

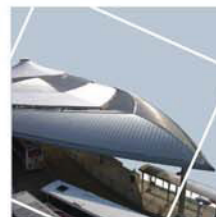
Report 2230



nau archaeology

**A Level 2 Historic Building Recording Survey at
Crispins, Garboldisham South Norfolk.**

ENF124580



Prepared for
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Appendix 1

Photographic plan of buildings showing direction and location of photographs

Location:	Crispins, Garboldisham
District:	Breckland
Grid Ref.:	TM 0062 8147
HER No.:	ENF124580
OASIS Ref.:	79130
Client:	Dakin Estates
Dates of Fieldwork:	14 May 2010

Summary

In May of 2010 a Level 2 historic building survey was undertaken by NAU Archaeology at two agricultural buildings on land to the south of Crispins in Garboldisham at the request of Dakin estates. The survey identified a threshing barn dating from between the latter half of the 18th century and first forty years of the 19th century as well as a probable cart shed immediately to the south constructed between 1842 and the 1880's. Both structures are typical examples of agricultural buildings found upon farms during the 18th and 19th centuries and the threshing barn in particular demonstrates several alterations consistent with changing agricultural practices in the 20th century.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

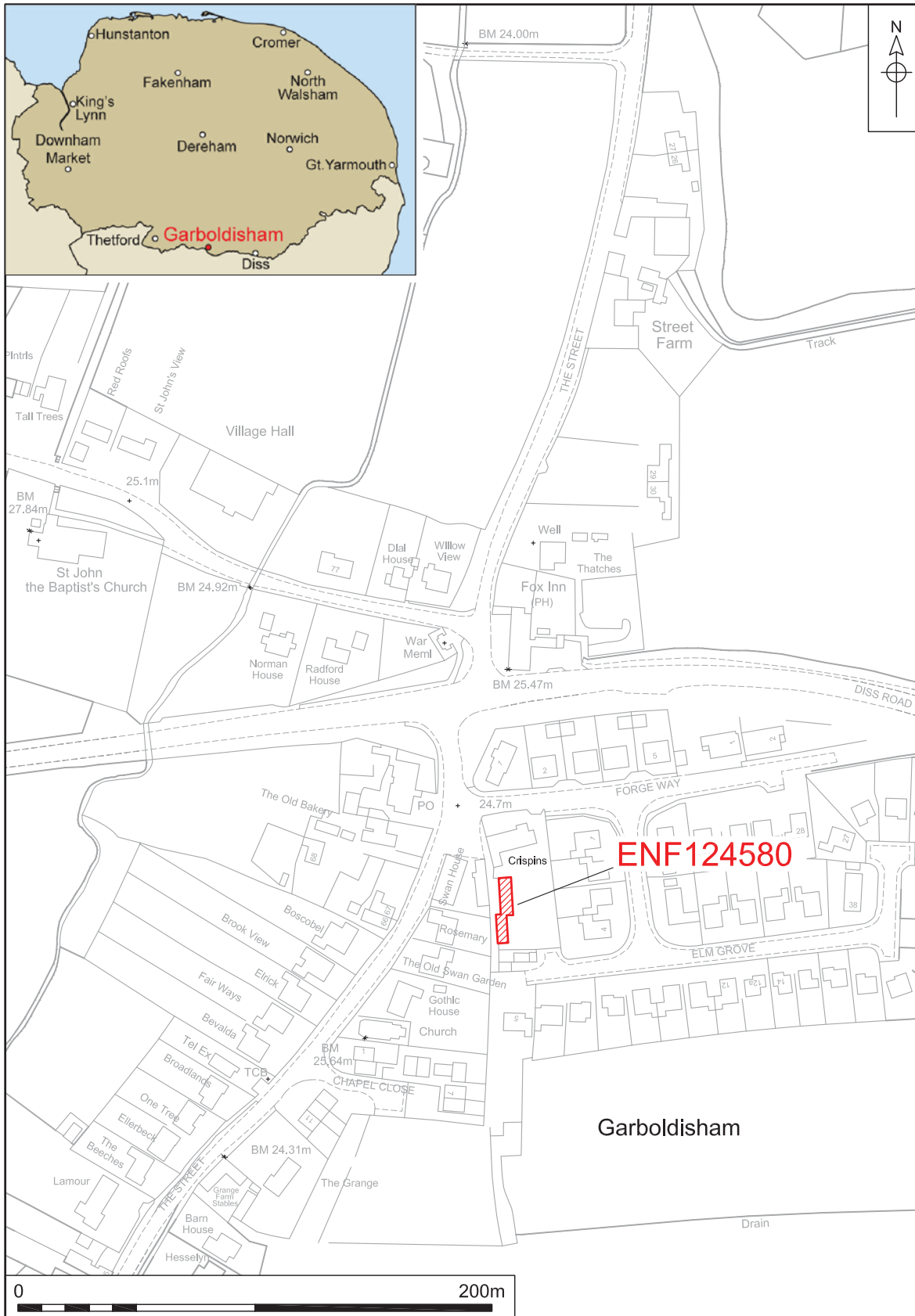
In May 2010 a Level 2 historic building survey was undertaken at two agricultural buildings at Crispins, Forge Way, Garboldisham (Figs 1 and 2). The survey was designed to record details relating to the form, function, date, extent, phasing, character, status and significance of the building through a drawn, photographic and written record.

The work was commissioned by Dakin Estates in response to a stipulation by NLA (Norfolk Landscape Archaeology) that a building survey be conducted upon the current buildings prior to the commencement of renovation works converting the structures to residential use (Ref: CNF41957). An NAU Archaeology Project Design (NAU/NP/BAU2226 *sic*) was prepared in response to this brief in August 2009.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards

2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Both buildings are visible upon the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps dating to the latter quarter of the 19th century and the larger of the two structures may also be present upon the tithe map of 1842. DN/TA 657.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

3.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this survey was to create a record that included the following three elements:

- A black and white photographic record using 35mm film
- A drawn record, highlighting structurally significant features, fixtures and fittings
- A written record

The work undertaken conforms to the guidelines set out within *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice* (English Heritage 2006) Level 2 survey.

Two buildings were surveyed and are referred to in the text as buildings A and B; in both cases access was good with the exception of the northern half of the western elevation of Building B where heavy vegetation obscured viewing.

4.0 BUILDING SURVEY

4.1 Building A



Plate 1. Eastern elevation of Building A

Building A was a rectangular building 18.4m long and 4.7m wide on a north south alignment lying directly to the south of Crispins a dwelling located off Forge Way which may well have been its original attendant farm house. Its construction was largely of clay lump blocks upon a plinth of soft red brick over flint and the exterior walls to the south and east were painted in with coal tar which, with the exception of the plinth, had subsequently been heavily whitewashed to the east (Plates 1 and 2).

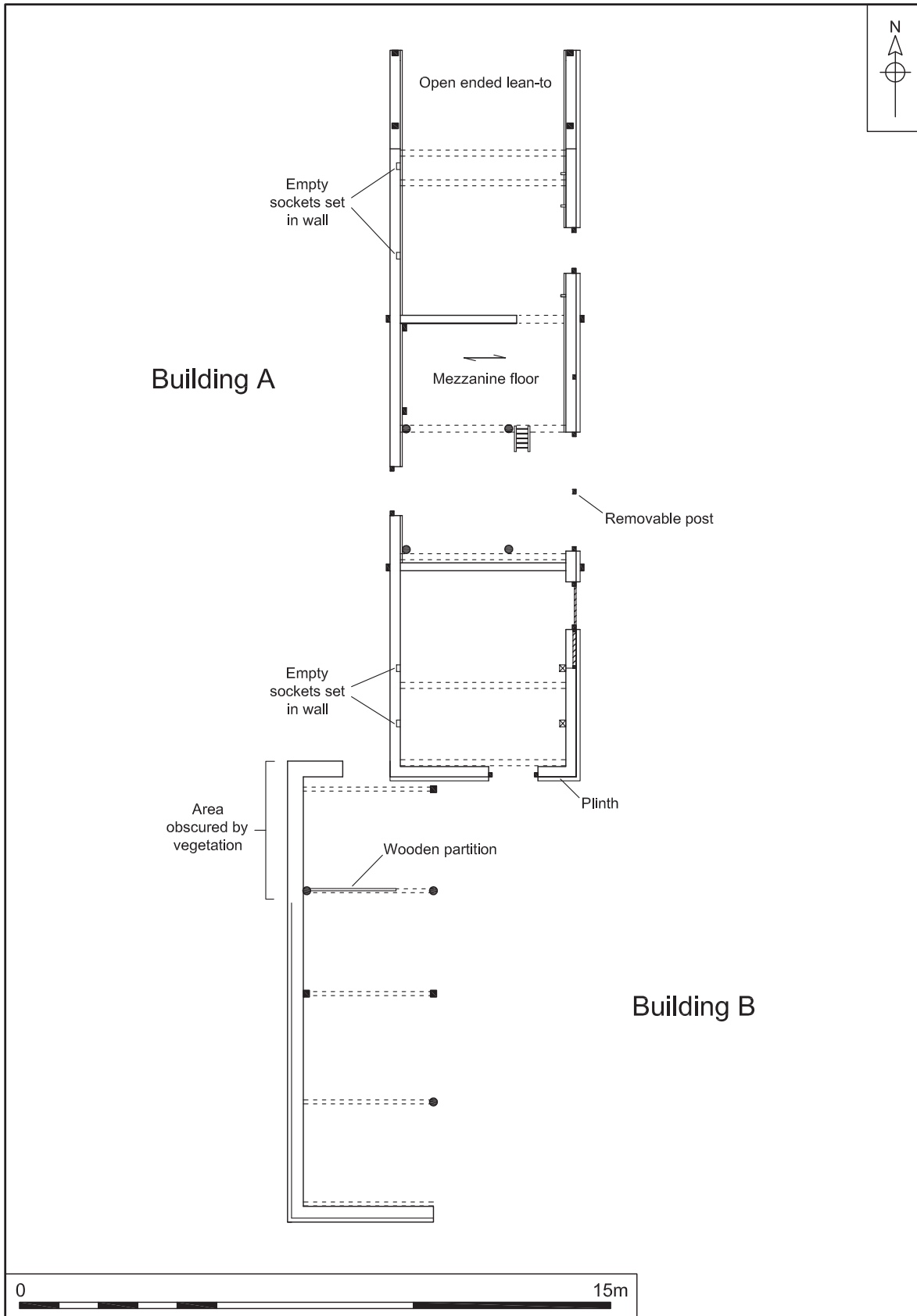


Figure 2. Plan of buildings. Scale 1:150



Plate 2. South elevation of Building A (with Building B to the west)

The western external elevation had a concrete render masking the clay lump that was evident from the interior, while the northern end was left open beneath a red lean-to pan-tile roof that projected forward from below an upper gable formed of horizontal planks (Plates 3 & 4).



Plate 3. Western elevation of Building A



Plate 4. Northern elevation of Building A



Plate 5. Northern end of Building A showing remaining plinth wall

It was clear that this end of the building had been partially demolished leaving only the plinth wall in place upon which the lean-to had been built (Plate 5).

The southern gable was clay lump to the apex with barge board trim beneath the red pan-tile roof that extended across the remainder of the building. Five external doorways were provided, three of which lay along the eastern elevation. The largest of these was located just to the south of centre and extended up to the eaves with two large externally opening doors held in the centre by a removable post. Directly to the south lay a second doorway of a width suited to foot traffic and this was accompanied by a rectangular window immediately to the south. Both shared a single wooden lintel and had been blocked in more recent times. Towards the centre of the northern third of this eastern elevation another door similar in character to that just described was recorded and gave access to the northern cell of the structure. At the southern elevation a fourth doorway provided access into the southern cell while the fifth sat along the western elevation opposing the larger double doors of the eastern elevation described above. Internally the building was divided into three separate cells all approximately of the same length with an internal doorway between the northernmost and central cell set into the eastern end of the dividing cross wall. The lower half of this cross wall was constructed of brick in a Flemish bond which appeared to be of 20th century date while clay lump was again employed for the upper half. The gable was however not in-filled beyond a modern plastic tarpaulin over the roof truss. The southern cross wall had a brick plinth eight courses high in soft red brick using an English bond with clay lump above to the apex. No direct access was provided between the southern and central cells. The interior walls of all three cells were white washed excepting the lower portions where much of the coating had worn off and the southern wall of the central cell which had been partly lime plastered across the centre (Plate 6).



Plate 6. Northern elevation of southern cross wall

A mezzanine floor had been erected within the northern half of the central cell at a height of just under two metres and was accessed by a movable ladder (Plate 7). Opposite the mezzanine against the southern wall a row of wrought iron hooks had been nailed along a plank of wood raised from the floor on a framework of wood posts (Plate 6).



Plate 7. Mezzanine floor in central cell

Some form of frame work, perhaps for partitions, may also have once existed in the southern cell where evidence of two empty sockets in the western wall just below the wall plate corresponded with two empty post holes tightly placed against the base of the eastern wall (Plate 8). The western wall of the northern cell also displayed two empty sockets cut roughly into the clay lump but here no corresponding post holes were present below the eastern wall. Instead three short beams protruded from the wall which may have been used as pegs or possibly represent the ends of rafters from a lean-to that would have extended east from the external elevation (Plate 9).



Plate 8. Empty sockets in western wall southern cell



Plate 9. Protruding beams from the southern wall of Building A

If this latter interpretation is true no evidence could be seen of it on the exterior. The majority of the roof timbers including all the rafters had been replaced probably in the 20th century however the tie beams may have been original and were tied back into the walls with iron straps (Plate 10).

The floors of the two southern cells were of concrete however where the concrete had come away in the central cell a surface of mortared crushed brick fragments could be seen below. The northern cell was laid in face bedded red brick.



Plate 10. Roof truss in Building A



Plate 11. Eastern elevation of Building B

4.2 Building B

Building B projected south from the south western corner of the larger Building A (Plate 11). It had a length of 11.6m, width of 3.6m and was slightly offset to the west of Building A with which it partially shared some of its northern wall. Its northern, southern and western walls were of clay lump over a flint and brick plinth all covered with coal tar while the eastern elevation was left open supporting its wall plate upon four wooden post which divided the structure into four approximately equal bays (Plate 12).



Plate 12. Building B southern and western elevations

A door in the northern gable wall gave access to the western side of Building A while the northern bay of building B was partitioned off from the remaining three bays with a series of vertical wooden planks (Plate13). The roof structure was much the same as that seen in Building A and supported a covering of red pan-tiles. The floor surface was concreted throughout but the most southerly bay was slightly raised above the others (Plate 14). Sadly despite a through investigation no fixtures or fittings survived that might have confidently identified its use.



Plate 13. Northern partition in Building B



Plate 14. Interior of Building B facing south

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

The larger of the two buildings is a threshing barn as might have belonged to a small farm. The large double barn doors were designed to allow the entry of carts loaded with harvested crop that could be stored in bays either side of the central threshing floor. During the winter this crop could then be threshed on the hard wearing floor thereby freeing the corn seed from the husks which could in turn then be winnowed in the through draught created by the central opposing doors before collecting the processed seed for storage. The cross walls are likely to be later insertions from the late 19th -20th centuries after the barns function had altered and crop was no longer stored in such a way. The use of the three cells after this date is less clear, however the plastered southern wall in the central cell may indicate the tethering of cattle along this wall, preventing the cattle from damaging the clay lump blocks (Plate 6). The mezzanine floor is unlikely to be original given its relationship with the later northern cross wall but its construction suggests it could only have been used for storage purposes.

The divisions suggested by the empty sockets and post holes within the southern cell are either evidence of stall divisions or a second mezzanine level floor. The height of such divisions would indicate horse stabling however the limited width between each division appears to rule this explanation out. As such the conclusion must be that they represent the remnants of an upper floor similar to that seen in the central cell. The northern cell has clearly been slightly shortened leaving just the evidence of the remaining plinth to indicate its former length. The empty sockets are difficult to explain without further evidence which may well have been destroyed or hidden but it is not uncommon to see mezzanine floors at each end of a threshing barn. The truncation of the northern end is again likely to be the result of changing agricultural practice where it was no longer necessary to maintain a building of such length. The storage of produce in larger structures or silos in the 20th century prompted farmers to try and find other uses for threshing

barns and one such adaptation often seen was the removal of an end wall so as to house tractors and other farm equipment. The addition of a lean-to at a lower height no doubt results from the change from tractor storage to car storage at which point the structure probably no longer formed part of a working farm.

Building B is likely to be either a cart shed for the protection of farm equipment from the elements or a loose box in which cattle could be housed in a more informal way than a cattle shed. The absence of any sort of fixtures and fittings does not rule out either explanation as neither would necessarily have had many of these present. However the coal tar paint indicates that at least in its later use it is more likely to have been a cart shed as such a coating would not have been appropriate for cattle housing.

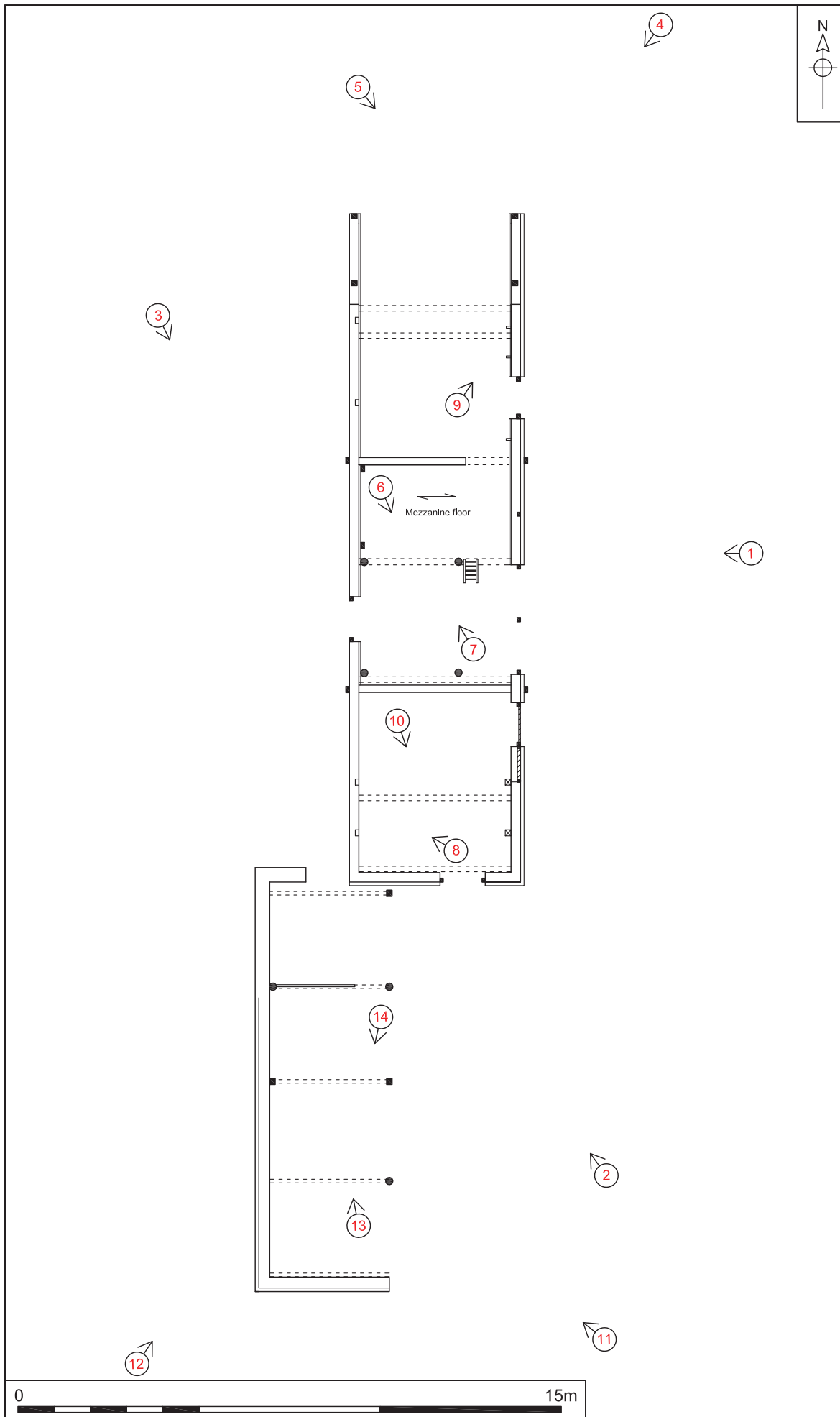
The construction in clay lump and the form of the bricks used for much of the plinth indicate that both buildings must date to the mid 18th century or later. Analysis of the cartographic evidence suggests that possibly the threshing barn may predate the 1842 tithe map although it may equally replace an earlier structure built upon the same footprint. If this were the case then its construction almost certainly took place between this date and the latter quarter of the 19th century after which changing agricultural practices rendered the threshing barn obsolete and no more were built. The cart shed first appears on the 1st edition of the OS map of the area and so must have been built sometime in the preceding 40 years. The structural use of the southern wall of Building A makes Building B likely to be of a later date. There is no indication that either of these buildings formed part of a larger group around a central yard and so either they constituted part of a small farm or were designed as satellite buildings for a much larger farm.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author with illustrations by David Dobson and the author. The project was overseen by Nigel Page with editing undertaken by Jayne Bown.

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| | 1842 | <i>Tithe Map of Garboldisham, DN/TA 657</i> |



Appendix 1. Photographic plan of buildings. Scale 1:150