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*Historic Building Recording at Mearse Farm,
Inkberrow, Worcestershire*



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Mearse Farm, Inkberrow,
Worcestershire*

A report for WeatherArk Ltd

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1. Project Background

1.1. Location of the Site

The sprawling village of Inkberrow straddles the A422 Worcester to Stratford-on-Avon Road, close to the eastern country boundary of Worcestershire. Mearse Farm (NGR SP 0379 5857) is located around 2.5 kilometres to the north-east of the village core. The farm is set back from the A422 along an unadopted track, which also provides access to cottages, which may once have been part of the farm holdings. The farm lies on flattish ground with a gentle slope to the north. Inkberrow may be described as a large village with an historic core of buildings dating from the 16th and 17th century with later ribbon development following the main road.

1.2. Development Details

A planning application was made to Wychavon District Council by Peterson-Jones Architects of Martley, on behalf of WeatherArk Ltd, for conversion of existing farm buildings to provide domestic accommodation and associated infrastructure (reference W/1468-1469). The planning process determined that the proposed development was likely to affect buildings locally listed on the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record (HER). As a result, the Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council, placed a 'Programme of Building Recording' planning condition on the application, for which a brief of work was written (WHEAS 2005).

1.3. Reasons for the Historic Building Recording

The data contained within the Sites and Monuments Record suggested that the building conversion work would affect a building contained on the local list of historically important buildings. The brief of works states that:

'Farms, farmsteads and buildings that form them are an integral and significant part of Worcestershire's historic environment' (WHEAS 2005).

In such circumstances a programme of archaeological work is attached to planning conditions for any development. In this instance, an historic building recording was suggested to record the buildings prior to conversion.

2. Methods and Process

2.1. Project Specification

- ❑ The project conforms to the Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IFA 1999).
- ❑ The buildings were recorded to at least Level 1 as defined by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of England (RCHME 1996).
- ❑ The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Section, Worcestershire County Council (WHEAS 2005) and for which a project proposal and detailed specification was produced (Mercian Archaeology 2005).
- ❑ The project conforms to the service practice and health and safety policy as contained within the Mercian Archaeology Service Manual (Williams 2003)

2.2. Aims of the Project

The aims of the historic building recording were to compile an archive of the building(s) within their topographical setting. This was to consist of both written and photographic records. The results of the fieldwork were to be used to produce a report chronicling changes and development within the building(s) and where possible, to attach relative dates to individual phases of building. The documentary survey was to be used to assist the chronological phasing of the complex and also, to ascribe function and use to the building(s).

2.3. Background Research

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork all known relevant and available documentary and cartographic sources were consulted.

Documentary research was carried out at Worcestershire Record Office (WRO) and references held at East Sussex Records Office (ESRO) were followed up. The following sources were specifically consulted and were of use:

Cartographic Sources

Source	Reference Number
Inclosure Award and Plan (1817)	WRO BA 841, f926.481

Tithe Map and Apportionment of Inkberrow (1840)	WRO BA 1572, f770/367A
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25". Worcestershire Sheet XXX.11 and XXX.16 (1904)	

Other Primary Sources of Use

Source	Reference Number
Notes on farms in Inkberrow (circa 1914)	WRO BA 179, 259.9:2 (Held at Gloucester Records Office)
Book of War Agricultural Committee Food Production (circa 1918)	As above
Deeds relating to the Beauchamp holdings at Inkberrow	WRO BA 5589/18, 705:192
Letter from surveyor John Kenn, RE: Mearse Farm	ESRO ABE 6.5

Other Primary Sources Consulted (of little use)

Source	Reference Number
Will of Mary Holyoake (died 1718)	WRO Wills and Probate Index
Land Tax Assessments, Inkberrow	WRO BA 835/35 (iv) b152
Insurance documents relating to farm buildings in Knowle Field	WRO 9828/8

Secondary sources used are referenced within the report.

2.4. The Fieldwork Methodology

The building recording was undertaken on 21st September 2005 prior to any development work being carried out at the site.

A full photographic survey was carried out using digital photography. Either a 2-metre or 1-metre scale was used where possible.

Proforma Building Record Forms were used to record the structure in tandem with site notes and reference to site photographs, to produce the final record contained within this report.

The methodology adopted and the favourable working conditions meant that the aims and objectives of the brief could be fully met and the fieldwork was successfully concluded.

3. The Documentary Research

3.1. Background

By the early 20th century Inkberrow parish, in the Oswaldslow Hundred, extended to 6879 acres, of which over around a third were arable, almost two thirds permanent grass and just 203 acres being woodland. The sandy clay soils with marl subsoil were traditionally suited to growing wheat, barley, oats, beans and root crop. There are outcrops of sandstone occurring across the parish that have been quarried over many centuries to supply building materials (VCH III, 418-30).

At Domesday, Inkberrow was divided into two manors, which were both held by the Bishop of Hereford. This appears to have created tenure problems and the Bishopric of Worcester claimed the overlordship of both manors (VCH III, 421). The pattern of medieval ownership is complex and is not significant here; those interested should consult the Victoria County History Volume 3.

The first record of Mearse (or Mearce) Farm located during the documentary search dates from 1720, when the farm was occupied by Mary Holyoake, said to be of Hopton Baggott, although a letter from the Surveyor John Kenn dated to 1801, regarding plans for the inclosure of fields, refers to Robert Jettisplaces' creditors in 1709 (ESRO ABE 6.5). Although the context is unclear, it seems likely that Robert Jettisplace owned the farm in 1709, as a deed of 1794 indicates that at that time the owner the farm and associated manorial holdings was Richard Gorges Jettisplace (WRO BA5589/18, 705:192), who owned the estate until it was sold at auction on 23rd November 1809 to Lord Beauchamp of Madresfield Court (WRO BA 5589/18, 705:192). Roger Tandy, who had taken tenancy after the death of Soloman Savage, occupied the farm in 1794.

The Inclosure award of 1817 shows that Earl Beauchamp still held the estate, the other great landowner of the parish being Lord Abergavenney (WRO BA841, f926.491) and it may be that the tenants of the farm paid rent to both, as the Inclosure plan shows land ownership to be scattered rather than owned in blocks. A survey of Mearse Farm by John Kenn in 1801 shows that the farm held furlongs in the common fields known as Knowl Field, Westhill Field and Middle Field (ESRO ABE 6.5), although the 1809 auction details do not refer to Middle Field, but Mearse Field instead. Margaret Perks occupied the farm and holdings at this time (ESRO ABE 6.5).

The tithe apportionment of 1840 shows that the farm was owned by Earl Beauchamp and occupied on tenancy by Thomas Procter and that the ratio of arable to pasture approximated to that of the parish of Inkberrow as a whole in the early 20th century.

At the time of the 1st World war the farm extended to 177 acres, of which 70 were arable and 107 were pasture. The farm was occupied by Mr T.Davis and owned by the Marquiss of Abergavenney (WRO BA 179, 259.9:2).

3.2. Cartographic Evidence

Prior to the turn of the 19th century, Inkebrow, in common with all lowland parishes of the English midlands (and further afield) would have been farmed using a two, or more usually three field rotational system, where a village, or settlement was surrounded by two or three large open fields, which were farmed in ‘strips’, or ‘lands’. These fields were commonly, although not always, named North Field, South Field, West Field or East Field, the name(s) often surviving into the modern day, even if the area has been ‘urbanised’. This system had its origins in the Anglo Saxon period and was commonplace during the medieval period, when the lord of the manor allocated each farmer within the community strips of land within the fields. The strips would be spread across the fields, so that each farmer had a share of the good and bad land equally and no two strips farmed by an individual farmer were located together. Each farmer’s allocation extended to (generally) around 20 acres across some 70 strips. Each strip measured about a quarter of an acre, or a ‘furlong’. This system continued into the post-medieval period, with tenants paying the estate owners rent, whereas earlier they paid with service to the lord, or in produce. This category of field system pre-dates the enclosed field landscape that forms the mosaic of hedged fields that we see today across the modern rural landscape. Generally, in lowland England, this new field pattern was overlaid onto the open fields at the time of Parliamentary enclosure (inclosure), although earlier private enclosure was well underway by this time. The process and reasoning for enclosure is too complex for this report and those interested should refer to Reed 1990. Basically, before about 1840 over 5000 Parliamentary Acts were passed to enclose previously held common land, effectively ending the three-field system and changing the way agriculture was managed. The Inclosure Award for Inkebrow was passed in 1817 and Figure 3 shows Mearse Farm within the outlined newly enclosed landscape, mirroring that of today, whereas if an earlier plan were available it would show a landscape of strip furlongs spread across much larger open fields, with fields reserved solely for common pasture.

In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act was passed by Parliament, resulting in an extensive survey of land across England in order to produce a series of Tithe Apportionment Maps that relayed information about land ownership and use, aimed at converting the commutation of tithe in kind to land taxation (Hoskins 1972, 37). The Tithe Apportionment Map for Inkebrow was produced in 1840 (Figure 3). The map shows the farm buildings in a much different configuration from today. There are four buildings depicted, all shown at right angles to the field boundaries. The southernmost building is coloured red, indicating that it was a domestic building (the farmhouse).

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25” map of the area was not available at the records office, but the slightly later edition of 1904 shows the buildings in much the same configuration as today, with the exception that there was a further range of buildings aligned south-west to north-east on the northern side of the site. The angles of the depicted buildings in relation to the field boundaries suggests that either they are not the buildings shown on the earlier tithe map, or the earlier plan cannot be relied upon for accuracy. It is also noticeable that the watercourse to the south appears to follow a meandering course compared to the tithe map, although the section of the watercourse to the west of the site has clearly been straightened by this time.

3. The Historic Building Recording

The subject buildings have been indexed numerically 1-4, with building 4 divided into numbers 4a and 4b. The numbered buildings referred to are shown in Figure 5.

Building 1

Building Number 1 was not part of the required building recording as specified in the brief, however, as the building was to be altered it was recorded as a matter of course. It stands on the northern perimeter of the farmstead aligned south-east to north-west. The structure represents a rectangular, former three-bay shelter shed (animal shelter / cowhouse), open on the south-western side. The building is of timber frame on a stone dwarf-wall with a pitched clay tile roof (Plate 1). The infill panels to the frame are constructed from a combination of 2 ½” and 3” brick between slender timber rails nailed to the uprights. The posts below the bridging beam to the open side stand on stone blocks, which may be re-used ‘staddle stones’ from a granary building, which is not now upstanding on the site. The roof trusses are of king post with the principals pegged to the tie beams with a single peg. One truss (3rd from the eastern gable –Truss T3) shows evidence of having been fabricated from earlier timbers of a timber frame structure, it displays better quality than the waney edged timbers of the other trusses and has empty mortises and peg holes on the underside of the tie-beam (Plate 2); there is evidence that various other timbers are also re-used. Scribed carpenters marks can be seen on trusses T2 and T4. A dovecote or pigeon house (Plate 3) is located in the rafters between trusses T1 and T2 with access for the birds in the south-eastern gable end. The floor is of rammed earth and small stones and a concrete feeding trough survives at the rear of the shed.

The fabric evidence suggests an 18th century date of construction and the building is all of one phase, apart from evidence for some later repairs.

Building 2

Building Number 2 stands on the north-eastern side of the site, opposite Building 1. It is of a similar basic construction as Building 1, of timber-frame with brick noggin sitting on a stone dwarf wall, which was rough coursed at lower levels and ashlar faced below the sill beam. The building was formerly a cart or implement shed, open on the northern side. The roof is hipped at both ends (Plates 4 and 5).

This building showed extensive re-use of timber from an earlier timber-framed building. The kingpost trusses of the build have been carpentered from earlier queen-post trusses and have also been narrowed from the original span. The northernmost truss has empty mortises and peg holes in the tiebeam and also stave holes, indicating that the original building was wattle and daubed, rather than the panels being infilled in brick as in the current build (Plate 6). One interesting detail can be seen below the tiebeam of the same truss. The carpenter had scribed the position for the mortise to be cut in for a brace to the supporting post (for the timbers original use) but made a mistake with the measurements and subsequently scribed a cross to highlight the mistake (Plate 7). Other reused timbers can be seen within the wall-frames, one

displaying a half-lap from a brace joint (Plate 8) and another with a groove to take the lower ends of wattle staves (Plate 9).

The fabric of Building 2 suggests an 18th century date of construction, probably contemporary with Building 1 and similarly the building is all of one phase, apart from later repairs and consolidation.

Building 3

Building 3 is located to the south of Building 2 on the same alignment. The building is a two storied brick and sandy lime mortar construction, coursed in a variation of English bond, with three rows of 9 x 3 inch stretchers to each row of headers. The roof is pitched handmade clay tile with an inserted dormer window on the western side (Plate 10).

Internally, there is nothing of significant architectural interest, as it seems the building had most recently been used as domestic accommodation, or perhaps office space, with boarded and plastered walls and boarded out upper floor with modern concrete to the ground floor.

Originally the building would have been a stable with a hayloft above. The eastern and western elevations have pitching doors at upper level, where hay would be pitched into the building from the top of a cart pulled alongside. This could then be dropped down into the stable as required. The original stable door in the western elevation has been replaced with a modern 'French' type door and the original slat vented window to the stable area has also been replaced. The smaller aperture on the western elevation was probably a window to a tack-room within the stable, which has also gone. A window has been inserted into the upper level of each gable end and there is evidence for a single story extension (now gone) at the southern end (Plate 11). A modern lean-to WC has been butted onto the eastern elevation at the southern end.

A mid-19th century date is proposed for this structure, with alteration to domestic accommodation in the middle decades of the 20th century.

Building 4

Building 4 encompasses two separate spaces, although the building footprint is of one phase. There is a former stable aligned approximately north-east to south-west (Space 4A), which has been modified at the northern end removing evidence of the former use here, although it was possibly a tack-room separated by an internal brick dividing wall. Standing at right angles to Space 4A at the southern end, there is a cartshed with granary above (Space 4B). The building is constructed in orange 9 ¼" x 3" brick and lime mortar in a Flemish bond, with a corrugated asbestos pitched roof to Space 4A and a handmade pitched clay tile roof to Space 4B (Plates 12 and 13).

Space 4A – The Former Stable

This part of building 4 is single storied with slat vented windows and a split stable door to the south-eastern elevation and a large inserted garage style door at the northern end. There is a boarded over window below rough segmental brick arch in the northern gable end and the north-western elevation also has slat vented windows and a split stable door.

Internally the stable originally had three stalls, these have now been removed along with the timber partition of a feeding passage on the western side. The floor is of brick, with a later concrete surface in the tack-room area, which had lately been used as a garage.

There is evidence that the roofline of the building has been raised. The former, lower roofline, can be seen as a scar on both gable ends (Plate 14) and the side walls have been heightened with slatted timber cladding. The slender roof trusses, purlins and rafters indicate (Plate 15) a late 20th century alteration; probably at the same the garage doors were added.

Space 4B – The Cartshed and Granary

This part of the building is two-storied, with a granary over the cartshed entered via steps on the eastern side. In the lower level of the entrance door there is a ‘cat-hole’, now covered over. This would have allowed farm cats in and assist in helping keep down the mouse and rodent population.

The granary roof trusses are mass produced kingpost standing on brick piers built into the side-walls. One truss has a wooden socket nailed to the top of the tiebeam (Plate 16). This was probably a pivot point for lifting full sacks through a trap door in the floor down onto carts below. Raw material would have been loaded into the building through an eye in the eastern elevation (Plate 17). The quality of the building is demonstrated in the brick pier at the top of the stairs, which uses bullnose bricks adjacent to the entrance so that farm workers couldn’t be injured on a sharp edge (Plate 18).

The lower floor is a two bay cartshed with a processing room beneath the stairs, which has been separated from the cart-bays by an inserted wall. The area had been used for grain processing until recently and modern machinery and a grain bin were still in-situ (Plate 19).

The carpentry incorporated in the first floor beams and supporting posts also shows the quality of the build, each being chamfered and stopped (Plate 20). The posts stand on sandstone blocks similar to those used as post-pads in Building 1.

The Farmhouse

The farmhouse did not form part of the required building survey, but is worthy of mention here. The structure stands at the far southern end of the site and is a brick construction below a clay tile half-hipped roof. It has a chimneystack at each end of the building and a central doorway with a symmetrical arrangement of windows (Plate 21).

4. Phasing of the Buildings and Dating

Discussion of the Fabric and Dating Evidence

Accurate dating of farm buildings is often problematic as dateable architectural features are often changed, modified or re-used. This is usually more pronounced within commercial or agricultural buildings than in domestic architecture. It may also be that architectural fashion takes longer to manifest itself within the fabric of buildings reserved for animals or produce. Consequently, any evidence for close dating is problematic without substantiating documentary evidence. In such instance, the dating and phasing of the buildings has to be

subjective. Where brick farm buildings are dated to within a quarter of a century without substantiating documentary evidence, a certain amount of conjecture will almost certainly have been used. It is sometimes possible to date domestic architecture (approximately) using brick typology. Generally, bricks got gradually larger between the 16th and 18th centuries and in 1784 a brick tax was introduced, resulting in standardised 3” bricks. However, this typology cannot be relied upon in agricultural buildings, as materials were frequently re-used.

The early map evidence sometimes cannot be relied upon either; the 1817 Inclosure Award Plan is of too small a scale to give information regarding the buildings, although it does appear to show 4 buildings in the area of the recorded buildings. It is likely that the buildings shown on the north and east of the complex represent Buildings 1 and 2 (or parts of). The tithe map of 1840 shows all the depicted buildings at right angles to the yard boundary, suggesting that the plan is a little schematic and of little use regarding the buildings. The 1904 Ordnance Survey map shows the buildings in a similar configuration as today, except with additional buildings on the northern side.

The documentary sources indicate that in 1809 the farmstead was sold at auction. The sale catalogue indicates that the farm buildings comprised a farmhouse, two-barns, cow house, cart-shed and pig cots. It can be hypothesised that the cartshed was Building 2, the cow-house Building 1, the barns were precursors to Buildings 3 and 4 and the pig cots were on the eastern end of the cow house and are shown on the 1904 Ordnance Survey map. This would also support the theory that the tithe map is not an accurate depiction.

The phasing of buildings is therefore somewhat reliant on the fabric evidence of style and form; an outline of phasing is produced below.

Phase 1 (late 16th – 17th century)

Timber-framed farm buildings stood on the site, probably including a threshing barn, a storage barn and a farmhouse. Many timbers from these buildings appear to have been used in the construction of buildings 1 and 2 (although there is a possibility without definitive evidence, that the timbers were bought in from elsewhere). The use of stone as dwarf-walls in buildings 1 and 2 suggest that stone may also have been used in earlier buildings.

Phase 2 (circa mid-18th century)

Buildings 1 and 2 were built using much material salvaged from the demolition of the earlier farm buildings. The slender timbers used, nailed joints and brick noggin are indicative of late timber-framing.

Phase 3 (mid 19th century)

Buildings 3 and 4 were constructed on the site. It is unlikely that Buildings 3 and 4 are contemporary and it seems likely that Building 3 is slightly earlier than Building 4. It also seems likely that the current farmhouse dates from the same time as Building 4, based on style and embellishment, whereas Building 3 is purely functional and was probably built during a less profitable economic climate.

Based on the evidence collected we are able to suggest the phases and dates for the buildings at Mearse Farm as shown in Figure 5.

5. General Discussion

5.1. High Farming

Much has been written regarding the ‘progression’ of farming, although the majority relates to the agricultural revolution of the late 18th and 19th centuries, when there was large scale parliamentary enclosure resulting in change of use of vast tracts of land, although inclosure (enclosure) was well under way during the previous two-centuries (English Heritage 1997, 3). The focus of such studies has been to categorise the use of space on a farm and tie it into the type of architecture used. This has resulted in a wealth of papers focusing on ‘model farms’ of the mid to late 18th century, which were basically the response to improvements afforded by mechanisation and increased profits revealed in planned farms with high architectural elaboration. A similar glut of papers dealing with ‘high farming’ of the mid to late 19th century also dominates the record. High farming came after a period of agricultural depression at the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, when the monetary impact of imported produce had brought down the price of grain resulting in lower profits and therefore, lower rents from tenanted farms (Wade-Martins 1991, 60). A growing population over the following 30 years meant that a market was created and agriculture began to get back on its feet. It was during this time that owners of large farms and smaller estate owners must have realised that they needed to invest in farming in order that the decline would not be repeated. Progressive farming saw changes and improvements in crop rotation, fertilisation, use of space, use of machinery, soil science and produce processing (Wade Martins 1991, 62). In actuality, farming had become industrialised.

We must look at Mearse Farm in this light as it spans this period of innovation and agricultural development. It should be stressed here that often farms are lumped together into a category without taking account of variations regionally, locally or from farm to farm. This is like talking about modern farming but not recognising the fundamental differences between western and northern hill farms and the extensive ‘high-plains’ farming of the lowlands, where hedgerows are a thing of the past. Mearse Farm seems to have altered its farming methodology during the period of attributed high farming. The two barns referred to in the 1809 auction details had gone by the mid-19th century, but the loss of the barns does not indicate, without further evidence, that there was diversification and a move towards animal husbandry and away from crop production as this was at a time when the requirement for a barn had diminished with the availability of mechanical threshing machines that were portable. The introduction of a new granary around this time supports a hypothesis that the barns were simply replaced by threshing machines.

The infrastructure and layout of farm buildings at Mearse Farm indicates that it could only ever be on the peripheries of the high farming revolution, being a small tenanted farm.

5.2. Farmstead Layout

The layout of the farmstead has also been variously discussed in an attempt to categorise. Whilst there are recognisable patterns in use of space, i.e. enclosed central foldyard sheltered

on the north by the barn, east facing stables to catch the morning sun and sheltered from the elements etc (Peters 1969), sweeping assumptions that farms all follow these ideals may be questioned as the use of space on individual farmsteads is likely to have evolved in response to local situations. For example, at Mearse Farm the buildings appear to have evolved piecemeal with no planning indicative of the high farming phenomenon. Although there is a distinct difference in quality of build and layout between the earlier buildings (Building 1, 2 and 3) and the mid-19th century structures (Building 4 and the farmhouse), indicating an ambition towards high farming, with its elaboration seemingly increasing in importance as if to make a statement of success. Buildings 1 and 2 have entrances facing in opposite directions, as opposed to into a central foldyard, which is common in farmsteads of the 19th century. The shelter-shed (Building 1) is likely to have been aligned to give maximum shelter from the prevalent wind and rainfall, where as the cartshed (Building 2) appears to be aligned away from the farmstead and towards the common fields to the north. Buildings 3 and 4 were probably built within a short space of time and show a greater degree of planning, with the granary facing the road and the stables facing a central yard area.

What can also be maintained from the evidence at Mearse Farm is that the position of the farmhouse is separate from the 'working area' of the farmstead. It is suggested and is frequently the case, that the farmhouse is situated to oversee the working farmyard area partly for security purposes, partly to save time travelling from home to work and partly so that it overlooked the workforce, as the farmhands would be uncertain when they were being observed, '*servants and stock cannot be too much under the eye of the master*' (Waistell 1827, quoted in Cook 2004). It seems the focus had moved from the smaller, unplanned buildings on the north of the site, to the elaborate granary, which lay adjacent to the new farmhouse, possibly indicating the profitability to the farm of the rising grain prices at this time.

When looking at the relationship between the various buildings, we must take into account that the farm had evolved over several centuries, with newer buildings replacing those lost and that the farm was still essentially a small tenanted farm, which would have relied on finance from the estate owners for improvements, in return for higher payable rents and so these improvements would only be made with recompense in mind.

6. Conclusion

The results of the historic building recording at Mearse Farm determined that the earliest surviving upstanding buildings were a cow-house (shelter-shed) and a cartshed on the northern side of the site, which date from around the mid-18th century, although both include a substantial amount of re-used timber from a timber-framed structure(s), which probably were built on the site around a century earlier. A change in estate ownership in the early 19th century appeared to have been the catalyst for improvement of infrastructure and farming techniques a few decades later, with new buildings showing elaboration, quality of build and being aligned on a central yard in a more formal manner.

7. Acknowledgements

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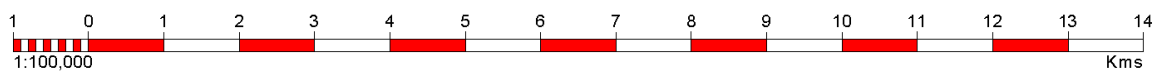
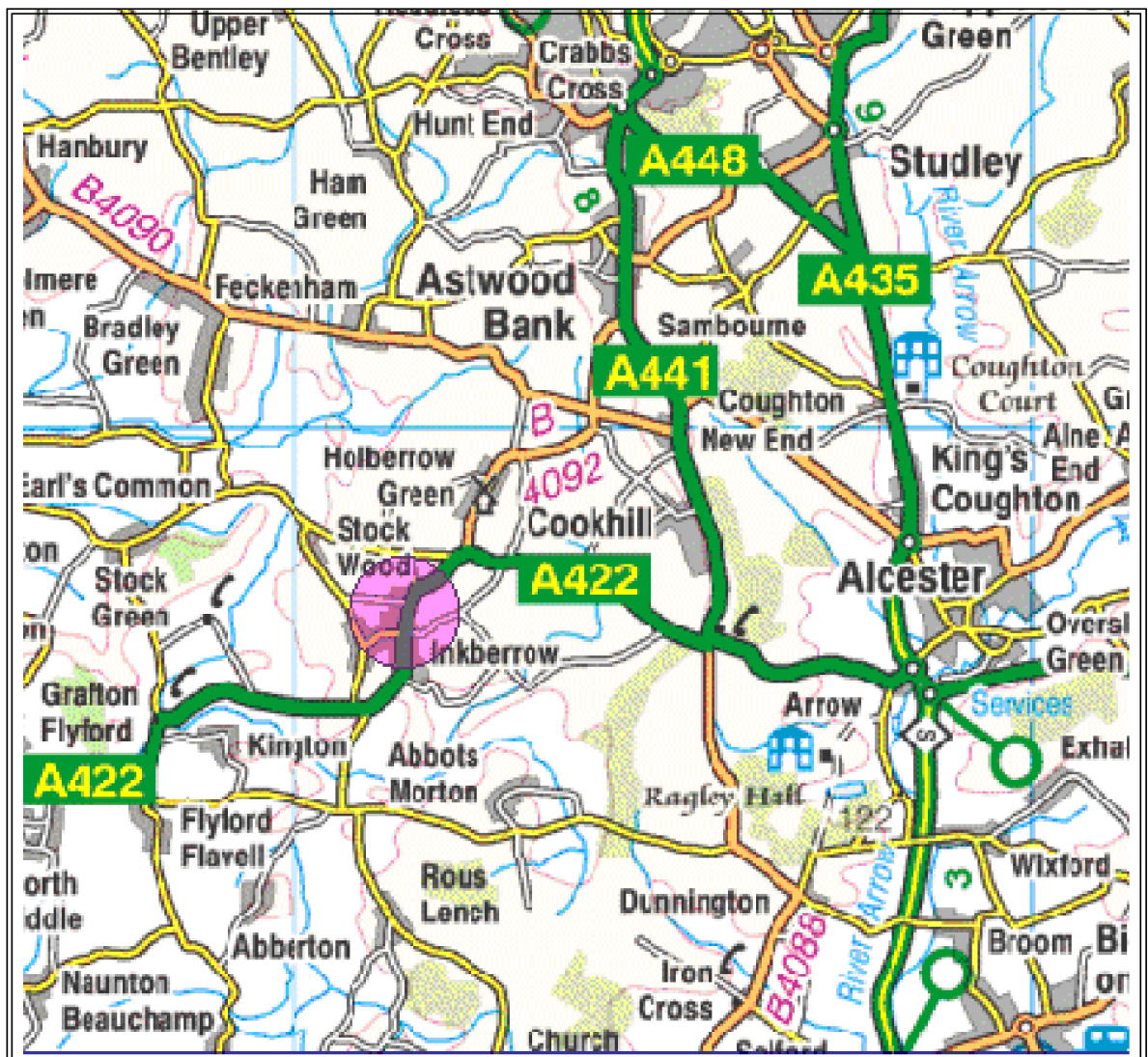
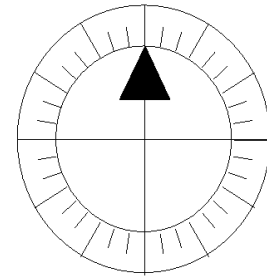
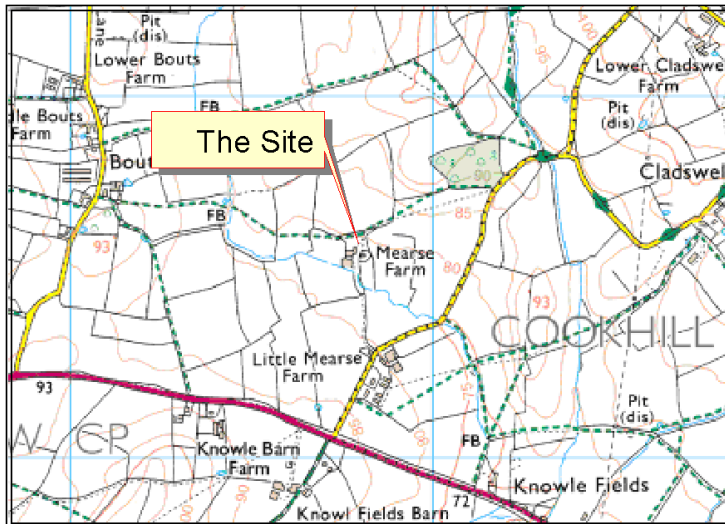
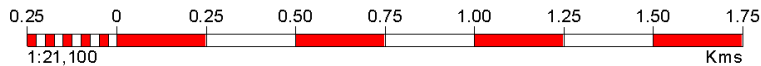
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- Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Section (WHEAS 2005)** *Brief for an Historic Building Recording at Mearse Farm, Inkberrow, Worcestershire*

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Figure 1: Location of the Site

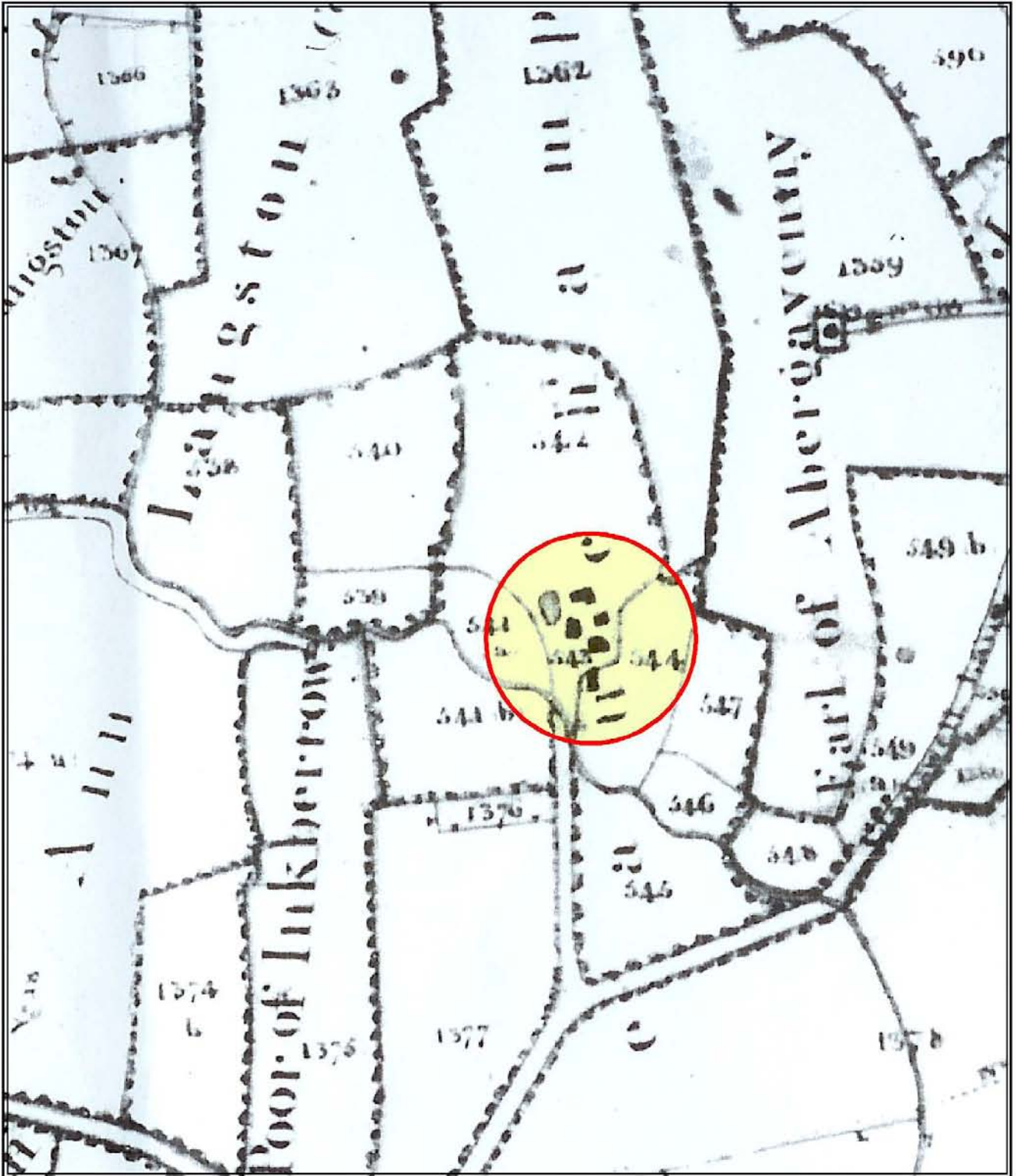


Location of the Site at Mearse Farm

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Figure 2: Extract from the Inclosure Plan of Inkberrow (1817)



The early 19th century Inclosure Map with the site highlighted.

Scale unknown

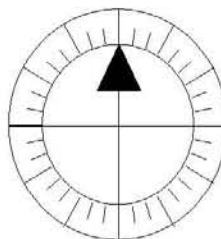
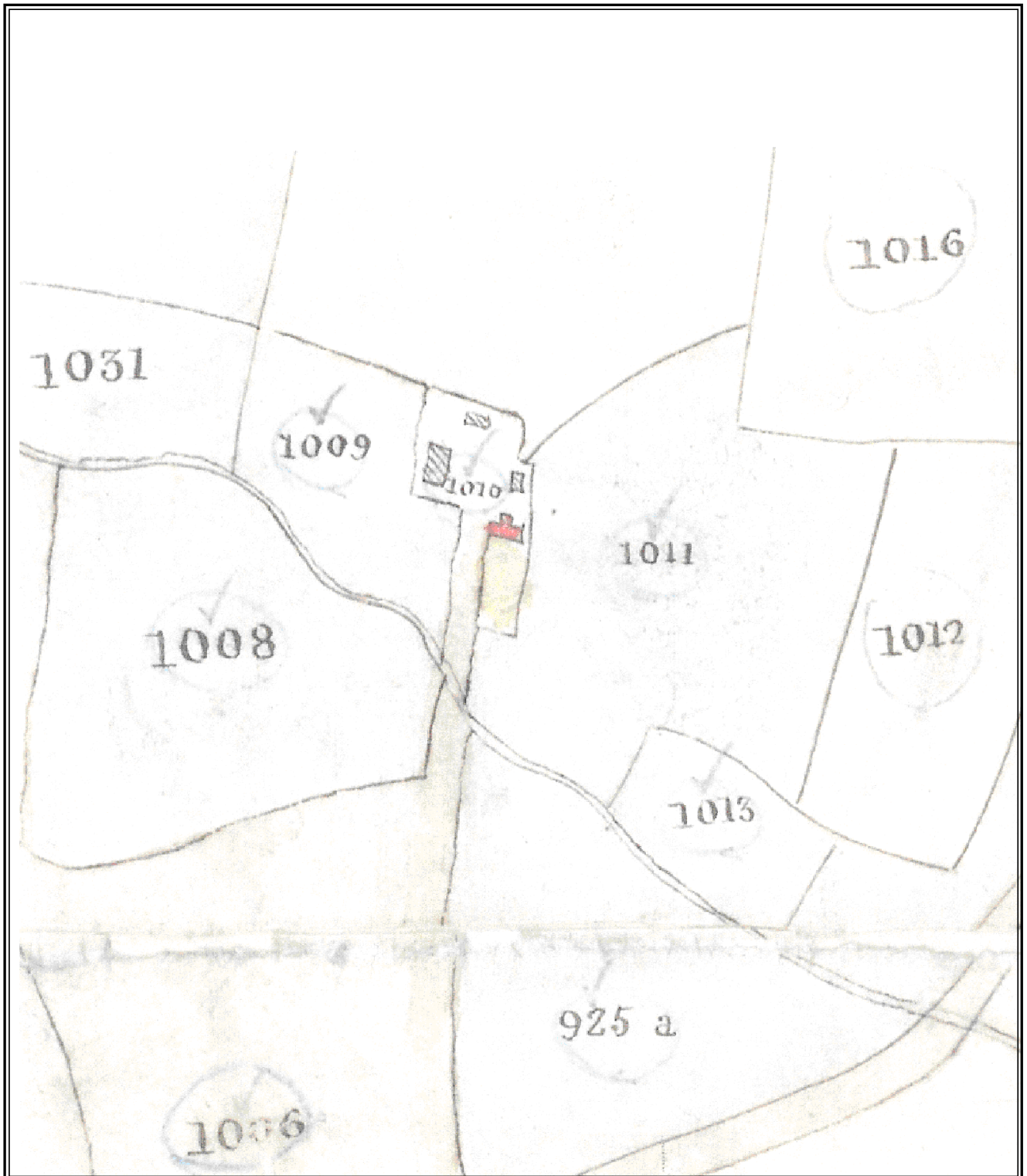


Figure 3: Extract from the Tithe Apportionment Map of Inkberrow (1840)



The mid-19th century tithe map shows the buildings at right-angles to the boundaries, suggesting the plan is not accurate

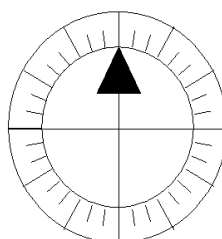
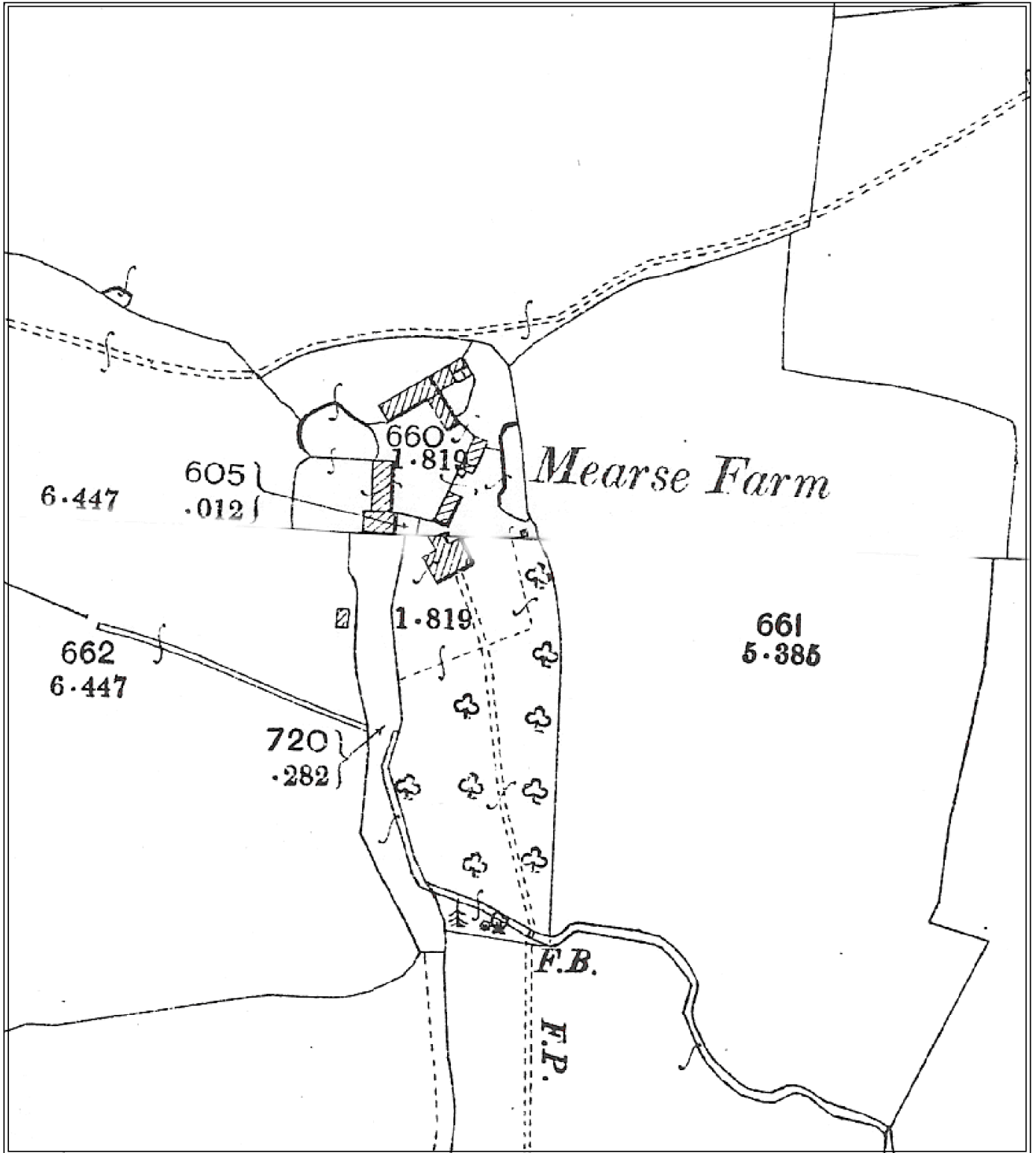
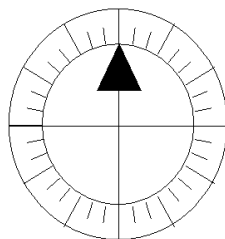
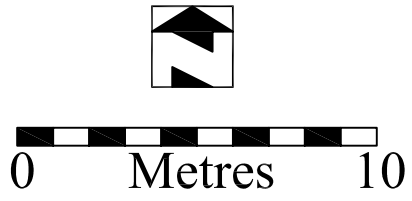


Figure 4: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey (1904)



The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows the buildings in a similar configuration as today, with a range of buildings at the northern end, which have now gone.





Based on original survey by
Peterson-Jones Architects, Martley

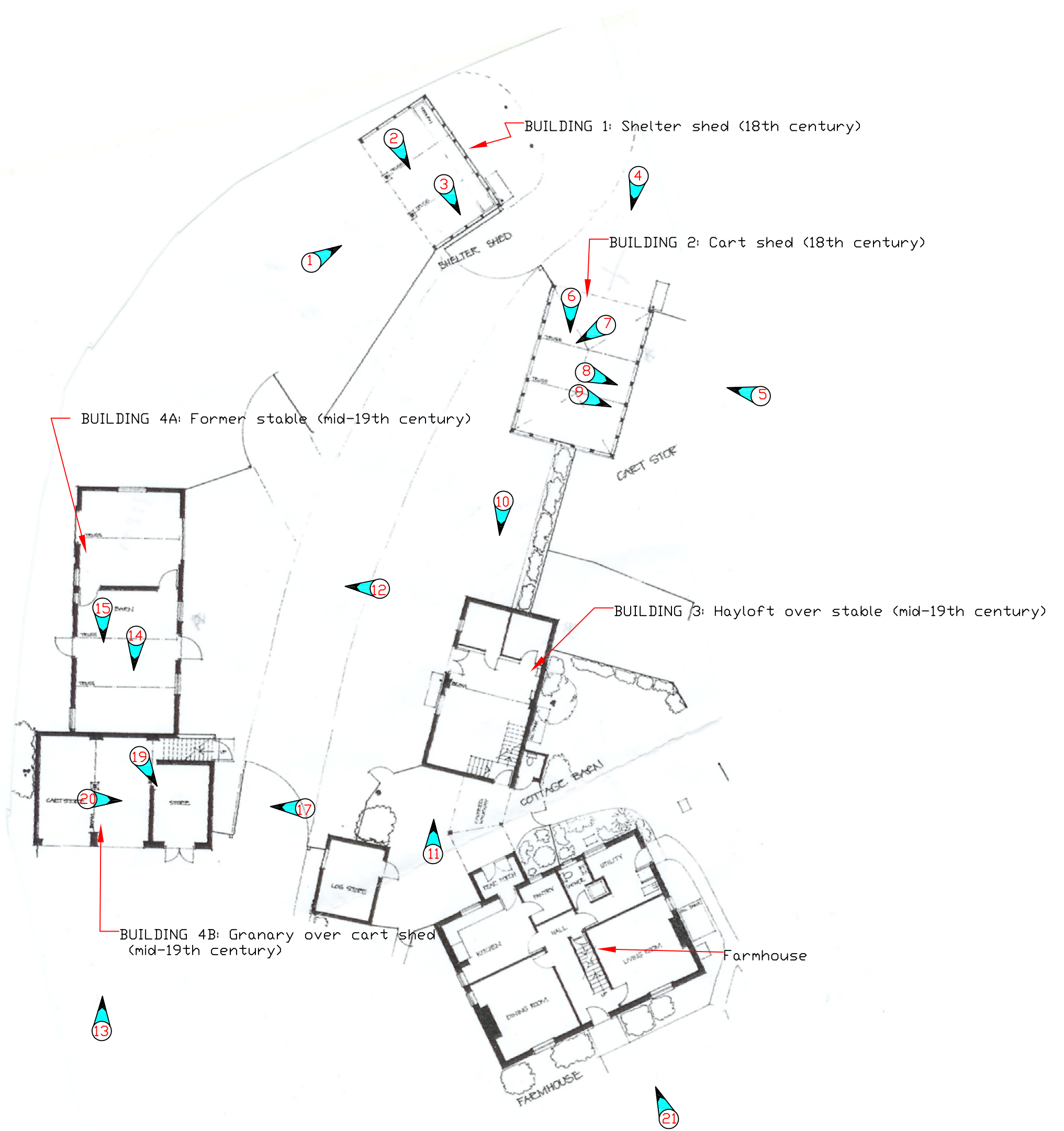
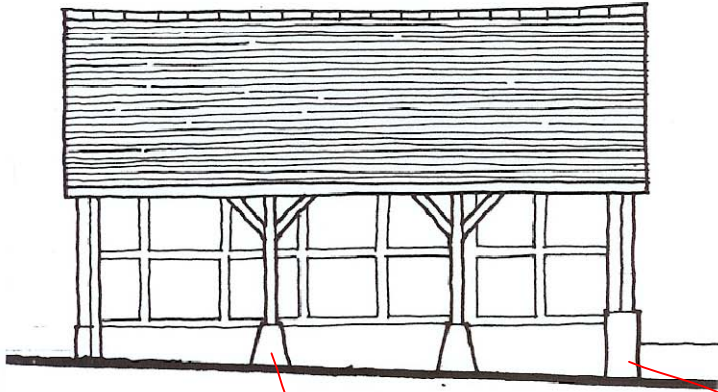


Figure 5: Building Identification, Dating and Photograph Direction

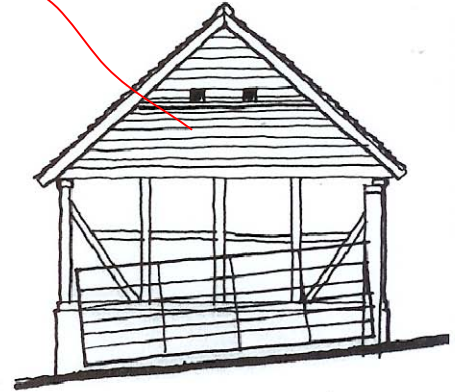
South-west elevation



Stone post-pads

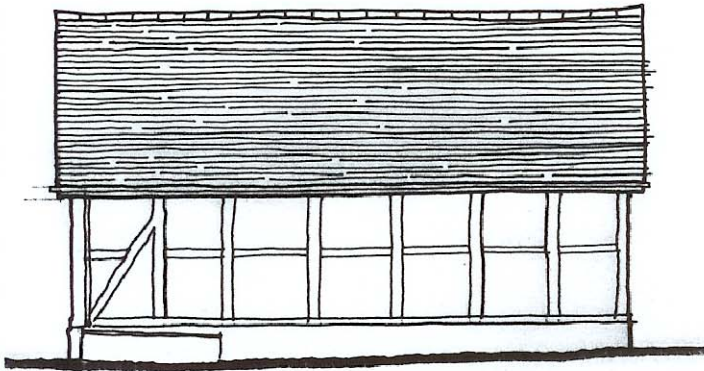
Pigeon loft inside

South-east elevation



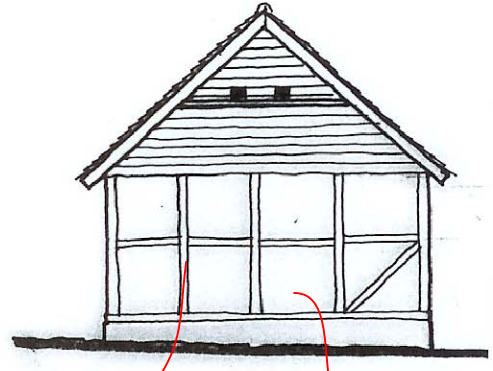
Stone dwarf wall

North-east elevation



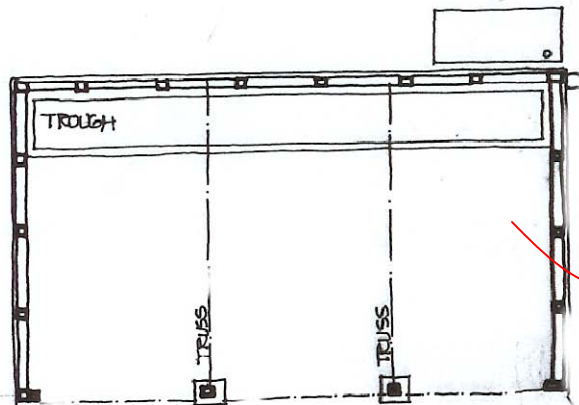
Slender timber framing

North-west elevation



Brick infill

Plan Based on original survey by Peterson-Jones Architects, Martley

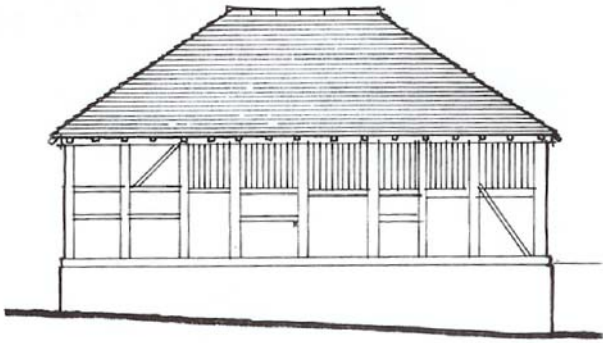


Pigeon loft over

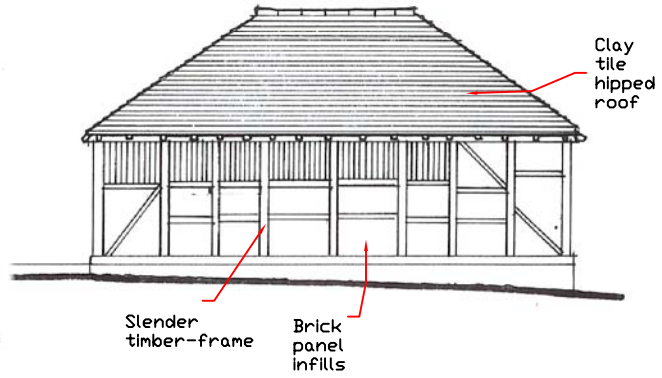


Figure 6: Building 1, former shelter-shed

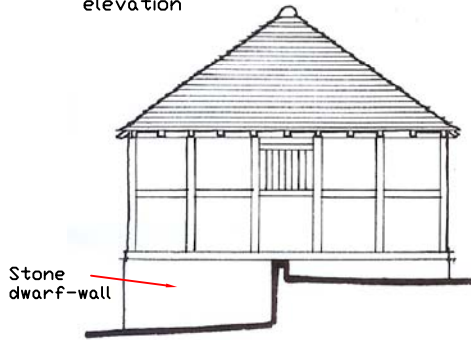
North-west elevation



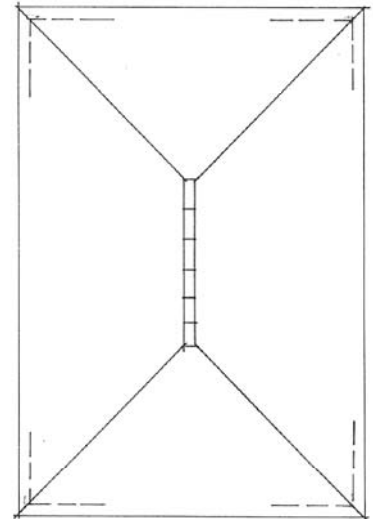
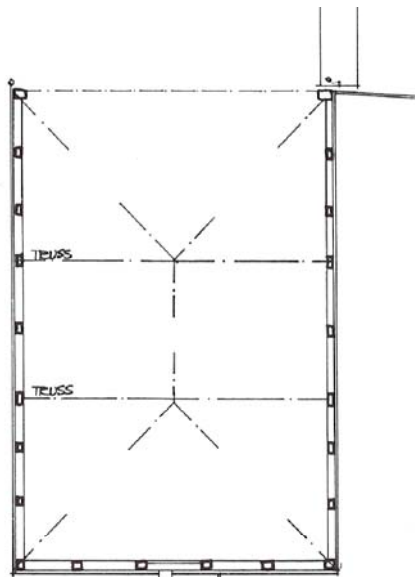
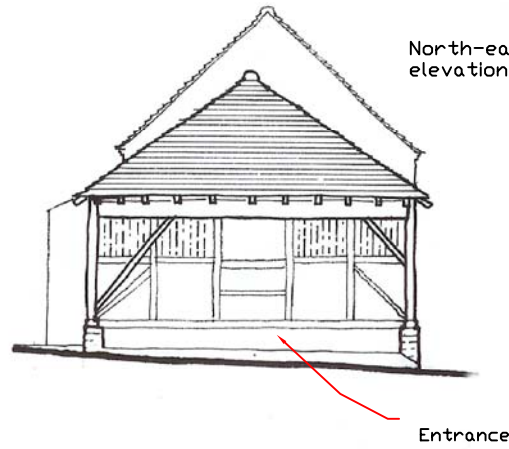
South-east elevation



South-west elevation



North-east elevation



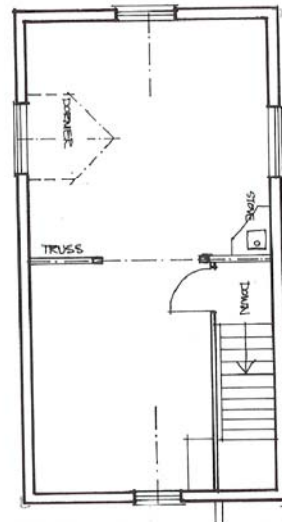
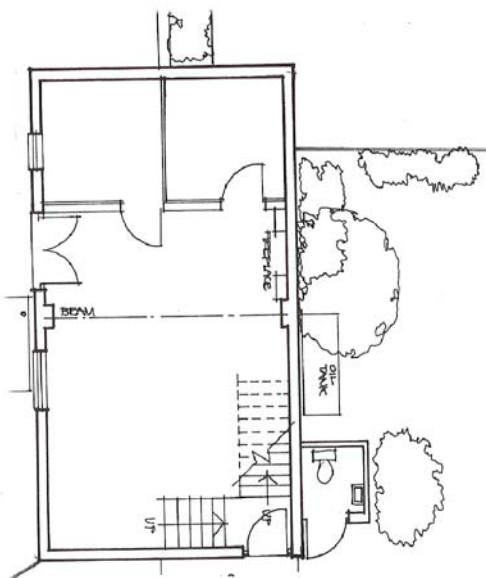
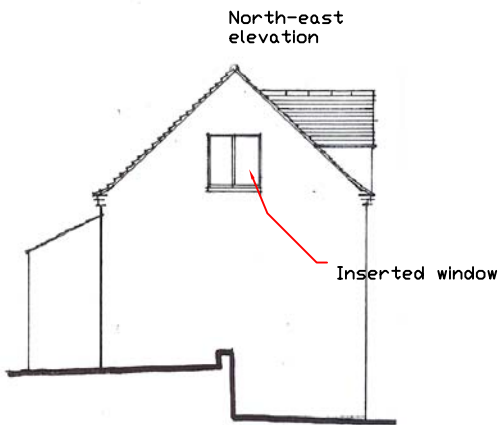
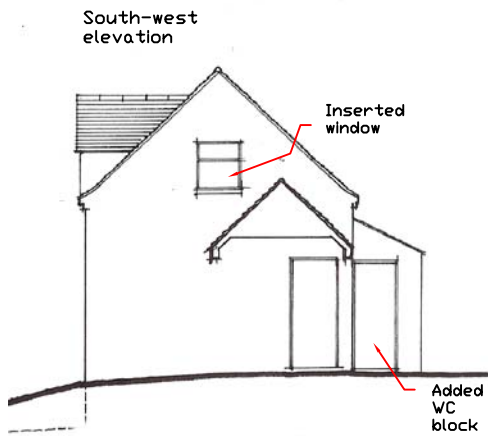
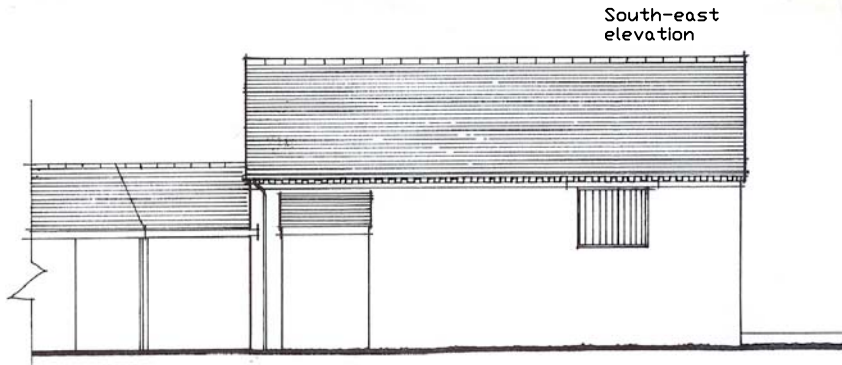
Plan



Based on original survey by Peterson-Jones Architects, Martley



Figure 7: Building 2, former cartshed

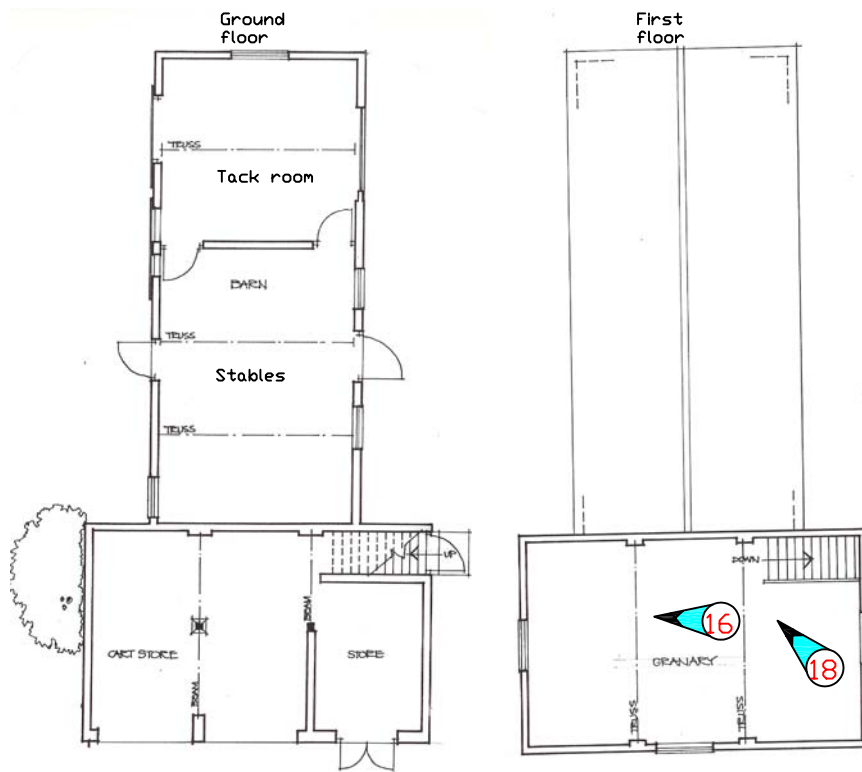
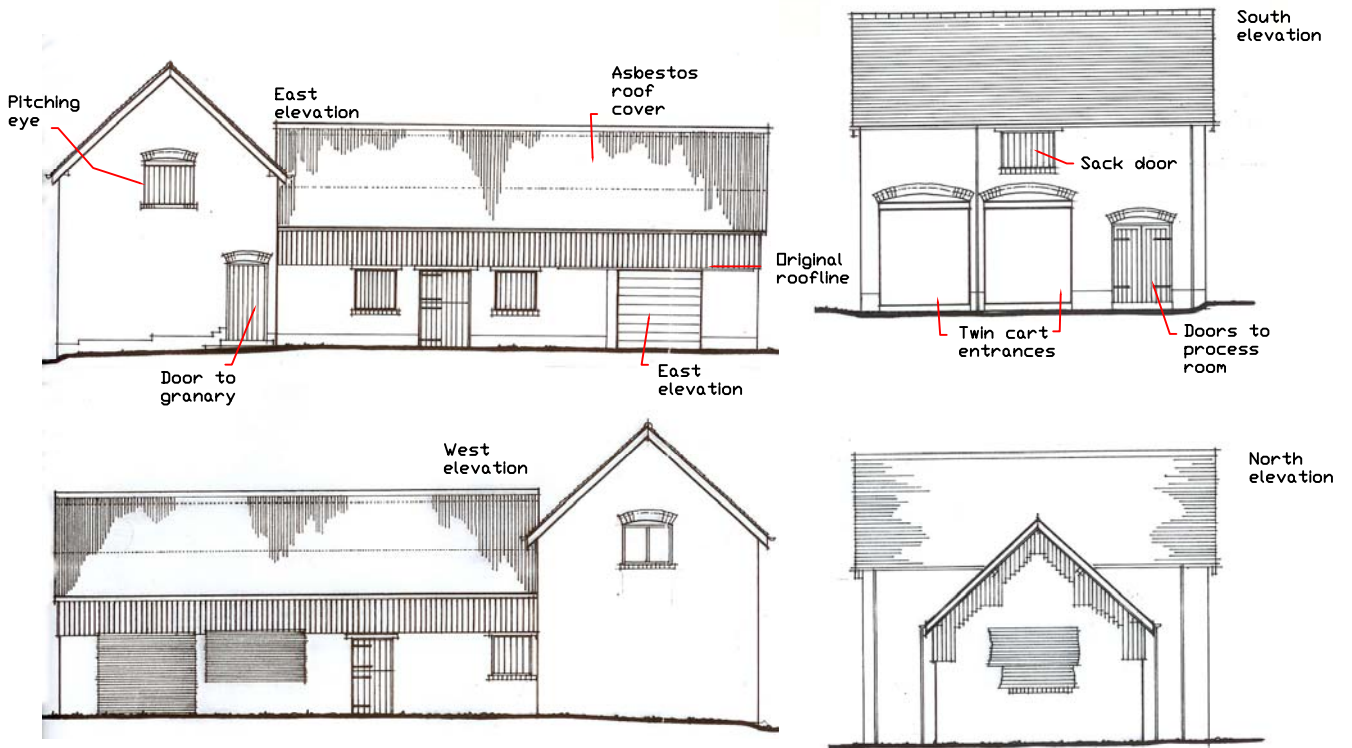


Plan

Based on original survey by Peterson-Jones Architects, Martley

0 Metres 10

Figure 8: Building 3, former stable and hayloft




Plan  Based on original survey by Peterson-Jones Architects, Martley



Figure 9: Building 4, former stable and granary over cartshed (including upper floor photo directions)

Plates

Plate 1



The shelter shed (Building 1) looking east (scale 2 metres)

Plate 2



Re-used timber as tiebeam in kingpost truss (Building 1)

Plates

Plate 3



Pigeon loft in the rafters of Building 1, looking south

Plate 4



Building 2 looking south-west (scale 2 metres)

Plates

Plate 5



Building 2 looking north-west (scale 2 metres)

Plate 6



Re-used timbers with empty mortises, stave holes and peg holes in Building 2 truss

Plates

Plate 7



Carpenters scribe marks show that he had made a mistake when marking out for this mortise (Building 2)

Plate 8



Half-lap joint indicating that this timber in Building 2 is re-used from an earlier timber-framed building, probably to take a sill beam to post tension brace.

Plates

Plate 9



Another re-used timber has a groove to take the bottom end of wattle staves for wattle and daub panelling. The timber would originally have been horizontal (Building 2)

Plate 10



Building 3 looking south (scale 2 metres)

Plates

Plate 11



Building 3 looking north-east (scale 2 metres)

Plate 12



Building 4A looking north-west (scale 2 metres). Space 4B is at right angles to it on the left of the picture

Plates

Plate 13



Building 4B looking north-east (scale 2 metres)

Plate 14



The former roofline of Building 4A is preserved on the gable end of Space 4B, note also the holes in the wall to receive the roof purlins.

Plates

Plate 15



20th century roof trusses in Building 4A

Plate 16



Kingpost roof-trusses in the granary (Building 4B), note the bracket on the tiebeam, which would have acted as a pivot point to haul sacks up and down from the cartshed below

Plates

Plate 17



Pitchin- eye and door to the stairs in the eastern gable end of Building 4B (scale 2 metres)

Plate 18



The rounded bricks on the truss support pier at the top of the stairs into the granary. All the other piers have straight edges

Plates

Plate 19



Modern grain processing infrastructure in Building 4B

Plate 20



The high quality of carpentry in Building 4B is indicated in the chamfered and stopped post and beam. The wall is a later insertion

Plates

Plate 21



Mearse farmhouse looking north

Plate 22



Mearse Farm complex looking south