



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

House Farm, Thistleton
Historic Building Survey

March 2015

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological building survey was required as a condition of a planning permission for the redevelopment of House Farm, Thistleton Road, Thistleton, Lancashire, PR4 3XA (NGR SD 40662 37840). The work was carried out on behalf of Mr Andrew Garnett, Holly Tree House, Blackpool Old Road, Little Eccleston PR3 0YQ by The Archaeology Co. The buildings were found to be a mid-18th century threshing barn with a shippon extension. The shippon started as a small stable extension to the south of the barn in the late 18th / early 19th century and was converted to an 'L' shaped shippon and coach house in the mid-19th century. It was further extended again by the end of the 19th century. The small 2 bay stable was also built in the mid to late 19th century. The larger three bay outlying stable was erected in the 1930's.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr. A Garnett who commissioned the survey and to Davis Design for providing plans and elevations. The assistance provided by the staff of Lancashire Records Office, Lancashire County Council and Poulton Library is also acknowledged.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of House farm at Thistleton Road, Thistleton, Lancashire, PR4 3XA (NGR SD 40662 37840). It is a condition of the planning approval that the applicants undertake a programme of Historic Building Investigation
- 1.2 This procedure followed the advice previously given by central government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance: Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG15) and *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16) which has now been superseded by Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework. This came into effect in March 2012 and requires that "Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible" (NPPF 2012, 141).
- 1.3 Mr. Andrew Garnett BA (Hons), has commissioned Mr. Steven Price BA (Hons), MA, MPhil, PCIfA of The Archaeology Co., to carry out the historic building recording. Steven Price is a Practitioner of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists with over 15 years experience of surveying and recording buildings of many types. He has carried out numerous standard Level 2/3 surveys for this type of property.
- 1.4 Farm buildings are of great historical importance as they record the pattern of rural settlement and the making of the historic landscape. They record the historic farming systems and methods of the area and they show the vernacular or traditional building materials and methods of their locality. Conversion, dereliction and demolition are steadily eroding the numbers of functional historical farm buildings in the county. The Council for British Archaeology's 'An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England: Volume 2, Research Agenda and Strategy' states that "there is an urgent need for all local authorities to ensure that farm buildings undergoing adaptation are at least considered for recording" so

that "a regional database of farm buildings can be derived and variations across the region examined" (Brennand (ed) 2007, 140).

- 1.5 No previous historic, archaeological or architectural study is known to have been made of the buildings prior to the completion of this report. The farm is not a designated heritage asset as defined in Annex 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

2. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site lies on the west side of Thistleton Road within Thistleton Village and within the Thistleton Conservation Area. The village is located c. 3.4 miles to the east of Poulton and is shown on Yates map of 1786, with buildings in the location of the site. The site contains a large 'L' shaped barn, the eastern end of which appears on the 1840's OS mapping. The shippon extension and stable appear to date from the latter half of the 19th century, with the outlying stable dating from the mid-20th century. The surrounding area is predominantly agricultural. The National Grid Reference of the site is SD 40663 37838.

- 2.2 The geology of the Fylde as a whole, consists of deposits of glacial till lying over Triassic sandstones, mudstones and siltstones (Tooley 1971)

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Buildings are an important part of the historic environment as they provide information on historical technology, social structure and lifestyles. The alteration of such buildings may remove evidence of their past uses and occupation and make it more difficult for future historians to understand and interpret them. The aim of the survey was to preserve 'by record' the information that may be lost as a result of demolition or alteration. This was achieved by recording and analysing the plan form, function, age and development of the building and by the provision of a written, drawn and photographic archive for future reference.

- 3.2 The purpose of an Historic Building Recording, according to the ClfA (2014) is to "examine a specified building, structure or complex, and its setting, in order to inform a) the formulation of a strategy for the conservation, alteration, demolition, repair or management of a building, or structure, or complex and its setting or b) to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results".

- 3.3 The objective for this project was to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 An appropriate record has been made of the farm buildings. Floor plans and sections are required. The floor plans have been modified from those supplied by the architect after being checked on site. Sections were drawn on site using permatrace, as was the plan of the out-lying stable. The drawn record shows all features of interest that have been recorded photographically, as well as showing other features of historical significance that may not be directly affected by the proposal but which are necessary to put those features in context.
- 4.2 Construction techniques and sequences were appropriately illustrated and described, if visible.
- 4.3 The archaeologist on site identified and noted:
- Truss positions and form;
 - Any significant changes in construction material – this is intended to include significant changes in stone/brick type and size, coursing, etc.
 - All blocked, altered or introduced openings;
 - Evidence for phasing, and for historical additions or alterations to the building.
- 4.4 Drawing conventions conform to English Heritage guidelines as laid out in *Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage 2006.
- 4.5 Photographs were taken with a 35mm camera. All record photographs are black and white, using conventional silver-based film only. All detailed photographs and general shots contain a 2-metre ranging-rod, discretely positioned, sufficient to independently establish the scale of all elements of the building and its structure.
- 4.6 The photographic coverage includes:
- General photographs of the interior and exterior of the building/complex, along with photographs of the site/setting of the building.
 - The overall appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.

- Detailed coverage of the building's external appearance. In the case of a building designed by an architect, or intended to be seen from a certain point of view, it is important to have regard to the builder's intentions and to record the effect of the design or of the building's placing.
 - Any external detail, structural or decorative, which is relevant to the building's design, development and use and which does not show adequately on general photographs.
 - The building's relationship to its setting, and to significant viewpoints.
 - Internal detail, structural and decorative which is relevant to the building's design, development and use and which does not show adequately on general photographs. Elements for which multiple examples exist (e.g. each type of roof truss, column or window frame) have been recorded by means of a single representative illustration.
- 4.7 For the purposes of the report only, high quality digital images have been produced using an Olympus E-600 DSLR (12.3 megapixels).
- 4.8 Record photographs have been printed at a minimum of 5" x 7".
- 4.9 A plan at a suitable scale showing the location from which the photographs have been taken has been produced.
- 4.10 A photographic register listing all photographs taken has been produced. For ease of use each set of photographs have been numbered sequentially 1, 2, 3, etc.
- 4.11 A site visit was made on 16th March 2015 when detailed notes were made of the structural details of the buildings and photographs taken. Measurements were taken with hand held and electronic 'tapes' which enabled the floor plans and sections to be produced.
- 4.12 Historical research, including a full map regression, was carried at Lancashire Records Office and Poulton Library.



4.13 The project was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of *The Management of Archaeological Projects* 2nd ed. 1991 and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* 2014.

5. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 Evidence has been found of hunter gatherers in the Fylde area dating from the Late Upper Palaeolithic (16,000 – 8,000 BC). This took the form of the remains of an elk, which was hunted and harpooned at High Furlong, near Kirkham, found to date from 15,500 – 11,500 cal. BC (Barrowclough 2008, 48). Evidence of Mesolithic occupation has also been found, with charcoal from peat beds and changes in the pollen record showing that clearance of vegetation was taking place around 7,000 – 6,000 BC. It is believed that Mesolithic people favoured well drained sands and coastal sites, and the prehistoric coastal wetland in the area would have provided a good source of food and water, and important resources such as chert and flint were likely derived from rocks within the boulder clay (ibid., 15).
- 5.2 A rise in sea level around 4,000 BC caused the area to become a series of islands. Scatters of worked flint have been found on some of these, such as one at Peel. This scatter is believed to be the remains of a ploughed out barrow, as other barrows in the area have been discovered on the 'islands' (Barrowclough 2008, 19). Finds from the late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (2,500 BC) have also been found across the Fylde, such as axe-hammers and maces as well as bronze implements. Further, a timber track-way known as 'Kate's Pad' and written about in 1850, was excavated by Pilling Historical Society in 1950 and radiocarbon dated to the Late Bronze Age (800 BC) (Sherley n.d., 14-19).
- 5.3 There is little evidence of Roman activity in the area, although a fort is known to have been constructed at Kirkham. Some finds include a hoard of 17 silver denarii, with the coins ranging in date from AD 60 – 165 (Shakeshaft 2001, 4) and some Roman pottery unearthed during river dredging in the 1970's (Sherdley n.d., 21).
- 5.4 Kirkham (within which Thistleton lies) is thought to have Saxon origins, being one of the oldest parishes in the county (Baines 1824a, 654). It was described by Baines as "the metropolis of the Fylde country" (ibid.). Thistleton comprised the northern part of the composite township of Greenhalgh – with – Thistleton. In 1066 three ploughlands in Greenhalgh formed part of the Earl of Tostig's Preston lordship, which were later spilt, with Greenhalgh and Thistleton being given to the ancestors

of the Boteler family and held as members of the Weeton lordship. Thistleton went on to be held by the Cowdrays and Aughtons of North Meols and their heirs. Their manor of Thistleton consisted principally of “2 oxgangs of land, a fourth part of the vill, granted to the canons of Cockersand by Ellis son of Roger de Hutton” (Farrer and Brownbill 1912). In 1242 the immediate tenant was John de Thornhull and Thistleton is named among the Countess of Ormonde's lands in 1355, and among those of Sir John Stanley in 1431 (ibid.). The name is thought to mean “the tun where thistles grow”, with ‘*tun*’ believed to mean ‘homestead, ‘village’ and ‘town’ in Old English (Ekwall 1960). “Thistleton” also appears to have been used for the township as a whole, suggesting it was perhaps more important or recognisable than the larger Greenhalgh.

- 5.5 Transcriptions of church records from 1570 list the “30 men of the parish”. The township was listed as Thistleton and the two men were John Smith and Robert Cornay. The transcriber has noted that this is unlikely to have been the first time 30 men were appointed and there seems to have been some difficulty in serving as many are noted as absent at several meetings. Another transcript from the 27th of March 1638 show that the two men were Henry Carter and William Bain, although this time the township is listed as Greenhalgh with Thistleton (Kirkham Parish Misc. n.d.).
- 5.6 Yates's map of 1786 shows Thistleton as well built on by this time, with a building on, or close to, the location of the barn. The listed 17th century cottage “By-The-Way” is shown, as are a number of other listed farmhouses from the 18th century (IoE no.'s 183584; 183588; 183587; 183586).
- 5.7 The population of Greenhalgh with Thistleton in 1801 was 378, rising to 403 by 1811 (Baines 1824a, 654). The tithe map for Greenhalgh and Thistleton, made in 1838, shows that by this time the barn had been extended to the south. The Schedule shows that the land was owned by Richard and Joseph Walker and that the site occupied by the brothers Robert and William Walker. The first entry is for plots 115 and 116, which lie opposite the barn, and were listed as “Homesteads, gardens and sites” and with the plot containing the barn (123) as “Garden and site” (see table 1 for a full listing). The brothers were still present during the 1841

census, where the brothers appear to be twins, both aged 45. Their sisters Elizabeth and Jane also lived with them as well as 5 farm hands. Little had changed by the time of the 1847 OS map. The 1851 census records a little more information, showing that Robert and William were joint partners as farmers of 100 acres and their sisters were house keepers. The ages have also changed, suggesting that Robert was 2 years older than his brother. Their business had expanded by the time of the 1861 census, showing that they were farmers of 152 acres. Trade directories of the time give little information, simply giving a list of farmers in Thistleton, of which Robert Walker is listed among them (Kelly 1864). The population of the township during this year was 383 (ibid).

- 5.8 William Millar inherited Thistleton in 1865 aged 15, and in August of 1870 his coming of age was celebrated in the village with a day long programme of events for both tenantry and villagers (Park 2010, 47). By the time of the 1871 census the Walker brothers were no longer at the property. Unfortunately, the census does not record the house name or number, so it is difficult to say who lived there. However, in 1861 the Walker brothers were listed between John Nottingham's family and John Salthouse's family. These families were still present in the 1871 census with James Gornall residing in the property between. He lived there with his wife Ellen and his Grandson Joseph, as well as his niece Ann. His occupation is listed as a farmer of 13 acres and his age is 80. It seems likely that at this time the plot containing the barn was sold off along with much of the other land once the Walkers vacated. However, as expected, given his age, the 1881 census does not record him at the property, but it does show that his grandson was living with James and Ellen Nottingham, listed as their son, suggesting that they adopted him. James Gornall does not appear in the trade directories for 1873, suggesting that he died soon after the census. The trade directory also notes that the sole landowner in Thistleton was Mr. William Miller (Kelly 1873). James Hull appears in the 1873 directory however, and it is presumed that his family took over the property, living between the other families. Although he was dead by the time of the 1881 census, his widow Margaret lived there with her 2 sons and 2 daughters. She is listed as a farmer of 95 acres.



5.9 Margaret Hull had died by 1891, with her son Richard taking over and living there with his two nieces. The 1893 OS mapping shows that by this time the barn had been extended into its present 'L' shaped plan and that the stable to the west had also been built. By 1901 The Hull family had moved on and it is supposed that it was taken over by John Tuson, given his proximity to the Salthouses. However, by the following 1911 census, both Tuson and the Salthouses had moved on, making it impossible to say who occupied the property. The 1911 OS mapping shows that little had been done to the site. The internal divisions are shown, however, with the northern end of the barn shown as a separate unit and the western end of the shippon as an addition. By the time of the 1832 OS mapping, again, little had been altered. A small extension was added to the rear of the western stable and the barn is called House Farm for the first time. The outlying stable does not appear until the 1838 OS map.

Table 1: Land use at time of 1838 tithe

Land Owner	Occupier	Plot	Name	State
Richard and Joseph Walker	Robert and William Walker	114	-	-
		115	Homesteads Gardens and sites	Garden
		116	Homesteads Gardens and sites	Garden
		123	Garden and site	Garden
		104	Croft at home	Meadow
		82	Kiln Croft	Pasture
		11	Ten Acre	Meadow
		16	Long Ray	Arable
		14	Little Ray	Arable
		65	Higher Moor	Arable
		70	Great Moor Hey	Pasture
		64	Little Moor Hey	Pasture
		75	Little calf house field	Pasture
		74	Great calf house field	Arable
		76	Lame bulls	Pasture
		72	Nearer Ben Furlong	Arable
		73	Further Ben Furlong	Arable
		185	Mill Field	Pasture
		190	Mill Barn Meadow	Meadow
		189	Nearer Mill Barn Field	Arable
		188	Further Mill Barn Field	Arable
		202	Nixon's Mofs	Arable
		213	Nearer Mofs	Pasture
		224	Nearer Moor Hey	Arable
		233	Further Moor Hey	Meadow
		236	Nearer Carr	Meadow
234	Further Carr	Meadow		
235	Little Carr	Meadow		
163	-	-		

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

General Description

6.1 (Plates 1 - 9). The farm is set up in an 'L' shaped layout and consists of a three bay threshing barn with attached shippon with a small two bay stable opposite. To the northwest is a small single story three bay stable which also forms a part of the survey. All of the buildings were of brick, although the size and form varied and will be noted below. The roofs were all of welsh slate. The rear face of the barn faces onto Thistleton Road with a small garden in-between. Access is via a small track along the north side of the barn leading into the farm yard with the 2 bay stable at the western end. The 3 bay stable lies in a separate field. Opposite the site lies Lodge Farm.

Barn

Exterior

6.2 West elevation (Plate 10). This forms the main front of the barn. In the centre of the face is a large projecting porch built of an orange brick and has a double pitched roof. Within this lies the large barn door, with depressed arch lintel and sandstone keystone (Plate 11). A pair of large timber doors is hung. To the north of the porch is a stable doorway at the northern end of the face. This has a heavy sandstone lintel. Above, is a patch of repair, suggesting the doorway is a later insertion. Between this doorway and the porch is a small timber lean-to. To the south of the porch, the face is obscured by a single story brick lean-to, in a very bad condition. A timber framed window lies in the centre of the face with a doorway to the north, and the asbestos sheet roofing has begun to collapse. Above this the face of the barn is blank with the exception of two sets of triangular vent holes in the brickwork. The bricks of the barn are a reddish brown, hand-made and measure $8 \frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 4$ ".

6.3 South elevation (Plates 12 & 13). This forms the gable end of the building. The ground floor is obscured by the attached shippon. Above this the face is visible and featureless with the exception of small patches of rebuilding.

- 6.4 East elevation (Plate 14). This forms the rear of the building, facing towards Thistleton Road. In the centre of the face is a large blocked barn door, with straight joints marking its location (Plate 15). To the north and south of this the face has a pattern of three sets of vent holes within the brickwork. In the southern end, these holes have been partially blocked by the insertion of a timber framed square window, the rebuilding around it quite evident. At the northern end of the barn is a similar timber framed window, although this has a heavy sandstone lintel and has been inserted to replace the previous doorway (Plate 16).
- 6.5 North elevation (Plates 17 & 18). This forms the other gable end of the building. At the northern end is a stable door hung with a heavy timber door. To the south of this, slightly south of centre, is a timber framed casement window. Both have heavy, dressed sandstone lintels. Above these are a series of 5 diamond pattern vent holes, and an owl hole close to the apex.

Interior

- 6.6 The main barn area (Plates 19 – 26) has an earth floor, bare brick walls and the ceiling is open to the rafters. A large hand cut timber king post truss supports the roof to the southern side with an internal wall supporting the roof to the north. This wall contains a blocked doorway at ground floor level to the east side and two large openings at first floor level, leading to a hay loft above the northern stables. The truss is supported to the east and west by large brick built triangular pillars projecting from the walls. The eastern contains a small niche with a pointed lintel formed of bricks. To the north of this a pair of straight joints are visible in the wall, marking the blocked barn doorway. Opposite this is the main barn door entrance. At the base of each of the jambs lie sandstone blocks, each containing a groove into which a timber board has been inserted. At the southern end of the east wall is an inserted window and at the eastern end of the southern wall a doorway has been inserted leading through to the shippon.
- 6.7 The western stable room (Plates 27 – 29) is accessed via the doorway in the west elevation. The floor has been concreted, the walls whitewashed, and the ceiling

replaced with modern timber. Two large machine cut timber beams span the room north – south, with soffits close to the centre. Timber posts lie at the eastern end, well worn by horses. Finally, in the northern wall is a timber framed casement window. To the east of this room is a small store room (Plate 30), accessed via the doorway in the north gable. This likewise has a concrete floor and modern timber ceiling. The walls have been whitewashed, although in the southern wall a blocked doorway leading into the main barn is still visible. In the north end of the east wall is a timber framed window, which has been inserted in place of a door. The brick built lean-to on the west elevation of the barn was badly damaged, but the interior showed plaster board walls and ceiling and a concrete floor (Plate 31).

Shippon

Exterior

6.8 North elevation (Plates 32 - 36). This forms the main long frontage of the shippon. At the eastern end, within bay 1, is a square timber framed window with sandstone cill and lintel, with a cattle doorway to the west of it in bay 2. This doorway has sandstone blocks in the jamb and is hung with a timber sliding door. West of this again is bay 3, where a gable has been formed with large blocked cart door opening in the centre. The lintel of this is a depressed arch formed of bricks with a sandstone keystone, and two sandstone blocks lie in each of the former jambs. A square timber frame casement window has been inserted in the centre of the former opening. Bay 4 contains a further window, similar to the first, with a blocked doorway to the west of it. Immediately west of the door is a rough joint in the brickwork and the roof line steps up, showing the end of the shippon and the beginning of a later extension. This is also shown in the bricks, with those to the east having similar form and measurements to those of the barn, whereas the western bricks are larger (9 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 3 x 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "") and pressed. Bay 5, begins this extension with a cattle doorway, hung with sliding door and a sandstone lintel above. A square timber framed window lies to the west of this in bay 6, likewise with sandstone lintel and cill. Within bay 7 a gable has once again been formed, to match that in bay 3. It likewise contains the large blocked cart door opening with inserted window and the cart door surround matches that of the previous. Finally,

bay 8 is recessed from the rest of the face. This contains a personnel doorway in the east end with a heavy dressed sandstone lintel. Immediately to the west of this is a small timber framed portrait window with sandstone cill and lintel. The lintels of the door and window differ, which may suggest that the window is a later insertion, although the brickwork does not suggest such.

- 6.9 West elevation (Plates 36 & 37). The west elevation is formed of a short section where it joins the barn and the gable end to the west. The section joining the barn is heavily overgrown, but contains a timber framed casement window and a doorway to the north of it. The gable is featureless although the corners are formed of bullnosed bricks.
- 6.10 South elevation (Plates 37 - 39). This forms the rear of the shippon. It is relatively featureless and a straight joint runs down the face near the centre, marking the beginning of the later western extension. The western end contains a single timber framed square window towards the eastern side, whereas the eastern half has two such windows. In line with the straight joint the roof line is also raised, further demarking the extension.
- 6.11 East elevation (Plate 40). This section of the elevation faces onto Thistleton Road and joins the barn to the north. In the centre of the face is a large timber framed casement window with sandstone lintel and cill. The face is otherwise featureless, with the exception of evidence of rebuilding at the southern corner. At the north end a straight joint shows where the shippon butts the barn.

Interior

- 6.12 The whole of the shippon interior (Plates 41 - 50) had been modernised, with concrete floor, containing a drainage channel and concrete boskins throughout. The ceiling was open to the machine cut timber rafters. At the eastern end, to the south of the barn, a machine cut timber king post truss supports the roof. Within this area, a doorway lies in the north end of the west wall, with a timber framed casement window to the south of it. These were obscured by vegetation on the

exterior. The feeding passage runs south along the east wall before turning to run west along the south wall.

- 6.13 To the west of this, bays one and two are combined with a machine cut timber king post truss supporting the roof in the centre and contains three concrete boskins. Bay three is separated by brick walls, with openings inserted within to allow the feeding passage to continue and to create a continuous shippon. Bay four likewise has brick supporting walls. The western of these walls was the end of the shippon, prior to the extension, although now openings have once again been inserted to allow the feeding passage to continue and the shippon to be continuous. Bays 3 and 4 each contain a single boskin. To the west bays five and six match 1 and 2, being open with a king post truss supporting the roof in the centre. West of this is bay 7 which is identical to bay 3, both having the gable in the north wall and inserted openings in the east and west walls. Finally, bay 8 is accessed via a personnel doorway at the western end of the feeding passage from bay 7. This is raised, with a step down at the northern end, to match the external ground level. The room itself is small, with a doorway and window in the north wall. Throughout the whole of the shippon, the walls have been whitewashed and rendered at low level.

Stable

Exterior

- 6.14 East elevation (Plate 51). This forms the front elevation of the two story stable with a stable door at the southern end in bay 1 and a timber framed window to the north of it. Both have sandstone lintels and the window has a sandstone cill. The north jamb of the door also contains a sandstone block. Bay 2 is identical to this, although the sandstone block is in the southern jamb. The bricks are wire cut and measure $9 \times 3 \times 4 \frac{1}{4}$ ".
- 6.15 South elevation (Plate 52). This forms the gable end of the building. The face is featureless save for a timber framed portrait window with sandstone cill and lintel at first floor level.

6.16 West elevation (Plate 53). This elevation is featureless although the majority of the face is blocked by the corrugated metal sheet lean-to, which was partially collapsed.

6.17 North elevation (Plates 54 & 55). This forms the other gable end of the building. It is once again featureless although a doorway with sandstone lintel lies at first floor level. In front of this are the timber remains of the landing of a staircase, which has since perished.

Interior

6.18 The interior of the stable (Plates 56 – 59) is divided into two rooms separated by an internal wall. Both sides are similar, with a door and window in the east wall, machine cut timber ceiling and whitewashed brick walls. The floor of the each is of bricks, although within the northern room large timber sleepers have created a raised floor at the west side. The first floor hay loft was inaccessible.

Out-lying Stable

Exterior

6.19 West elevation (Plates 60 & 61). This forms the front of the 3 bay stable. Stable doors lie at the southern end of each of the bays, although the door itself has fall off from the northern bay. The face is otherwise featureless and the bricks are machine made.

6.20 North elevation (Plates 61 & 62). This forms the gable end of the building and is featureless with the exception of a few vent holes formed through the insertion of ceramic pipe, towards the apex.

6.21 East elevation (Plates 62 & 63). This forms the rear of the building. A timber framed windows lies in the centre of each bays, each having a sandstone cill and chamfered lintel.

6.22 South elevation (Plates 60 & 63). This forms the other gable end of the building and is identical to it. A concrete wall projects south from the eastern side of the face before turning to the west, to form an 'L' shaped enclosure to the south of the building.

Interior

6.23 The interior of the stable (Plates 64 & 65) shows the machine cut timber roof construction supported on the internal brick walls. The floors of the northern and central bays have been robbed out, but the southern bay still retains its brick surface. The walls are all whitewashed and rendered at a low level.

7. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

7.1 The farm buildings appear to have developed over the course of the 18th and 19th centuries, with the barn first, followed by a three stage development of the shippon and the erection of the 2 bay stable.

Phase 1: Mid to Late 18th century

7.2 Although often thought of as a warehouse for the storage of crops, most barns should be considered as factories where raw materials were processed into finished products and stored only temporarily (Brunskill 2000). Many barns were originally intended for hand-flail threshing, and it appears that this was the case at House Farm. The harvested crop was stored either in the barn or in a stack near to the barn, depending upon the size of the yield. When the time came the crop was carried to the barn for threshing. The hand flail was the normal method, from the medieval period until almost the middle of the 19th century. This provided work for the farm hands during the winter months. The space in which this activity took place was called the threshing floor which was usually a specially prepared surface in the barn. At House Farm the threshing area was earthen, although flagstone could have robbed out. A tall, unobstructed area was needed with good light for seeing the grains of corn. House farm barn is typical in that the area of the threshing floor is open to the roof. Also, the western door did not extend down to the threshold but left a gap of about 450mm which could be filled with removable boards set into grooves in each door post. Likewise, the barn had large doors opposite one another so that the natural draft would winnow the ears. Although the eastern doorway has since gone at House Farm barn, the blocking is evident, showing its former location. Further, the doorways would both have been tall, thus allowing carts to pass through.

7.3 To the north of the barn the stables were inserted later. However, the internal wall appears to be original, with a doorway leading through to the north bay. This was built as a single unit, with the division inserted later, likely when it became used as a stable. Above this northern bay the hay loft was open to the barn proper, with two large pitching doorways in the north wall.

- 7.4 That the barn appears on Yates map of 1786 shows that the barn was present by this time. This is also suggested by the brick size and form, which suggest an 18th century date. A mid 18th century date is suggested as the barn has a modified plan, with the northern bay separate and the whole is completely brick built and does not show any evidence of having had a timber cruck frame, An interesting feature of note is the niche within the eastern brick column, possibly for holding a light source.

Phase 2: Late 18th Century to Early 19th Century

- 7.5 The shippon was originally a small building which just extended southwards, as shown on the tithe map. This would have been small for a shippon and may more likely have started life as a stable. At this time the stable to the west of the yard was still not built. That it postdates the barn is apparent by the straight joint where it joins it, although only a subtle rough joint and rebuilding at the southern end of the east elevation shows that it ended at this point. The bricks are very similar in form and size to those of the barn. However, as it post-dates it a date of late 18th to early 19th century has been given, although may be closer to that of the barn.

Phase 3: Mid-19th century (c. 1847 – 1861?).

- 7.6 The shippon was later extended to the west, by four bays. This contained a cart shed in bay three and likely a stable in bay 4. The cart shed is apparent by the large opening within the gable, although now blocked. Bay four is thought to be a stable as it has a separate doorway (now blocked) with window to the side, along with a further window in the opposite wall. It lies next to the cart shed suggesting it was for the cart horse. It is also likely that at this time the doorway from the barn through to the shippon was inserted, to allow access from the barn to a short feeding passage, with the cows entering via the western door, formerly for the horses. It is usual to find a hay loft over the shippon (Brunskill 1981), but this is not the case here. This is possibly due to it being converted from use as a stable and the insertion of the doorway to barn meant that access to the barn's hayloft was readily available. The date has been derived from both mapping and the construction. This does not appear on the 1838 tithe map or the 1847 OS map, but

it was already present and extended by the time of the 1893 OS map. The bricks are also comparable to those of the barn, which may suggest an earlier date, however, it more likely represents the reclamation of an earlier structure.

Phase 4: Mid to Late 19th century (c. 1861? – 1893).

7.7 The shippon was again extended to the west by a further 4 bays and another cart shed put in with rooms flanking to each side. The horse box in bay 8 was smaller than that of bay 4. This suggests that by this time the western stable was built, as the shortened last bay would have made it easier to get a horse in and out. The bricks of the stable also suggest that it was erected earlier than the shippon extension, being rough and wire cut, rather than pressed. It is suggested that the two bay stable was erected not long after phase 3, but before the shippon was extended by 1893.

Phase 5: Early to Mid 20th Century.

7.7 This phase saw the cart sheds and horse boxes of the shippon knocked through to create a single large shippon block, as evidenced by the inserted doorways through the cart shed walls and the concreted floor and drainage channel. The out-lying stable was erected between 1832 and 1838.

7.8 The reasons for the expansion of the barn and the creation of first one and then two cart sheds can be seen through the census records. Here we can see that the Walker brothers increased their acreage from 100 acres in 1851 to 152 acres by 1861. This represents phase 3 above, seeing the extension of the shippon and the inclusion of a cart shed. The Walkers had left by 1871, which may coincide with William Millar inheriting Thistleton in 1865. The land occupied by the Walker brothers was owned in 1838 by Richard and Joseph Walker (presumably) relatives of Robert and John. It is known that by 1873 William Millar was the sole land owner, and it is assumed that the land was sold to Millar and the Walkers vacated the property between 1865 and 1871. Although the next owners are difficult to ascertain, it is apparent that the farming business continued to thrive, as the stable

was built and shippon was likely extended in phase 4, after the Walker brothers had left.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The farm has undergone considerable changes over its life, starting with the 18th century threshing barn. This later had a stable added to the south which was converted to a shippon, with a cart shed and attached horse box. A further extension saw another cart shed and horse box added, along with a separate stable. Finally, the whole was knocked through to create a single 'L' shaped shippon and a further stable erected in the neighbouring field.

- 8.2 The building analysis and historical research show how the farm buildings developed and the farming business thrived on the site, especially over the 19th century. The buildings were successfully recorded as set out in the methodology.

9. ARCHIVE

- 9.1 The archive resulting from the building recording will be deposited with the Lancashire County Record Office in a format to be agreed with the Archives Officer and within a timescale to be agreed with the Specialist Archaeological Advisor or the Planning Officer (Archaeology).
- 9.2 The site archive shall be prepared and stored according to the UKIC Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term- storage (1990) and the Museum and Galleries Commission Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections (1992) 'Standards for the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives'.
- 9.3 A copy of this report will be supplied to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record in Adobe Acrobat 'pdf.' format on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period (six months after completion of the field work unless another date is agreed). A copy of the report will also be supplied to the Local Planning Authority responsible for the planning decision.
- 9.4 The archaeological contractor will complete the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form. Once a report has become a public document by submission into the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) LCCAS may place the information on a web-site. Unless we hear to the contrary it will be assumed that our client is agreeable to this. Provision and agreement will be made for the appropriate academic publication of any results that are not to form part of further work.

10. COPYRIGHT

- 10.1 Full copyright of this commissioned report and other project documents shall be retained by the author of the report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abbreviations

CIfA	Chartered Institute for archaeologists
IoE	Images of England
LRO	Lancashire Record Office
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
OS	Ordnance Survey

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Kelly's Directory of Lancashire 1898

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Census Returns

Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1841 MF 24/2
Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1851 MF 25/180
Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1861 MF 26/147
Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1871 RG 10/4220
Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1881 RG 11/4250
Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1891 RG 12/3450
Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1901 RG 13/3964
Census Returns for Greenhalgh with Thistleton 1911 RG 13/3964

Maps

1786 Yates Map of Lancashire
1838 Greenhalgh with Thistleton Tithe Map
1847 OS map 1:10,000 Lancashire Sheet 51
1893 OS map 1:2500 Lancashire sheet 51.8
1911 OS map 1:2500 Lancashire sheet 51.8
1932 OS map 1:2500 Lancashire sheet 51.8

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Figure 7: 1932 OS map 1:1250 scale

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Figure 9: Barn and shippon sections

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Figure 13: Photographic Register

Figure 14: General Photo location plan

Figure 15: Building Photo location plan



Figure 1: Location plan showing barn, stable and modern outlying stable



Figure 2: Detail of Yates's 1786 map showing Thistleton with the barn highlighted

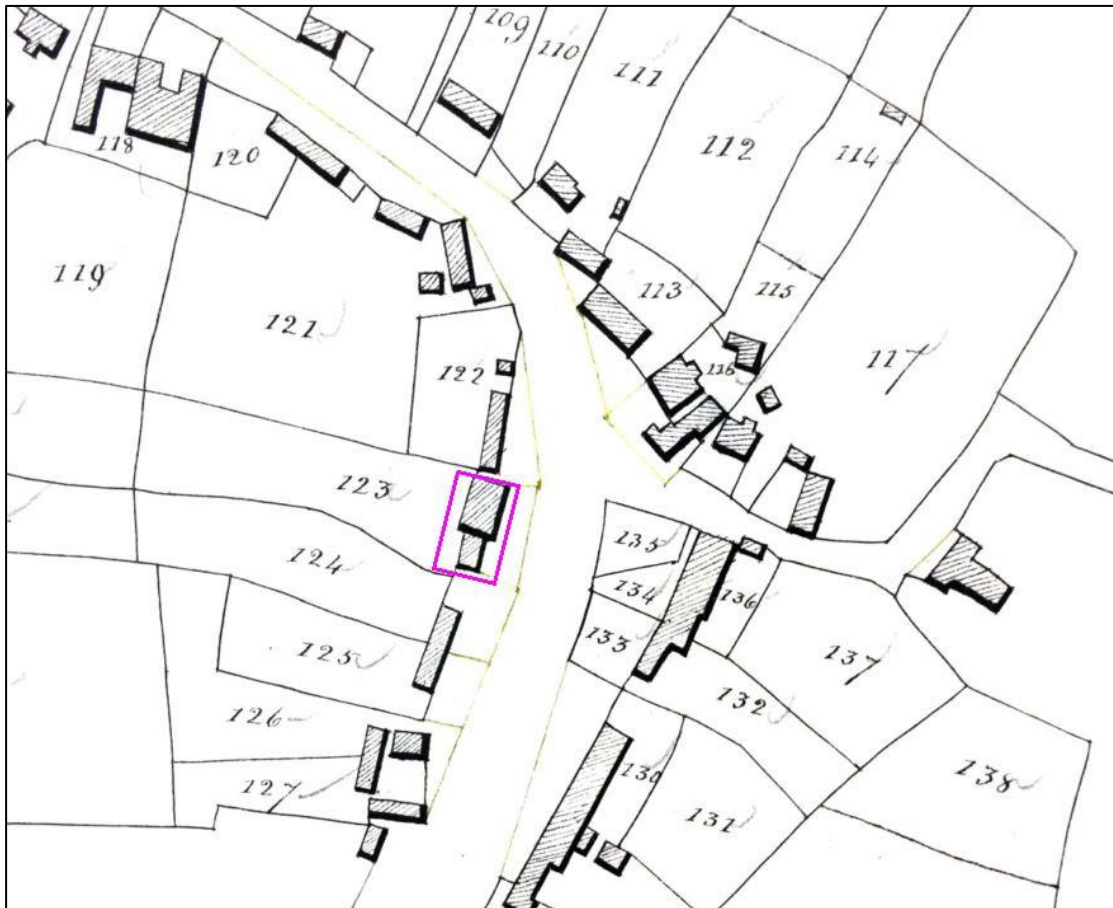


Figure 3: 1838 Tithe map of Greenhagh with Thistleton, showing the barn and extension

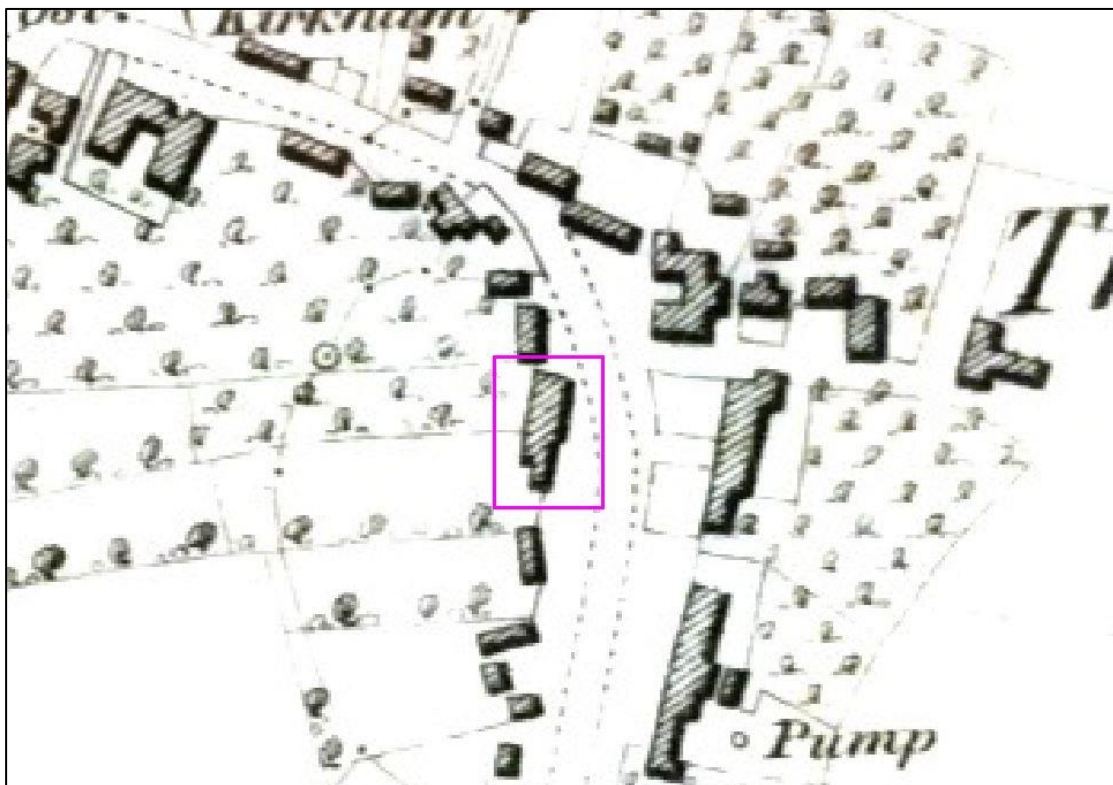


Figure 4: Detail of 1847 first edition OS map

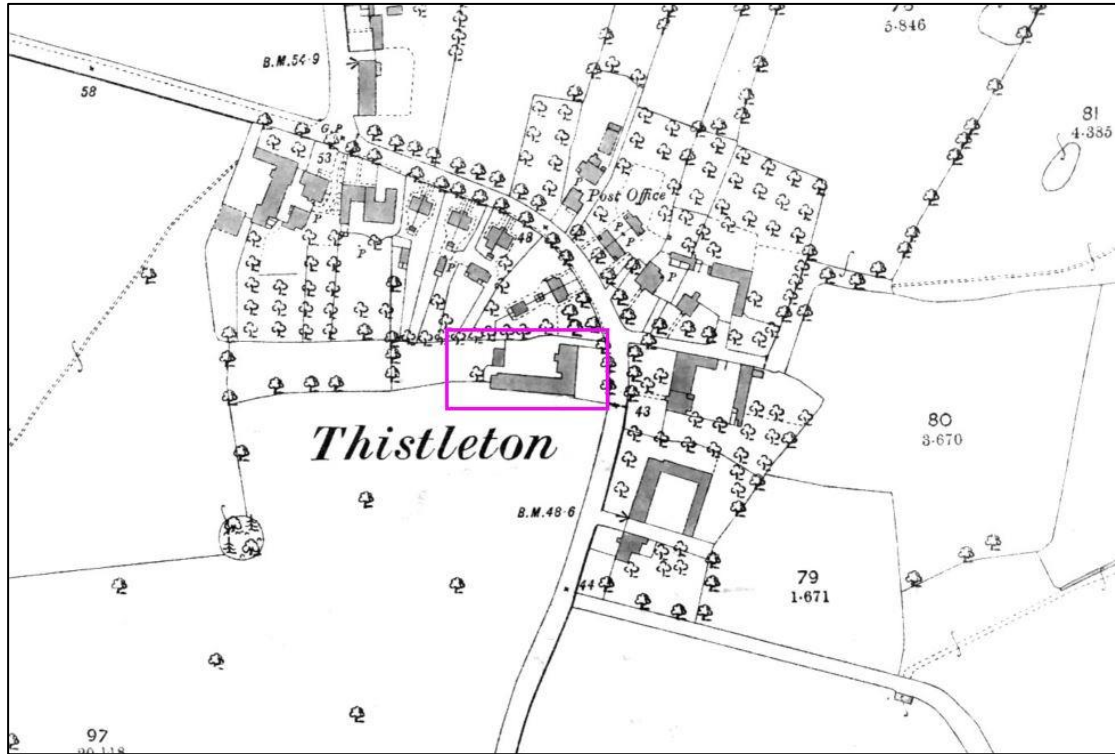


Figure 5: 1893 OS map showing the 'L' shaped barn and stable

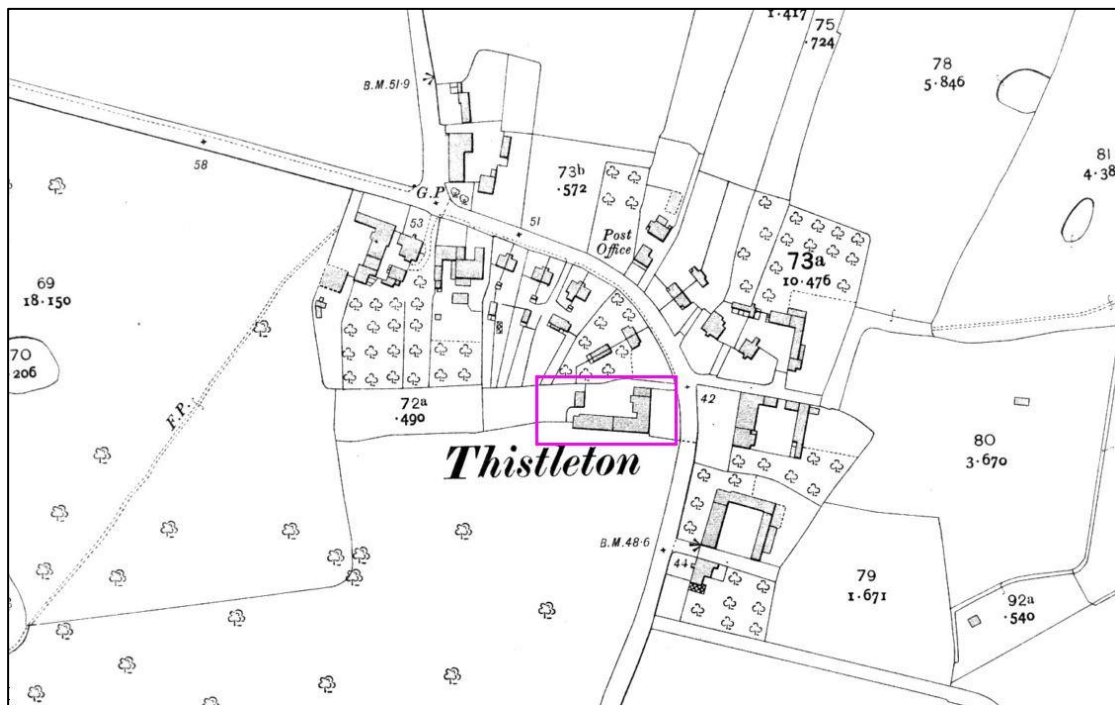


Figure 6: 1911 OS map showing the 'L' shaped barn and stable

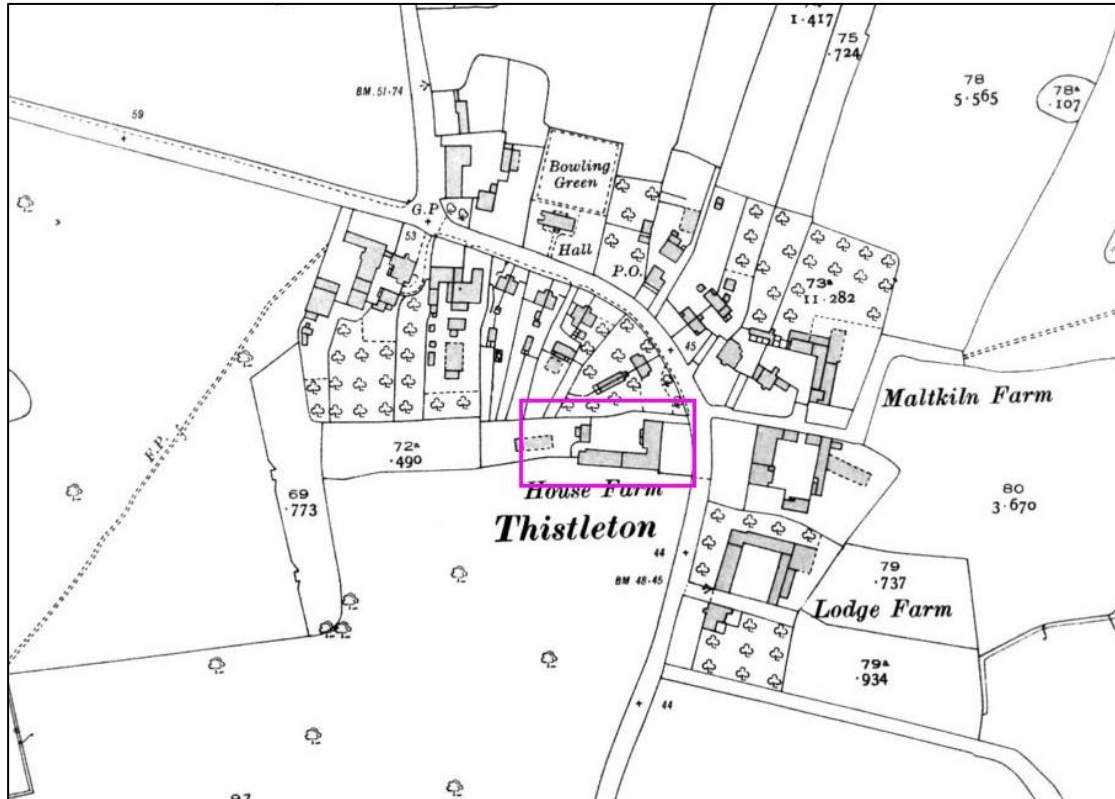


Figure 7: 1932 OS map showing the 'L' shaped barn and stable. Note that the modern outlying stable has yet to be built.

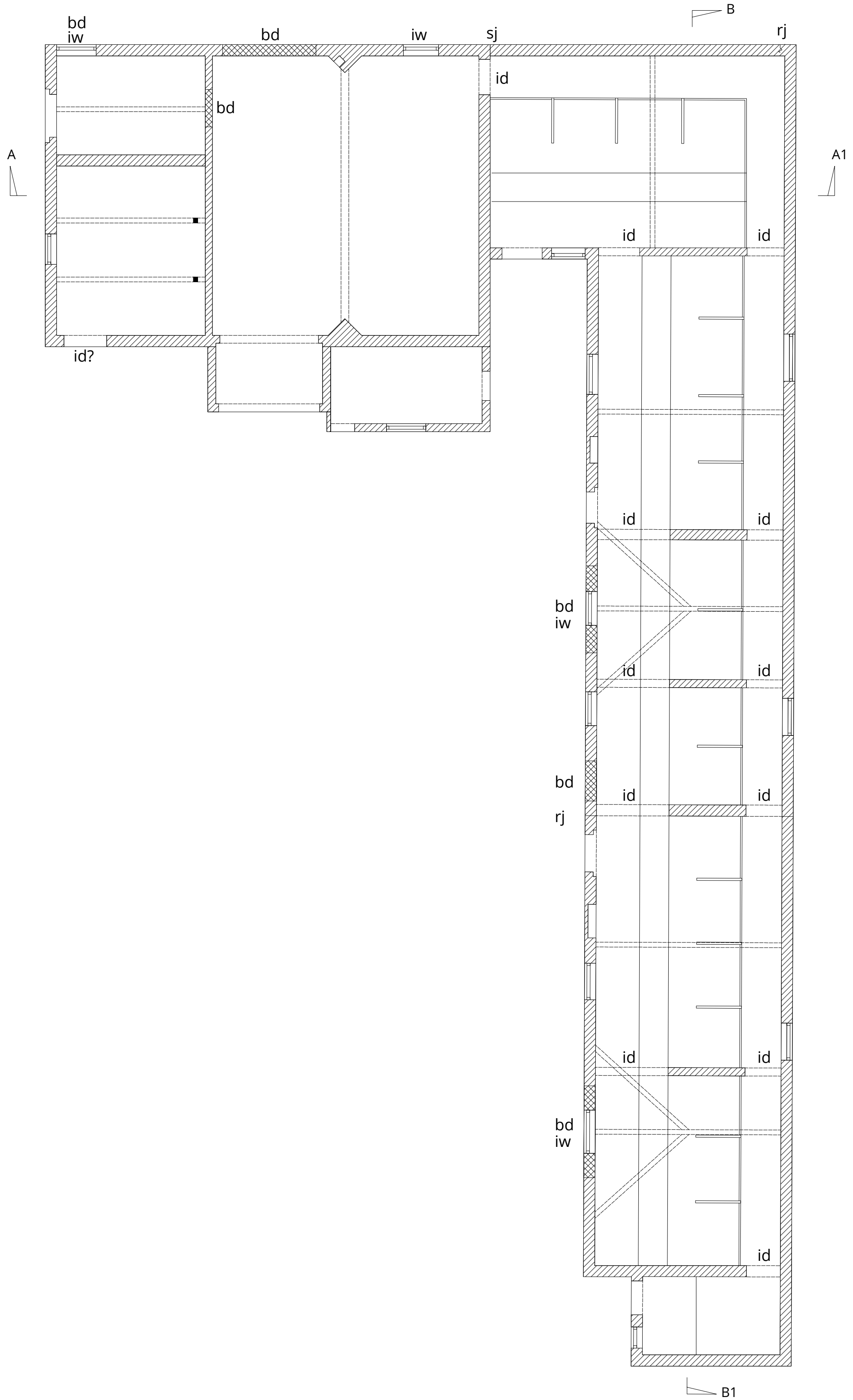


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key

bd - blocked door
id - inserted door
bw - blocked window
iw - inserted window
rj - rough joint
sj - straight joint



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Figure 8: Plan of barn and
shippon

Scale: 1:100 @ A2

Date: March 2015

0 5 10m

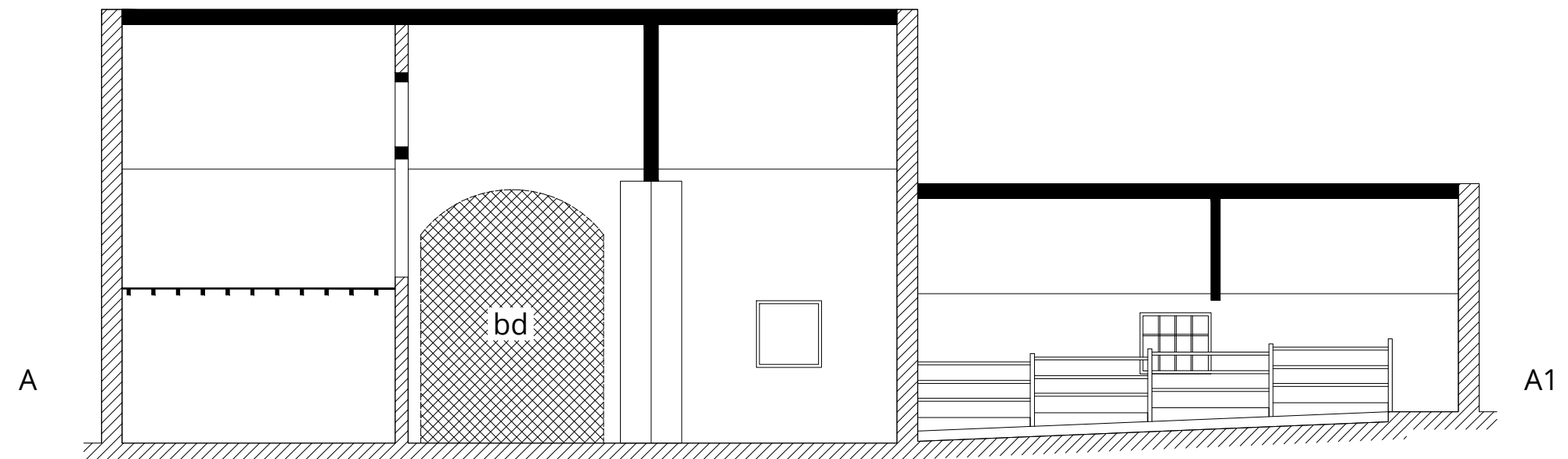
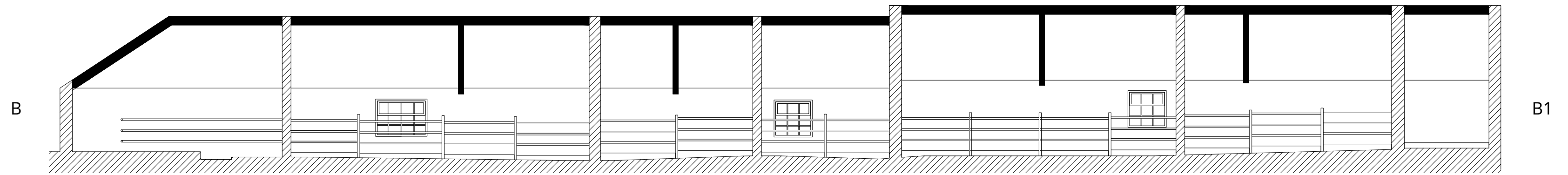
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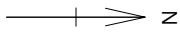
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Figure 9: Sections through
barn and shippon

Scale: 1:100 @ A2

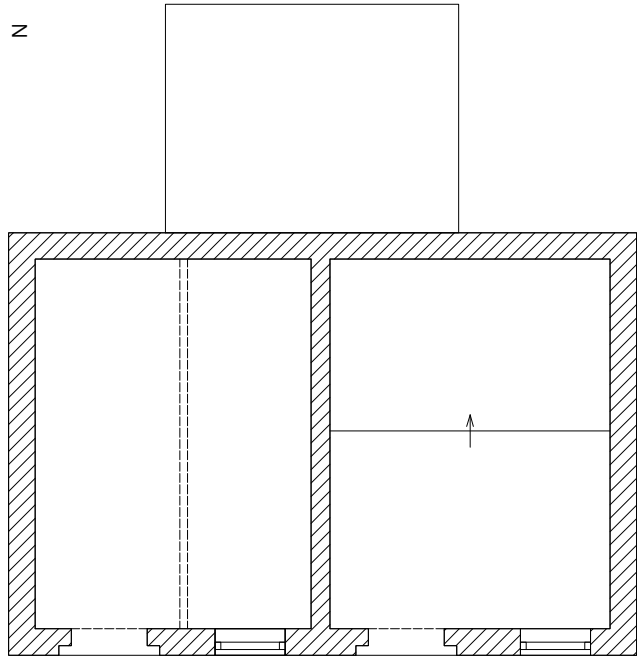
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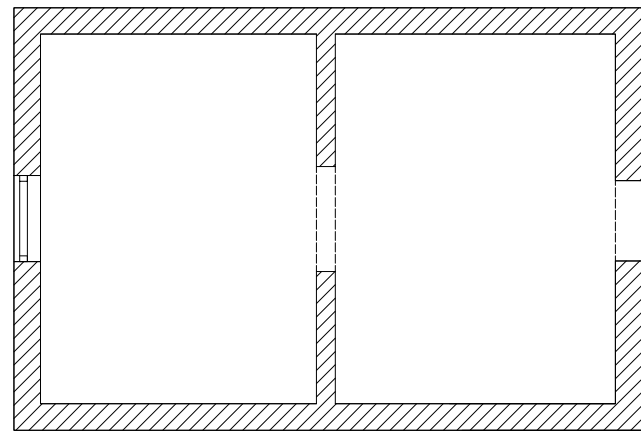


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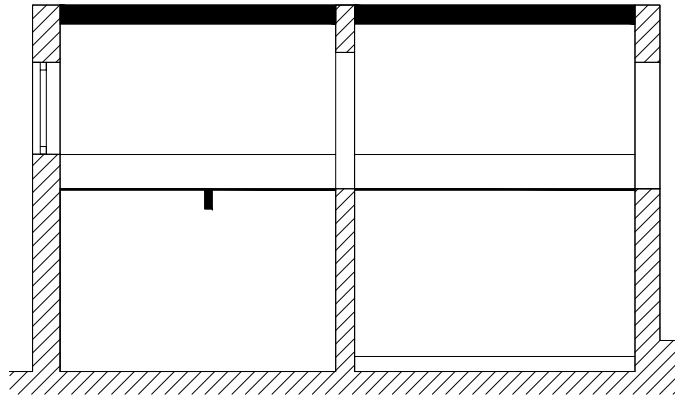
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ground floor plan



first floor plan



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Figure 10: Plan and section of
stable

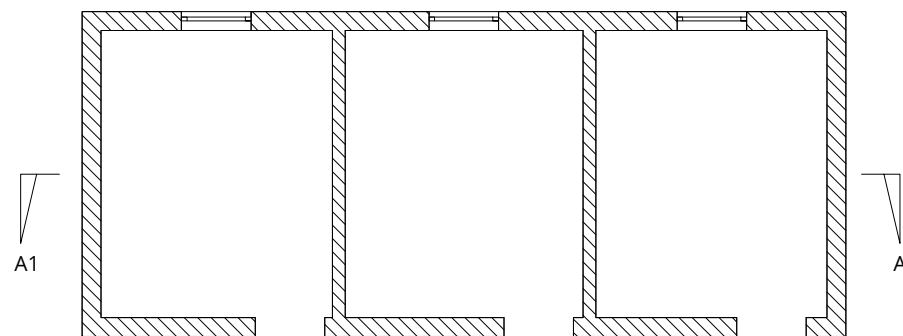
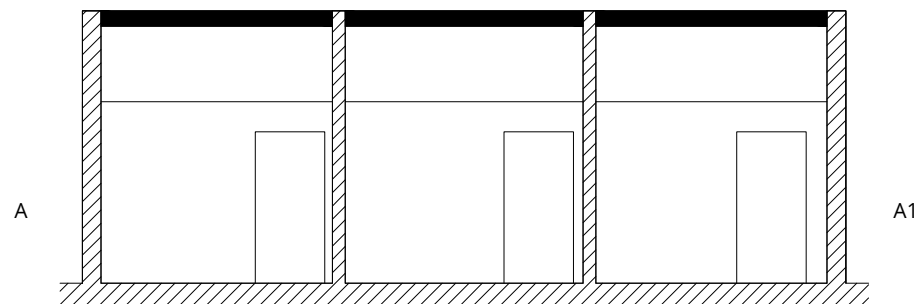
Scale: 1:100 @ A4

Date: March 2015



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Figure 11: Out-lying stable
plan and section

Scale: 1:100 @ A4

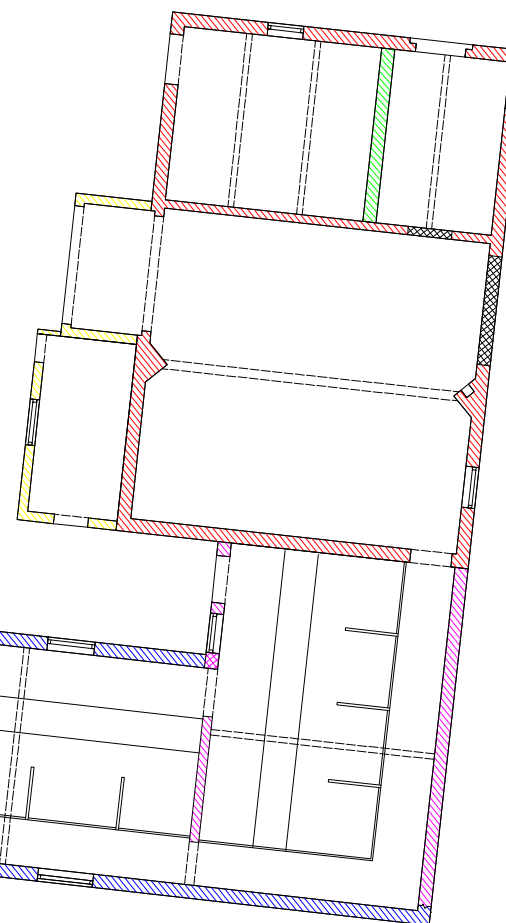
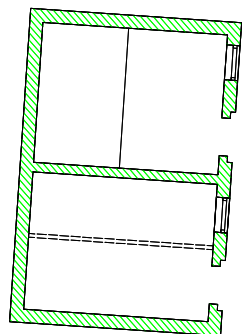
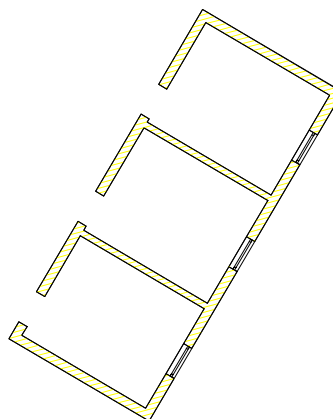
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out-lying barn



-  Mid to Late 18th Century
-  Late 18th to Early 19th Century
-  Mid-19th Century (c. 1847 - 1861?)
-  Mid to Late 19th century (c. 1861? - 1893)
-  Early to Mid 20th Century

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Figure 12: Phased site plan

Scale: 1:200 @ A4

Date: March 2015

0 5 10m

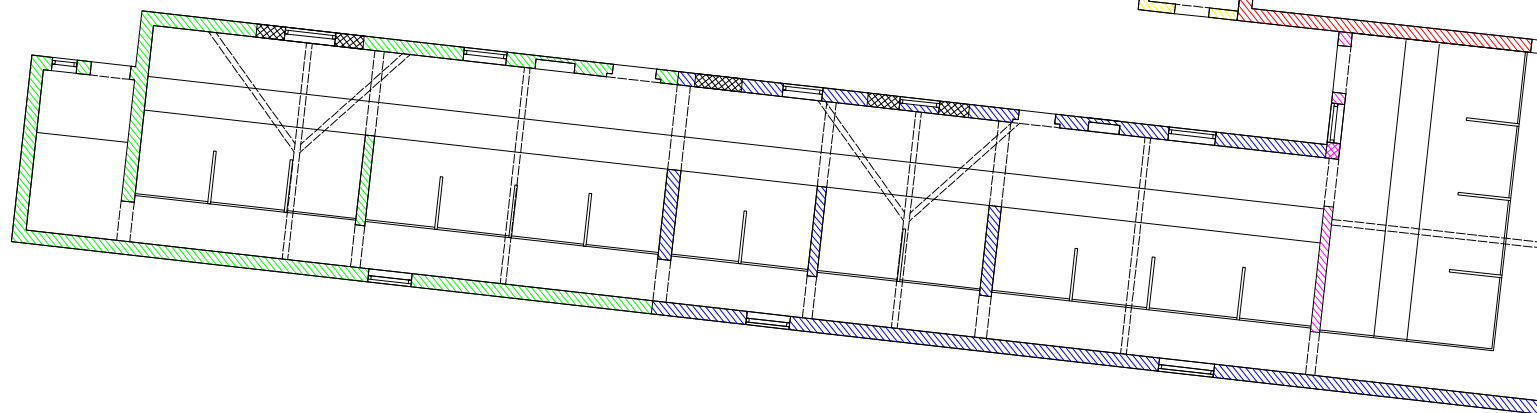


Figure 13: Photograph Register

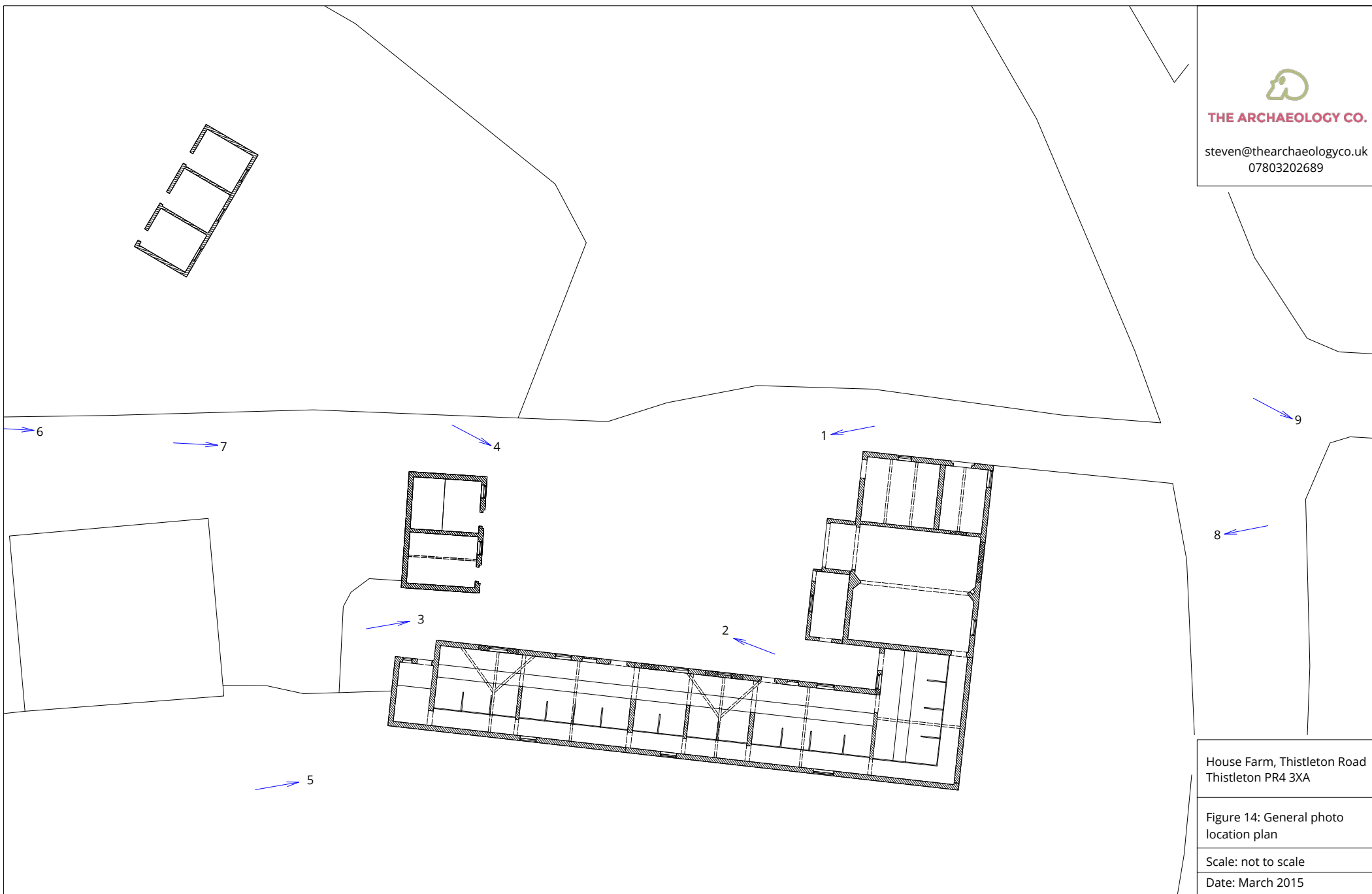
Plate No.	Digital No.	Film/Frame	Description	View to
1	P3165748	2/22	General shot of the farm yard looking west towards the two bay stable (right).	W
2	P3165749	2/23	Shot of the yard looking Northwest showing 2 bay stable with 3 bay outlying stable to the right in separate field.	W
3	P3165750	2/24	Yard as viewed from the east, with the gable of the two bay stable (left) and barn (centre).	E
4	P3165751	2/25	Yard viewed from the northwest showing barn (left) and attached shippon.	SE
5	P3165661	1/9	General shot of the farm from the south showing the long rear face of the shippon with barn (right) and two bay stable (left) beyond.	E
6	P3165719	2/14	Shot from the west showing 3 bay outlying stable (left) and 2 bay stable (right)	E
7	P3165721	2/15	Rear of two bay stable with barn (left) and shippon (right) beyond	E
8	P3165753	2/26	Barn as viewed from Thistleton Road	W
9	P3165754	2/27	Lodge farm opposite house farm	SE
10	P3165650	1/1	Front (west) elevation	E
11	P3165677	1/22	Main barn door	E
12	P3165651	1/2	West elevation and southern gable	E
13	P3165665	1/12	Southern gable with east face of shippon	W
14	P3165666	1/13	East elevation showing blocked doorway and inserted windows	W
15	P3165667	1/14	Blocked barn door in east elevation	W
16	P3165668	1/15	Blocked doorway with inserted window	W
17	P3165671	1/16	Northern gable	SW
18	P3165672	1/17	Northern gable	SE
19	P3165685	1/27	Interior of barn showing barn door	NW
20	P3165686	1/28	Interior of barn showing blocked barn door	E
21	P3165688	1/30	Interior of barn showing inserted doorway to shippon in south gable	SE
22	P3165682	1/24	North internal wall showing blocked doorway and pitching windows to first floor	N
23	P3165683	1/25	Detail of blocked doorway	N
24	P3165684	1/26	Detail of king post truss	N
25	P3165681	1/23	Detail of timber board at base of barn door	SE
26	P3165687	1/29	Detail of niche in supporting column.	SE
27	P3165674	1/19	Interior of west stable room	SE
28	P3165675	1/20	Interior of west stable room	NW
29	P3165713	2/10	Detail of timbers in west stable room	SE
30	P3165673	1/18	East store room showing blocked doorway	S
31	P3165676	1/21	Interior of modern lean-to.	N
32	P3165653	1/3	East end of north elevation showing gable	SE

			with blocked cart doorway	
33	P3165654	1/4	West end of North elevation showing both gables and blocked doorway	SW
34	P3165655	1/5	Detail of blocked doorway and change in roof levels	S
35	P3165658	1/6	West end of north elevation showing western gable and blocked cart doorway	SE
36	P3165659	1/7	Recessed western end of north elevation and western gable	S
37	P3165660	1/8	West gable and wet end of south elevation	NE
38	P3165662	1/10	West and centre of south elevation	NW
39	P3165664	1/11	East end of south elevation	NW
40	P3165665	1/12	East elevation with faint rough joint to the left	W
41	P3165690	1/31	Eastern end of the shippon accessed via the barn	S
42	P3165691	1/32	As above, showing inserted doorway to barn (far right) and external doorway (left)	N
43	P3165692	1/33	Detail of truss	N
44	P3165693	1/34	Detail of external doorway and window, blocked from view externally	
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63	P3165728	2/21	West (front) elevation and north gable	N
64	P3165724	2/18	Interior of northern stable room	E
65	P3165723	2/17	Interior of southern stable room	E



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Figure 14: General photo
location plan

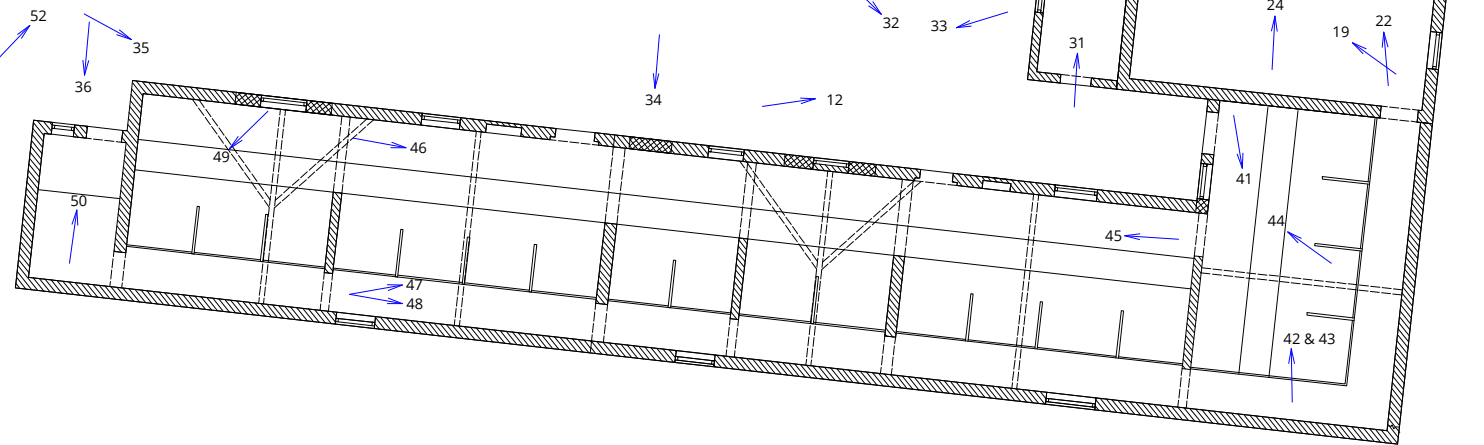
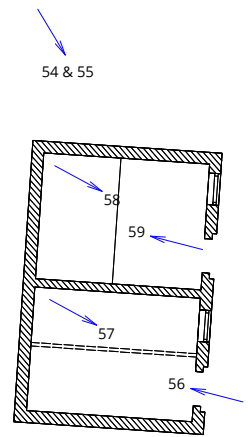
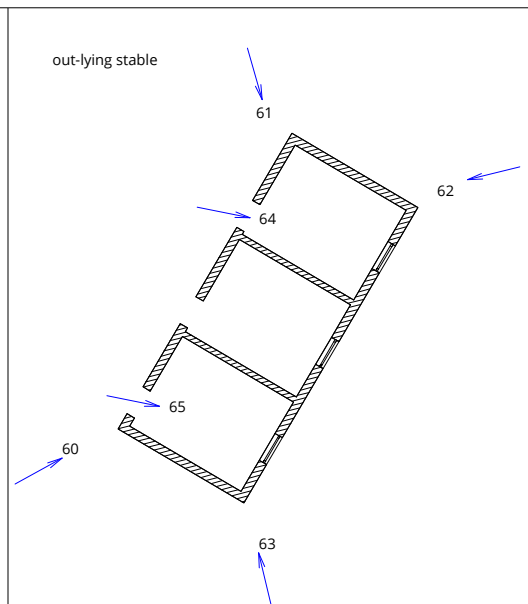
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Figure 15: Building photo
location plan

Scale: not to scale

Date: March 2015

Appendix 2: Plates

General



Plate 1: General shot of the farm yard looking west towards the two bay stable (right).



Plate 2: Shot of the yard looking Northwest showing 2 bay stable with 3 bay outlying stable to the right in separate field.



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Plate 4: Yard viewed from the northwest showing barn (left) and attached shippon.



Plate 5: General shot of the farm from the south showing the long rear face of the shippon with barn (right) and two bay stable (left) beyond.



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Plate 18: Northern gable



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Plate 20 Interior of barn showing blocked barn door



Plate 21: Interior of barn showing inserted doorway to shippon in south gable



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Plate 24: Detail of king post truss



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Plate 28: Interior of west stable room



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Shippon



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Plate 35: West end of north elevation showing western gable and blocked cart doorway



Plate 36: Recessed western end of north elevation and western gable



Plate 37: West gable and wet end of south elevation



Plate 38: West and centre of south elevation



Plate 39: East end of south elevation



Plate 40: East elevation with faint rough joint to the left



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Two Bay Stable



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Plate 58: Interior of northern stable room



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Plate 61: West (front) elevation and north gable



Plate 62: East (rear) elevation and north gable



Plate 63: East (rear) elevation and south gable



Plate 64: Interior of northern stable room



Plate 65: Interior of southern stable room