

**Outbuilding at
The Olde Bungalow,
Battisford, Suffolk
BAT 018**

Historic Building Record

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Outbuilding at The Olde Bungalow, Straight Road, Battisford, Suffolk

(TM 025 541)

Historic Building Record

This report provides a record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a redundant outbuilding in the curtilage of The Olde Bungalow. It has been prepared to a specification written by Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (ref. SpecHBR(EM)_OldeBungalow_Battisford_1146_2011, dated 24th January 2011) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning consent for demolition (Mid Suffolk District Council consent 1146/11 condition 4).

Introduction

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 42 digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also includes 12 printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text. 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 10th February 2012.

Summary

The Olde Bungalow is a late-18th century thatched cottage which lies on an evocative remnant of the medieval green known as Battisford Tye. A map of 1812, drawn up when most the tye was enclosed to form gardens and farmland, shows the cottage alongside a large horse pond in the middle of the green with a small outbuilding to the north, and the site was described as a 'blacksmith's shop and house' by the tithe survey of 1842. The smithy may have been built as part of the enclosure process, but the buildings do not respect the new highways and they may well reflect a far more ancient arrangement. The pond had been drained by 1842 but the smithy occupied the same site until the beginning of the 20th century when it was demolished and replaced by the existing outbuilding a few metres further south (on the site of the pond). The present outbuilding is a single storied pantiled shed of post-and-rail construction with external cladding of nailed vertical boards with raised fillets covering their joints. It is divided into two compartments with a contemporary rear lean-to, and retains a number of original windows with overlapping panes of irregular size that were an inexpensive by-product of the glass manufacturing process. The larger of the two compartments retains a brick forge and was evidently a smithy, its walls lined with nail-hooks from which the smith's tools would have hung, while the smaller shed is understood to have been a carpenter's shop. The site belonged to a local builder until recent years. The building represents an increasingly rare example of an early-20th century vernacular workshop. Utilitarian industrial and commercial sheds such as this were once common, but few survived the economic and technological changes of the 20th century. Despite its historic and social interest the building is not of sufficient age or completeness to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing.

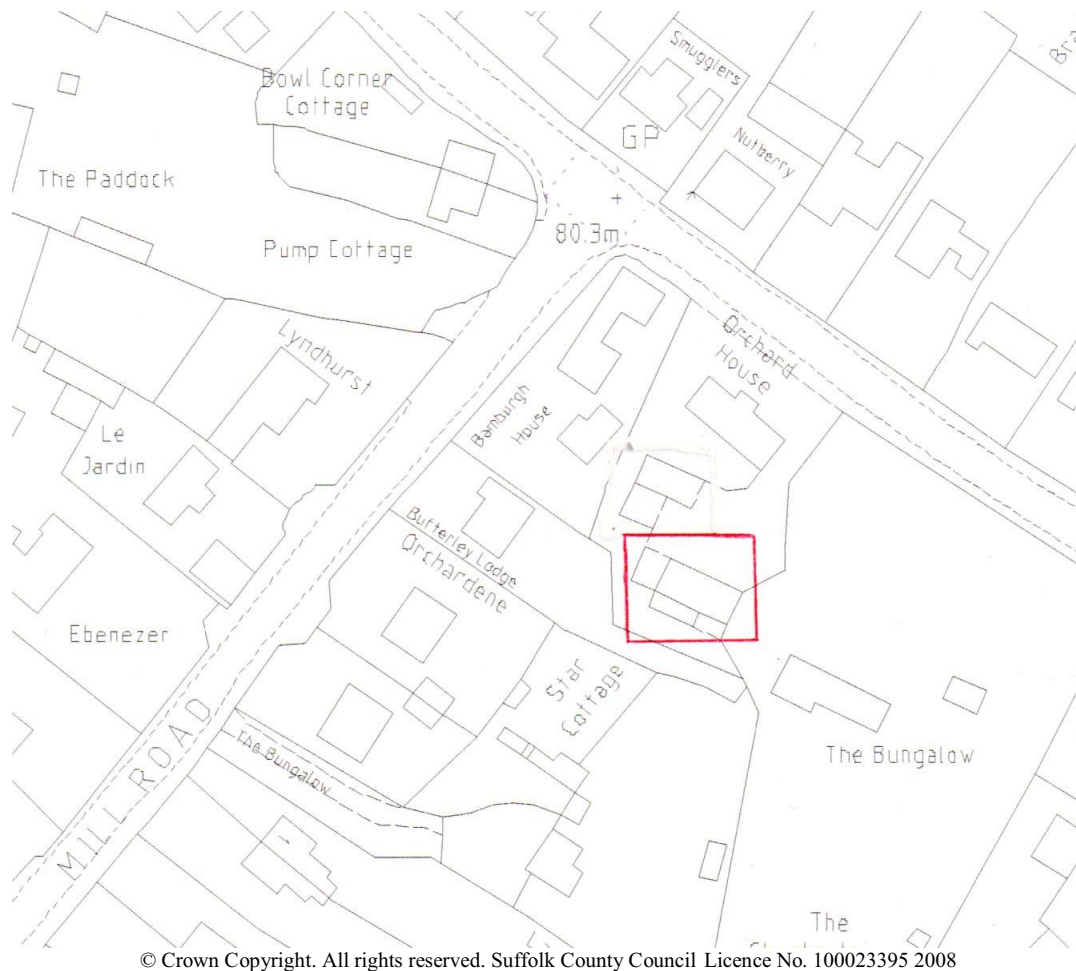


Figure 1
Modern Ordnance Survey
Enclosing the outbuilding in red and showing The Olde Bungalow (labelled The Bungalow) immediately to the south-east with the junction between Straight Road and Mill Road to the north. The L-shaped structure to the north of the outbuilding had been demolished by a previous owner prior to inspection.

Documentary and Cartographic Evidence

The Olde Bungalow lies in its own grounds immediately south of the junction between Straight Road and Mill Road at the western end of a linear medieval green known as Battsford Tye. The green is clearly shown on Hodkinson's county map of 1783 (figure 2) but had been enclosed by 1812 as illustrated in figure 3. The Olde Bungalow is a long, narrow timber-framed, rendered and thatched cottage which dates from the late-18th century and may have been built as part of the enclosure process. Its framing consists largely of pine with diagonal primary braces interrupting thin vertical timbers in the typical manner of the period. The house does not adjoin the enclosure roads, however, and may possibly have stood in the centre of the green prior to its enclosure in a manner associated with blacksmith's shops elsewhere in the region. The building belonged to James Cooper in 1812 and remained in his hands at the time of the tithe survey in 1842 when the half-acre site was described as a 'blacksmith's shop, house and land' in the occupation of Daniel Brunning. Brunning was listed as a blacksmith in White's Trade Directory of 1844. The site of the present workshop appears to have been occupied by a large pond in 1812 (presumably a horse pond on the medieval green) but this had been drained by 1842 leaving an unusual zig-zag shaped feature which is no longer apparent in the landscape.

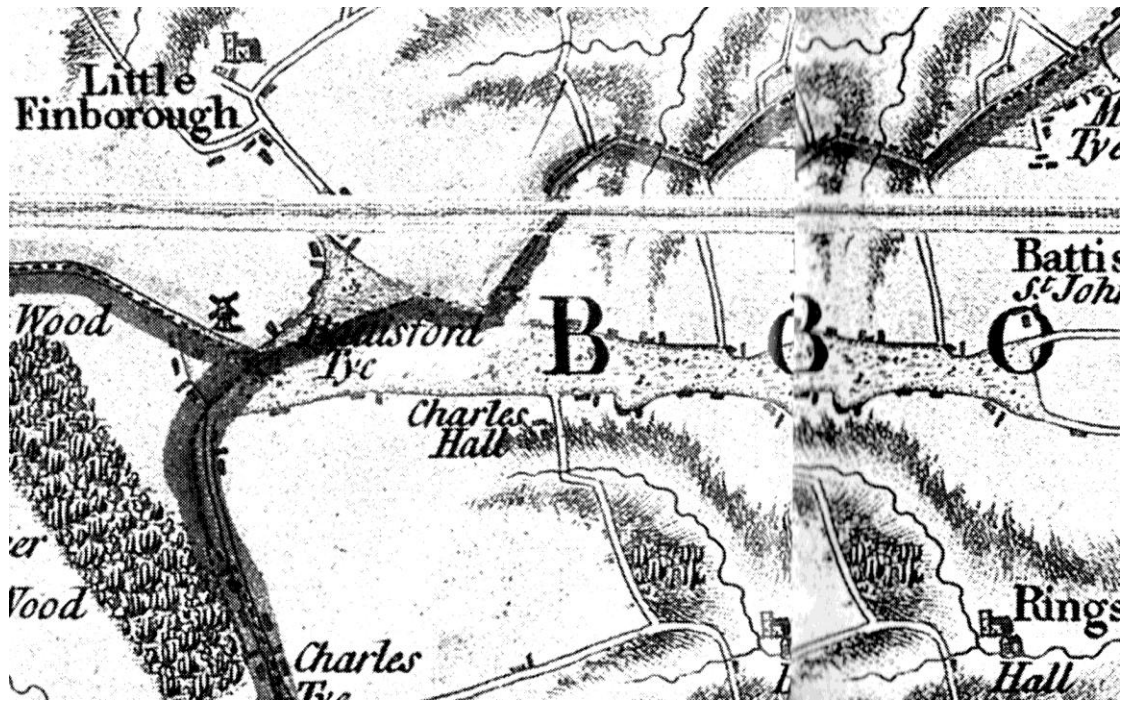


Figure 2

Battisford Tye before its enclosure, as depicted on Hodskinson's map of 1783. There are no obvious buildings in the middle of the green to the west (i.e. on the site of The Olde Bungalow), but the relevant area is partly obscured by the shading of the boundary between Stow and Bosmere Hundreds.

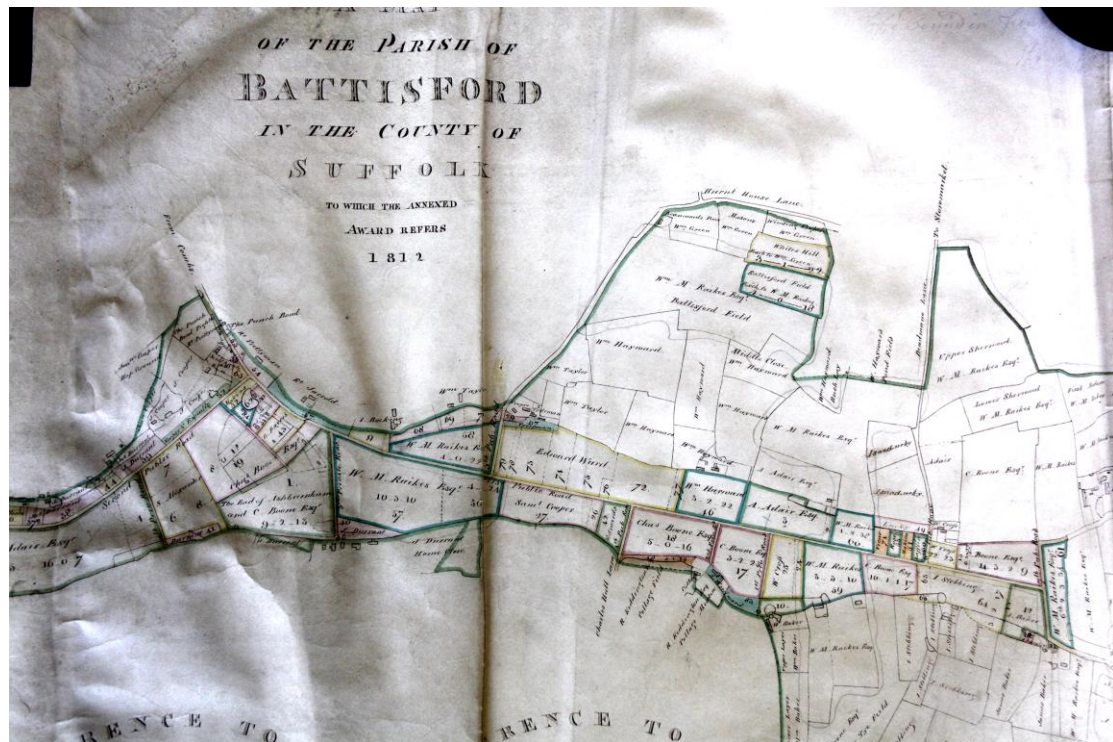


Figure 3

The Battisford enclosure map of 1812 showing the outline of the linear medieval green recently subdivided into private plots and traversed by new straight roads. The site of The Olde Bungalow lies to the left.

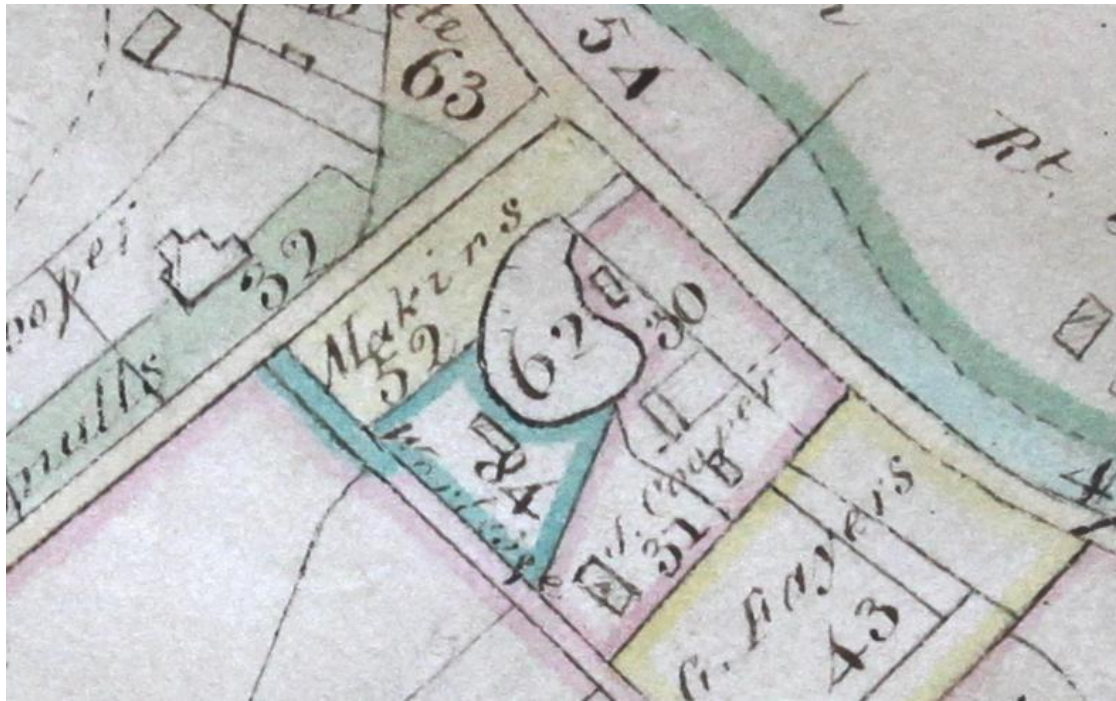


Figure 3a. Detail of the 1812 enclosure map showing what appears to be a large horse pond on the site of the present workshop with the rectangular outline of The Olde Bungalow to the south-west. The site belonged to James Cooper (i.e. plots 30 and 31) and the pond (62) to the surveyors of the highways.



Figure 4. The Battisford tithe map of 1842. The only trace of the large pond of 1842 is the curved boundary to the south-west of The Olde Bungalow (which lies beneath the plot number: 65). The half-acre site was described as a blacksmith's shop, house & land.

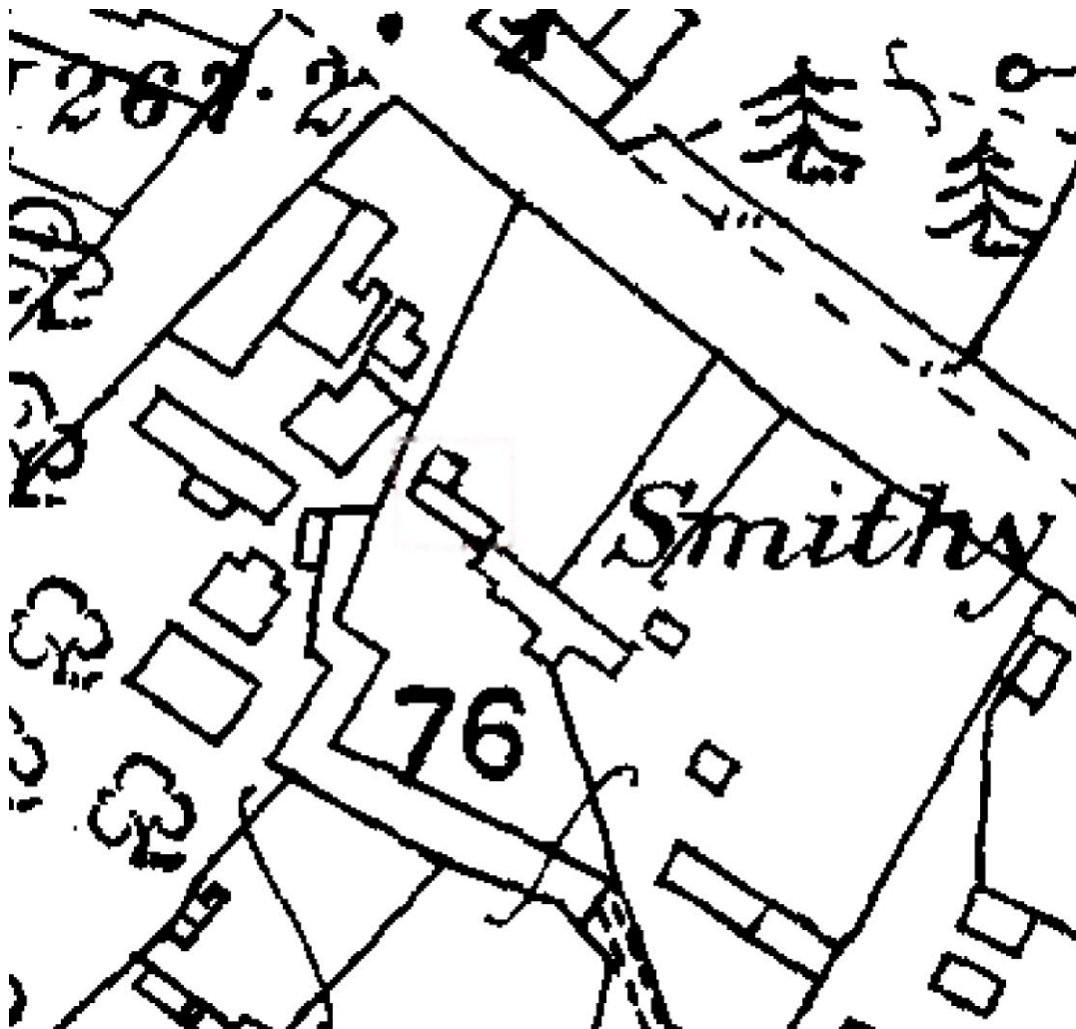


Figure 5. First edition Ordnance Survey of 1885. The long, narrow outline of the Olde Bungalow is shown bottom right, immediately east of the oddly shaped ‘zig-zag’ feature which probably derived from the pond of 1812, with the smithy to the north. The site of the present workshop to the west of the house is empty land.

The 19th century smithy shown in 1812 and 1842 lay to the north of the pond and had been extended by 1885 as demonstrated by figure 5. It still stood in 1904 (figure 6) but was probably demolished soon afterwards and replaced by the present workshop which is shown to the south of a ‘builder’s yard’ in 1975 (figure 7). The present owner acquired the property approximately two years ago and understands that the easternmost of the two main sheds operated as a carpenter’s shop while the westernmost was a forge, and that the associated general building business was operated by a Mr Denny and continued until approximately twenty years ago.

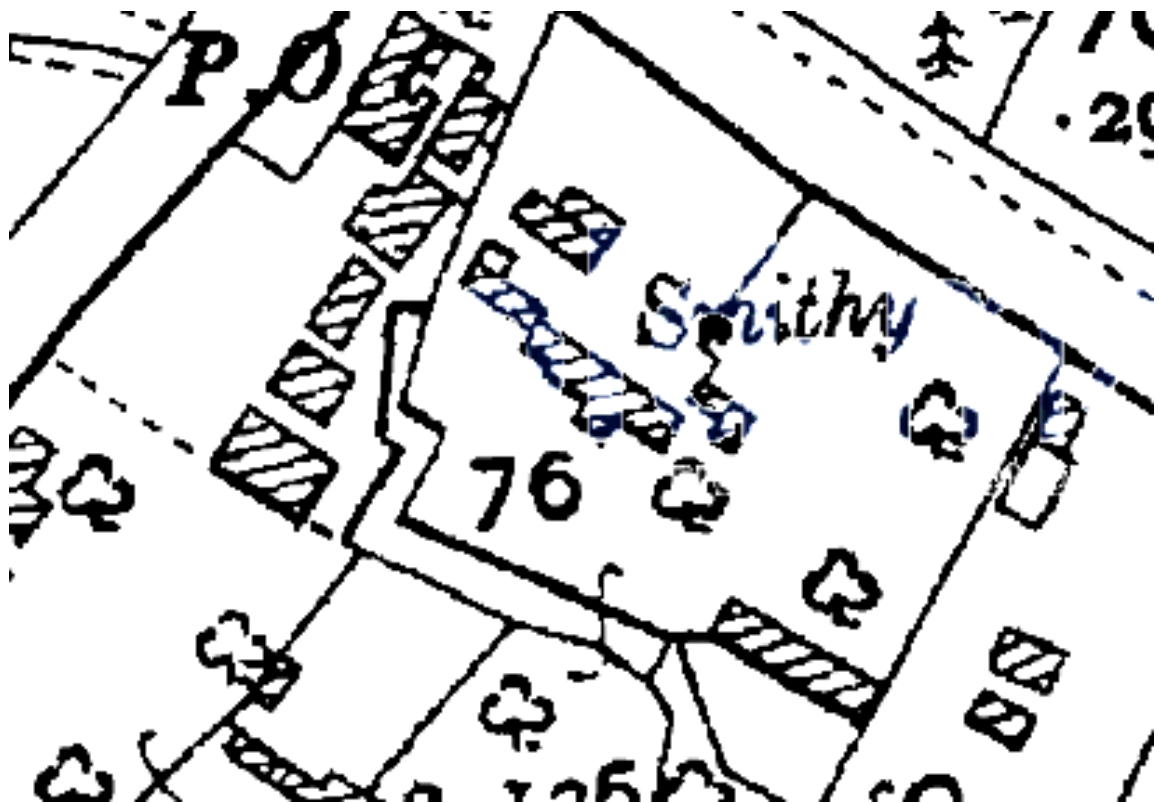


Figure 6. The Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904 showing The Old Bungalow bottom right with the smithy to the north-west. The present workshop had not yet been built to the south of the 19th century smithy.

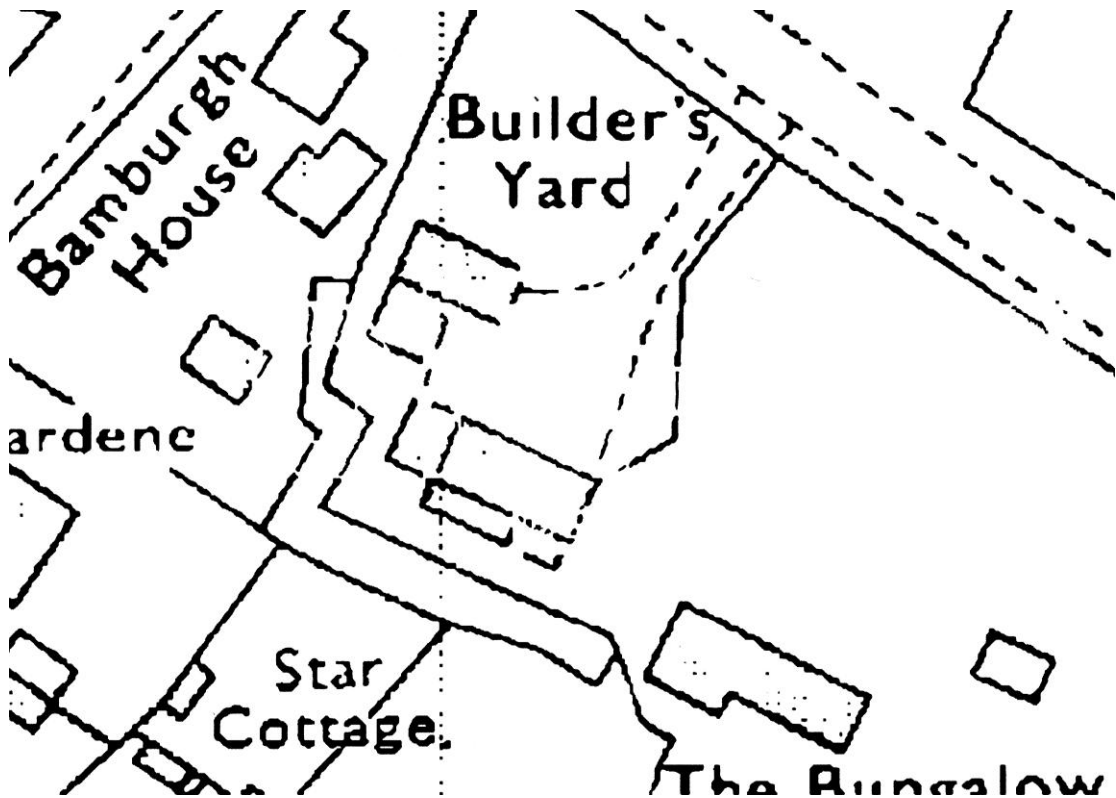


Figure 7. The 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1975 showing the present workshop to the south of a 'builder's yard' and closer to both the Bungalow and the 'zig-zag' feature than its predecessor.

Building Analysis

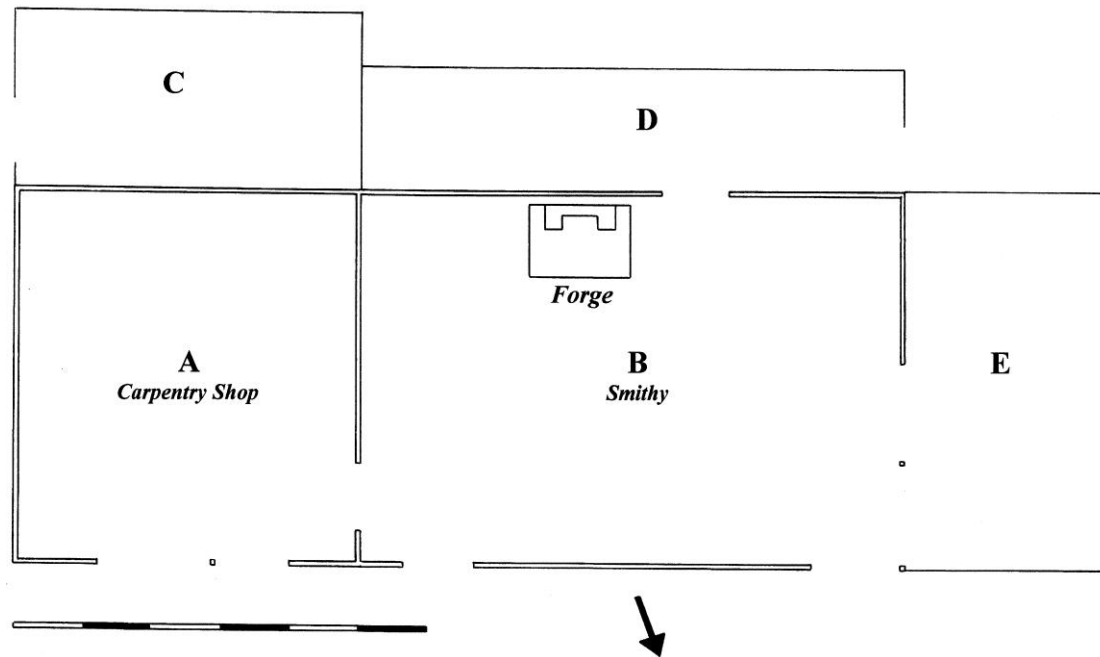


Figure 8
Ground plan of the outbuilding identifying each area with a letter for ease of reference in the text and photographic record.
Scale in metres.

Key

- A. Carpentry shop with double doors of unequal width to the south and metal-framed windows in the eastern gable.
- B. Smithy with a brick forge in close proximity to the rear (southern) wall entered by double doors in the western gable and by two single doors to the south. The southern elevation retains three original windows with overlapping panes of glass.
- C. A lean-to greenhouse of the mid-20th century.
- D. A lean-to shed linked by single doors to the smithy and the exterior as shown.
- E. A mid-20th century corrugated-iron lean-to shed with open access to the south.

Structure and Date

The outbuilding lies 10 m west of The Olde Bungalow and is a single storied structure of 13 m in length by 5.5 m in width (42.5 ft by 18 ft). A later lean-to shed of corrugated-iron adjoins the western gable and increases its total length to 15.9 m (52 ft) and a contemporary lean-to shed projects by an additional 1.8 m from the rear (southern) elevation. The building is aligned on an ESE-WNW axis which is simplified to east-west for the purpose of this report and its walls rise to 2.1 m (7 ft) at their eaves beneath a pantiled roof.

The walls are of post-and-rail hardwood construction with vertical external boarding, chiefly of elm and bearing the marks of a circular saw, and the joints are sealed by nailed external fillets. The floors are of 20th century concrete and the roof structure is of softwood with clasped-purlins, nailed collars and a ridge board. The metal casement windows of the eastern gable and southern exterior appear to be insertions of the mid-20th century but the three windows of the northern facade are original and retain sections of overlapping irregular panes of glass. Boarded walls of this kind, and windows containing inexpensive waste glass, were typically used for workshops and other utilitarian outbuildings in the late-19th and early-20th centuries, but few examples now survive. The present structure is not shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1904 but must have been built soon afterwards and was probably in existence by 1920. A similar smithy on Cockfield Great Green was built before 1885 (as recorded for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in December 2009) and it is even possible that all or part of the structure was moved from the site of the smithy shown a few metres to the north on the Ordnance Surveys of 1885 and 1904.

Layout and Function

The main shed is divided by an original boarded partition into two compartments as shown in figure 8. The smaller to the east is 5 m in length and the larger to the west 7.9 m (16.5 and 26 ft respectively). The eastern shed is entered by double vehicle doors of unequal width to the south and is understood by the present owner to have been the carpenter's workshop of a local builder, while the western shed was evidently a smith's workshop as it contains a brick forge. The walls are lined with projecting nails from which large numbers of tools would have hung, but no other fixture or fittings survive. It is well lit by three windows to the south, with double vehicle doors in the western gable and two smaller doors flanking the southern windows (of which the easternmost may be secondary). The rear lean-to (D) was presumably used for storage but its wider counterpart to the east appears to have been rebuilt as a domestic greenhouse in the mid-20th century.

Historic Significance

The outbuilding is a rare example of an early-20th century vernacular smithy and carpentry shop of boarded post-and-rail construction. Utilitarian industrial and commercial sheds such as this were once common, but few survived the economic and technological changes of the 20th century. It reflects an earlier smithy that stood alongside the horse pond in the centre of Battsford tye at the beginning of the 19th century, and possibly for centuries before. Despite its historic and social interest the building is not of sufficient age or completeness to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view site from Straight Road to the east showing the Olde Bungalow gate to the left with the workshop in the centre rear.
2. General view of site from north-east showing Olde Bungalow to left and workshop to right with remnant medieval green in foreground.
3. General view of site from south-east showing workshop to left and access road beside modern Orchard House to right.
4. General view of site from north-west showing workshop to right with Olde Bungalow in rear to left.
5. Exterior from north-east showing workshop to right and Olde Bungalow to left.
6. Exterior of workshop from north-east showing pantiled roof with carpenter's shop (A) to left and forge (B) to right.
7. Eastern end of northern exterior showing double doors of unequal width to carpenter's shop (A).
8. Western end of northern exterior showing windows and flanking entrance doors to forge (B).
9. Exterior from north-west showing later corrugated-iron lean-to (E) with open facade to north.
10. Exterior from west showing rear lean-to sheds (C & D) with Olde Bungalow in rear to right and gable lean-to (E) to left.
11. Southern exterior of glazed lean-to shed (C) seen from south-west with Olde Bungalow to right.
12. Southern exterior of rear lean-to shed (D) showing two windows blocked with corrugated iron and glazed lean-to (C) to right.
13. Eastern external gable showing glazed lean-to shed (C) to left and windows of carpenter's shop (A) to right.
14. Interior of glazed lean-to shed (C) from eastern entrance showing post-and-rail fabric of carpenter's shop (A) to right.
15. Internal eastern gable of carpenter's shop (A) showing metal casement windows with red and green paint.
16. Internal rear (southern) elevation of carpenter's shop (A).
17. Interior of carpenter's shop (A) from east showing internal partition to forge (B) with connecting door to right.

18. Front (northern) interior of carpenter's shop (A) showing modern plastic sheeting concealing original doors.
19. Clasped-purlin softwood roof structure of carpenter's shop seen from west.
20. Interior of southern lean-to (D) from east showing boarded wall of forge (B) to right.
21. Western internal gable of southern lean-to (D) showing external door with blocked window to left and forge (B) to right.
22. Interior of southern lean-to shed (D) from west showing position of door to forge (B) to left.
23. Southern interior of rear lean-to (D) showing post-and-rail construction.
24. Detail of boarded partition of forge (B) from southern lean-to (D) showing marks of circular saw and possible blocked hatch.
25. Internal western gable of forge (B) showing double doors to later lean-to shed (E) to right.
26. Internal rear (southern) elevation of forge (B) showing brick forge in centre with door to rear lean-to (D) to right.
27. Interior of forge (B) from east showing northern windows to right and brick forge to left.
28. Internal western gable of forge (B) showing pit saw to left and double doors to lean-to (E) to right.
29. Detail of two-handled pit saw leaning against western internal gable of forge (B).
30. Northern interior of forge (B) showing three windows flanked by external doors.
31. Western end of northern interior of forge (B) showing external door and window.
32. Detail of window with overlapping rectangular panes at eastern end of northern interior of forge (B).
33. Southern interior of forge (B) showing brick forge to left and door to rear lean-to (D) to right.
34. Interior of forge (B) from west showing narrow gap between brick forge and rear southern elevation.
35. Interior of forge (B) from north -west showing brickwork of forge against rear wall.
36. Interior of forge (B) from north-west showing brick forge to right and internal partition to eastern carpenter's shop (A) to left.
37. Clasped-purlin softwood roof structure of forge (B) seen from west.

38. Eastern end of southern interior of forge (B) showing chalk tally marks and nail hooks for tools on boarding with forge to right.
39. Interior of forge (B) from west showing internal partition to carpenter's shop (A) with chalk graffiti.
40. Detail from west of chalk graffiti to partition between forge (B) and carpenter's shop (A) showing drawing of house.
41. Detail from west of chalk graffiti to partition between forge (B) and carpenter's shop (A) ‘..Return Broom ..You Borrow’.
42. Detail from west of partition between forge (B) and carpenter's shop (A) showing numerous nails serving as tool hooks.

Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pages 12-17

Appendix 2 (pp. 12-17): Selected Printed Photographs



Illus. 1. General view site from Straight Road to the east showing the Olde Bungalow gate to the left with the workshop in the centre rear.



Illus. 2. General view of site from north-east showing Olde Bungalow to left and workshop to right with remnant medieval green in foreground.



Illus. 3. General view of site from north-west showing workshop to right with Olde Bungalow in rear to left.



Illus. 4. Western end of northern exterior showing entrance door and windows with overlapping 'waster' panes of forge (B).



Illus. 5. Exterior from west showing rear lean-to sheds (C & D) with Olde Bungalow in rear to right and gable lean-to (E) to left.



Illus. 6. Eastern external gable showing glazed lean-to shed (C) to left and windows of carpenter's shop (A) to right.



Illus. 7. Internal eastern gable of carpenter's shop (A) showing metal casement windows with red and green paint.



Illus. 8. Interior of southern lean-to shed (D) from west showing position of door to forge (B) to left.



Illus. 9. Detail of boarded partition of forge (B) from southern lean-to (D) showing marks of circular saw and possible blocked hatch behind brickwork of flue.



Illus. 10. Southern interior of forge (B) showing brick forge to left and door to rear lean-to (D) to right.



Illus. 11. Interior of forge (B) from north -west showing brickwork of forge against rear wall.



Illus. 12. Detail from west of chalk graffiti to partition between forge (B) and carpenter's shop (A) showing drawing of house and iron nails for hanging tools.