

Report 3077



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Historic Building Recording at  
Church Farm Barn, Shelfanger, Norfolk  
(Level 1 Photographic Survey)**

ENF129340



**Prepared for**  
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Location:	Church Farm Barn, Church Road, Shelfanger, Diss. Norfolk
District:	South Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TM1066 8366
Planning Ref.:	2011/0542
HER No.:	ENF129340
Listed Building Status:	Grade II
OASIS Ref.:	133732
Client:	Mr J Costley Design
Date(s) of Fieldwork:	22 May 2012

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## **Summary**

*In May 2012 NPS Archaeology undertook a Level 1 photographic survey of a barn at Church Farm, Shelfanger in Norfolk.*

*The survey was conducted for JWM Design ahead of work to convert the barn to a residential building.*

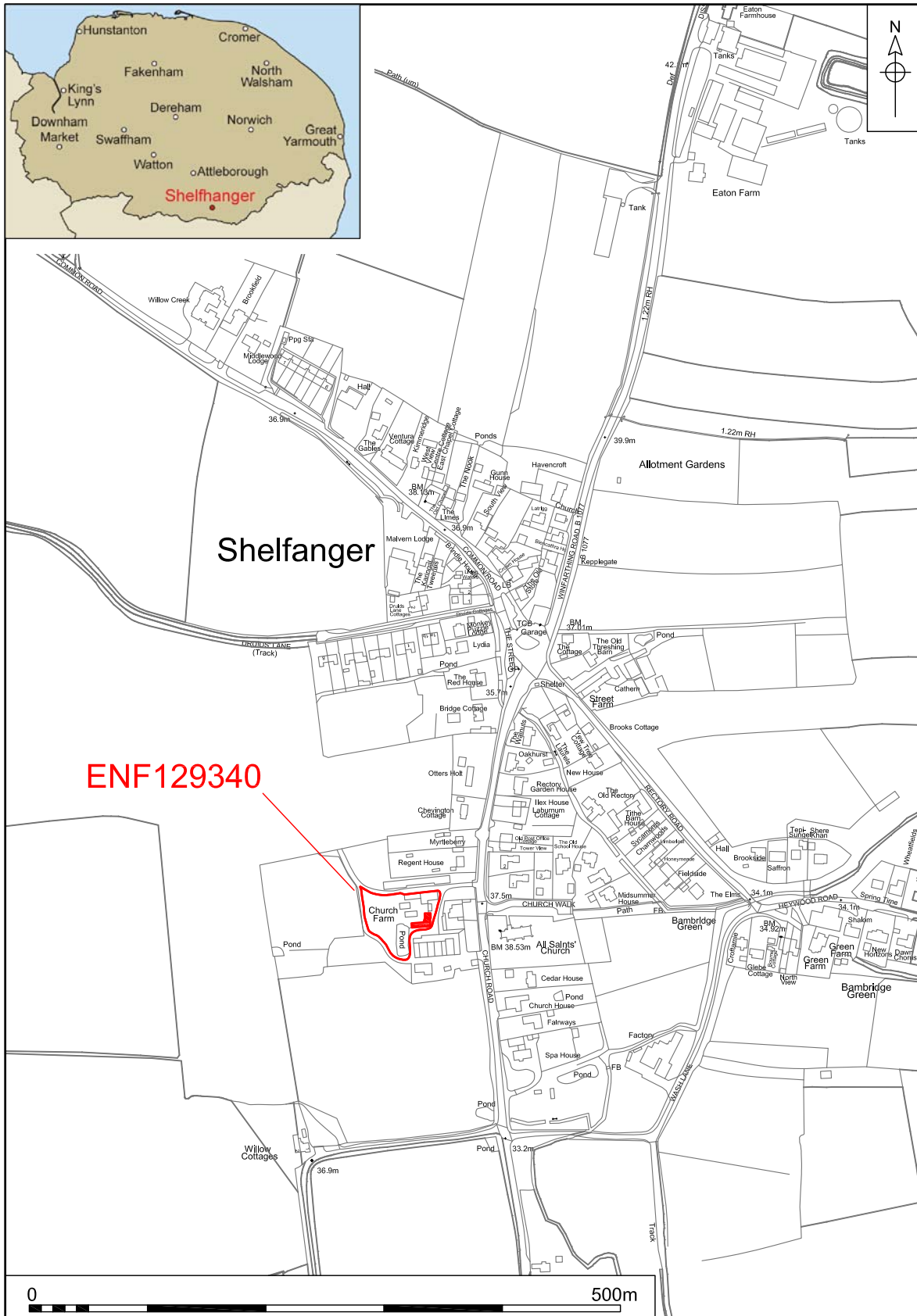
*There appears to have been substantial maintenance to the building in the past with the introduction of more modern cut materials being apparent.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

A Level 1 historic building photographic survey of Church Farm Barn at Shelfanger in Norfolk (Figs 1 and 2) was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by South Norfolk District Council (2011/0542). Work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU3077/NP). Listed building consent had been granted some years ago (2009/0336/LB) with a recent extension being granted (2011/0542/LB). This Level 1 survey was commissioned by JWM Design and funded by Mr J Costley.

The historic building recording was undertaken on 22 May 2012 to record the surviving structure and to identify the historical development of the building and its surrounding site. The survey follows Level 1 guidelines defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good practice* (English Heritage 2006) and those guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any significant aspects of the building.

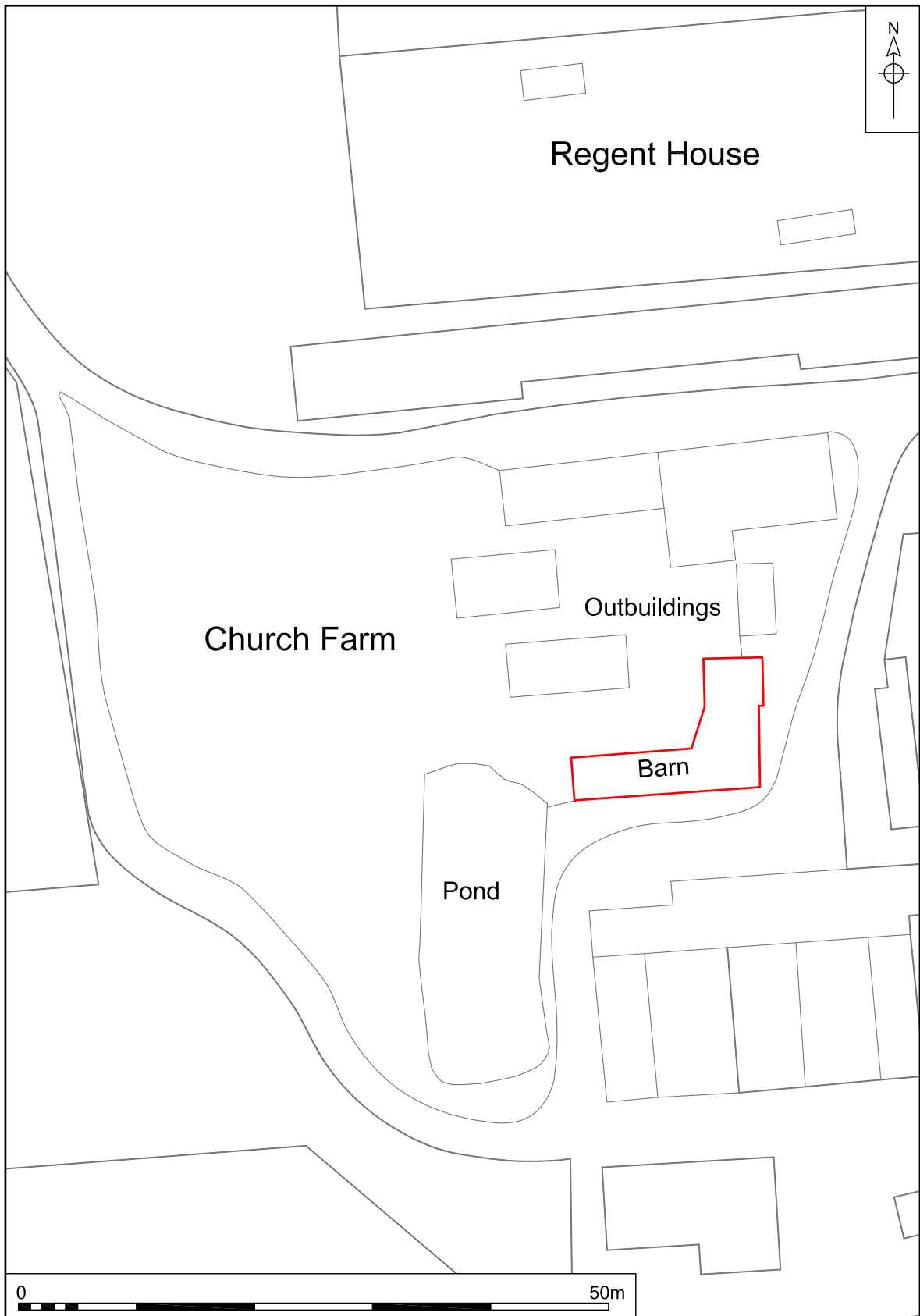
The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000





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Figure 2. Location of barn. Scale 1:500

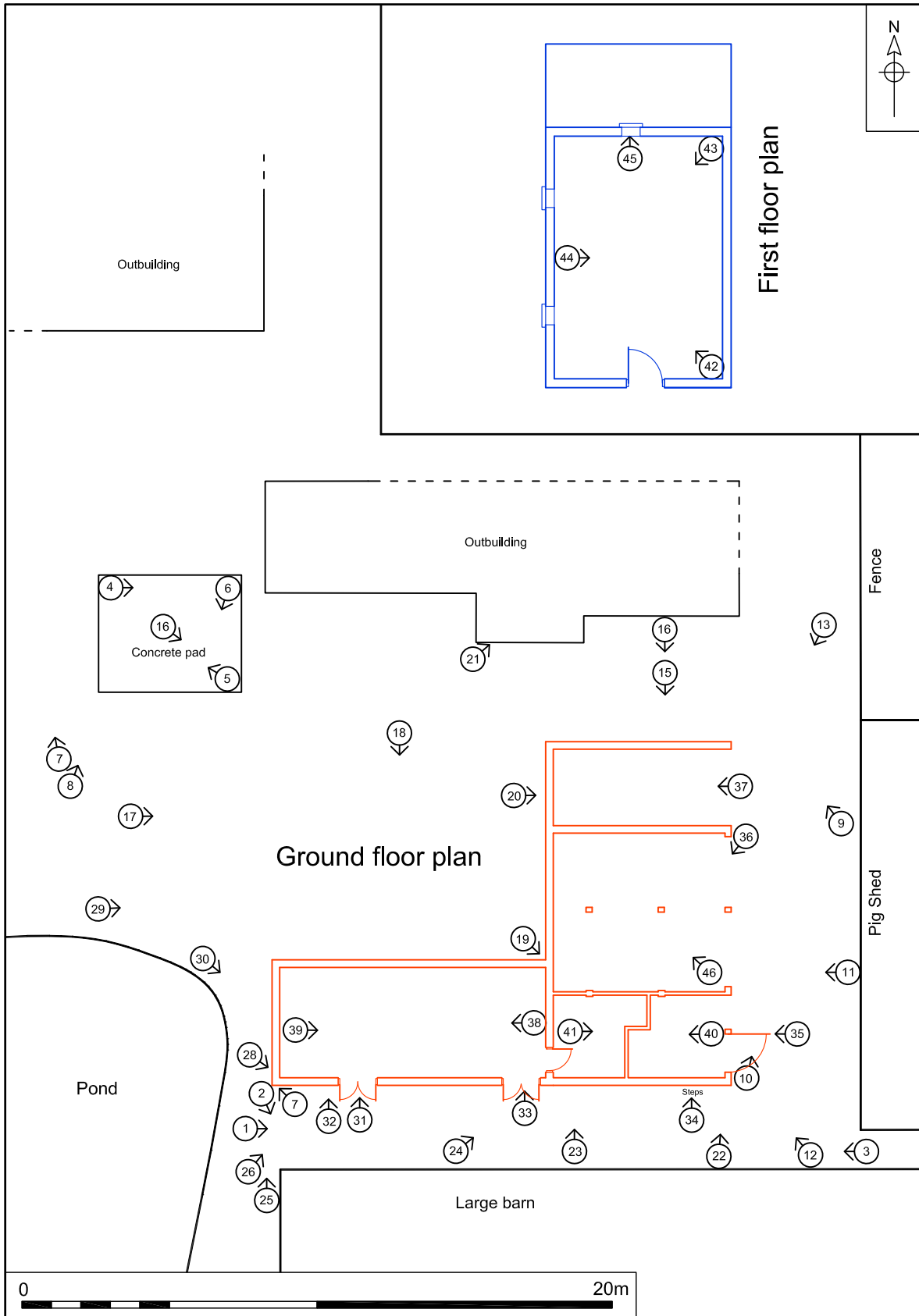


Figure 3. Location of photographs. Scale 1:200

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Historical maps of the area show that the farm was evident on 19th-century tithe maps but the barn was not evident until the 1868 map (Norfolk County Council). In the structural condition survey report prepared by Votier Associates (2008) it states that the barn must have been constructed c.1868 and comprised a single storey cow shed and two storey hay loft and cart shed.

The current farmer has commented that the barn, some of the surrounding buildings and an old farm house caught fire. No date was given for this but it does appear to have initiated a period of renovation for the farm and the barn.

The condition survey carried out by Votier Associates on 31 October 2008 identified key building components.

It should be noted that the farm is located immediately opposite the medieval church of All Saints, on the opposite side of Church Road.

## **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

The objective of this Level 1 historic building survey was to record as far as possible the main phases of construction and development of the building, its architectural details and significant fixtures and fittings, all of which may be affected by plans to adapt the building to residential use. A systematic photographic survey, enhanced by notes, was carried out. Each photograph was recorded onto a plan of the building to indicate where the photo was taken from and in what direction. Monochrome 35mm photographs were taken along with digital photographs to provide illustrative material for the report; the camera was mounted on a tripod.

Site conditions were good, and requisite areas of the building were accessible; the work took place in fine weather.

## **4.0 RESULTS**

The following pages contain the photographic results from the survey. Each image has been captioned with a brief explanation of what it shows and which direction it facing.

The barn stood empty at the time of the survey.

Commentary for each photograph is shown below

### **Location**

- Plate 1 East facing location photograph. The barn is on the left of the photo
- Plate 2 West facing location photograph. Opposite direction to Plate 1 with the barn on the right
- Plate 3 South-south-east facing photograph looking away from the barn towards modern bungalow
- Plate 4 East facing location photo. The barn is located to the right of this photo and the large house is the old farm house

- Plate 5 North-west location photo looking away from the barn
- Plate 6 Location shot showing one of several farm outbuildings in the north west corner of the farm
- Plate 7 Location shot looking north-east at further farm outbuildings north of the barn
- Plate 8 Close up of degraded small clay lump barn located just north of the barn
- Plate 9 North-west facing photograph of degraded out building. The barn is on the left side of this photo
- Plate 10 Location shot across the front of the barn showing outhouses and the back garden fence of the original farm house

**The building (general)**

All sides (except for the front) of the barn appear to be painted with a black paint which is possibly a tar waterproof coating

- Plate 11 Front Elevation of the barn showing weather boarding.
- Plate 12 North-west oblique photo showing the two storey hay loft and cart store
- Plate 13 South-west oblique elevation of the barn
- Plate 14 North elevation of the barn
- Plate 15 South-east oblique shot of the barn. Shows the back of the single storey cow shed and two storey hay loft and cart shed
- Plate 16 West elevation. Back of two storey part of the barn. It also shows the straight joint between the breezeblocks and the barn at the back of the lean-to
- Plate 17 Close up of straight joint
- Plate 18 North elevation (back) of cow shed. Difficult to see what is happening to the building under a large amount of plant growth
- Plate 19 Shot looking along the north wall of the cow shed. This shot was taken to identify how the wall undulates.
- Plate 20 A close up of the joint between the cow shed and two storey part is obscured by plant overgrowth. The materials for construction may hint at the cow shed being later than the two storey element but both these construction methods can be used simultaneously
- Plate 21 Due to space constraints a complete, flat elevation photograph was unattainable therefore a slightly oblique photo of the southern elevation of the two storey part has been taken. This shows the steep stairs and entrance into the hay loft
- Plate 22 Southern elevation of cow shed
- Plate 23 Whole southern elevation of the barn. It shows that the Clay lump walls sat on top of a Clay lump base. There is a straight join between the two storey and single storey parts of the barn suggesting that they

where possibly built in two separate phases. The fixtures and fittings identified here will be discussed later

- Plate 24 West elevation of cow shed, difficult to see under the ivy. It is noted that the west and north walls of the cow shed are constructed from herringbone bricks which can be seen more clearly on the inside
- Plate 25 Close up of clay lump and low flint wall. These low walls are evident under all of the surviving clay lump walls, the two storey barn and the southern wall of the cow shed and act as damp courses. This photograph shows part of the cow shed next to the western most door

### **The building (inside)**

- Plate 26 The cart shed. The three posts and principal beam are thought to be amongst the oldest timbers within the building. All have evidence of re-use with the remnants of mortise and dowel holes. The largest mortise joint can be seen on the central of the three posts which also has remnants of tree bark on it (Plate 28). Compacted earth and chalk floor.
- Plate 27 Interior of cart shed
- Plate 28 Reused post. One of two posts and the central beam all showing signs of reuse
- Plate 29 Evidence of axe and adze marks on the principal beam and posts
- Plate 30 The principal beam shows evidence of failing at some of these old tenon joints, and there is evidence of previous repair with a large scarf joint above the front post
- Plate 31 Interior of lean-to wagon store
- Plate 32 West-facing shot of the interior of the cow shed. Herring bone walls. The clay lump wall may have been added slightly later to enclose an open cow shed. The roof structure may all be contemporary but with some older timbers being re-used. There is evidence that some roof timbers look machine cut when the others are hand cut
- Plate 33 East-facing shot of the interior of the cow shed. Shows clay lump wall, brick herring bone wall and the compacted chalk dirt floor
- Plate 34 Cow shed roof structure. Shows that it has had modern underlay added at some point
- Plate 35 West-facing photograph of the work room/stable under hayloft next to the cart shed. There is evidence of some removed farm machinery by the plinth and the hole cut through the wall into the cow shed
- Plate 36 East-facing photograph of the work room/stable under hayloft next to the cart shed. The dividing wall between this room and the cart store look as though it has been restored and revamped at some point. Electricity has been introduced into this room too
- Plate 37 North facing photo to of hayloft interior. Shows one of three windows
- Plate 38 South-west facing photo of hayloft interior. Shows the other two

windows along the west wall of the hayloft

Plate 39 East wall interior of the hayloft showing a small door, possibly to insert a chute. It also depicts the back of the weather-boarding and that the underside of the tiled roof is lathed. This may indicate the building was once thatched or that there was a straw insulation layer between that and the tiles

Plate 40 Photograph of hayloft roof

### **Fixtures and fittings**

Plate 41 West door of cow shed

Plate 42 East door of cow shed

Plate 43 Hayloft door and stairs

Plate 44 Door and window to room next to cart area

Plate 45 Exterior photo of airing window

Plate 46 Interior photo of possible airing window

## **5.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Church Farm is located directly opposite the church in Shelfanger and parts of Church Farm Barn have experienced periods of use for different purposes and disuse. The hayloft appears to have been in constant use for storage whereas the rest of the barn has undergone several periods of repair, but has been maintained with the introduction of electricity and farm machinery at some point.



Plate 1. Church Farm; the barn is to the left. Facing east.



Plate 2. Church Farm barn. Facing west.



Plate 3. Church Farm barn. Facing south-south-east.



Plate 4. Church Farm. Facing east.



Plate 5. Church Farm. Facing west.



Plate 6. One of several farm outbuildings in the north-west corner of the farm.



Plate 7. Looking north-east at further farm outbuildings north of the barn.



Plate 8. Close up of degraded small clay lump barn located just north of the barn.





Plate 9. Degraded outbuilding. Facing north-west.



Plate 10. Looking across the front of the barn showing outhouses and the back garden fence of the original farm house.



Plate 11. Front elevation of the barn showing weather boarding.



Plate 12. Front elevation of the barn showing the two storey hay loft and cart store. Facing north-west



Plate 13. South-west facing view of the barn.



Plate 14. North elevation of the barn.



Plate 15. South-east facing view of the barn.



Plate 16. West elevation.



Plate 17. Close up of straight joint.



Plate 18. North elevation (rear) of cow shed.



Plate 19. Looking along the north wall of the cow shed.



Plate 20. The joint between the cow shed and two storey part of barn is obscured by plant overgrowth.



Plate 21. Southern elevation of the two storey part of barn. Facing north-east.



Plate 22. Southern elevation of cow shed.



Plate 23. Whole southern elevation of the barn.



Plate 24. West elevation of cow shed.



Plate 25. Close up of clay lump and low flint wall.



Plate 26. The cart shed.



Plate 27. Interior of cart shed.



Plate 28. Reused post.



Plate 29. Evidence of axe and adze marks on the principal beam and posts.



Plate 30 a. The principal beam shows evidence of failing at some of these old tenon joints.



Plate 30 b. There is evidence of previous repair with a large scarf joint above the front post.



Plate 31. Interior of lean-to wagon store.



Plate 32. Interior of the cow shed. West facing.



Plate 33. Interior of the cow shed. East facing.



Plate 34. Cow shed roof structure.



Plate 35. The work room/stable under hayloft next to the cart shed. West facing.



Plate 36. The work room/stable under hayloft next to the cart shed. East facing.



Plate 37. Hayloft interior. North facing.



Plate 38. Hayloft interior. South-west facing.



Plate 39. East wall, interior of the hayloft.





Plate 40. The hayloft roof.



Plate 41. West door of cow shed.



Plate 42. East door of cow shed.



Plate 43. Hayloft door and stairs.



Plate 44. Door and window to room next to cart area.



Plate 45. Exterior view of airing window.



Plate 46. Interior view of possible airing window.

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank Mr Costley for funding the survey and the farmer of Church Farm for allowing access across his land.

This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

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