

**Farm Buildings at  
Stanny House Farm,  
Iken, Suffolk  
IKN 108**

**Historic Building Record**

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1-115324



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*on behalf of*  
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**November 2011**



# **Farm Buildings at Stanny House Farm, High Street, Iken, Suffolk**

**(TM 433 554)**

## **Historic Building Record**

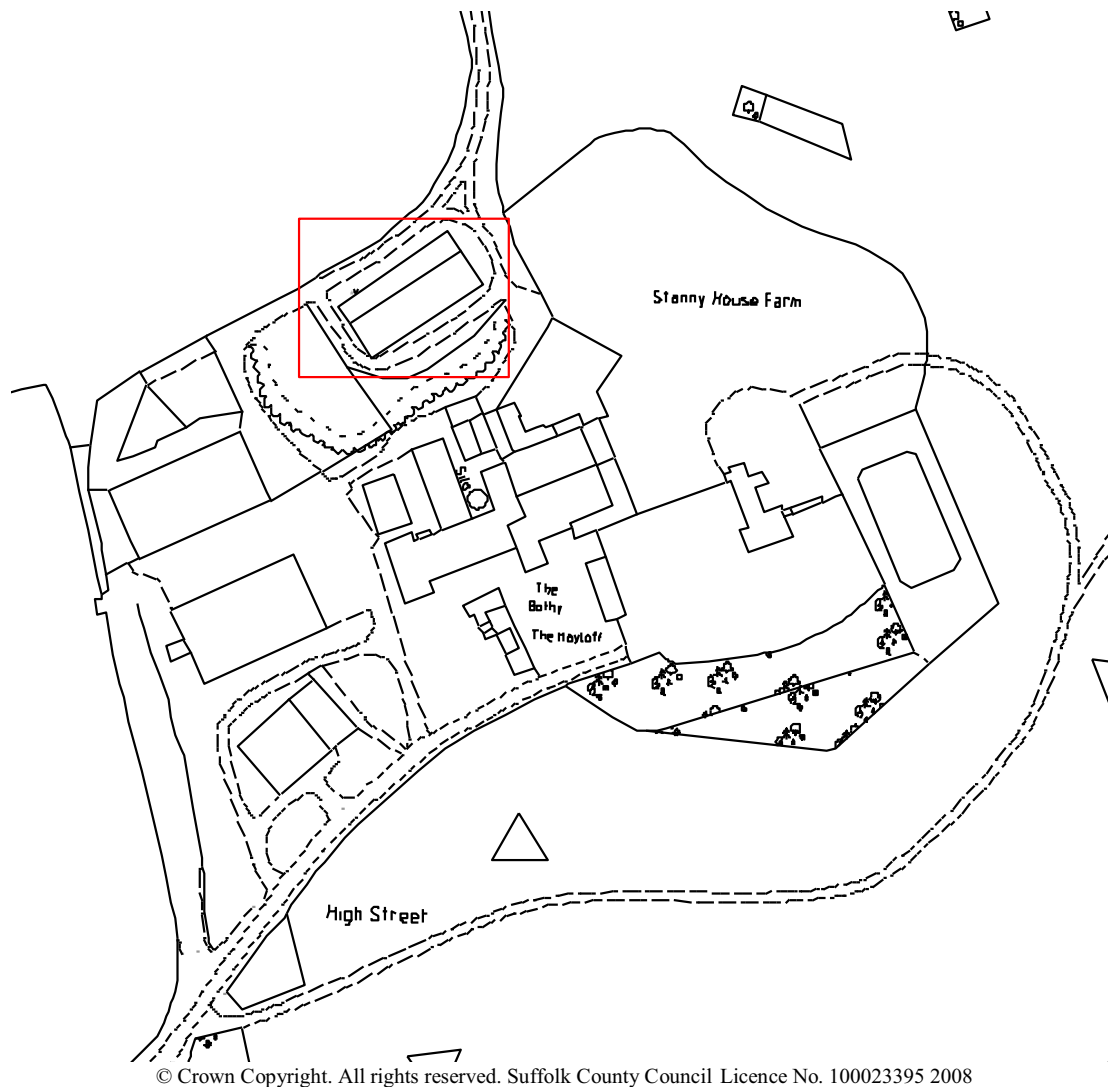
*This report provides a record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a redundant historic farm building. It has been prepared to a specification written by Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (reference: SpecHBR(EM)\_StannyHoFm\_Iken\_2115\_2008, dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (Suffolk Coastal District Council consent C/08/2115, condition 7).*

### **Introduction**

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 64 digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also includes 10 printed photographs of key features. 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 24 Nov. 2011.

### **Summary**

Stanny House Farm lies in open countryside on the edge of an escarpment overlooking Iken Marshes adjoining the River Alde to the north and east. The property was known in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as Brick-kiln Farm and its present name was transferred in 1987 from a neighbouring farm. The site is of some antiquity and includes a timber-framed and thatched barn of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but no buildings are listed. At the time of the Iken tithe survey in 1840 the farm was a large holding of 365 acres (of which almost half were pasture land and marsh) on the estate of the Marquis of Hertford based at Sudbourne Hall some 4km to the south. The large and impressive red-brick and pantiled stable block which forms the subject of this report is conspicuous by its absence from the tithe map, which shows its location at the foot of the escarpment as an empty stack yard, but appears in its present form on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1882. It was almost certainly built by Sir Richard Wallace (owner of the Wallace Collection), who purchased Sudbourne Hall in 1871, as part of his extensive refurbishment of the house and estate. This refurbishment included the grade II-listed model farm at nearby Chillesford Lodge, but while the Stanny House stable is of comparable scale and quality it lacks the architectural decoration of Chillesford and did not form part of a complete farm complex (although a large cart lodge and granary to the west of the farmhouse appears to be a contemporary addition). The stable extends to 35.2 m in length by 17 m in width and consists of a two-storied northern range with a hay loft flanked by single-storied shelter-sheds serving a southern yard. The lower storey contains a pair of almost identical stables, one of which retains its original hay rack and manger with evidence of stall divisions (the latter probably secondary), separated by a central tack room with original harness hooks. The wall fabric is exceptionally well preserved, retaining its original loft windows incorporating wooden louvers operated by revolving spindles, although two additional loft doors have been inserted to the south. Despite its considerable historic interest as a major piece of Victorian estate architecture the building is probably not of sufficient national significance to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing in its own right.



**Figure 1**  
**Modern Ordnance Survey**  
**Enclosing the stable block in red and showing the rest of the farm buildings, which include a 16<sup>th</sup> century thatched barn to the south, with the farmhouse to the east.**

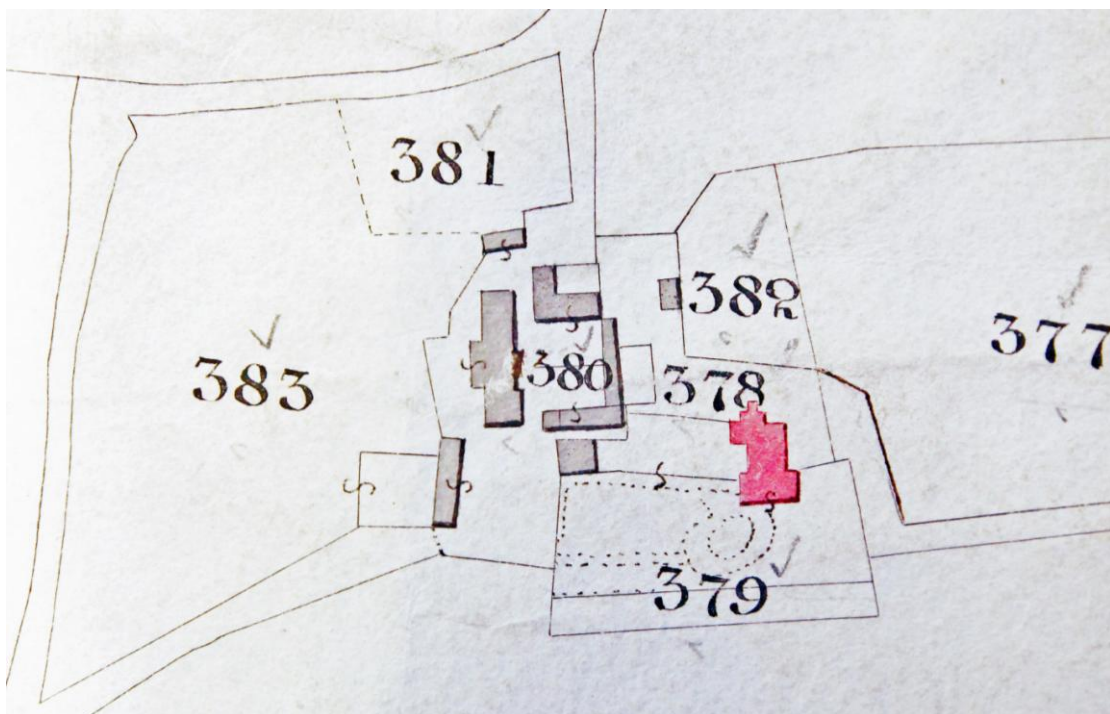
## **Documentary and Cartographic Evidence**

Stanny House Farm lies in open countryside on the edge of an escarpment overlooking Iken Marshes and the River Alde to the north and east. St Botolph's church is approximately 2.5 km distant to the north-west. The property was formerly known as Brick-kiln Farm and Poplar Farm until the acquisition of its present owners in 1987, who transferred the name of another isolated farm on the marshes 750 m to the north-east where only a barn now survives. No buildings on the site are listed, and the farm house appears to be a red-brick structure of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the thatched barn on a north-south axis to the west of the main farm yard is a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed structure of five bays with an early-19<sup>th</sup> century roof.

At the time of the Iken tithe survey in 1840 the farm, like most of the parish, formed part of the extensive estate of the Marquis of Hertford based at Sudbourne Hall some 4km to the south. The tithe map (figure 2) shows the farmhouse in red with a courtyard of outbuildings to the west, including the aforementioned barn to the left of the plot number (380), but the site of the stable block which forms the subject of this report was an empty enclosure described in



**Figure 2. The 1840 tithe map of Iken parish, bordered by the River Alde to the north and east, showing the buildings of the original Stanny Farm with Stanny Field (419) to the north-east of the site which now bears its name. Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich.**



**Figure 2a. Detail of the 1840 tithe map showing the site of Stanny House Farm. The stable block is conspicuous by its absence from the 'Lower Stack Yard' (381) to the north of the 16<sup>th</sup> century barn and yard (380). The field to the west is 'Barn Field' (383) with 'House Yard' (380), 'Green Orchard' (382), 'New Back House' (377), 'Dwelling House' (378) and 'Orchard Garden' (379) adjoining to the east.**

the apportionment as the 'Lower Stack Yard' (381). The main farm yard on higher ground to the south was named as the 'House Yard'. The farm was a large holding of 365 acres occupied by Elizabeth Barnes, with approximately 200 acres of arable and the rest of pasture and marsh. Elizabeth was the widow of Samuel Barnes who had died in 1835 (genealogical website: 'Rootschat.com').

On the death of the fourth marquis in 1870 the estate initially passed to a cousin but was purchased in 1871 by Sir Richard Wallace who inherited much of the marquis's wealth and is believed to have been his illegitimate son (W.M. Roberts, 'Lost Country Houses of Suffolk', Woodbridge 2010). Wallace had spent much of his life hitherto in Paris, but made substantial alterations to Sudbourne Hall and his various farms with a view to settling his family here and leading the life of an English country gentleman. An impressive model farm was built in 1876 at Chillesford Lodge (now grade II-listed), probably by the Ipswich architect Frank Barnes, and various ornamental estate cottages with thatched roofs were also erected. The model farm bears Wallace's armorial badge in conjunction with its 1876 date, and it is understood from the present owner of Stanny House Farm that similar dates appear on several other buildings in the general area, although the Schedule of Listed Buildings includes only 112-115 Church Street Orford (1878). It is highly likely that the Stanny House Farm stable formed part of the 1870s estate refurbishment as much of the Chillesford model farm is built in English bond brickwork, as found in the stable (unusually for the period), and both contain identical softwood king-post roof trusses. Wallace's attentions were short-lived as his family preferred France to England and he quickly followed them back, selling Sudbourne to Arthur Heywood in 1884. On the death of his widow in 1897 his great collection of chiefly European art (formed partly by the Earls of Hertford but known as the Wallace Collection) was bequeathed to the nation and is now displayed in the family's London town house.

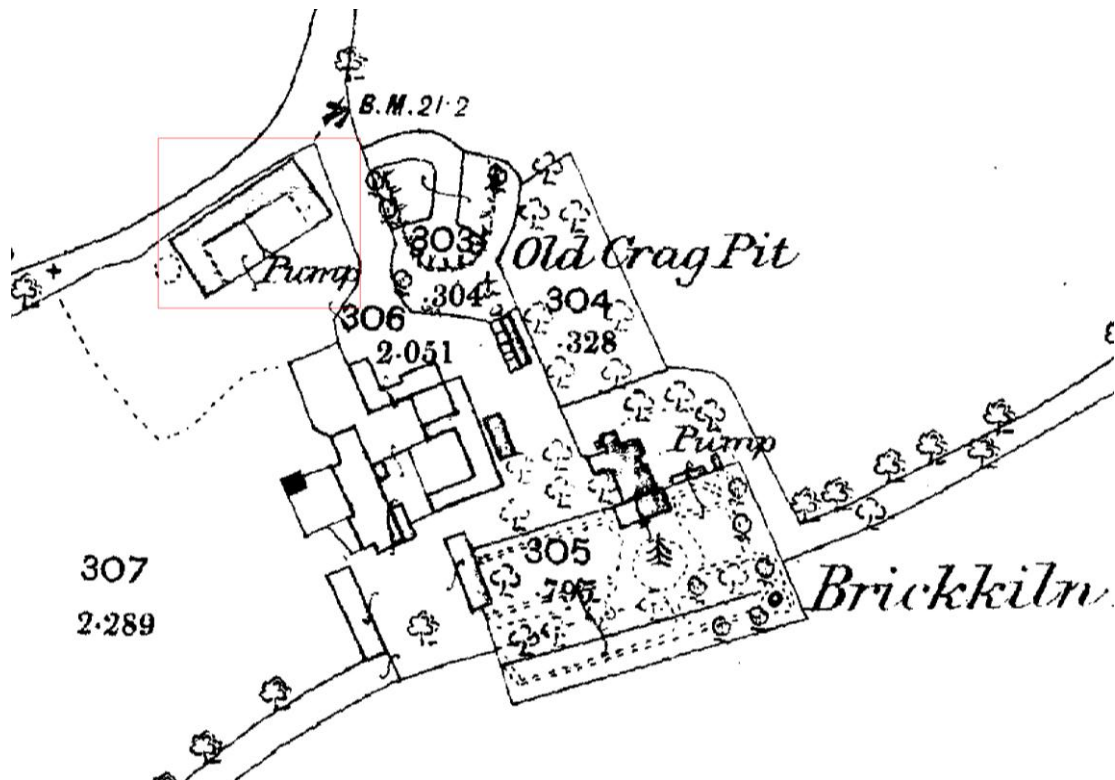


Figure 3

First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1882 naming the site as 'Brick-kiln Farm'. The stable block is shown top-left with two yards, each flanked by an open-sided shelter-shed (their open arcades indicated by broken lines). The circular feature to the west is a horse engine.

The new stable block at Stanny House Farm had been built by 1882 (two years prior to Sir Richard Wallace's sale of the property) as it is shown in much the same form as today on the first edition Ordnance Survey of that year (figure 3). The circular open-sided shed of a horse engine lay outside the external door of the western shed (area A in figure 6), and would have powered the various agricultural machinery of the period such as feed mills and sifters that were presumably housed in the same shed (the power transferred by belt drives). Mechanical engines were introduced towards the end of the century and the circular shed had disappeared by the Ordnance Survey of 1902 (figure 4). The yard adjoining the stable to the south was bounded by a fence or wall of which no trace survives, and divided by a central partition into two unequal sections reflecting the layout of the stable. The outline of the buildings has not altered since 1882, but a large open-sided shed has been added to the south in recent years; while this resembles the 19<sup>th</sup> century shelter-sheds (F and G) it was designed to facilitate the ensuing domestic conversion rather than for any agricultural purpose and the stables are understood to have been empty for several decades. The tenant of 'Brick-kiln Farm' was named as Francis Keer in White's Suffolk Directories for 1855 and 1874 and described as a 'farmer and brickmaker', suggesting the bricks for the new stable block were made on site. Elizabeth Barnes was listed in 1844 but her farm was not named and there was no reference to brick-making.

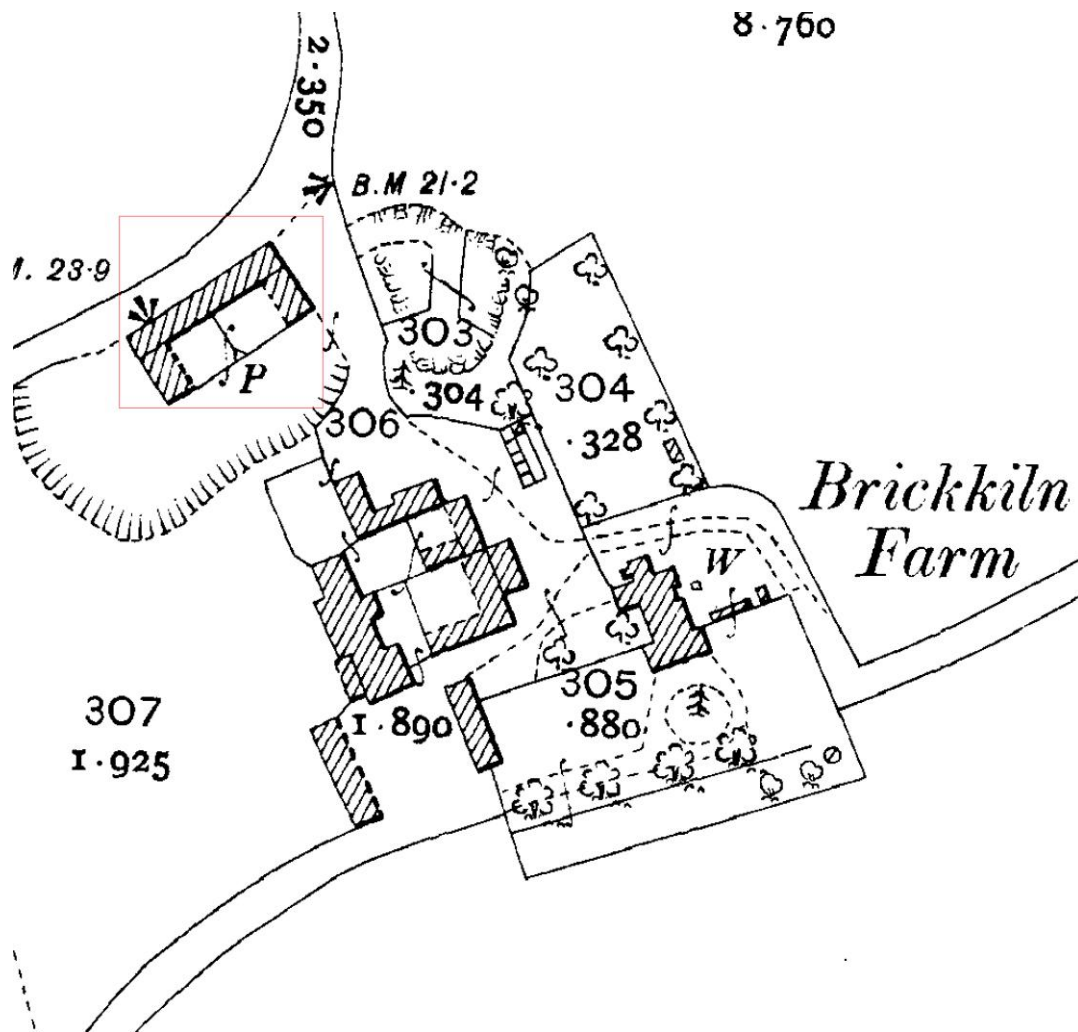


Figure 4  
The Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1902. The horse engine had disappeared but the stable block otherwise remained unchanged.

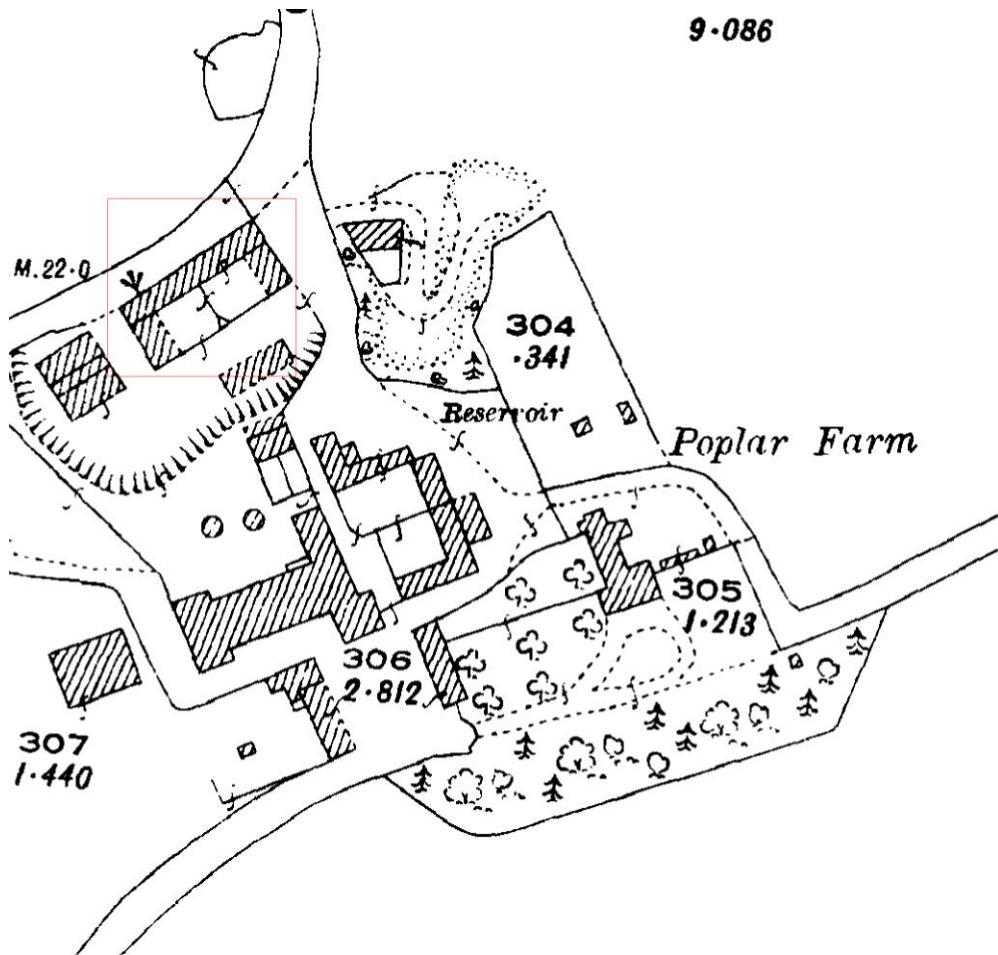


Figure 5

The Third Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1927 showing the large new covered dairy yard adjoining the thatched barn and a range of buildings that no longer survives immediately to the west of the stable block. The property had been re-named Poplar Farm since 1902.



## Building Analysis

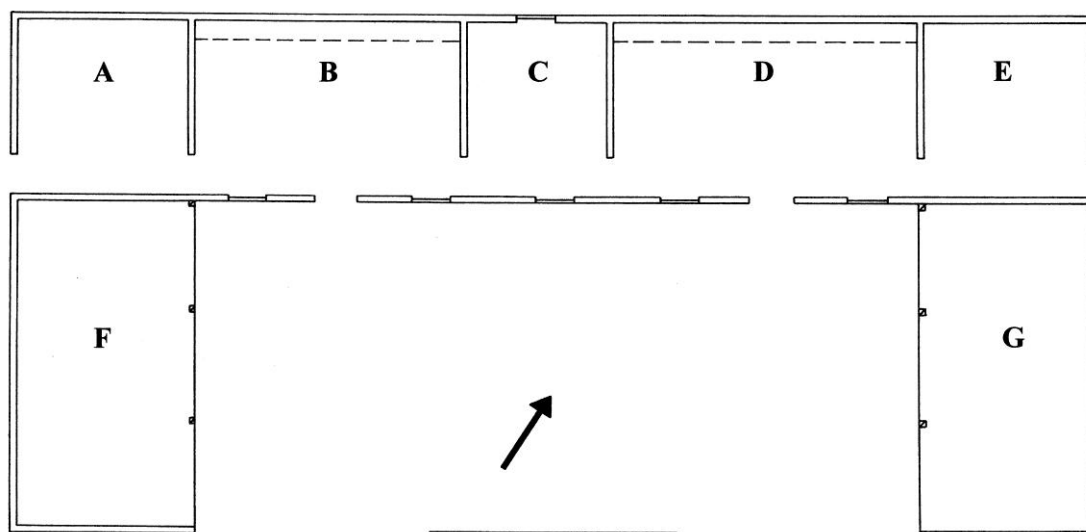


Figure 6

Ground plan of the single-phase brick stable block identifying each area with a letter for ease of reference in the text and photographs. Scale in metres.

### Key

- A. Single-storied shed with external doorway to west. Originally adjacent to a horse engine and probably used as a feed preparation and storage area.
- B. Stable retaining its original boarded hay rack and manger with a hay drop to the loft above. Remains of ostensibly later boarded stalls and original ladder stair to loft in south-western corner. 8.5 m in length (28 ft). Loft above.
- C. Central tack room with original wooden harness hooks to western, northern and eastern walls. Loft above.
- D. Stable from which the manger and hay rack have been removed but retaining a hay drop in the ceiling. Original ladder stair to loft in south-eastern corner. 9.75 m in length (32 ft). Loft above.
- E. Single-storied shed with external doorway to east.
- F. Open-sided shelter-shed with original chamfered arcade posts and lintels.
- G. Open-sided shelter-shed with original chamfered arcade posts and lintels. Remains of 20<sup>th</sup> century hay rack to eastern interior.

### Proportions and Structure

The farm building highlighted in figure 1 is a substantial red-brick stable block which extends to 35.2 m in length by 17 m in width (115.5 ft by 55.5 ft) including its main range to the north and a pair of open-sided shelter-sheds which flank the yard to the south. The brickwork to the south and north of the main range is laid in English bond (i.e. alternate courses of headers and stretchers) with closers (quarter bricks) defining its corners and original apertures such as doors and windows; the single-storied elevations to the east and west are in Monk bond (a

variant of Flemish bond with two stretchers between each header). This difference reflects the greater thickness of the two-storied walls which rise internally to 5 m at their roof plates and 5.6 m externally (16.25 ft and 18.15 ft) as the ground level in the yard is some 0.6 m (2 ft) lower. The half-hipped principal roof structure of machine-sawn softwood consists of pre-fabricated king-post trusses with ridge-boards and central iron rods, and is covered with pantiles which have been lined and re-laid in recent years. The shelter-shed roofs are of similar softwood with clasped-purlins and nailed collars, and rise to 2.6 m (8.5 ft) above the yard surface at their roof-plates. The latter are supported by neatly chamfered arcade posts with conical iron bases and similarly chamfered lintels. The main range contains a ceiling of tall-sectioned softwood joists at a height of 2.75 m (9 ft) lodged on axial joists consisting of two parallel tall-sectioned timbers bolted together. With the exception of the western stable (B), which retains what appears to be its original floor of small square tiles, the internal floors are of 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete. The windows and half-hung doors are largely original, with unusual central louvers to those of the loft; these are opened and closed by means of a pegs attached to a central revolving spindle with a separate peg serving as its handle.

## Date

English-bond brickwork is more usually associated with buildings of the early-19<sup>th</sup> century and before, but the softwood king-post roof trusses and tall-sectioned joists are typical of the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, as are the various doors, windows and other features of the single-phase building. The complex is shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1882 (figure 3 above) and almost certainly formed part of the extensive refurbishment of the Sudbourne estate by Sir Richard Wallace between his purchase in 1871 and sale in 1884. (It may conceivably relate to the final years of the fourth Marquis of Hertford.) A previously converted cart lodge and granary to the west of the southern farm yard contains identical arcade posts and louvered windows and was probably built at the same time. With the exception of the English bond brickwork, which may represent a deliberate anachronism, there is no evidence of the Mock Gothic influence or architectural design found at the Chillesford model farm and in the various decorative estate cottages for which Wallace was also responsible.

## Layout and Function

The main range is divided into five ground-floor compartments as shown in figure 6, of which the outermost are integral single-storied sheds beneath the same roofs as the southern shelter-sheds. All five are linked by an axial passage which extends along the entire southern elevation. An undivided hay loft lies above the three central compartments, which consists of two stables divided by a tack room. The latter is lit by a southern window and a hinged hatch to the north (the hatch missing but indicated by external pintles in the pegged frame), and retains a series of chamfered wooden harness hooks to its eastern, western and northern walls. The two stables are ostensibly symmetrical, with central entrance doors flanked by windows in the southern elevations, but the eastern stable (D) is slightly longer than its western counterpart (B) at 9.75 m as opposed to 8.5 m (32 ft and 28 ft respectively). This slight difference corresponds to the missing partition between the two southern yards as shown in figures 3-5. The fixtures and fittings have been removed from the larger stable, but the presence of a hay drop in the ceiling reveals the position of the hay rack and manger against the rear (northern) wall and an original vertical loft ladder with nailed rungs still survives in the south-eastern corner. The western stable retains a good manger and hay rack along with an ostensibly original floor of small black-glazed terracotta tiles with considerable wear beneath the horses' hooves. There is evidence of three boarded internal stall divisions but these were secured by bolted posts and appear to be slightly later insertions. The lower edge of the rack is 1.8 m (70 ins) above the floor and the top of the manger 1.1 m (42 ins), as would be expected in a stable designed to accommodate large working horses. The ladder in the south-western corner has been removed. A holding of 200 arable acres would require

approximately ten animals at the usual rate of one per 20 or 30 acres, and each stable would have been sufficient for five or six.

The loft on the upper storey is undivided and was initially reached by two external loading doors in the northern elevation and lit by louvered windows to the south. The present loading doors in the southern elevation interrupt the brickwork and are secondary. The remains of a crudely made 20<sup>th</sup> century hay rack survive in the eastern shelter shed. The precise purpose of the single-stories sheds (A and E) is unclear but the proximity of a horse engine to the western shed suggests they were designed to store and prepare feed.

### **Historic Significance**

The layout of the stable block, with twin stables entered by central doors and separated by a tack room, is typical of its period, but its impressive scale and largely unaltered exterior is unusual. It reflects the large size of the holding and the wealth of the Sudbourne estate, although its appearance is utilitarian compared to many of its contemporary structures (perhaps due to the isolated location). It appears not to have been associated with a model farm as at Chillesford, although a large cart lodge and granary in the south-western corner of the site was built at the same time, and possibly a range of loose boxes for bullocks, but the older timber-framed barn was retained and the present dairy yard was not added until the 1920s. While it is of considerable historic interest given its links to the Sudbourne estate, which had a major influence on the architectural character of the area, the building is probably not of sufficient national significance to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing in its own right.

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

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

#### **Photograph no.**

1. General view of site from west showing stable to left and 1920s dairy range on higher ground to right.
2. General view of site from south-west showing stable in centre with River Alde in rear to left and 1920s dairy range to right.
3. Exterior from west showing site of original horse mill outside door of western shed (A) to right.
4. Exterior from north showing farmhouse on higher ground to left and integral eastern shed (E) in centre.
5. Western end of northern exterior showing original window to tack room (C) to left and original loft door respected by brickwork.
6. Detail of English bond brickwork to northern exterior.
7. Detail of window to tack room (C) in northern exterior showing pegged frame and pintles for missing hinged shutter.
8. Eastern end of northern exterior showing original window to tack room (C) to right and original loft door respected by brickwork.
9. Exterior from south-east showing door to eastern shed (E) to right and shelter-shed (G) to left.
10. Southern external gable of eastern shelter-shed (G) showing modern structure to left.
11. Stable yard from east showing western shelter-shed (F) to left.
12. Stable yard from south showing eastern shelter-shed (F) to right.
13. Stable yard from south-east showing flanking shelter-sheds F and G to left and right respectively.
14. Southern exterior of stable showing original doors and windows with two secondary loft loading doors interrupting brickwork.
15. Detail of original ground floor window in southern exterior to western stable (B).
16. Detail of original loft window in southern exterior with central louvers operated by vertical spindle.
17. Detail of original half-hung door to eastern stable (D) in southern exterior.
18. Exterior from south-west showing door to western shed (A) with shelter-shed (F) to right.

19. Southern external gable of western shelter-shed (F) showing eastern shelter-shed (G) in rear to right.
20. Stable yard from north-east showing recently completed open-sided shed to left.
21. Stable yard from south-west showing recently completed open-sided shed to right.
22. Exterior of eastern shelter-shed (G) from yard to south-west showing original chamfered arcade posts and lintels.
23. Detail of original chamfered arcade post and lintel to eastern shelter-shed (G).
24. Interior of eastern shelter-shed (G) from north showing yard to right and 20th century hay rack to left.
25. Detail of 20th century softwood hay rack to interior of eastern shelter-shed showing the southern gable to right.
26. Interior of eastern shelter-shed (G) from south showing 20th century hay rack to right.
27. Detail from north of softwood roof structure of eastern shelter-shed with nailed collars.
28. Exterior of western shelter-shed (F) from yard to north-east showing intact arcade posts.
29. Detail of chamfered original arcade post and lintel to western shelter-shed (F).
30. Interior of western shelter-shed (F) from north showing yard to left.
31. Interior from south of western shelter-shed (F).
32. Detail from south of softwood roof with nailed collars to western shelter-shed (F).
33. Interior from south of eastern shed (E) showing softwood roof structure with some repair and external door to right.
34. Interior from north-east of eastern shed (E) showing internal door to eastern stable (D).
35. Interior from north-east of eastern stable (D) showing removed hay back & manger to rear wall to right and axial passage to left.
36. Southern interior of eastern stable (D) showing central yard door flanked by windows with original loft ladder to left.
37. Interior of eastern stable (D) from south-west showing hay drop in ceiling above missing hay rack to left and yard door to right.
38. Interior of tack room (C) from north-east showing wooden harness hooks with doors to western stable left and rear window to right.

39. Detail of original wooden harness hooks to western interior of central tack room (C).
40. Northern interior of central tack room (C) showing rear window and original harness hooks to all three walls.
41. Interior of central tack room (C) from south-west showing door to eastern stable (D) to right and original harness hooks to left.
42. Original wooden harness hooks to eastern interior of central tack room (C) seen from south.
43. Detail of neatly chamfered wooden harness hooks to eastern interior of central tack room (C).
44. Southern interior of central tack room (C) showing doors to eastern and western stables (D & B) to left & right respectively.
45. Interior of western stable (B) from south showing original hay rack and manger to left with remains of secondary stall divisions.
46. Interior of western stable (B) from south-west showing original hay rack to left and yard door to right.
47. Original manger & hay rack to rear of western stable (B) showing vertical posts with grooves for missing secondary stall partitions.
48. Detail of boarded manger of western stable (B) seen from south.
49. Detail of original boarded manger and hay rack of western stable (B) seen from south-west.
50. Interior of western stable (B) from north-east showing manger to right and door to western shed (A) & bentwood harness hooks to left.
51. Southern interior of western stable (B) seen from west with central door and scar of original loft ladder to right.
52. Internal southern yard door of western stable (B).
53. Interior of western shed (A) from south-west showing door to western stable (B) to right.
54. Interior of western shed (A) from north-east showing external door to left.
55. Interior of hay loft from south-west showing removed floorboards above western stable (B) and secondary loading doors to right.
56. Detail of prefabricated king-post roof structure of hay loft seen from south-west.
57. Interior of hay loft from north showing original ladder from eastern stable (D) to left and original louvered southern windows.

58. Interior of hay loft from north-east showing original prefabricated king-post softwood roof trusses.
59. Detail of softwood prefabricated king-post roof structure of hay loft from north-east.
60. Northern interior of hay loft from north-east showing hay drop in floor above hay racks to right.
61. Internal detail of original southern hay loft window showing central louver in closed position.
62. Internal detail of original southern hay loft window showing central louver in open position.
63. Upper (southern) yard of farm from south showing converted cart lodge with identical louvered windows to granary to left.
64. Upper (southern) yard showing 16th century thatched barn in centre, house to right and 1920s covered dairy yard in rear to left.

*Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pp. 14-20*

**Appendix 2 (pp. 14-20): Selected Printed Photographs**



**Illus. 1. General view of the site from the west showing the stable block adjoining the track to the left and the 1920s brick dairy range on higher ground to the right.**



**Illus. 2. The stable range from the north showing the chimney of the farmhouse in the rear to the left. The single storied sheds flanking the main stable range are integral features, and the central window to the tack room and both first-floor loft doors visible here are original.**





**Illus. 3. The stable yard seen from the east, with the western shelter-shed (F) to the left and two-storied stable range and hay loft to the right.**



**Illus. 4. The southern facade of the stable range from the yard. This elevation is largely original apart from the first-floor loading doors to the hay loft which are secondary insertions interrupting the pattern of brickwork.**



**Illus. 5. Detail of one of the unusual loft windows in the southern exterior showing its original central louver operated by a vertical spindle. The sill is a replacement.**



**Illus. 6. The interior of the eastern shelter-shed (G) from the south, showing its softwood clapped-purlin roof structure and the remains of a 20th century hay rack to the right. The chamfered arcade posts and lintels to the left retain their original iron conical bases.**



**Illus. 7.** The interior from the north-east of the single-storied eastern shed (E) showing its original softwood roof structure (with some recent repair) and the connecting door to the eastern stable (D).



**Illus. 8.** The interior of the eastern stable (D) from the north-east showing the position of the removed hay rack & manger beneath the hay drop against the rear wall to the right and the axial passage to the left. The concrete floor is a 20<sup>th</sup> century replacement.



**Illus. 9. The southern interior of the eastern stable (D) showing its central yard door flanked by windows with an original vertical loft ladder to the left.**



**Illus. 10. The southern interior of the central tack room (C) showing the original wooden harness hooks and the doors to the eastern and western stables (D and B) to the left & right respectively.**



**Illus. 11.** The interior of the well preserved western stable (B) from the south-west showing the original hay rack and manger to the left with the nailed posts of ostensibly secondary stall divisions (from which the boarded partitions have been removed). The tiled floor appears to be original.



**Illus. 12.** The manger & hay rack to the rear of the western stable (B) showing three bolted vertical posts with vertical grooves for missing stall partitions.



**Illus. 13. The interior of the hay loft on the undivided upper storey seen from the north-east and showing the original prefabricated king-post softwood roof trusses with a hay drop in the floor to the right.**



**Illus. 14. Internal detail of an original hay loft window in the southern elevation showing the central louver in the closed position. Wooden pegs raise each slat when the vertical spindle is turned.**