

**Outbuilding at  
Moneypot Farm,  
Redgrave, Suffolk  
RGV 048**

**Heritage Asset Assessment**

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1-100163



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# **Outbuilding at Moneypot Farm, Moneypot Hill, Redgrave, Suffolk**

**(TM 046 786)**

## **Heritage Asset Assessment**

*This report provides a written and photographic analysis and record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a clay-lump outbuilding in the curtilage of a listed building. It has been prepared to a specification written by Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (ref. SpecHAA\_MoneypotFm\_Redgrave\_pre\_2010, dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010) and is intended to inform and accompany a forthcoming planning application for conversion.*

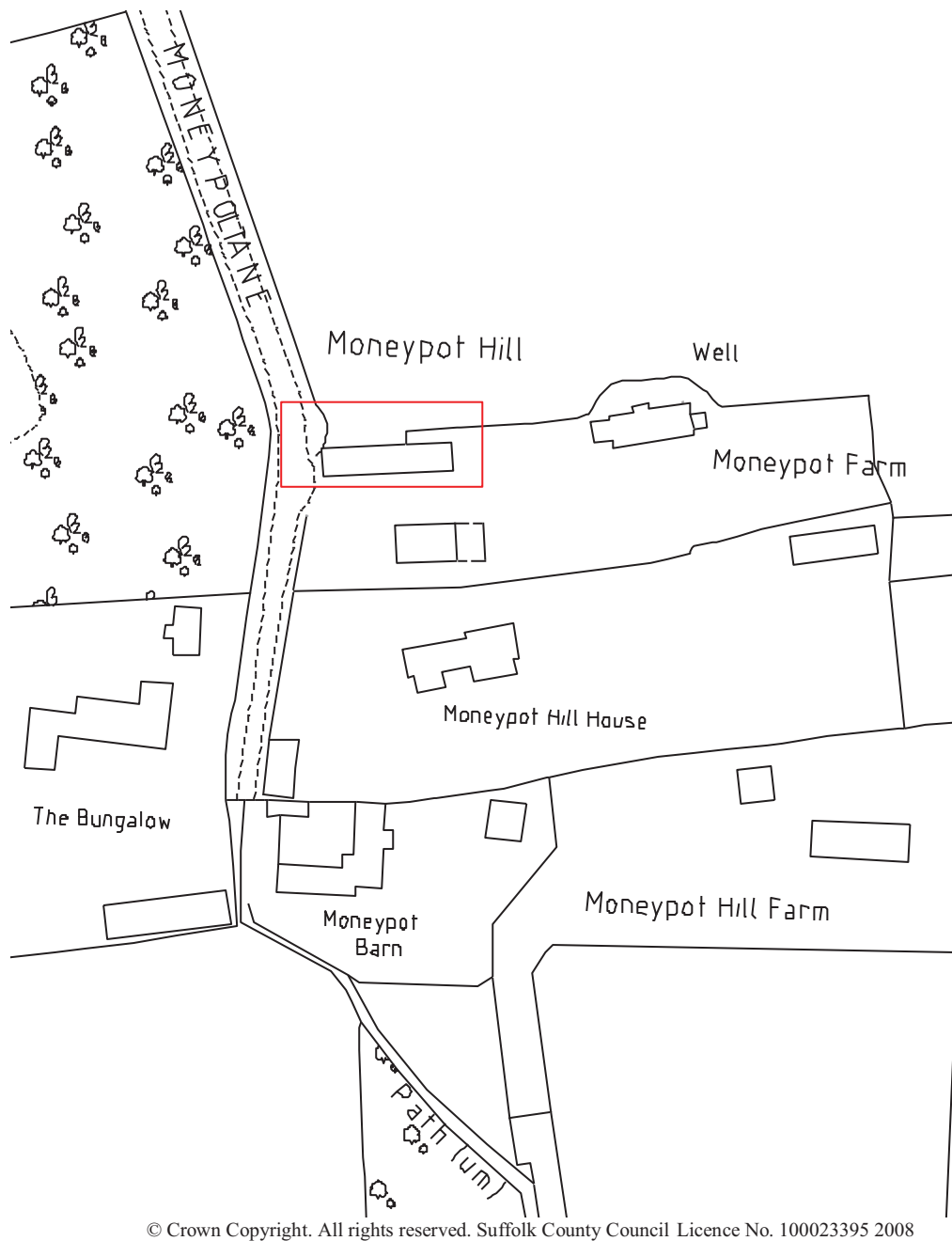
### **Introduction**

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a photographic record in the form of 38 digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also includes 10 printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is described in a separate schedule and wherever possible includes a scale rod with half-metre divisions in red and white. The site was inspected on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

### **Summary**

Moneypot Farm lies in open countryside on Moneypot Hill, overlooking the Waveney Valley approximately 800 m north of Redgrave village, and is reached by a dedicated unmade track known as Moneypot Lane. The farmhouse is a grade II-listed timber-framed and rendered structure of *circa* 1600 situated some 50 m east of the lane and reached by a grass track which is flanked by the outbuilding surveyed in this report. At the time of the Redgrave tithe survey in 1846 the farm was a modest tenanted holding of 13.5 acres occupied by a butcher who lived on the village green. The farmhouse was divided into a pair of cottages.

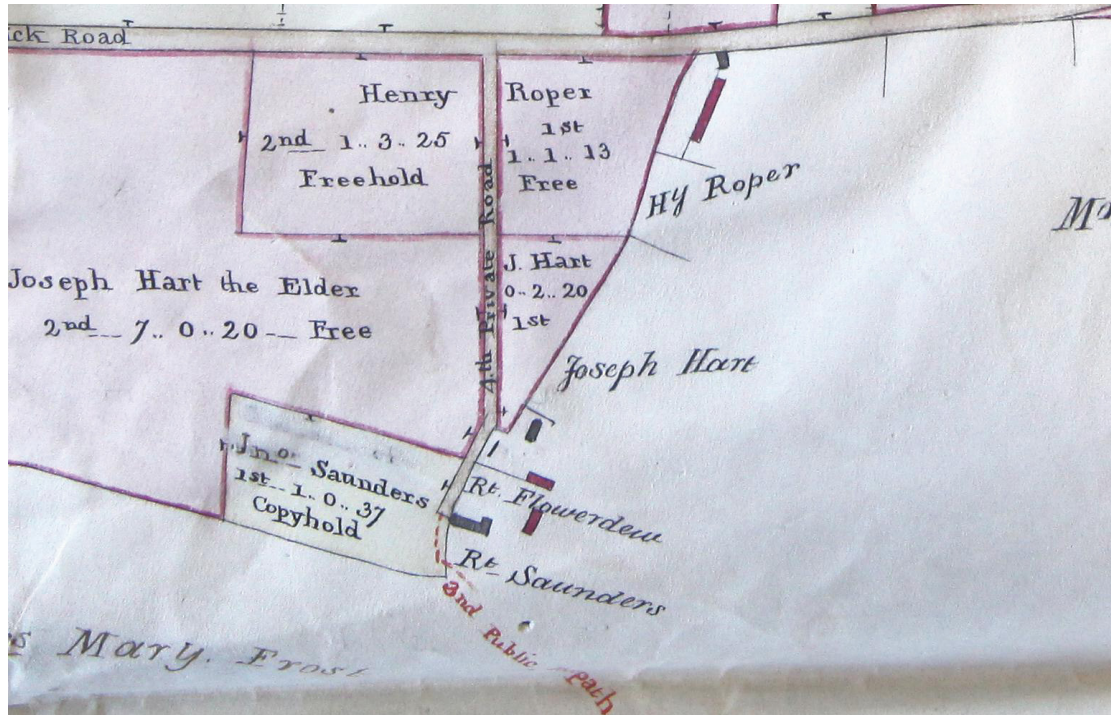
The outbuilding consists of a pantiled, single-storied mid-19<sup>th</sup> century shed with walls of clay-lump on a plinth of flint rubble, and an adjoining similar structure with walls of boarded studwork. Both sheds are divided into a pair of approximately equal compartments entered by four south-facing doors and appear to have formed a range of loose boxes – presumably for the butcher's beef stock. Neither structure was shown on the tithe map, when the site was occupied by a substantial barn, but both were present by 1886. The boarded shed probably post-dates its neighbour by a decade or two, but was substantially rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is now of little historic value – although any future conversion may reveal archaeological evidence of the earlier barn. The clay-lump shed, in contrast, has lost its original roof structure but is otherwise unusually well preserved and represents a good example of an increasingly rare type. It has largely escaped the ravages of time and cement render to which these vulnerable vernacular structures have usually succumbed: its walls are almost entirely intact and its original layout remains unaltered. The building is not, however, of sufficient age or rarity to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing in its own right, particularly as it already enjoys some protection due to the proximity of the listed farmhouse.



**Figure 1**  
**Modern Ordnance Survey**  
**Enclosing the outbuilding in red and showing the grade II-listed farmhouse immediately to the east.**

## **Documentary and Cartographic Evidence**

Moneypot Farm lies in open countryside on Moneypot Hill, approximately 800 m north of Redgrave village, and is reached by a dedicated unmade track known as Moneypot Lane which also serves a small cluster of houses to the south. The farmhouse is a grade II-listed timber-framed and rendered structure of *circa* 1600 lying on the northern crest of the hill and reached by a grass track from the lane some 50 m to the west. The clay-lump outbuilding which forms the subject of this report adjoins the lane on the northern side of the grass track.



**Figure 2**  
**The Redgrave enclosure map of 1817**  
 Showing Moneypot Farm to the east of the '4<sup>th</sup> private road' above the first letter of the name of its owner: Robert Flowerdew. SRO 150/1/2.11



**Figure 3**  
**Detail of the Redgrave parish tithe map of 1846.**  
 Moneypot Farm is shown in red to the north, and is divided into a pair of cottages with a large barn with central porch in grey to the west. The barn is aligned on a north-south axis and the present outbuilding had yet to be built: the clay-lump shed probably lay to the west of the barn's northern bay. SRO FDA 199/1A/1b

The site lay on the eastern edge of Redgrave Common Fen, and was shown on the enclosure map of 1817 which divided the common land into private plots (figure 2). The farmhouse, then owned by Robert Flowerdew, was depicted in red with a simple rectangular outline, much as it remains today, but the outbuilding was conspicuous by its absence. The tithe map of 1846 shows a large barn on approximately the same site, with a central porch facing the house (figure 3), but this had been demolished by 1886 when the outbuilding was shown in its existing form on the first edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey (figure 4). The boarded shed to the east probably overlapped the site of the barn's northern bay, and was shown with a pair of small animal yards on the south. In 1846 the farm was a modest holding of 13.5 acres owned by William Colson and occupied by Edward Vyse. The western half of the house (plot 308 in figure 3) was leased to Vyse, and described as a cottage and garden, but the eastern half (307) was occupied by James Tye (and as also described as a cottage and garden). The roadside barn held by Vyse was a 'barn and sheds' (307) but his two fields were not individually named (nos. 306 to the north and 328 on the opposite side of the track to the west). He also held the plantation on the western side of the road (326). Edward Vyse was a butcher, according to White's Directory of 1844, who (according to the tithe apportionment) owned and occupied the grade II-listed thatched house now known as Knoll Cottage to the right of the Cross Keys Public House on the village green. He had no land adjoining his house and presumably used Moneypot Farm to rear livestock for slaughter – probably installing a sub-tenant in the cottage.

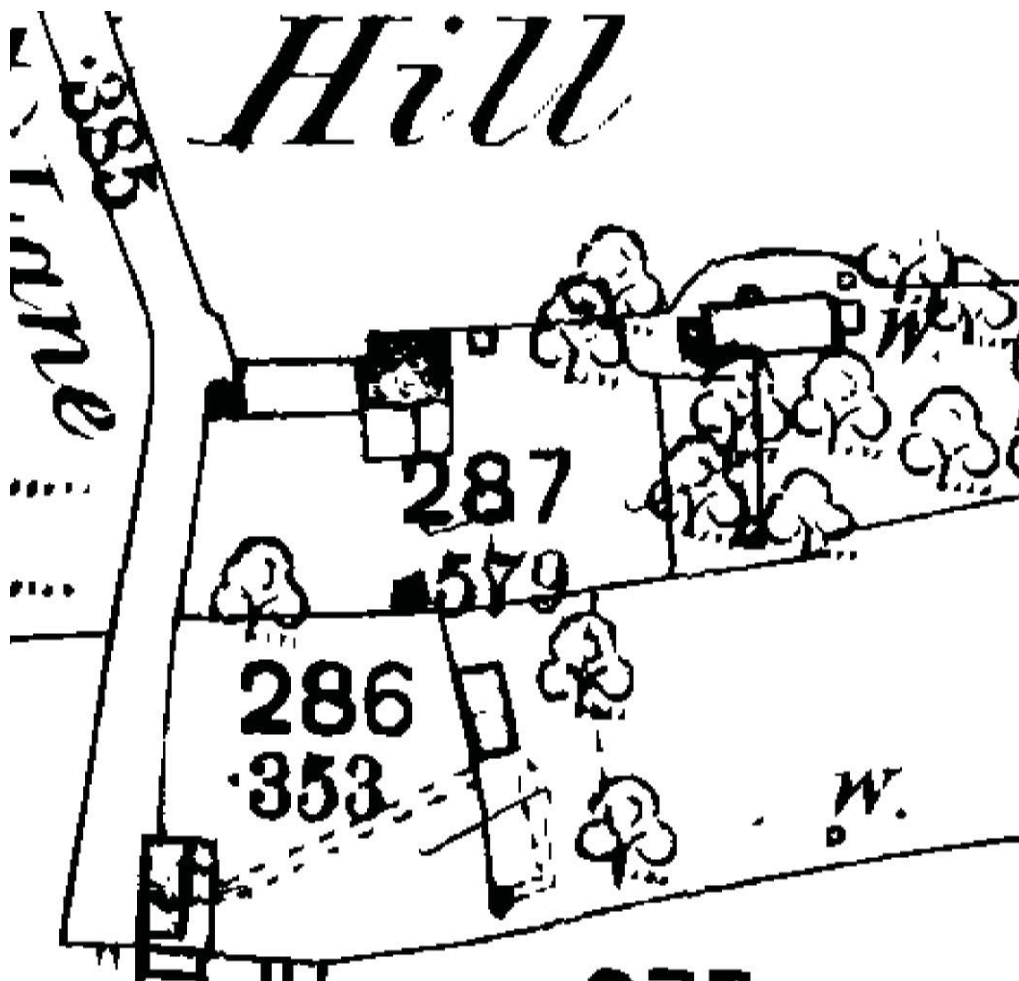


Figure 4

The First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1886.

The barn of 1846 on its north-south axis had been replaced by the present clay-lump outbuilding and the adjoining boarded shed on an east-west axis.



**Figure 5**  
**Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1904, showing two small animal yards to the south of the boarded shed – which appears to have lost a narrow rear lean-to since 1886.**

The Ordnance Survey of 1904 shows a similar layout to that of 1886, although what may have been a narrow lean-to adjoining the northern elevation of the eastern shed (building 2 in figure 6) had been demolished in the interval. The four entrances seem to be depicted in the southern elevation and a small additional shed of which there is no longer any trace on the ground adjoins the roadside (western) gable. The presence of two small yards to the south of the eastern shed suggests the building was designed as a series of loose boxes – probably for the butcher’s cattle. The small detached shed on the field boundary to the north-east still survives, albeit overgrown, but is not shown on the current Ordnance Survey (figure 1).

## Building Analysis

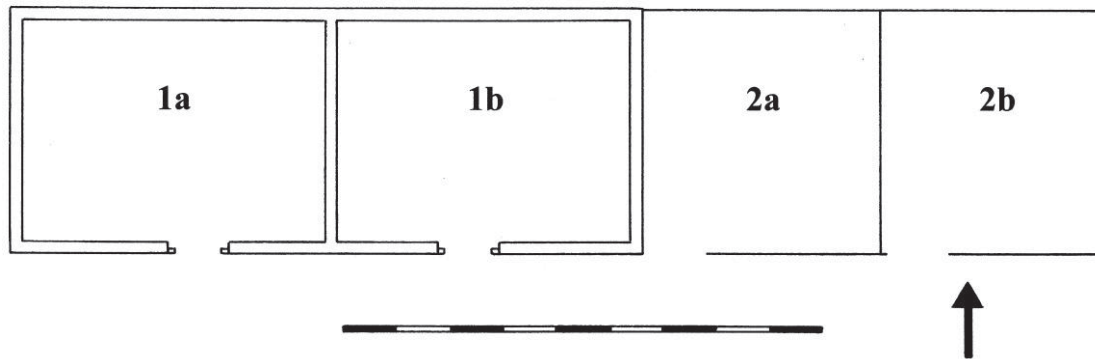


Figure 6

Schematic block plan of the outbuilding, numbering its individual compartments for ease of reference in the text and photographs. Scale in metres.

### Key

1. A single-storied mid-19<sup>th</sup> century clay-lump structure on a flint plinth with a pantiled roof divided by an internal clay-lump partition into a pair of sheds entered from the south. Probably designed as loose boxes for cattle belonging to the butcher who occupied the farm. The roof rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but the clay-lump fabric substantially intact. The internal walls were probably lined in protective boarding but with the exception of two bentwood hooks attached to the internal partition of the western shed (1a) no relevant fixtures and fittings now survive.
2. A single-storied pantiled structure with boarded walls. Probably originating in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century and shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1886 but extensively altered in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century with a new roof of nailed softwood and plinths of shuttered concrete. The walls now largely clad in corrugated iron. Divided by a low concrete internal partition into two sheds entered from the south and probably designed as a pair of loose boxes for cattle. Each unit formerly opening onto a small enclosed southern yard. Now with an internal shelf and recently used for storing garden produce and firewood.

### 1. Clay-Lump Shed

The clay-lump shed at Moneyopot Farm extends to 12.1 m in length by 4.6 m in width overall (39.75 ft by 15 ft) on an east-west axis, and its walls rise to 2.1 m (7 ft) at their roof-plates including a flint-rubble plinth of 0.75 m (2.5 ft). The pantiled roof structure consists of machine-sawn softwood with side-purlins supported on raking queen-struts that are crudely nailed to the tie-beams. The same structure is found in the adjoining boarded shed, albeit at a slightly lower pitch, and is clearly a replacement of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, but includes some pitch-pine and other round-wood that may have been salvaged from the original roof. The individual clay blocks are laid in a clay mortar and average 45 cm in width by 13 cm in height and 18 cm in thickness (18 ins by 5 ins by 7 ins); the walls are therefore somewhat thinner than the 23 cm or 9 ins of most clay-lump buildings in the county. The external walls are thinly daubed in tarred clay, but there is no evidence that the internal walls were ever rendered. The external eastern gable is also devoid of tar or render, and is not weathered, suggesting it has always abutted either the present boarded shed or the large barn shown on the tithe map of 1846 (figure 3). The internal floors of both the clay-lump and boarded sheds



appear to consist of 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete but were largely hidden by firewood and general debris at the time of inspection.

The shed is divided into two compartments by an original clay-lump partition which rises only to the level of the eaves. The western compartment is slightly larger than its counterpart to the east at 6 m in length compared with 5.5 m (19.5 ft and 18 ft respectively) but their layout is identical with approximately central entrance doors to the south as shown in figure 6. The two doorways are original features, respected by red-brick dressing to the flint plinths (reflecting similar dressing to the building's four corners) and the extant lower sections of two half-hung doors may also survive from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A small window in the rear (northern) elevation of the western compartment (1a) appears to be a secondary feature and is not repeated to the east. Two small bentwood hooks are attached to the western side of the internal partition. While these resemble harness hooks they appear too small for that purpose, while the sheds are improbably large for stables on a very small holding of just 13.5 acres in 1846 (such a farm would have required no more than one or two horses). The building was almost certainly designed as a pair of loose boxes for cattle and may have flanked a yard in front of the barn shown on the tithe map before its demolition and replacement by the boarded shed to the east. Such an interpretation is in accord with the documentary evidence, suggesting the holding was leased to a local butcher and (presumably) used to rear his stock. If so, the internal walls must have been lined with boarding to protect them from the animals, which would explain their excellent state of preservation and lack of render. The structure was not present in 1846 but is shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1886 and probably dates from the 1850s or 1860s when clay-lump was commonly used as an inexpensive building material in East Anglia.

## 2. Boarded Shed

The shed which adjoins the eastern gable of the clay-lump building is of the same width as its neighbour but is slightly lower in height and extends to 8.5 m in length (28 ft). Its walls are crudely constructed with softwood posts and external cladding of both horizontal and vertical boarding set on plinths of (ostensibly) shuttered concrete. Much of the exterior is now additionally clad in corrugated iron. The roof is similarly crude, with tall-sectioned side-purlins supported by raking queen-struts nailed to the tie-beams in an identical manner to that of the clay-lump shed. The structure may have been entirely rebuilt in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, as its roof and concrete plinths suggest, but some of the boarded walls may survive from the late-19<sup>th</sup> century. It is shown with what appears to be a narrow rear lean-to on the Ordnance Survey of 1886 (but not that of 1904) and there are gaps in the boarding of the rear (northern) wall that may have formed doorways into the same lean-to. The interior is divided by a low concrete plinth into two equal compartments, both entered from the south, and this arrangement must also reflect the 19<sup>th</sup> century layout as it was shown with a pair of small animal yards in both 1886 and 1904. It now contains a wide internal shelf to its northern elevation and seems to have been in use as a vegetable and firewood store for some years. Although substantially rebuilt the shed can still be interpreted as a pair of late-19<sup>th</sup> century loose boxes which replaced the earlier barn on the site – either when it was first demolished or shortly thereafter. Given the change of material between the two otherwise similar sheds a date of *circa* 1880 is suggested: clay-lump was generally replaced by boarding and post-and-rail techniques as a material for smaller agricultural buildings during the third quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Historic Significance

The clay-lump shed at Moneypot Farm is a good example of an increasingly rare type, which has largely escaped the ravages of time and cement to which these vulnerable vernacular structures have usually succumbed. While its roof is a replacement, its walls are almost

entirely intact and its original layout remains unaltered. The building is not, however, of sufficient age or rarity to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing in its own right, particularly as it already enjoys some protection due to the proximity of the listed farmhouse to which it belonged. The adjoining boarded shed to the east, in contrast, has been substantially rebuilt during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is no longer of historic merit, although any ground-work associated with its conversion may reveal archaeological evidence of the earlier barn on the site.

## **Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record**

### **Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1**

#### **Photograph no.**

1. General view of site from Moneypot Lane to the south showing the outbuilding and site entrance on the right.
2. General view of site from Moneypot Lane to the north showing the outbuilding and site entrance on the left.
3. General view of site entrance from south showing Moneypot Lane to left and the outbuilding to the right.
4. General view of site entrance from west showing outbuilding to left and 20th century concrete shed to right.
5. Western gable of grade II-listed Moneypot Farmhouse from eastern end of site entrance track.
6. Southern facade of grade II-listed Moneypot Farmhouse from south-west. Included for site context.
7. General view of site entrance from Moneypot Farmhouse to east showing concrete shed to left and small detached shed to right.
8. Southern elevation of small detached shed to east of outbuilding. Included for site context.
9. Southern exterior showing clay-lump shed (1) to left and boarded shed (2) to right, both with two entrance doors and pantiled roofs.
10. Western end of southern exterior of clay-lump shed (1a) showing original doorway with red-brick dressing to flint plinth.
11. Detail of flint plinth and tarred daub to western end of southern exterior (1a) showing invasion by bees.
12. Eastern end of southern exterior of clay-lump shed (1b) showing original doorway with red-brick dressing to flint plinth.
13. Southern exterior of boarded shed showing 20th century corrugated iron cladding to western compartment (2a).
14. Southern exterior from east showing entrance to boarded shed (2a) to right and outward lean to clay-lump fabric to left.
15. Western end of northern exterior of clay-lump shed (1a) showing secondary window to left.
16. Detail of northern exterior of clay-lump shed (1) showing tarred daub above flint plinth.

17. Northern exterior of boarded shed (2) from west showing concrete plinth and corrugated iron cladding.
18. Interior of western shed (1a) from west showing clay-lump internal partition to eastern shed (1b) with bentwood hooks to right.
19. Detail from west of crude bentwood hooks of western shed (1a) attached to internal partition to eastern shed (1b).
20. Southern interior of western clay-lump shed (1a) showing original entrance with red-brick dressing to flint plinth & hooks to left.
21. Detail of southern interior of western shed (1a) showing individual clay-lump blocks in clay mortar.
22. Interior from east of western clay-lump shed (1a) showing 20th century nailed softwood roof structure.
23. Northern interior of western clay-lump shed (1a) showing ostensibly secondary window to left.
24. Interior of eastern clay-lump shed (1b) from east showing southern entrance to left and clay-lump partition to western shed in rear.
25. Western interior of eastern clay-lump shed (1b) showing clay-lump partition to western shed (1a) rising only to tie-beam.
26. Northern interior of eastern clay-lump shed (1b) showing intact fabric without window and cement render to flint plinth.
27. Southern interior of eastern clay-lump shed (1b) showing original entrance with cement render to flint plinth.
28. Internal eastern gable of eastern clay-lump shed (1b) showing exposed flint plinth.
29. Detail from west of roof structure in eastern clay-lump shed showing crudely nailed softwood struts and tie-beam.
30. Northern interior of boarded shed (2) from south-west showing shelf and horizontal external weatherboarding beneath corrugated iron.
31. Northern interior of western boarded shed (2a) showing shelf with eastern gable of clay-lump shed (1) to left.
32. Interior from west of boarded shed showing low partition between western & eastern compartments (2a & 2b).
33. Southern interior of western boarded shed (2a) showing entrance to left and eastern gable of clay-lump shed (1) to right.
34. Eastern gable of clay-lump shed (1) from boarded shed (2a) showing lack of render or weathering.

35. Interior of eastern boarded shed (2b) from east showing low partition to western shed (2a) and entrance to left.
36. Northern interior of eastern boarded shed (2b) showing shelf and possible blocked doorway to left.
37. Interior eastern gable of eastern boarded shed (2b) showing vertical boarding with northern shelf to left.
38. Southern interior of eastern boarded shed (2b) showing entrance to right and horizontal weatherboarding to left.

*(Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pp.12-16)*

**Appendix 2 (pp. 12-16): Selected Printed Photographs**



**Illus. 1** General view of the site entrance from the south showing Moneypot Lane to the left and the outbuilding to the right.



**Illus. 2** The southern exterior of the outbuilding showing the clay-lump shed (1) to the left and the boarded shed (2) to the right, both with two entrance doors and pantiled roofs.



**Illus. 3** The western end of the southern exterior of the clay-lump shed (1) showing the original doorway to the western compartment (1a) with red-brick dressing to the flint plinth. The clay-lump fabric has suffered damage from tunnelling bees where the tar is lacking.



**Illus. 4** The southern exterior of the boarded shed (2) showing the 20th century corrugated iron cladding to the western compartment (2a) and the entrance to the eastern compartment (2b) to the right.



**Illus. 5** The southern interior of the western clay-lump shed (1a) showing its original entrance with red-brick dressing to the flint plinth & two bentwood hooks attached to the clay-lump internal partition to the left.



**Illus. 6** Detail of the southern interior of the western shed (1a) showing the individual clay-lump blocks laid in clay mortar.





**Illus. 7** The interior of the eastern clay-lump shed (1b) from the east showing its southern entrance to the left and the clay-lump internal partition to the western shed in rear (the latter rising only the tie-beam).



**Illus. 8** Detail from the west of the rebuilt 20<sup>th</sup> century roof structure in the eastern clay-lump shed (2b) showing its crudely nailed softwood struts and tie-beam.



**Illus. 9** The northern interior of the boarded shed (2) from the south-west showing the internal storage shelf and horizontal external weatherboarding beneath the later cladding of corrugated iron.



**Illus. 10** The northern interior of the eastern boarded shed (2b) showing the storage shelf and a possible blocked doorway adjoining the low internal partition of shuttered concrete to the left.