

**Barn at Pond Farm,
Thrandeston,
Suffolk
TDE 022**

Heritage Asset Assessment

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1-104045



Leigh Alston MA (Oxon), Architectural Historian
on behalf of
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

**The Archaeological Service
(Field Projects Team)
Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR
Tel. (01284) 352446**

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Barn at Pond Farm, New Road, Great Green, Thrandeston, Suffolk

(TM 119 772)

Heritage Asset Assessment

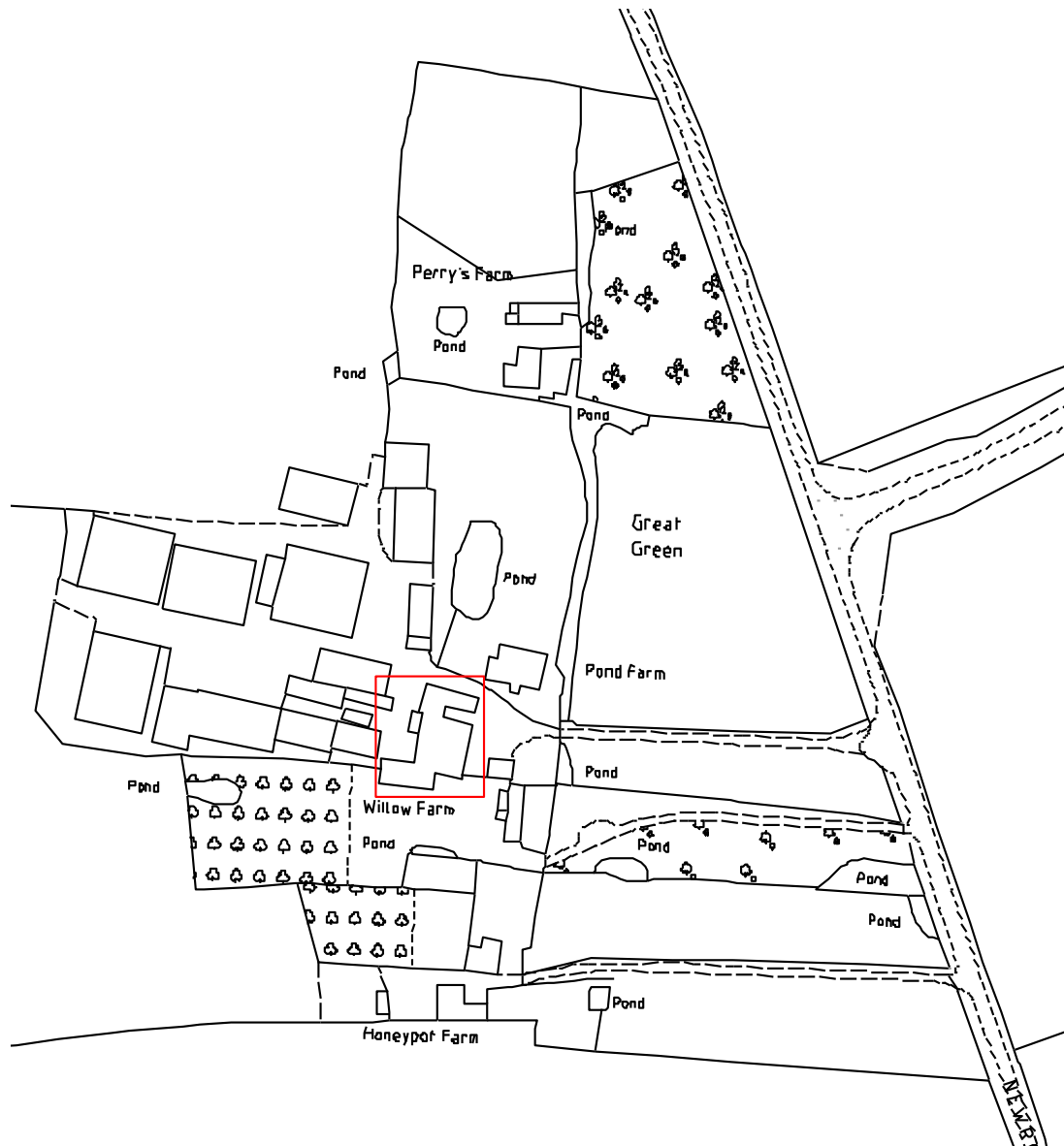
This report provides a written and photographic analysis and record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a redundant barn and attached sheds. It has been prepared to a specification written by Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (ref. SpecHAA_pre_PondFm_Thrandeston_2011, dated 8th April 2011) and is intended to inform and accompany a planning application.

Introduction

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a photographic record in the form of 70 digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also includes 12 printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is described in a separate schedule and the site was inspected on 7th June 2011.

Summary

Pond Farm lies in open countryside approximately 0.8 km NNE of Thrandeston parish church and on the western edge of a substantial medieval green that was enclosed in the mid-19th century. The farmhouse is an unlisted 18th century timber-framed structure clad in 19th century brick which forms the northern side of a courtyard with a substantial 16th century timber-framed barn of five bays to the west and a bridge over the boundary ditch of the green to the east. At the time of the tithe survey in 1846 the farm was a modest tenanted holding of 32.75 acres, of which 18 were arable and the rest pasture. The framing of the barn is typical of the latter part of the 16th century, with edge-halved and bridled scarf joints in the roof-plates, internally trenched and cranked wall braces, jowled storey posts and arch-braced tie-beams. A date of 1580-1610 is likely. Its walls survive largely intact, together with a visually impressive series of arch-braced tie-beams, but the roof was replaced in the mid-20th century. The interior is now undivided, but there is evidence of an internal partition which originally separated the northern bay from the rest. The four southern bays formed a standard threshing barn with an east-facing entrance, but the northern bay was a tall gateway with corner brackets to front and rear and a fully integral ceiling. The resulting thoroughfare allowed vehicles to pass between the barn and a missing structure to the north for which the framing also contains evidence. Pegged studs were inserted into both entrances during the 17th century and it seems likely that the original arrangement was short lived. Early maps demonstrate that many Tudor farmsteads of quite modest proportions possessed fully or partly enclosed courtyards entered by gateways in this manner, but physical evidence is exceptionally rare. The example here presumably operated as a rear gateway immediately opposite the entrance from the green and would have opened onto the farmland beyond. It sheds important light on the sophisticated nature of farm courtyards in England during the late medieval and Tudor periods and in my view merits listing at grade II despite the loss of its original roof. The adjoining mid-19th century clay-lump sheds have been much altered and are not of special significance in themselves, but are of some historic interest insofar as they illustrate a typical Victorian development found on many local farms and contribute to the visual character of the site.



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Figure 1
Modern Ordnance Survey

Enclosing the barn and attached shed in red and showing the unlisted 18th century farmhouse to the north-east. The present road to the right dates from the 19th century and the western edge of Great Green is indicated by the linear ditch immediately east of the house.

Documentary and Cartographic Evidence

Pond Farm lies in open countryside approximately 0.8 km NNE of Thrandeston parish church and on the western edge of a substantial medieval green that was enclosed in the mid-19th century. The farmhouse is an 18th century timber-framed structure (incorporating much re-used material) clad in 19th century brick. The house forms the northern side of a courtyard with a 16th century barn to the west (the subject of this report), an 18th or early-19th century cart lodge with a first-floor granary to the south (recently converted into office space) and a bridge over the broad, water-filled ditch which defines the edge of the former green to the east.

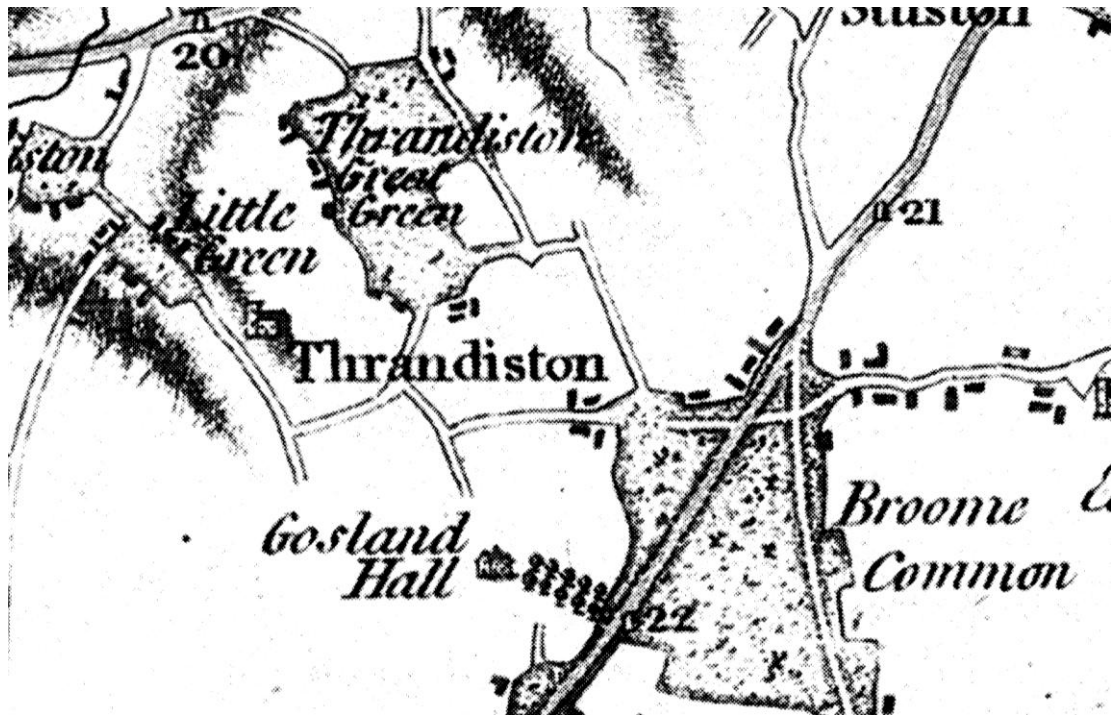


Figure 2

Thrandiston Great Green as depicted on Hodkinson's map of 1783. The area was then dominated by large greens or commons, including Broome Common to the south-east and Little Green to the west.



Figure 3

The Thrandiston tithe map of 1846 (Suffolk Record Office) showing Pond Farm as one of several farmsteads on the western edge of Great Green. A number of these farmhouses date from the 16th and 17th centuries and are listed buildings.



Figure 3a
Detail of the 1846 tithe map showing the L-shaped farmhouse in red to the north and the barn in grey to the south of the pond.

At the time of the Thrandeston tithe survey in 1846 the farm was a modest tenanted holding of 32.75 acres, of which 18 were arable and the rest pasture. It was owned by the Reverend Edgar Rust, who possessed several other farms in the area, and occupied by Henry Pike. The tithe map shows the house in red with an L-shaped outline and a large pond adjoining its western gable. The barn in grey also has an L-shaped profile with a northern wing projecting at an oblique angle towards the farmhouse. It adjoined an additional outbuilding belonging to the neighbouring farm on the south (Willow Farm). The site of the house was described in the accompanying apportionment only as 'premises' (no. 163 in figure 3) and the barn with its adjoining yard as 'pightle' (164).

The first edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1886 shows a very different layout, and suggests a major phase of redevelopment since 1846. The farmhouse remained much the same, but appears to have been divided into a pair of cottages, and the pond had been moved further from the building. The barn and its adjoining structures were shown much as they survive today, with an obtuse angle to the north and a pair of narrow sheds projecting to the east. The latter (nos. 6 & 7 in figure 6) are depicted with broken lines to indicate open southern elevations and were evidently designed as animal shelter-sheds serving their respective yards. Similar changes occurred on many East Anglian farms during the mid-19th century as cattle were increasingly kept in enclosed yards rather than abroad in the fields (a system of intensive animal husbandry now known as Victorian High Farming). Between 1904 and 1927 an additional shed was built to the south of the main cattle yard adjoining the barn on the east, but this has since been demolished. The present owner, Mr Ian Colchester, whose father bought the farm in the 1950s, remembers an enclosed cow shed in this position, and recalls the clay-lump shed to the north of the barn in use as a stable with a narrow tack room to the south.

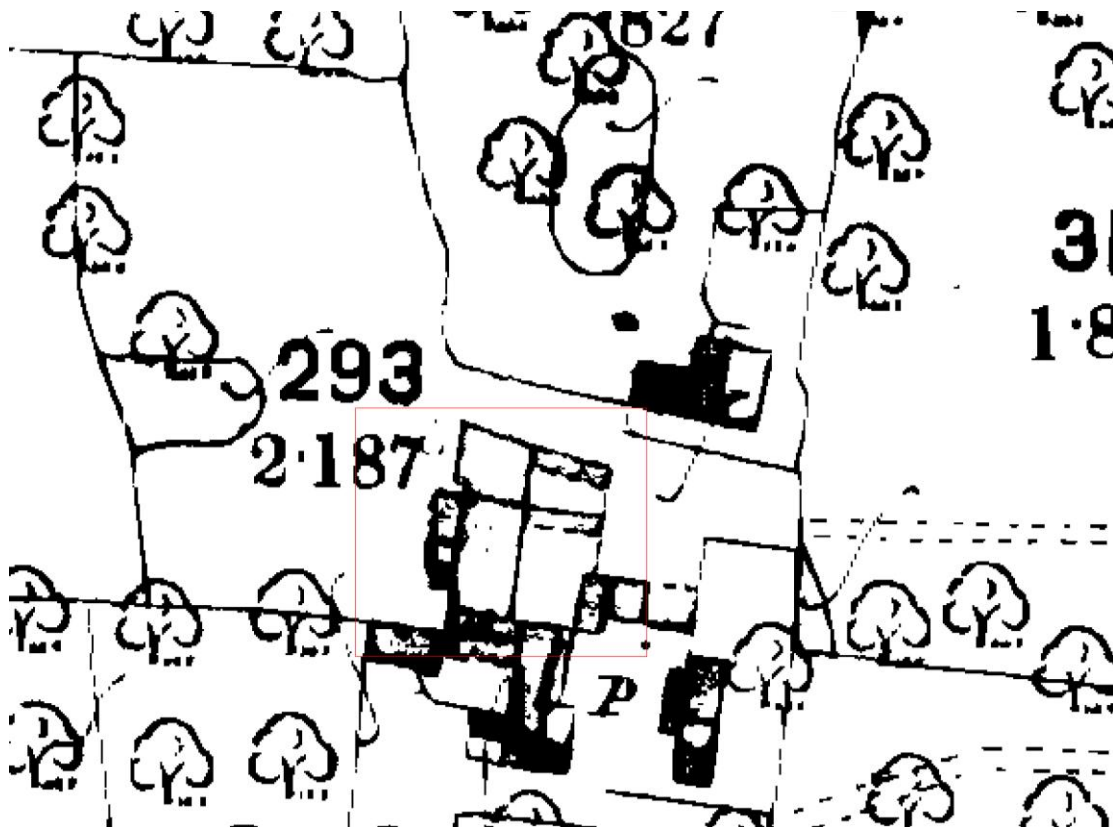


Figure 4
The First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1886, showing a series of new sheds and yards to the north and east of the barn.

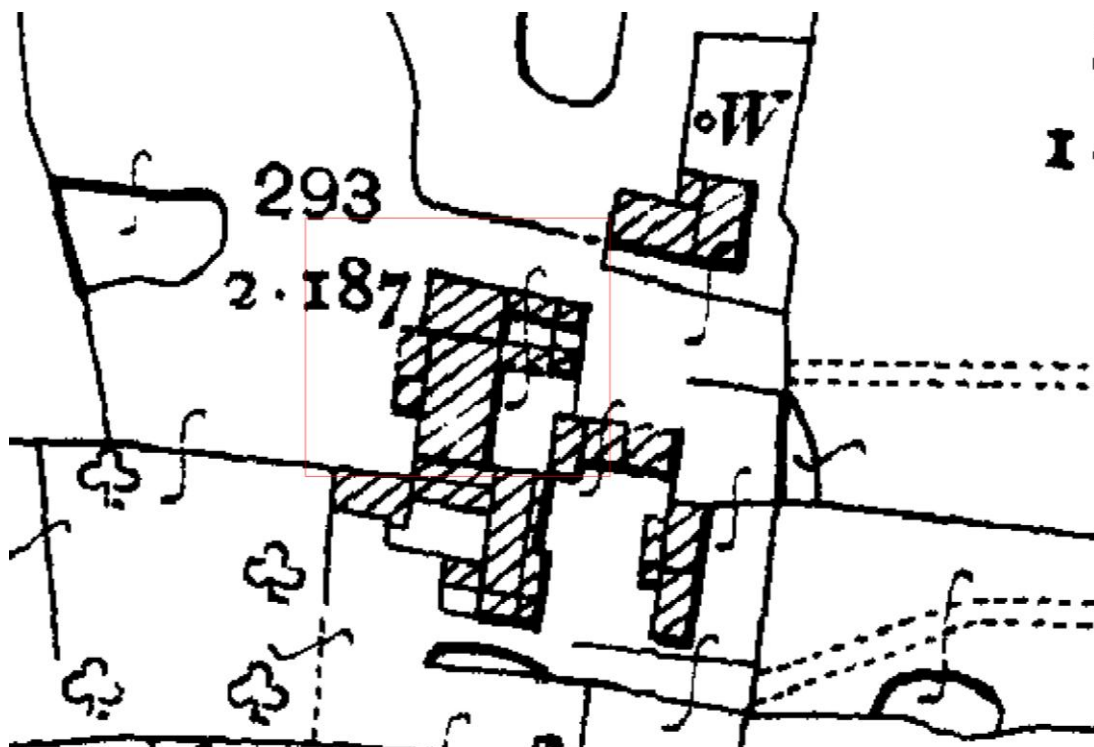


Figure 5
Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904, showing little change since 1886.

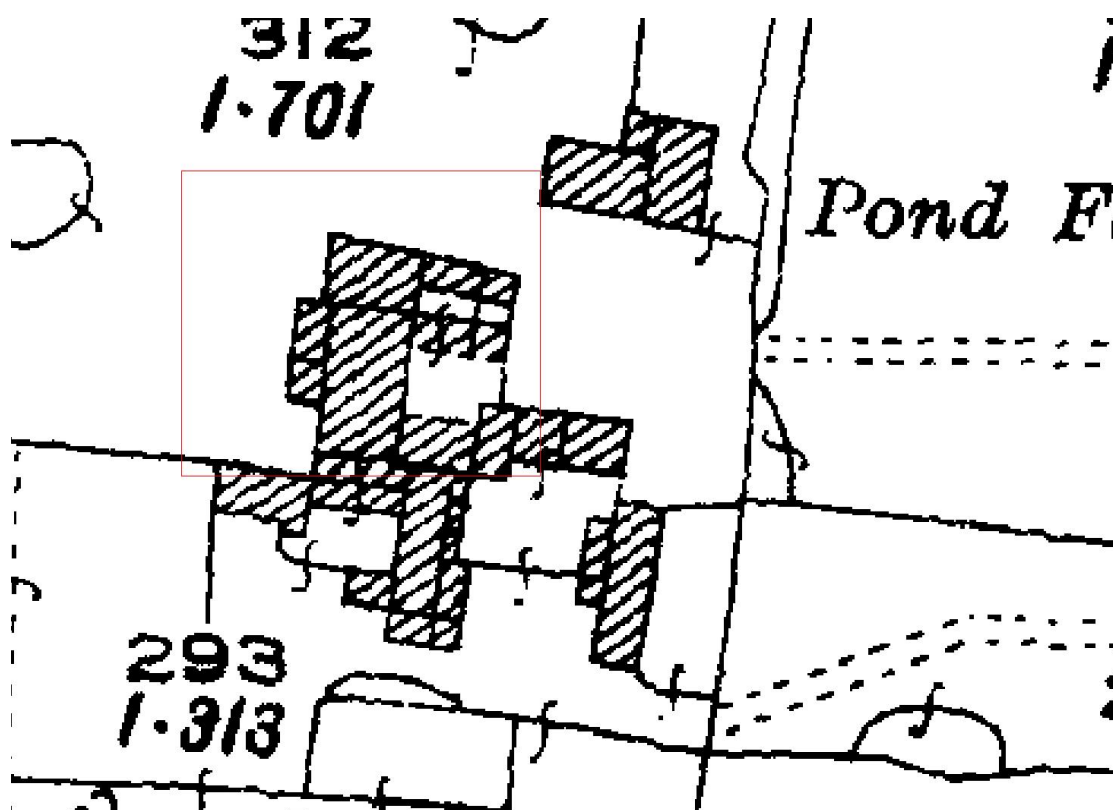


Figure 6

Third Edition Ordnance Survey of 1927. A new shed had been built to the south of the yard but this no longer survives. The farmhouse to the north appears to be divided into a pair of cottages.

Building Analysis

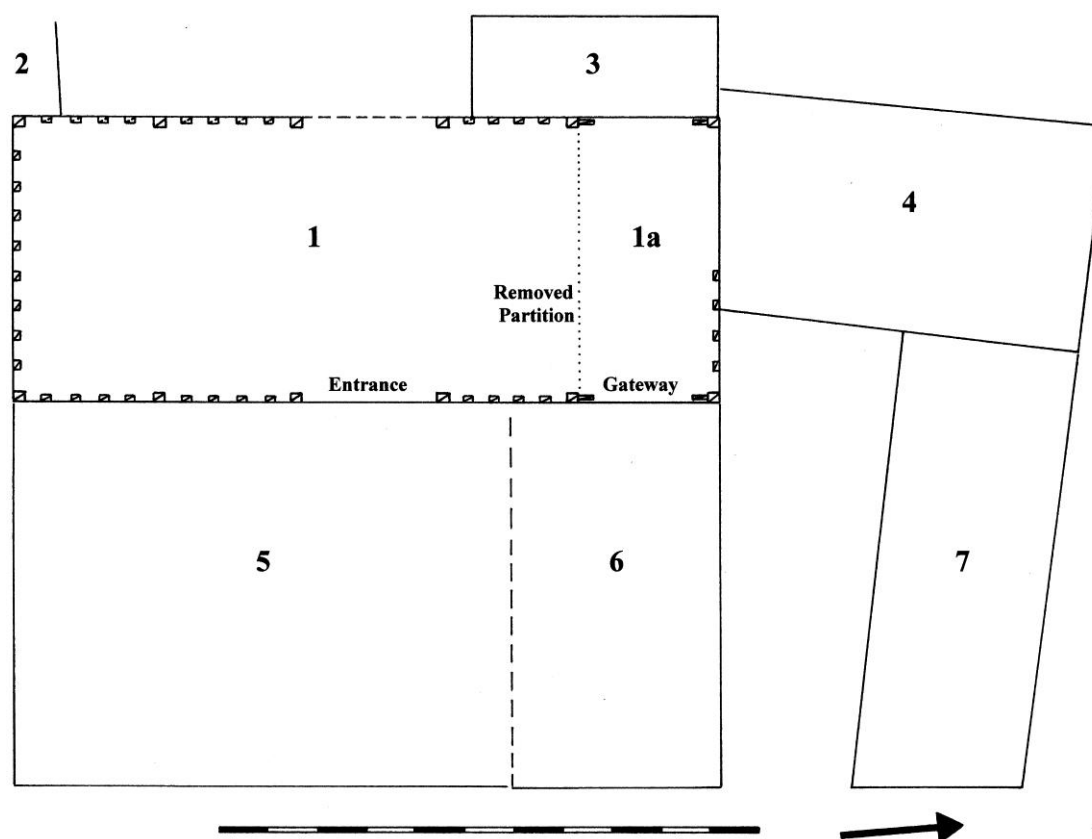


Figure 7

Schematic block plan of the farm buildings, numbering the key elements for ease of reference in the text and photographs. Scale in metres. Not fully surveyed.

Key

1. A late-16th century timber-framed barn in five bays. Originally with an internal partition dividing a four-bay threshing barn to the south from a tall, narrow gateway to the north (1a). The gateway is a rare feature which contained a ceiling at eaves height and corner brackets to both entrances. Originally rendered externally but now partly weatherboarded and with a corrugated metal roof covering. The internal partition probably removed in the 17th century and the roof rebuilt in the mid-20th century, but the wall framing and arch-braces largely intact. Concrete floor throughout. A rare and historically interesting survival discussed in more detail below.
2. A mid-20th century single-storied boarded shed used as a workshop and machine store.
3. A mid-20th century cement-block lean-to shed with double-doors on the site of an earlier shed shown on 19th century Ordnance Surveys.
4. A mid-19th century clay-lump and pantiled single-storied shed adjoining the northern gable of the barn. *Circa* 1870. Softwood clasped-purlin roof structure. Now used as a feed store but formerly a stable with a narrow tack room to the south (as reported by the owner, Mr Ian Colchester). The walls rendered in cement. Fragment of

possibly original gault-brick floor exposed to south, but floors of modern concrete elsewhere.

5. Former cattle yard with mid-20th century roof of corrugated metal.
6. A mid-19th century single-storied clay-lump and pantiled shed, now largely rendered in cement and much rebuilt with cement blocks but with original clay-lump fabric exposed in eastern gable. *Circa 1870*. Open-sided to the cattle yard on the south and designed as a shelter-shed.
7. A mid-19th century single-storied clay-lump and pantiled shed, ostensibly integral to the adjoining former stable on the west. The walls rendered in cement. The southern elevation now enclosed with cement blocks to form a wood shed but probably originally open to the narrow southern yard and designed as a shelter-shed. *Circa 1870*.

The single-storied clay-lump sheds have been much altered and are not of special historic interest in themselves, although they illustrate the mid-19th century development of the site and provide visual context for the barn.

The Barn

The barn at Pond Farm is a substantial timber-framed structure in five bays which extends to 14.3 m in length by 5.8 m in width overall (47 ft by 19 ft) on a north-south axis. Its walls rise to 3.5 m (11.5 ft) above an internal floor of modern concrete, with 3.25 m (10 ft 8 ins) between the roof-plates and the ostensibly secondary ground sills. The framing is typical of the latter part of the 16th century, with edge-halved and bridled scarf joints in the plates (as opposed to the face-halved type of the 17th century and later), internally trenched and cranked wall braces, jowled storey posts and arch-braced tie-beams. A date of 1580-1610 is likely. The roof is a 20th century replacement but the tie-beams contain no mortises for crown posts or queen posts and the original structure probably had side-purlins. Notches for horizontal staves in the principal posts (but not the studs) combine with the waney outer edges of the timbers to indicate the walls were initially rendered externally, but the two-tier cladding of the eastern elevation (with lath-and-plaster above weatherboarding) is an addition of the early-19th century. Then timber-framed walls survive largely intact, although the studs of the two southern bays of the western elevation have been replaced with cement blocks and a single stud has been lost from the penultimate northern bay of the same wall.

The interior is now undivided, but there is evidence of an internal partition which originally separated the northern bay from the rest. The four southern bays formed a standard threshing barn with an east-facing entrance in its penultimate northern bay (as shown by an absence of stud mortises in the relevant roof-plate). The western roof-plate of the same bay has been removed but most barns of this period contained small rear doors to create a through-draught for threshing and winnowing but not to admit vehicles. The front and rear walls of the northern bay were provided with corner braces (pegged and tenoned to the storey posts and roof-plates, as shown in figure 8) but lacked studs. The internal surface of the tie-beam of the northern gable contains a series of 11 pegged mortises that secured the joists of a high ceiling; its counterpart to the south was removed along with the internal partition, and it is unclear whether the loft above this ceiling was accessible from the threshing barn. Mortises for the wall braces of this missing partition are visible in the storey posts. The northern gable contained similar wall braces to east and west (both removed) but its studwork extended only from its eastern corner to the barn's central axis and the western half of the building must have abutted a pre-existing structure to the north. The resulting thoroughfare or gateway of 2.75 m in width (9 ft) allowed vehicles to pass between the barn and this missing structure. Pegged studs were inserted into both entrances during the 17th century and it seems likely that

the original arrangement was short lived. The western studs have since been removed once more, and the arched opening may have been reinstated: It now links the barn to a 20th century lean-to shed (3)

The present farmhouse to the north-east of the barn is an 18th century building and there is no other evidence of the layout of the site in the 16th century. Cartographic evidence demonstrates that many Tudor farmsteads of quite modest proportions possessed fully or partly enclosed courtyards entered by gateways in a manner more usually associated today with French *manoirs*. Such gateways are not uncommon in East Anglian towns and villages such as Lavenham, where they opened onto merchants' courtyards, but are exceptionally rare survivals in rural contexts. If the contemporary farmhouse occupied the same position as its successor, the example here presumably operated as a rear gateway immediately opposite the entrance from the green and opened onto the farmland beyond. Many Tudor gateways contained ceilings and it is possible that no access was provided to the loft above.

Historic Significance

The barn is a largely intact late-16th century structure with rare evidence of a contemporary gateway that sheds important light on the sophisticated nature of farm courtyards in England during the late medieval and Tudor periods. In my view the historic significance of this feature is such that the building merits listing at grade II despite the loss of its original roof: it would qualify automatically if the roof survived, yet this would have been a relatively common side-purlin structure of little historic interest. The adjoining mid-19th century clay-lump sheds have been much altered and are not of special significance, but are of some historic value insofar as they illustrate a typical Victorian development found on many local farms and contribute to the visual character of the site.

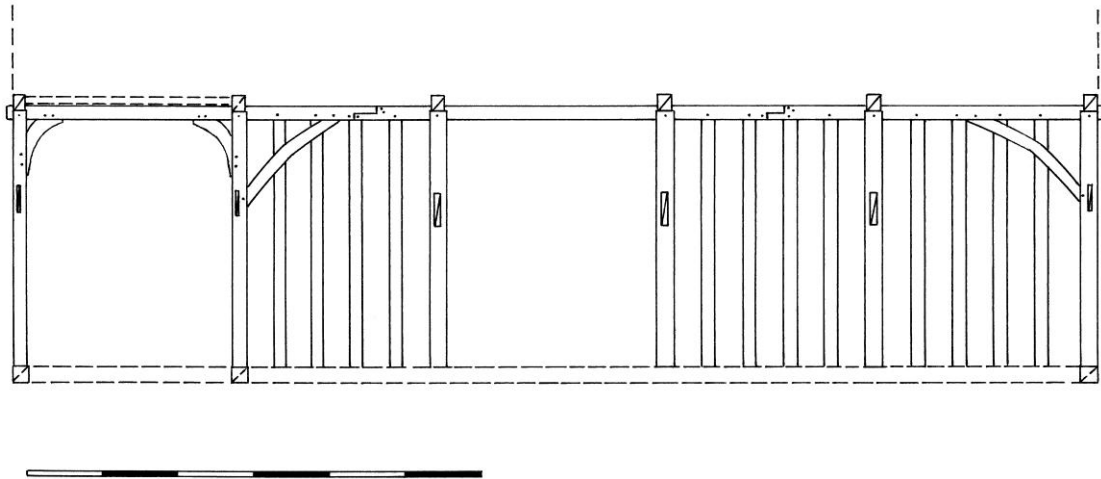


Figure 8

The front (eastern) internal elevation of the barn showing its intact wall framing with the original entrance to the four-bay threshing barn in the centre and the gateway to the left. The missing joists of the ceiling or loft above the gateway are indicated by broken lines. The secondary studs which now block the gateway are not shown. Scale in metres.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view of site entrance from east showing farm track crossing former Great Green.
2. General view of site from farm track to east showing 18th century farmhouse to right and 16th century barn (1) in rear to left.
3. Broad water-filled ditch dividing former Great Green (right) from farmhouse (left) seen from south.
4. Farm complex seen from bridge over boundary of former Great Green to east.
5. Southern facade of 18th century timber-framed farmhouse with 19th century brick cladding. Included for site context.
6. Farm complex from eastern yard showing previously converted cart lodge and granary to left.
7. Farm complex from east showing clay-lump sheds (6 & 7) to left and right with barn (1) in rear to left.
8. General view of site from 20th century farm buildings to north-west showing farmhouse to left.
9. Farm complex from north-west showing clay-lump former stable (4) in foreground and barn (1) in rear to right.
10. Western exterior of barn (1) showing cement-block lean-to shed (3) and former stable (4) to left.
11. Exterior of 20th century shed (2) from north showing western exterior of barn (1) to left.
12. Interior of 20th century lean-to shed (3) from south showing western exterior of barn (1) to right.
13. Interior of 20th century lean-to shed (3) from north showing cement-block fabric.
14. Western exterior of northern gateway (1a) from lean-to shed showing corner brackets above sacking to left.
15. Northern gable of barn (1) from narrow yard to south showing clay-lump sheds (6 & 7) to left and right.
16. Southern exterior of wood shed (7) showing cement-block infill of former open arcade.
17. Narrow yard from east showing former stable (4) in rear with clay-lump shelter shed (6) to left and wood shed (7) to right.

18. Western end of southern exterior of wood shed (7) showing dog litter in narrow yard.
19. Northern exterior of clay-lump shelter-shed (6) from narrow yard showing modern cement render and gable of barn.
20. Interior from east of clay-lump shelter-shed (6) showing open arcade to yard (5) to left.
21. Internal eastern gable of clay-lump shelter-shed showing exposed original clay-lump fabric above tie-beam.
22. Detail of exposed original clay-lump fabric to eastern internal gable of clay-lump shelter-shed (6).
23. Eastern exterior of covered cattle yard (5) showing late-20th century cement-block shed to left.
24. Eastern exterior of covered cattle yard (5) from south-east showing farmhouse in rear to right.
25. Interior of covered cattle yard (5) from east showing eastern interior of barn (1) with clay-lump shelter-shed (6) to right.
26. Interior of covered cattle yard (5) from south showing clay-lump shelter-shed (6) in rear.
27. Southern exterior of clay-lump shelter-shed showing modern cement-block walls to left and right.
28. Northern interior of clay-lump shelter-shed (6) showing modern cement-block rebuilding to left.
29. Southern interior of clay-lump shelter-shed showing modern cement-block walls to left and right.
30. Western internal gable of clay-lump shelter shed (6) showing storey posts of northern bay of barn (1a) to left and right.
31. Eastern exterior of barn (1) from covered yard (5) showing two-tier cladding and half-hung barn doors to right.
32. Half-hung entrance doors of barn (1) from covered yard (5) to east showing clay-lump shelter-shed (6) to right.
33. Interior from north of clay-lump former stable (4) showing modern cement render and door to barn (1) in rear.
34. Detail of probably original gault-brick floor of former-stable (4) seen from south-east.
35. Interior from south of clay-lump former stable (4) showing modern cement render and external gable door in rear.

36. Roof structure of clay-lump former stable (4) from north showing clay daub of barn (1a) in rear.
37. Roof structure of clay-lump former stable (4) from south showing machine-sawn softwood king-post.
38. Eastern interior of clay-lump former stable (4) showing door to adjoining clay-lump wood shed (7).
39. Interior from west of clay-lump wood shed (7) showing modern cement render to original fabric.
40. Interior from east of clay-lump wood shed (7) showing modern cement render to original fabric and door to former stable (4).
41. Roof structure of clay-lump wood shed (7) seen from east showing remains of reed fleaking under pantiles.
42. Southern interior of clay-lump wood shed (7) showing cement-block fabric of formerly open elevation to right.
43. Interior of 16th century barn (1) from south showing original arch-braces with block-work of partly rebuilt western elevation left.
44. Interior of 16th century timber-framed barn (1) from south showing intact arch-braces and studs of eastern elevation to right.
45. Interior of 16th century timber-framed barn (1) from north showing intact arch-braces with original entrance to left.
46. Detail from north of original arch-braces, wall studs and wall braces of timber-framed barn (1).
47. Internal northern gable of barn (1) showing narrow end-bay with original brackets to all four corners.
48. Detail of tie-beam of northern gable of barn (1) showing original pegged stud & joist mortises with trench for missing wall brace.
49. Internal north-eastern corner of barn (1) showing joist mortises in tie-beam for roof loft over gateway (1a).
50. Detail of western end of northern tie-beam of barn showing brace mortise but lack of stud mortises where it adjoined another building.
51. Eastern interior of barn (1) showing original corner brackets and later studs of northern bay (1a) to left.
52. Detail of 16th century type edge-halved and bridled scarf joint in penultimate bay of eastern roof plate of barn (1).
53. Mid-20th century softwood roof structure of barn (1) seen from north.
54. Detail of original tie-beam of barn (1) illustrating unusual quantity of bark on original framing.

55. Eastern interior of former northern gateway (1a) showing original corner-braces with tenon of missing tie-beam to right.
56. Eastern interior of barn (1) showing largely intact timber frame with entrance behind tarpaulin right & blocked gateway (1a) to left.
57. General view of interior of barn (1) from north showing intact tie-beams and arch-braces.
58. Southern end of eastern interior of barn (1) showing original entrance behind blue tarpaulin to left.
59. Detail of edge-halved and bridled scarf joint in penultimate eastern bay with 19th century lath-and-plaster.
60. Detail of original roof plate of original eastern entrance showing absence of stud mortises.
61. Internal southern gable of barn (1) showing original studs with internal braces and rebuilt western wall to right.
62. Detail of south-eastern corner post of barn (1) showing carpenter's marks to internal wall braces.
63. Detail of southern gable of barn (1) from west showing stave notches in corner post but not common studs for original external daub.
64. Southern bays of western interior of barn (1) showing original roof-plate but studs replaced with block-work.
65. Western interior of original threshing bay of barn (1) showing missing section of roof-plate.
66. Northern end of western interior showing brackets of original gateway (1a) to right.
67. Detail of edge-halved and bridled scarf joint in penultimate western bay of barn (1).
68. Western interior of original gateway (1a) at northern end of barn (1) showing wall brace mortise of missing internal partition left.
69. Detail of western roof-plate of gateway (1a) showing original corner brackets and later stud mortises.
70. Detail of north-western corner post of gateway (1a) showing original pegged and tenoned bracket to roof-plate.

(Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pp. 14-19)

Appendix 2 (pp. 14-19): Selected Printed Photographs



Illus. 1 General view of entrance to farm from site of Great Green to east. The green, now fully enclosed, originally extended to the bridge over the broad, water-filled ditch adjoining the farmhouse garden in the centre of this image.



Illus. 2 The Farm complex from the eastern yard flanked by the farmhouse and the previously converted cart lodge and granary shown to the left. The eastern gables of the 19th century clay-lump shelter shed (6) and wood shed (7), now largely cement-rendered, are visible in the foreground with the 16th century timber-framed barn (1) in the rear.



Illus. 3 The farm complex from the north-west showing the 19th century clay-lump former stable (4) and wood shed (7) in the foreground with the 16th century timber-framed barn (1) in the rear to right.



Illus. 4 The internal eastern gable of the clay-lump shelter-shed (6) showing its exposed original clay-lump fabric above the tie-beam and modern door.



Illus. 5 The eastern exterior of the covered cattle yard (5) from the south-east (left) showing the clay-lump sheds (6 & 7) in the centre and the 18th century farmhouse with 19th century brick cladding in the rear to right.



Illus. 6 The eastern exterior of the barn (1) from the covered yard (5) showing its early-19th century two-tier cladding of tarred lath-and-plaster above weatherboarding and corrugated iron. The 20th century half-hung doors of the original entrance bay are shown to the right.



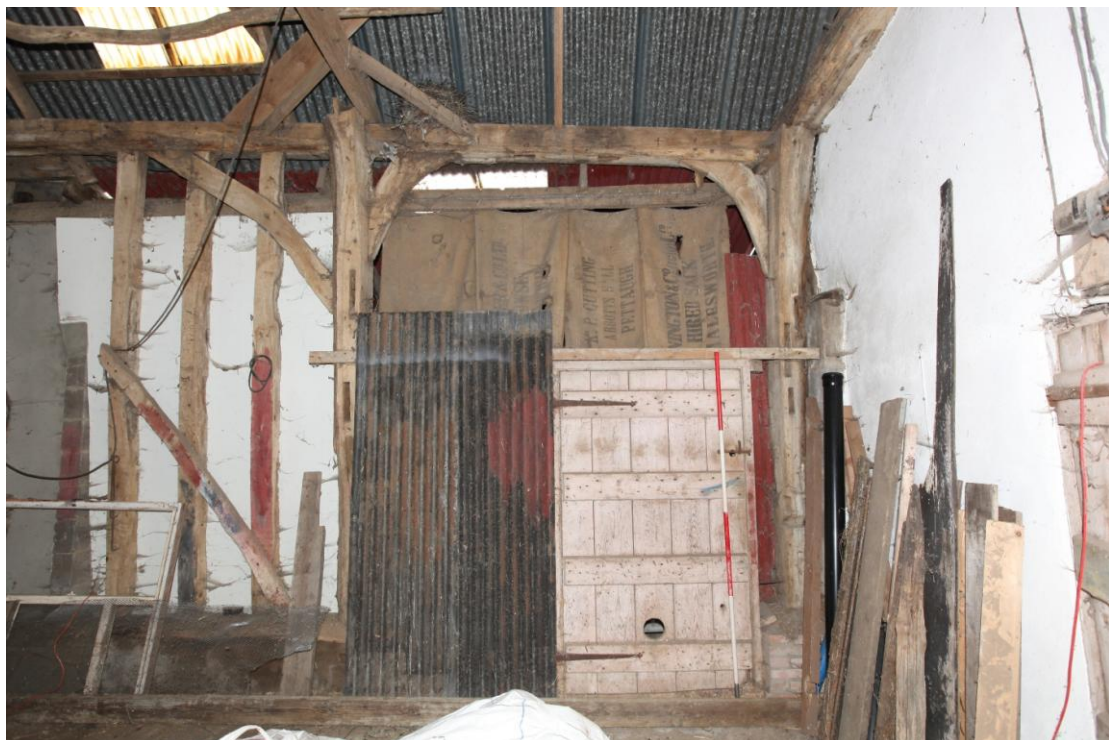
Illus. 7 General view of interior of barn (1) from north showing the largely intact timber frame with original tie-beams and arch-braces but with a 20th century roof structure. The northern gateway (1a) is shown to the left.



Illus. 8 The eastern interior of the barn (1) showing the original corner brackets and later studs of northern gateway (1a) to the left and the main entrance to the threshing barn behind the blue tarpaulin to the right. The arched gateway was divided by the barn by a missing partition at the central post from which the studs and tie-beam have been removed, and contained a high loft as indicated by joist mortises in the gable tie.



Illus. 9 Detail of the 16th century type edge-halved and bridled scarf joint in penultimate bay of the eastern roof plate of the barn (1) as shown to the right in illus. 8 above.



Illus. 10 The western interior of the original gateway (1a) at the northern end of the barn (1) showing the mortise of a wall brace belonging to the missing internal partition in the storey post to the left. The western end of the tie-beam to the right lacks stud mortises and overlapped a pre-existing structure which no longer survives.



Illus. 11 Detail of the tie-beam of the northern gable of the barn (1) showing a series of 11 original pegged mortises for the missing joists of a loft above the gateway (1a). The studs are also original, with an empty mortise and trench for an internal wall brace.



Illus. 12 Detail of the western roof-plate of the gateway (1a) showing its original corner brackets (fully tenoned and pegged to the frame) with a series of mortises for later studs which have since been removed.