enclosure wall. Interior picture from east.



Figure 27. The brick animal shed along the southern enclosure wall. Interior picture from west.



*Figure 28. A wooden feeding rack had once been located along the southern wall of the brick animal shed, but its beam had been cut at some point. Photo from northwest.*



*Figure 29. In the western part of the brick animal shed the wooden feeding rack was still intact. Photo from northeast.*

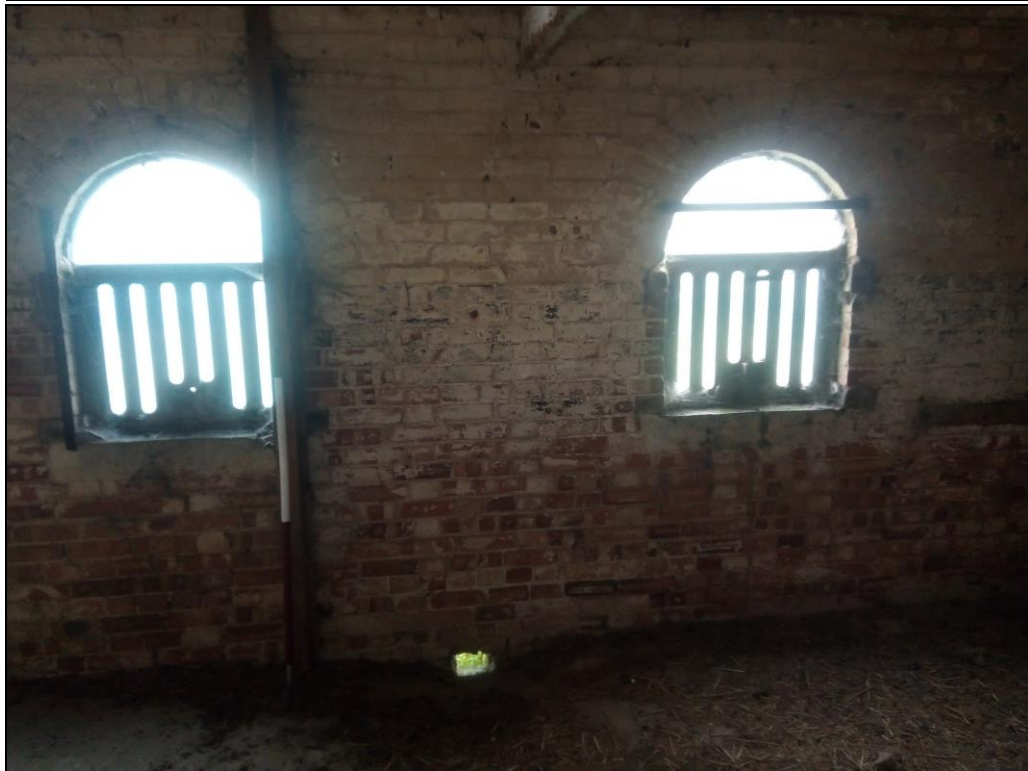


Figure 30. The brick animal shed had ventilation windows of cast steel. Photo from south.



Figure 31. The wooden beams in the roof construction of the brick animal shed. Photo from west.



Figure 32. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from south.



Figure 33. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. A wooden feeding rack was still in place. Photo from northwest.





Figure 34. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from north.

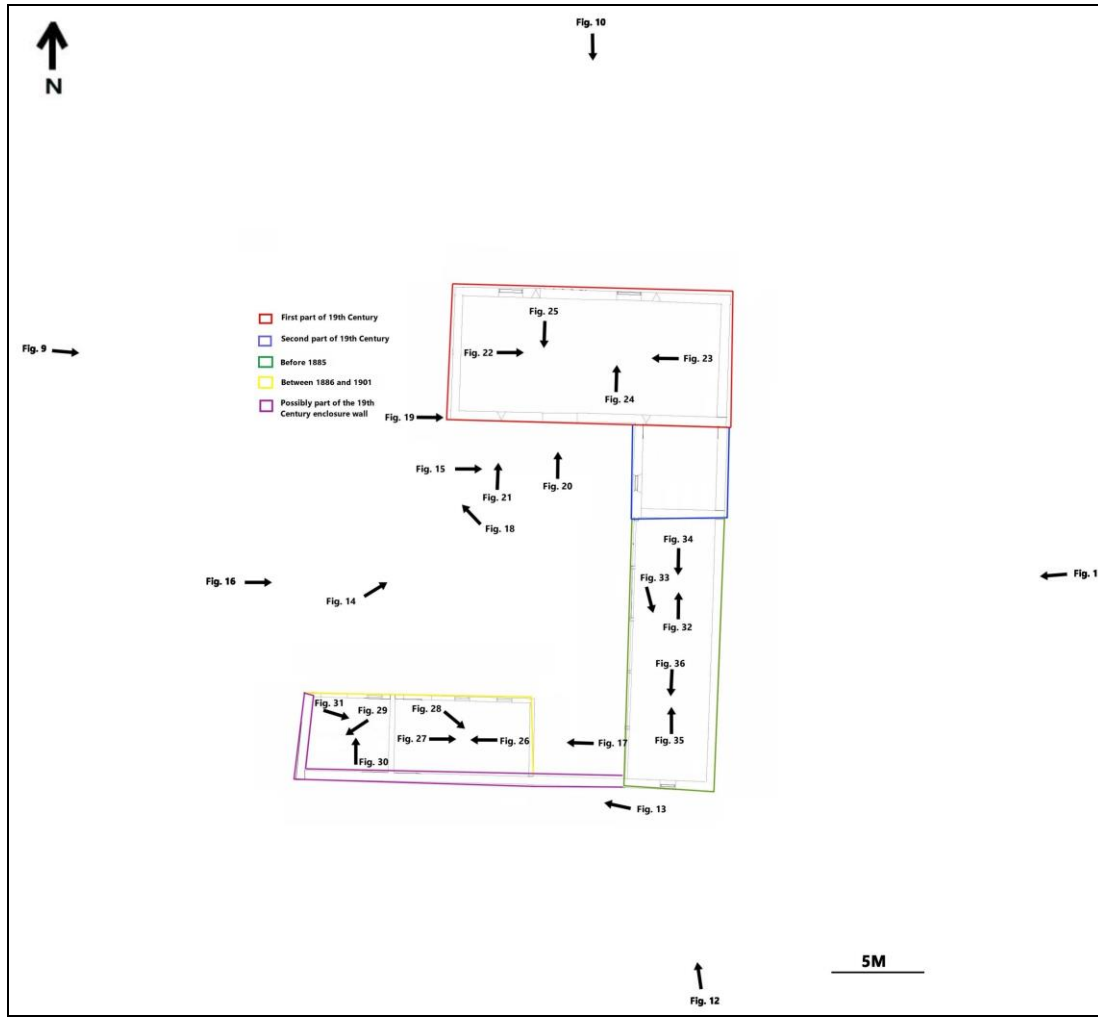


Figure 35. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from south.

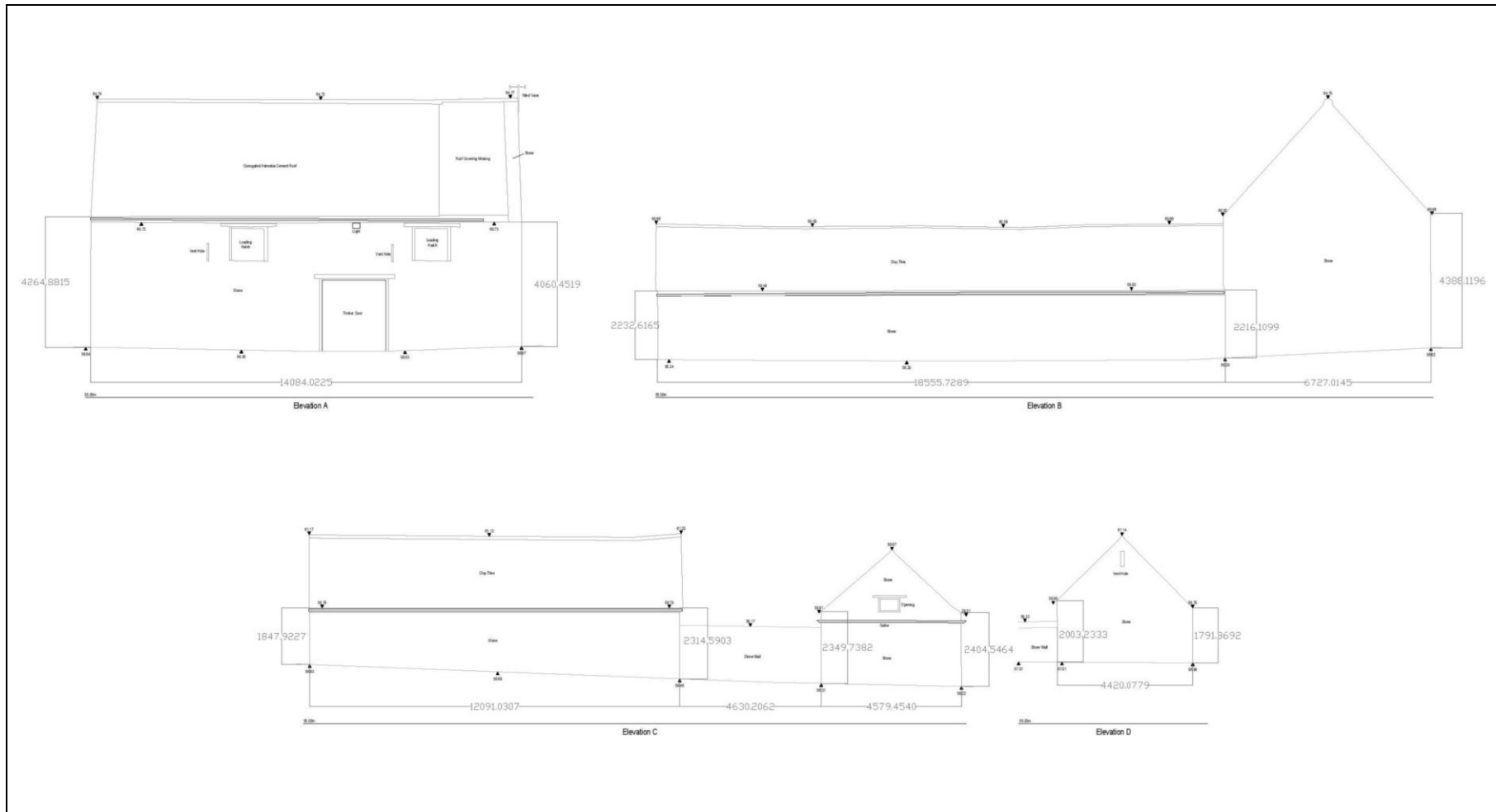


*Figure 36. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from north.*

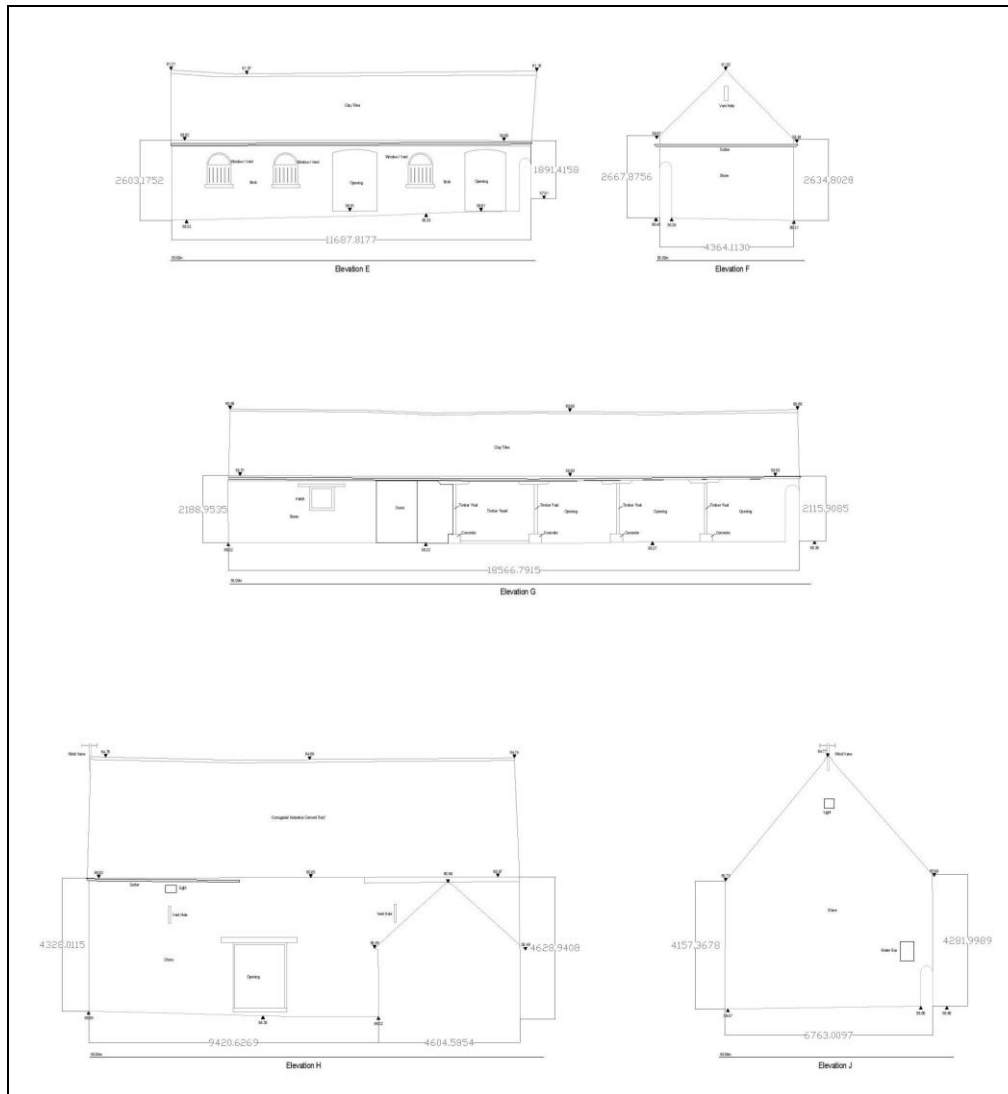
# Floor Plans and Elevations



Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording



Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording



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*Figure 31. The wooden beams in the roof construction of the brick animal shed. Photo from west.*

*Figure 32. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from south.*

*Figure 33. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. A wooden feeding rack was still in place. Photo from northwest.*

*Figure 34. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from north.*

*Figure 35. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from south.*

*Figure 36. Interior of the partly wooden animal shed along the eastern enclosure wall. Photo from north.*



## **OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: independ1-395769**

### **Project details**

Project name	Whiteland Barn, Yarwell, Sulehay Road, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	A historic building recording of the old farm and barn complex.
Project dates	Start: 03-06-2020 End: 04-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WBY20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	18/02313/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	SN CL Post Medieval
Monument type	SN CL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Measured Survey", "Photographic Survey"
Prompt	Planning condition

## Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YARWELL Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire
Study area	0.18 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 05606 97696 52.566461631188 -0.441744473427 52 33 59 N 000 26 30 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52m Max: 54m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Project director/manager	Christer Carlsson
Project supervisor	Christer Carlsson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council
Digital Contents	"none","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire County Council

## Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire: Level 2 Historic Building Recording

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Paper Contents	"none","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Whiteland Barn, Sulehay Road, Yarwell, Northamptonshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Carlsson, C
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Independent Archaeology Consultants
Place of issue or publication	Peterborough

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Entered by	Christer Karlsson (contact@independentarchaeology.co.uk)
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