

NORFOLK ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Report No. 964

Building Survey and Photographic Record of the 'Aisled Barn' at Manor Farm, Trunch, Norfolk

18631 TRV

Kenneth Penn

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Location: The 'Aisled Barn', Manor Farm, Trunch
Grid Ref: TG 2840 3501
HER No.: 18631 TRV
Date of fieldwork: 19th April 2004

Summary

A photographic and drawn record was made of the 20th-century 'Aisled Barn', in the village of Trunch, in north-east Norfolk. Although relatively modern, the barn was constructed using elements of earlier (19th century) buildings. These buildings form part of a former farm complex, known as Manor Farm (Site 18631), with probable late 16th-century origins. This work was undertaken in advance of redevelopment.

1.0 Introduction

(Fig. 1)

The aisled barn stands in a complex of agricultural buildings at Manor Farm, on the outskirts of the village at Trunch, in north-east Norfolk. It is proposed to develop the site.

This building survey was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA Ref: ER 16.01.04) and Norfolk Archaeological Unit Project Design (NAU Ref: 1742/JB of May 2003, revised, letter 9.03.04).

The work was designed to create a written, drawn and photographic record to RCHME level 2 (RCHME 1996) in advance of demolition. This work was carried out for Mr David Moore, The Old Piggery, Brewery Road, Trunch.

The site archive is currently held by the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Historical Background

(Figs 2 and 3)

The 'Aisled Barn'

The present 'aisled barn', created in 1915, is just one of the latest buildings in a larger complex of former farm buildings known as Manor Farm (Site 18631). Since its probable origins in the late 16th century, buildings have been added, altered and removed, a process that can be followed in part through the available maps.

From the evidence of the maps, the complex may be seen as two parts, the main buildings to the west, with (in 1839) four lesser buildings to the east, forming a loosely arranged open courtyard. This courtyard had internal boundaries or features that seem to have dictated the shape of the 'aisled barn' (Fig. 2). For ease of reference, the four buildings or ranges are designated A-D in this report:

- A east to west: lies on the north side of the courtyard
- B north to south: lies on the east side of the courtyard
- C east to west: a range of three cottages, the south side of the courtyard
- D north to south: once three small separate buildings, now garages

The barn was built re-using the remaining south wall of Building A, enveloped Building B, and followed the outline of the courtyard. This may explain why the barn wall on the west also has a slight change of alignment, and the oddly 'angled' north-west corner (Fig. 3).

The aisled barn was visited in 1983 (E Rose NLA), when it was noted:

It is aligned north-south and its south gable wall is of flint with brick trimmings except for the eastern aisle which is all of brick. There is a plaque, and an off-centre cart door of later insertion or enlargement. The north gable wall is of two builds of brickwork, but is probably of the same date, the more ornate south wall being in public view and matching the cottages. The north end of the west aisle is rounded. The pantiled roof is of two pitches; the upper pitch is of queenpost construction with its tie beams resting on the aisle posts which have arched braces to them, and longitudinal arched braces to the aisle plate. They divide the aisles into a number of stalls by beams running back from the posts, and this suggests that the building was designed as a grand animal shed rather than as a barn. It is of remarkably good workmanship.

The maps

The map sequence consulted begins with three small-scale maps: Faden's map of 1797, Bryant's map of 1826, and the OS 1" 1st Edition map of 1838. The Tithe map of 1839 and subsequent large-scale maps allow the building sequence to be followed fairly well, with the 'aisled barn' appearing after its construction in 1915.

- Faden's map of 1797 shows just three buildings here, probably the main buildings of the farm complex to the west.
- Bryant's map of 1826 shows what may be the four buildings (A-D) forming an informal courtyard to the east.
- The Tithe Map of 1839 shows the four buildings (A-D) at a scale large enough to see some detail (Fig. 2). Building A has a 'porch' on its north side, not quite central but to the east. Building B stands quite separate to A and not at a right angle. Building C is the range of three cottages, marked as dwellings. Building D is two separate buildings. It can be seen on this map and reflected in later arrangements and building lines, that A and B lay on a bounded area.
- OS 25" map of 1885 shows that Building B to the east had been extended to the north twice, but with a slight change of alignment to meet Building A, producing a 're-entrant angle'. We may call this sequence B1, B2, B3 for convenient reference.
- OS 25" map of 1906 (Fig. 3b): this map shows that Building A had been removed by then, although its south wall had been retained (from the evidence of the 'aisled barn'), and this helped define the edge of the courtyard and came to determine the shape of the aisled barn. It can be seen on this map that the 'courtyard' was not a regular rectangle but had changes of alignment and 'angled'

corners, that at the north-west coming to dictate the odd shape of the barn there. The map of 1906 is the latest before the construction of the barn.

3.0 Methodology

The objective of this survey was to create a record of the chapel to RCHM level 2 (RCHM 1996). This requires:

- Written record (this report)
- Drawing:
 - Sketch plan
 - Plans of floors to show form and location of structural features of historical significance. (Site recording was based upon a set of drawings kindly provided by Stead Mutton Associates (Chartered Architects). These were annotated on site).
- Photographs:
 - General views of the exterior
 - Overall appearance of the interior
 - Detailed coverage of the exterior

4.0 Building Survey

(Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5)

The building of 1915 is essentially a straightforward structure of one build, with some probable internal changes of a minor nature. Its oddities largely came about by making use of the remains of two earlier buildings (A and B) and by following the outline of the courtyard area.

Remains of these earlier buildings can be seen in the present building: in the north wall (Building A) and in the east and south wall (Building B). Whether the odd character of the barn in its north-west corner owes anything to some pre-existing feature is not clear.

Apart from these earlier remains, the structure is of one date (1915). It has an offset cart entrance on the south side and a normal door opposite in the north wall, with the south-west corner of Building A as its east jamb. There are four other small doors (Fig. 4) which allow access to the side alleys and must indicate an original intent for the barn to be used as an animal shed with two sets of stalls either side of a covered 'yard' (Figs 4 and 5).

The main supports and the braces are of oak, elsewhere softwood. The roof has windbraces. The roof is of pantile and the ridge has four vents. The floor slopes to the north and is presently of earth. The stalls are raised above the level of the central yard; at the south side about 0.30m, towards the north about 0.45m

Building A: south wall

(Fig. 6)

The north elevation shows the full length of Building A (13.10m) with its corners, its central doorway (3.68m wide, blocked with pre-1915? brick) and the return for the north-running end walls, marked by concrete render of the cut brickwork of the former return.

There is a plinth of flint cobbles and two courses of bricks, and the wall survives to a height of about 3m towards the east end. The wall also contains a narrow opening (1.5m high, 0.30m wide, blocked) and a small recess (0.80m high, 0.20m wide, with arched head), also blocked, close to the door opening.

Within the 1915 barn, two shallow buttresses flank the former door to Building A. The narrow blocked opening is also evident and rises to about 1.30m above the plinth. These two features have no counterparts on the west side of the door. This building was therefore not symmetrical in all aspects.

Building B (B1, B2 and B3)

(Figs 7 and 8)

The north-to-south range (Building B) comprises three separate builds, and a change of alignment, with butt joints marking their junctions (Fig. 7). Of this range, only the long east wall and the short south wall (of B1) remain, although the dimensions of this range may have helped determine the size of the east aisle in 1915.

Building B1 was of brick set on a plinth of flint cobbles and two courses of bricks. A break in the plinth may mark some former opening. There are no indications of windows. The end (south) wall survives to a height of 2m with brickwork of 1915 above. This contains a window and door of 1915 and two small narrow blocked openings (0.35m high) of the earlier building (Fig 8). It is 5.0m east-to-west, 9.50m north-to-south.

Building B2 was added to the north (it is shown on the 1906 map), on a slightly changed alignment. Its wall is of flint cobbles internally and brick externally. It also contains no windows. It is 8.10m in length.

Building B3 is the last element to the north and dates to before 1906 (map); its north end is taken up by a doorway of 1915. It is 3.10m in length, with no opening on its east side.

5.0 Conclusions

The aisled barn was built in 1915, using the remains of two earlier buildings to provide the north and east walls and following the footprint of the courtyard. Given the high quality of the wooden structure, the decision to retain the parts of earlier buildings, and the manner in which the east and west sides follow earlier arrangements, seems almost perverse.

The building may be viewed as a pair of stock sheds (with integral covered yard), with stalls and access to feeding alleys at the sides, and four vents in the roof. It was intended as a single-storey building built to a high specification in its use of timber structure and use of curved braces, with iron straps and bolts as fixings.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the writer, who is grateful to Edwin Rose (NLA) and Mr David Moore for their advice. The report was illustrated by Sandrine Whitmore, formatted and produced by Maggie Foottit and edited by Alice Lyons.

Bibliography

RCHME, 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification, Third Edition*. Swindon: RCHME.

Appendix 1: Index to Black and White photographic archive

Norfolk Archaeological Unit – Black & White Photographic Archive			
Site: 'aisled barn', Manor Farm, Trunch, Norfolk			
B&W Code: HER Number: 18631 FILM KNT			
Frame No.	Description	Photographer	Date
1	-	K PENN	April 04
2	Interior west side, looking north	K PENN	April 04
3	Same	K PENN	April 04
4	Same	K PENN	April 04
5	Same	K PENN	April 04
6	Interior west side, looking north	K PENN	April 04
7	Same	K PENN	April 04
8	Interior west side, looking north	K PENN	April 04
9	Same	K PENN	April 04
10	Same	K PENN	April 04
11	Interior west side, looking north	K PENN	April 04
12	Same	K PENN	April 04
13	Detail of truss	K PENN	April 04
14	Same	K PENN	April 04
15	Detail of truss	K PENN	April 04
16	Same	K PENN	April 04
17	Stalls, west side	K PENN	April 04
18	Same	K PENN	April 04
19	North wall, from north. East jamb of door and concrete render	K PENN	April 04
20	North wall from north-east.. West jamb of east door	K PENN	April 04
21	Same	K PENN	April 04
22	East aisle, from north	K PENN	April 04
23	Same	K PENN	April 04
24	As 20,21	K PENN	April 04
25	Same	K PENN	April 04
26	Detail of truss	K PENN	April 04
27	Same	K PENN	April 04
28	Interior north-west corner from south-east	K PENN	April 04
29	Same, from south-west	K PENN	April 04
30	Detail of roof	K PENN	April04
31	North wall from south, detail of east buttress and blocked opening	K PENN	April04
32	Same	K PENN	April04
33	Same, west buttress	K PENN	April04
34	Same	K PENN	April04
35	Interior south wall from north	K PENN	April04
36	East aisle from west	K PENN	April04

Norfolk Archaeological Unit – Black & White Photographic Archive

Site: 'aisled barn', Manor Farm, Trunch, Norfolk

B&W Code: HER Number: 18631 FILM KNV

Frame No.	Description	Photographer	Date
1	-	K PENN	April 04
2	North-west corner from north-west	K PENN	April 04
3	Same	K PENN	April 04
4	North-west corner from north-west	K PENN	April 04
5	Same	K PENN	April 04
6	South-west corner from south-west	K PENN	April 04
7	Same	K PENN	April 04
8	North-west corner from west	K PENN	April 04
9	Same	K PENN	April 04
10	North-west corner	K PENN	April 04
11	Same	K PENN	April 04
12	North-west corner	K PENN	April 04
13	Same	K PENN	April 04
14	North-west corner	K PENN	April 04
15	Same	K PENN	April 04
16	Same	K PENN	April 04
17	North wall door	K PENN	April 04
18	Same	K PENN	April 04
19	Same with south-west corner of earlier building	K PENN	April 04
20	Same	K PENN	April 04
21	North wall, earlier wall, blocked recess and doorway	K PENN	April 04
22	North wall blocked opening	K PENN	April 04
23	Same with doorway	K PENN	April 04
24	North-east corner from east	K PENN	April 04
25	Same	K PENN	April 04
26	East wall showing B1 and B2	K PENN	April 04
27	South wall from east	K PENN	April 04
28	Same	K PENN	April 04
29	South-east corner from south-east	K PENN	April 04
30	Same	K PENN	April04
31	Detail of woodwork	K PENN	April04
32	Truss	K PENN	April04
33	Same	K PENN	April04
34	Interior from south-east	K PENN	April04

Norfolk Archaeological Unit – Black & White Photographic Archive

Site: 'aisled barn', Manor Farm, Trunch, Norfolk

B&W Code: HER Number: 18631 FILM KNW

Frame No.	Description	Photographer	Date
1a	-	K PENN	April 04
2a	From north-east	K PENN	April 04
3a	Same	K PENN	April 04
4a	From north	K PENN	April 04
5a	Same	K PENN	April 04
6a	Same	K PENN	April 04
7a	Part of north wall	K PENN	April 04
8a	North wall and door	K PENN	April 04
9a	Same	K PENN	April 04
10a	North wall blocked window and recess	K PENN	April 04
11a	North wall blocked door	K PENN	April 04
12a	North wall from north-east	K PENN	April 04
13a	Same	K PENN	April 04
14a	East wall	K PENN	April 04
15a	Same	K PENN	April 04
16a	Same	K PENN	April 04
17a	East wall	K PENN	April 04
18a	East wall	K PENN	April 04
19a	South-east corner	K PENN	April 04
20a	Same	K PENN	April 04
21a	Se corner	K PENN	April 04
22a	South-east corner from south	K PENN	April 04
23a	Same	K PENN	April 04
24a	South-east corner	K PENN	April 04
25a	South wall date stone	K PENN	April 04
26a	Same	K PENN	April 04
27a	South wall	K PENN	April 04
28a	Same	K PENN	April 04
29a	South-west corner	K PENN	April 04
30a	Same	K PENN	April04
31a	From the south	K PENN	April04
32a	Same	K PENN	April04
33a	Same	K PENN	April04

Norfolk Archaeological Unit – Black & White Photographic Archive**Site: 'aisled barn', Manor Farm, Trunch, Norfolk****B&W Code: HER Number: 18631 FILM KNX**

Frame No.	Description	Photographer	Date
1a	East aisle from south-west	K PENN	April 04
2a	Same	K PENN	April 04
3a	East aisle wall	K PENN	April 04
4a	Same	K PENN	April 04
5a	Interior of south wall showing earlier building	K PENN	April 04
6a	Same	K PENN	April 04
7a	Interior from south-east	K PENN	April 04
8a	Same	K PENN	April 04
9a	Same	K PENN	April 04
10a	East aisle looking north	K PENN	April 04
11a	Interior from south-east	K PENN	April 04
12a	Truss detail	K PENN	April 04
13a	Same	K PENN	April 04
14a	Stanchion detail	K PENN	April 04
15a	Same	K PENN	April 04
16a	Graffiti	K PENN	April 04
17a	South wall south-east corner	K PENN	April 04
18a	North-east corner from east	K PENN	April 04
19a	East aisle wall from north	K PENN	April 04
20a	East wall, B1, B2	K PENN	April 04
21a	East wall	K PENN	April 04
22a	Same	K PENN	April 04
23a	Same	K PENN	April 04
24a	East wall	K PENN	April 04
25a	Truss detail	K PENN	April 04
26a	Interior from south	K PENN	April 04
27a	Same	K PENN	April 04
28a	Truss detail	K PENN	April 04
29a	Same	K PENN	April 04
30a	Detail of truss	K PENN	April04
31a	Same	K PENN	April04
32a	Windbracing	K PENN	April04
33a	-	K PENN	April04

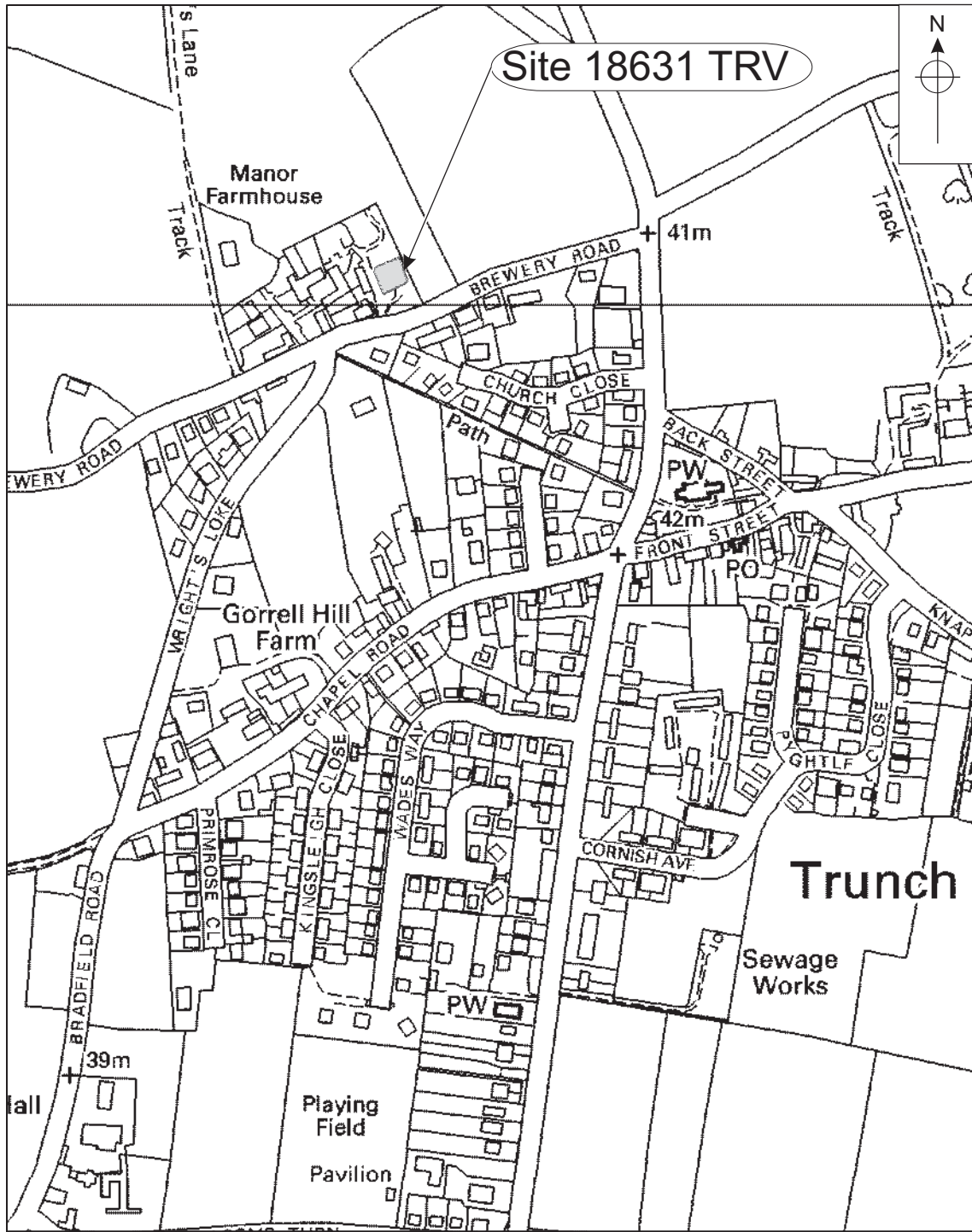


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

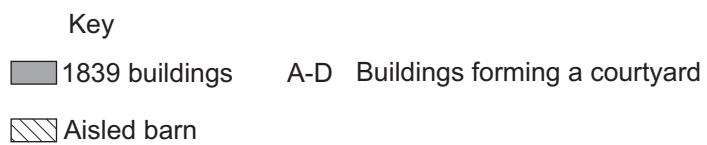
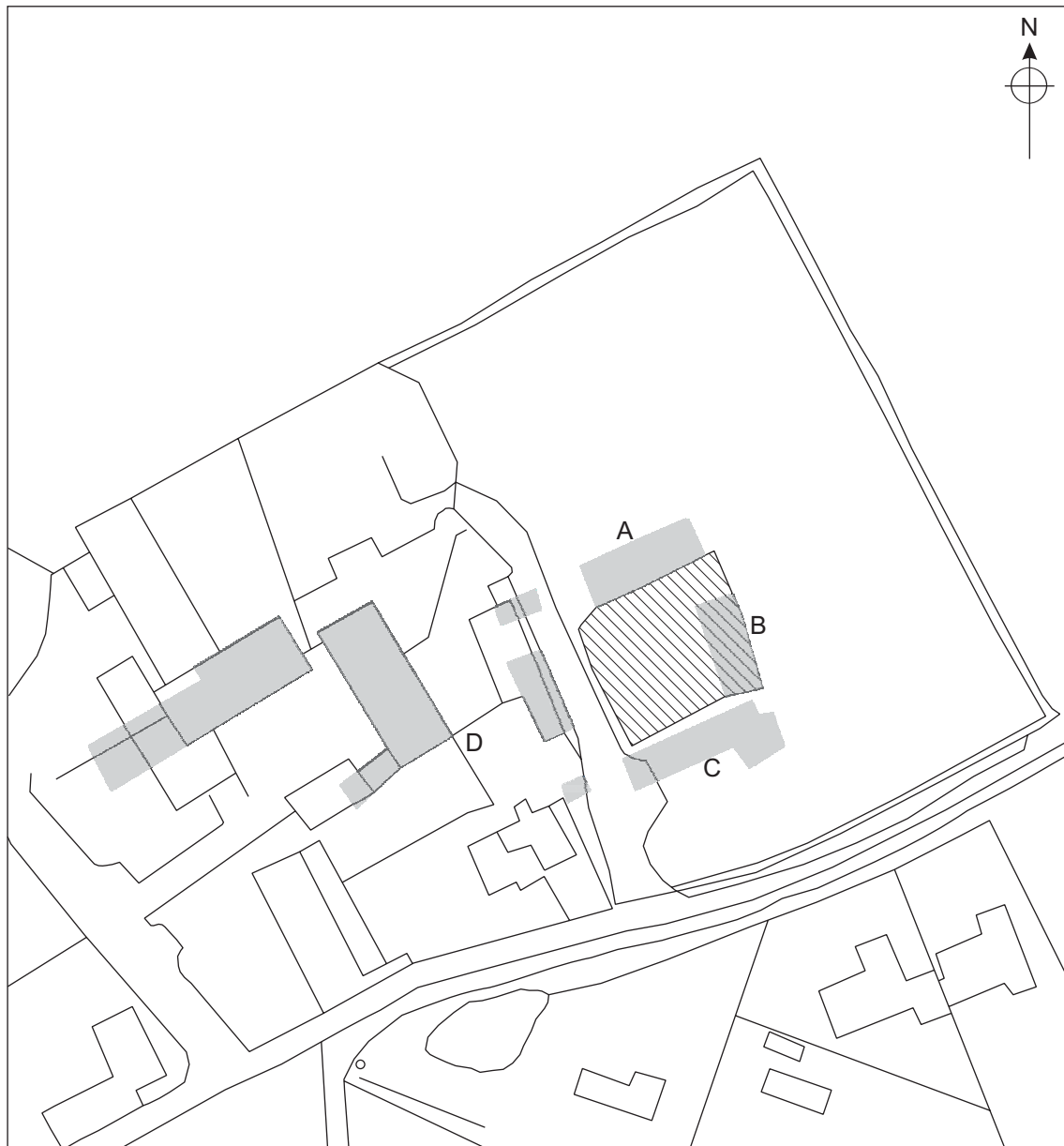


Figure 2. Plan of proposed conversion with with the Manor Farm buildings shown on the title map of 1839 . Scale 1:1000

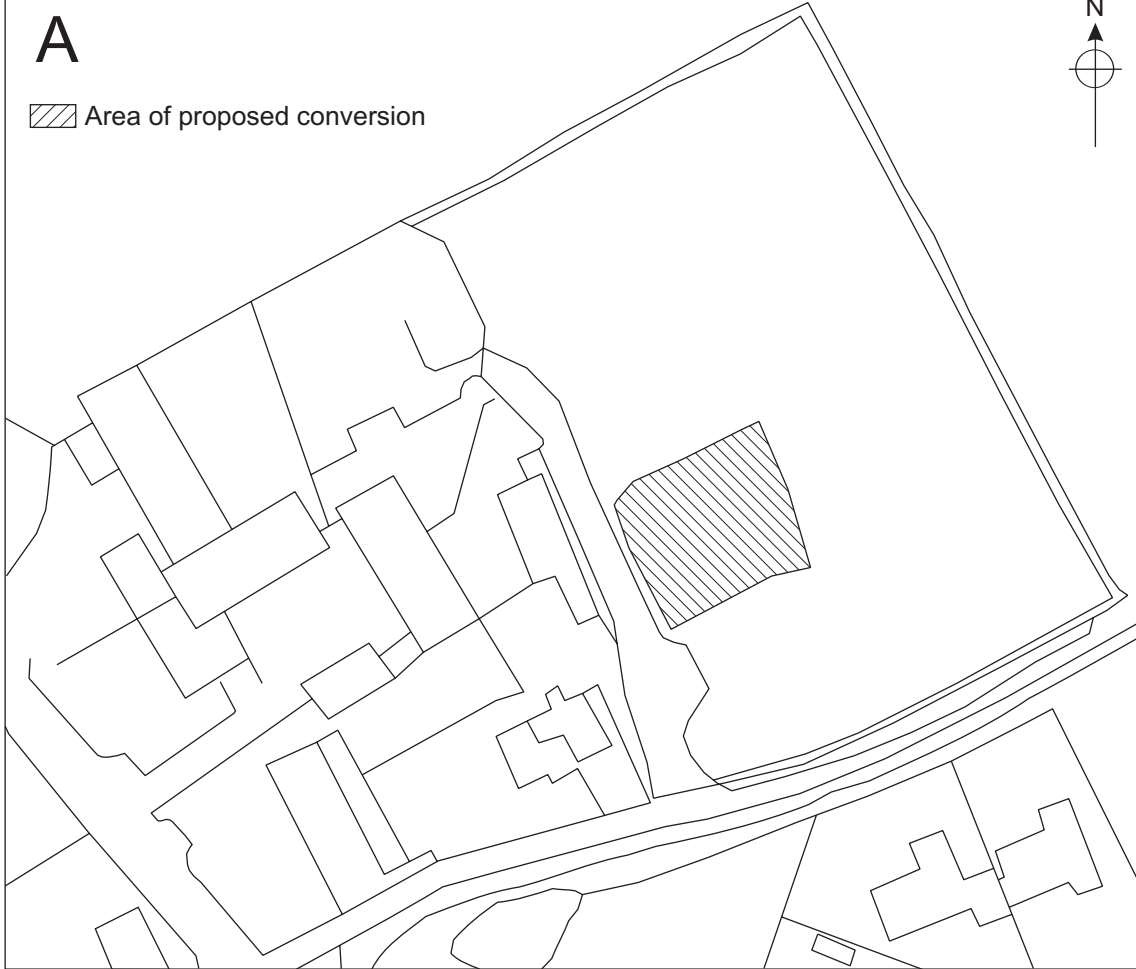


Figure 3. (A) Plan of proposed conversion
 (B) OS map of 1906. Scale 1:1000

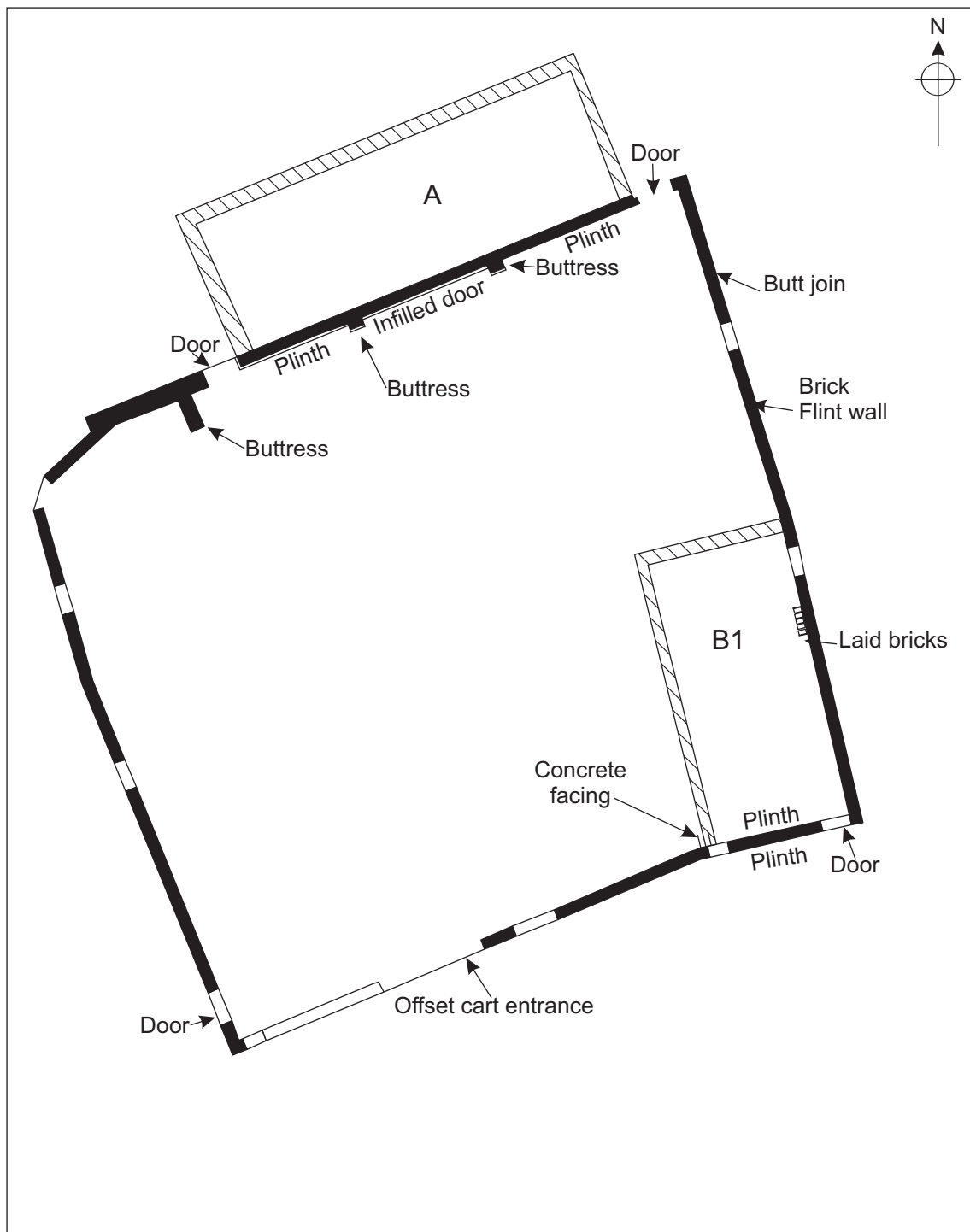


Figure 4. Plan of aisled barn, annotated, with former buildings A and B1 shown.
Scale 1:200

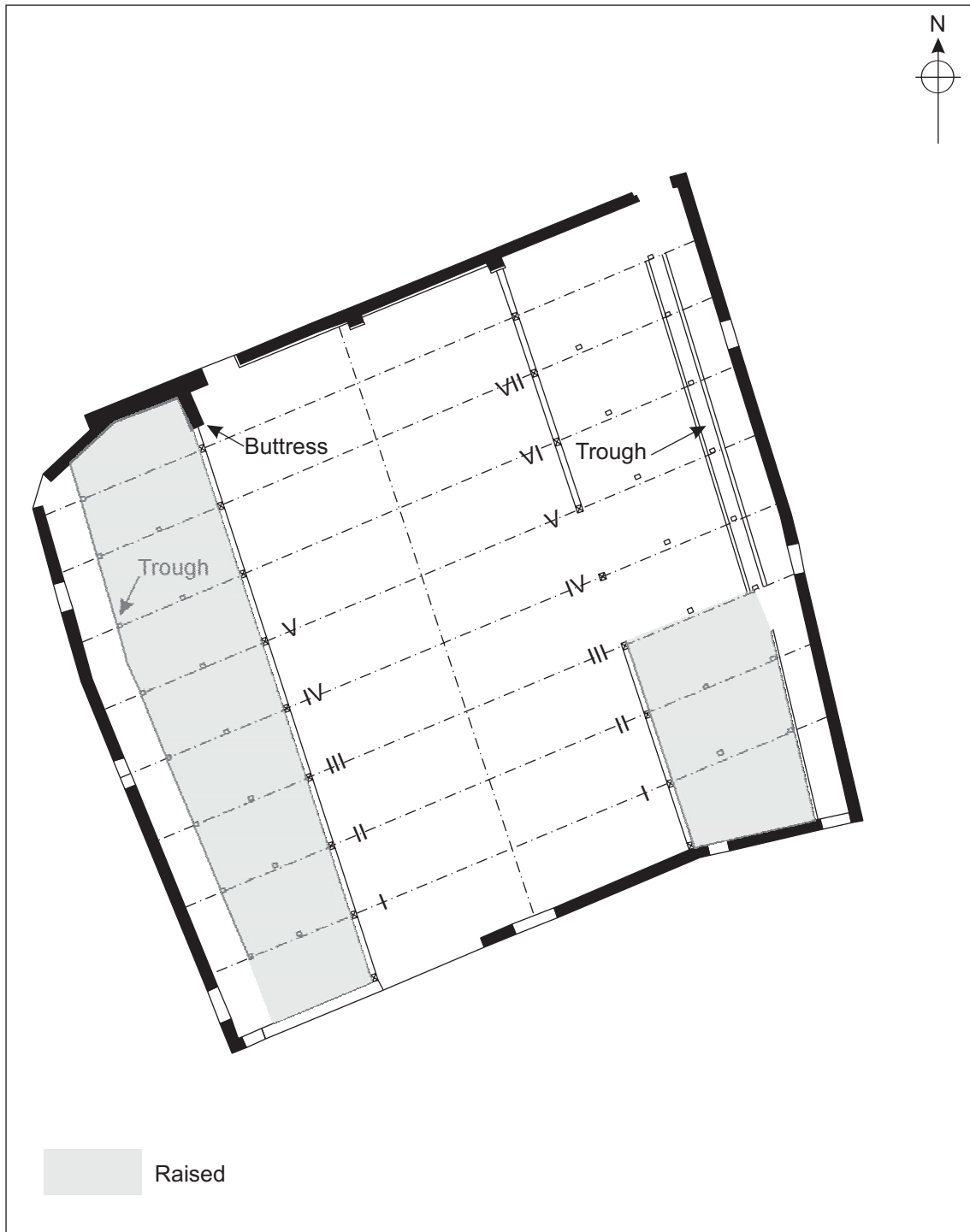
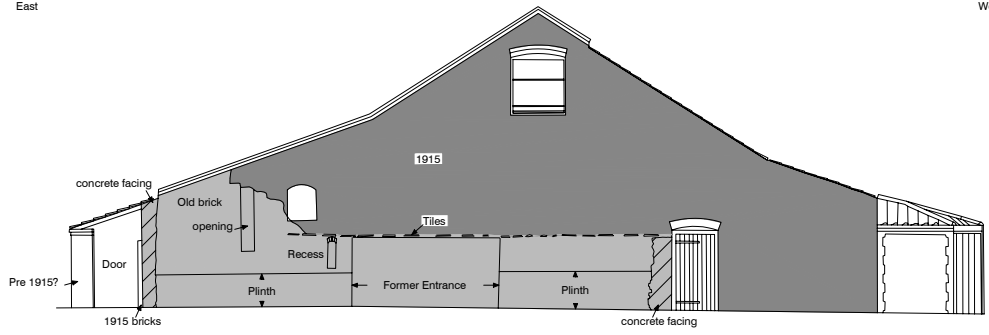


Figure 5 . Plan of aisled barn with timber uprights and raised stalls shown.
Scale 1:200

East

West





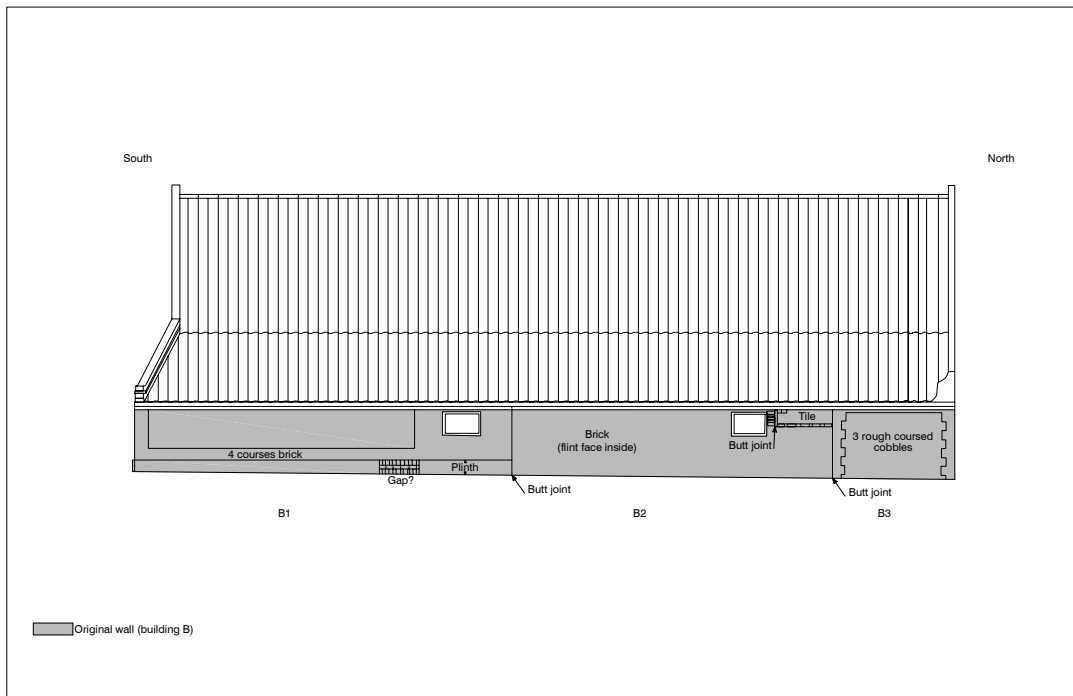


Figure 7. Aisled barn, east elevation. External. Scale 1:100.



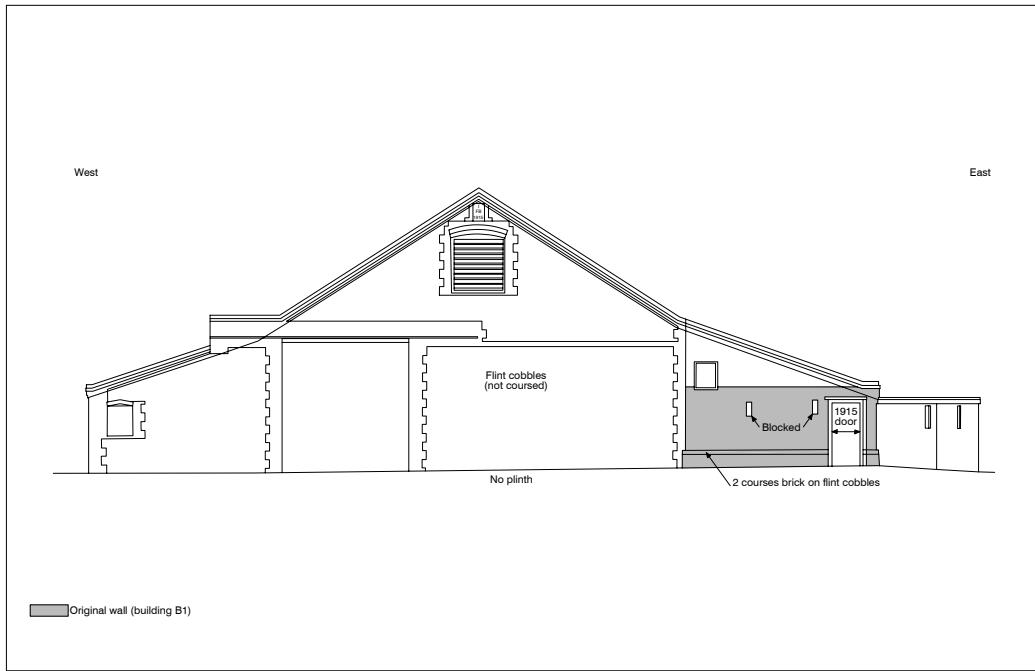


Figure 8. Aisled barn, south elevation. External. Scale 1:100.

