

**Wood Farm,
Iken, Suffolk
IKN 111**

Historic Building Record

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1-166497



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Wood Farm, Iken, Suffolk

(TM 415 546)

Heritage Asset Assessment

This report provides an archaeological record and analysis at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a complete farm complex. It has been prepared to the standard specified by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning consent for demolition.

Introduction

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 57 digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also contains 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 15th November 2013.

Summary

Wood Farm occupies an isolated location in open arable countryside at the southern edge of Iken. The site is bisected by the parish boundary between Iken and Sudbourne, with the buildings to the north of the entrance track lying in Iken and the farmhouse and other buildings in Sudbourne. Most parish boundaries in Suffolk were established before the 12th century, often following Anglo Saxon estate boundaries, and both the track and the farmstead itself may be of very ancient origin. At the time of the Iken tithe survey in 1840 the farm, like most of both parishes, formed part of the extensive estate of the Marquis of Hertford based at Sudbourne Hall some 3 km to the south. The tithe map shows a T-shaped farmhouse on the site of the present house, which appeared in its present form on the Ordnance Survey of 1927 and was probably rebuilt in *circa* 1910 by Kenneth McKenzie Clark who owned the estate between 1904 and 1918 (father of the art historian of the same name and grandfather of politician Alan Clark). A large barn stood on the modern lawn immediately west of the house but was demolished in the latter part of the 20th century.

The remaining brick and pantiled farm buildings date from the mid and late-19th century and are very typical of the Suffolk Sandlings, illustrating the nature of estate agriculture in the area. They accordingly retain considerable historic interest despite the loss of the barn, and consist of a mid-19th century stable and adjoining cart lodge, a pair of late-19th century animal shelter-sheds (one for horses and one for cattle – the latter recently converted into a stable), and a detached late-19th century vehicle shed. A large Nissen hut or Romney shed of corrugated steel was erected to the north of the complex probably in the 1960s. The 19th century stable retains an exceptionally well preserved and picturesque northern facade despite the replacement of its roof in 1923, as dated by an inscription on a roof collar. Its original layout was unusual, with a tack room and feed store housed in a low rear lean-to that may have reflected the profile of the adjoining threshing barn. Although of local significance no buildings on the site can be considered of national importance to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing. The groundworks associated with any successor to the present farmhouse are likely to affect the parish boundary which adjoins its northern wall and may reveal archaeological evidence both of early occupation and the nature of any original ditch or other defining feature.

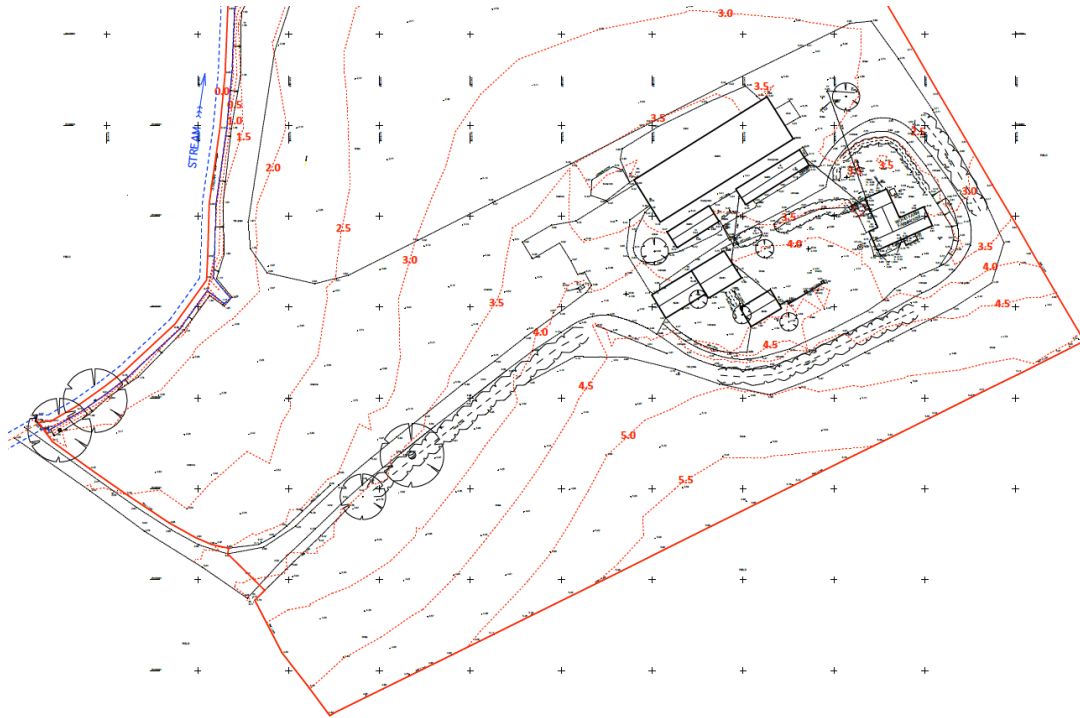


Figure 1. Plan of Existing Site
Showing the northern approach road at top left and the farm complex on the right. See figure 7 for more detail. Survey by Studio RHE.

Documentary and Cartographic Evidence

Wood Farm occupies an isolated location in open arable countryside at the southern edge of Iken. The site is bisected by the parish boundary between Iken and Sudbourne, with the buildings to the north of the entrance track lying in Iken and the farmhouse and other buildings in Sudbourne. Most parish boundaries in Suffolk were established before the 12th century, often following Anglo Saxon estate boundaries, and both the track and the farmstead itself may be of very ancient origin. At the time of the Iken tithe survey in 1840 the farm, like most of both parishes, formed part of the extensive estate of the Marquis of Hertford based at Sudbourne Hall some 3 km to the south.

The Iken tithe map (figure 2) shows a T-shaped farmhouse in red with a large outbuilding in close proximity to the west. The similarly T-shaped outline of the outbuilding suggests it formed a barn with a south-facing porch, but the map is damaged by a vertical tear which has destroyed some detail. Two additional outbuildings lie to the north-east of the house on the Iken side of the boundary. The tithe apportionment records 69.25 acres in Iken and notes that George Eastaugh was the farm's tenant. The site was described only as 'Barn and Yard' (plot 136) and the adjoining field on the east was named as 'Back House Field' (plot 137).

The layout of the farm remained largely unaltered in 1882 (figure 3), although the barn had increased in length. The open-sided northern elevation of the existing cart lodge (building 3 in figure 7) was indicated by a broken line and had probably been added to the western end of the structure since 1840. Stables were often placed against the gables of threshing barns, and it is unclear from the map evidence whether the surviving 19th century stable was present in 1840 or represents a slightly later addition. The demolition of the two outbuildings to the north of the parish boundary suggests a significant refurbishment of the farm complex since the tithe survey and the stable is most likely to represent an addition of the 1850s or 1860s.

On the death of the fourth marquis in 1870 the Sudbourne 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. Wallace's attentions were short-lived, however, as his family preferred France to England and he quickly followed them back, selling Sudbourne to Arthur Heywood in 1884. Heywood served as High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1891. On the death of his widow in 1897 Wallace's 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. In 1898 Arthur Heywood sold the hall to Arthur Wood, and it was bought in 1904 by Kenneth McKenzie Clark, a Scottish industrialist and father of the art historian of the same name. Clark sold in turn to Walter Boynton in 1918 and the 11,000 acre estate was gradually broken up during the 1920s and 30s.



Figure 2. The Iken tithe map of 1840 showing Wood Farm at bottom right and the south-eastern corner of Iken Heath (shaded) at top left.

Arthur Heywood was probably responsible for building the two matching brick shelter-sheds on the northern side of the parish boundary (buildings 2 and 6), and the southern vehicle shed (5), all of which appeared for the first time on the second edition Ordnance Survey of 1904. The date 1889 has been inscribed into the western gable of building 2. The outline of the farmhouse changed completely between 1904 and 1927 (figure 5), its current L-shaped profile replacing the T-shaped structure depicted in 1840, and was evidently rebuilt. The nature of its brickwork, using lime mortar rather than Portland cement, is consistent with a date of *circa* 1910, although a post WWI origin cannot be ruled out. The large Nissen hut to the north of the site was present by the 1970s (figure 6) and was probably added in the 1960s.

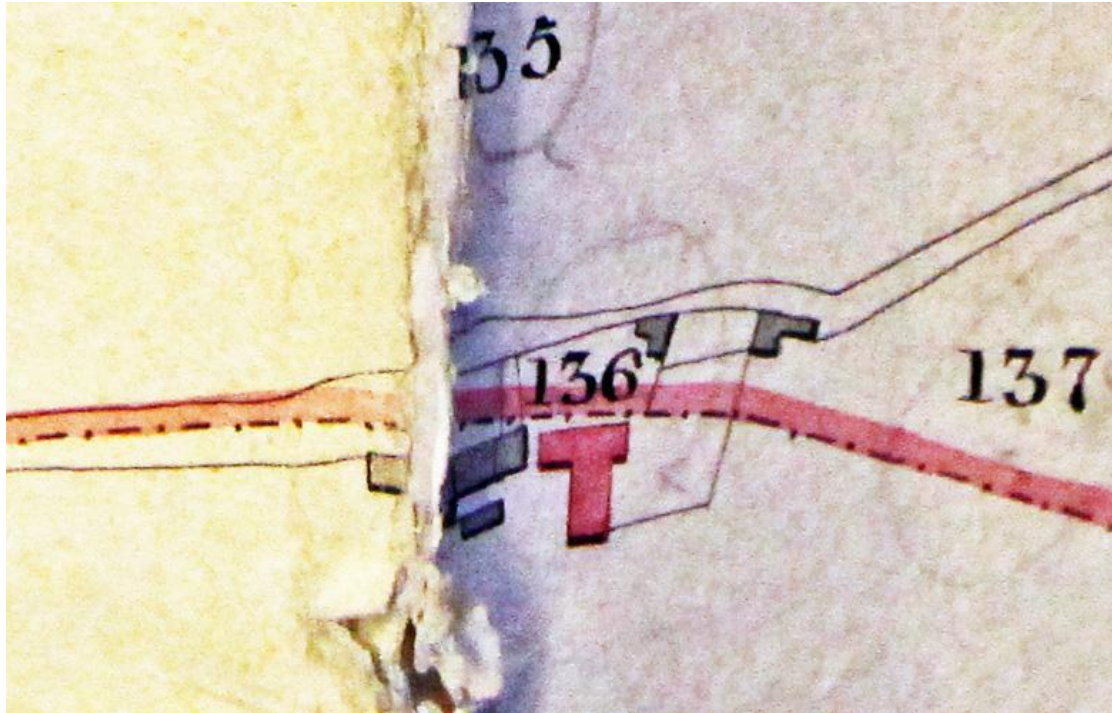


Figure 2a. Detail of the tithe map showing a T-shaped farmhouse in red with what appears to be large barn to the east bisected by a vertical tear. The dotted line highlighted in red indicates the boundary between Iken on the north and Sudbourne parish on the south. (Suffolk Record Office.)

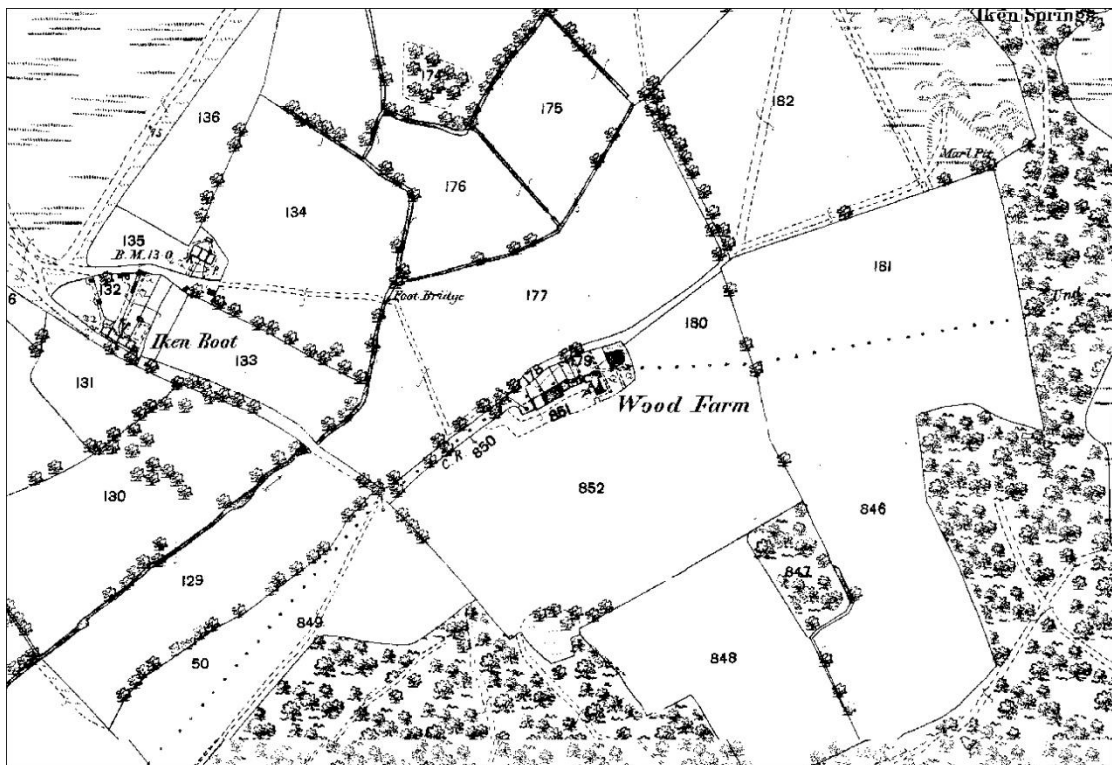


Figure 3. The First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1882 showing Wood Farm in the centre and the corner of Iken Heath at top-left. The parish boundary is indicated by a dotted line running along the eastern approach road.

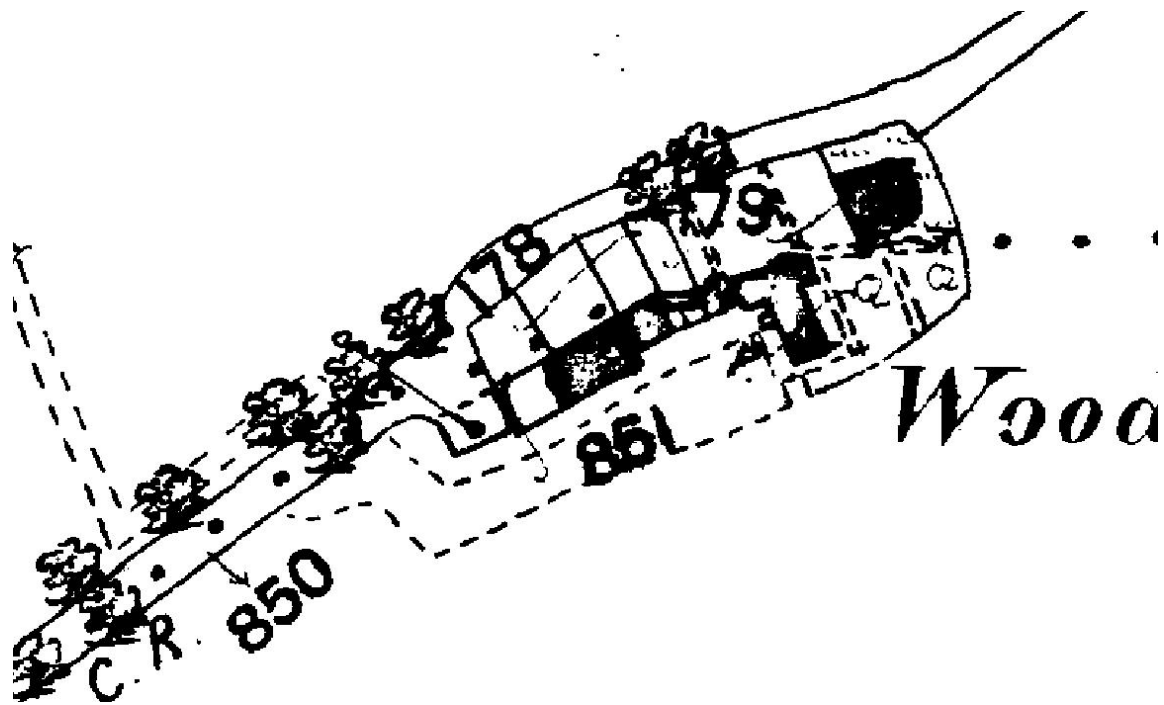


Figure 3a. Detail of the 1882 Ordnance Survey. The existing cart lodge and stable (buildings 3 and 4 in figure 7) are shown to the west of a distinctive linear complex that extends to the farmhouse on the east. The large rectangular structure in the centre must represent a barn that no longer survives on the site of the modern lawn. The open northern elevation of the cart lodge is indicated by a broken line. At this date all the buildings lay in Sudbourne parish.

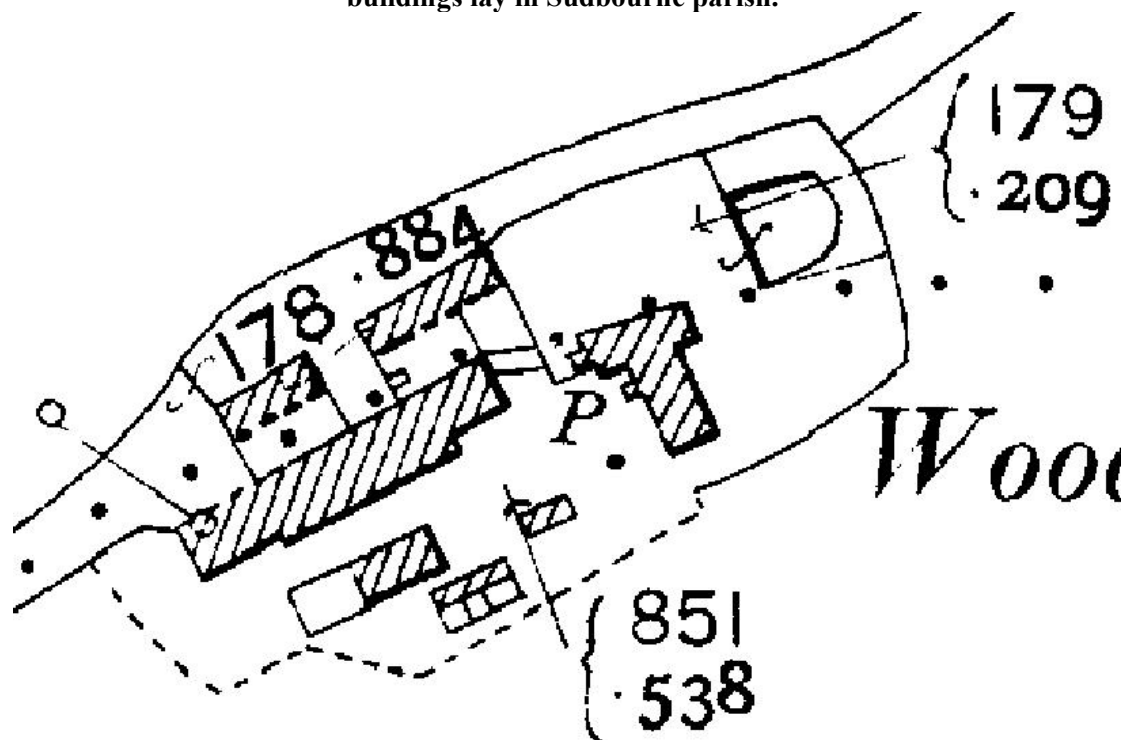


Figure 4. Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904. The two open-sided shelter-sheds to the north of the parish boundary had been built since 1882 (buildings 2 and 6). The smaller, westernmost shed (2) served an enclosed horse yard adjoining the stable (4) while its counterpart to the east was probably designed for cattle. The vehicle shed (5) to the south had also appeared since 1882 and adjoined a small yard to the west.

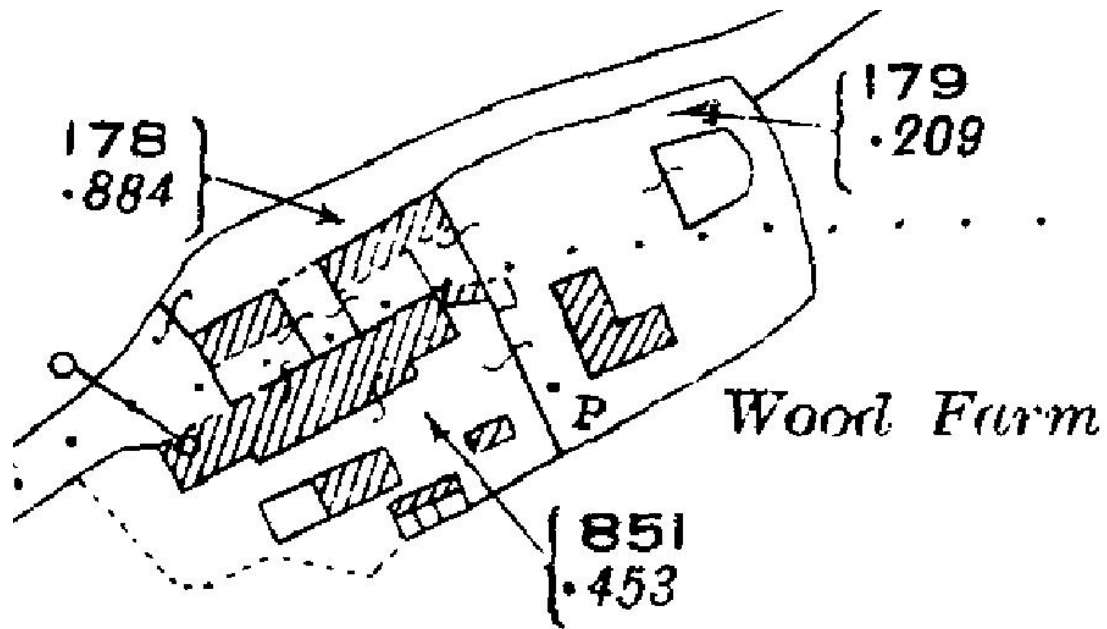


Figure 5
The 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1927.
 The farm buildings had remained largely unaltered since 1904 but the shape of the farmhouse to the east had changed completely: the present L-shaped house had evidently replaced its T-shaped predecessor.

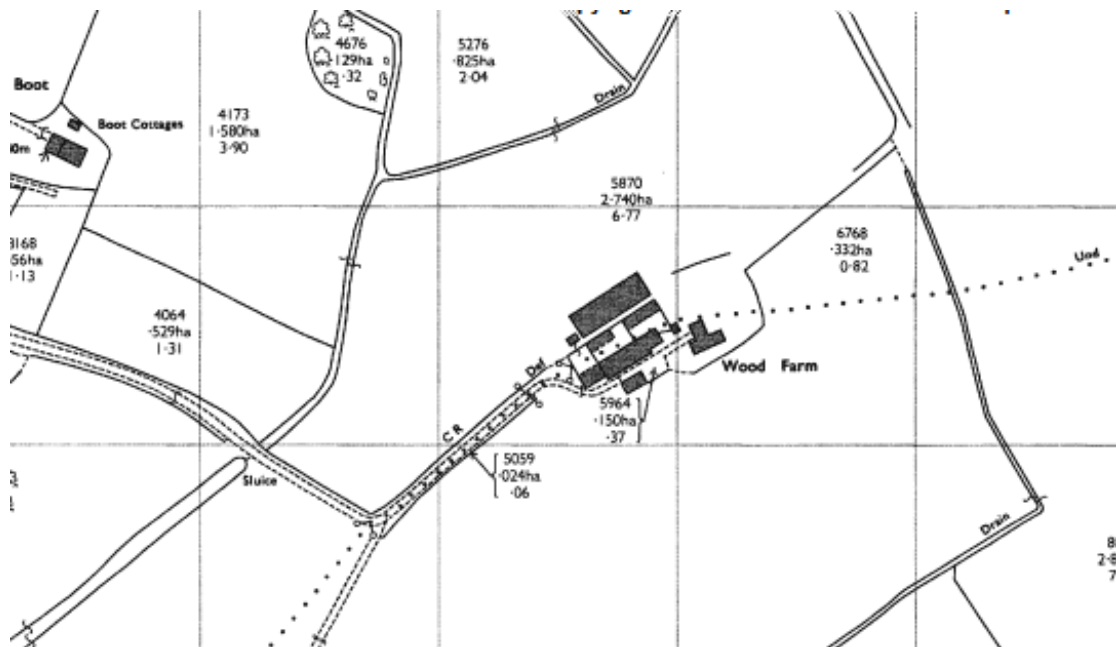


Figure 6
The 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1974.
 The large Nissen hut (1) or Romney shed had appeared to the north of the site and the surviving lean-to had been added to the southern end of the farmhouse's western elevation. The D-shaped pond to the east of the house had been drained but its area had not yet been incorporated into the adjoining field.

Building Analysis

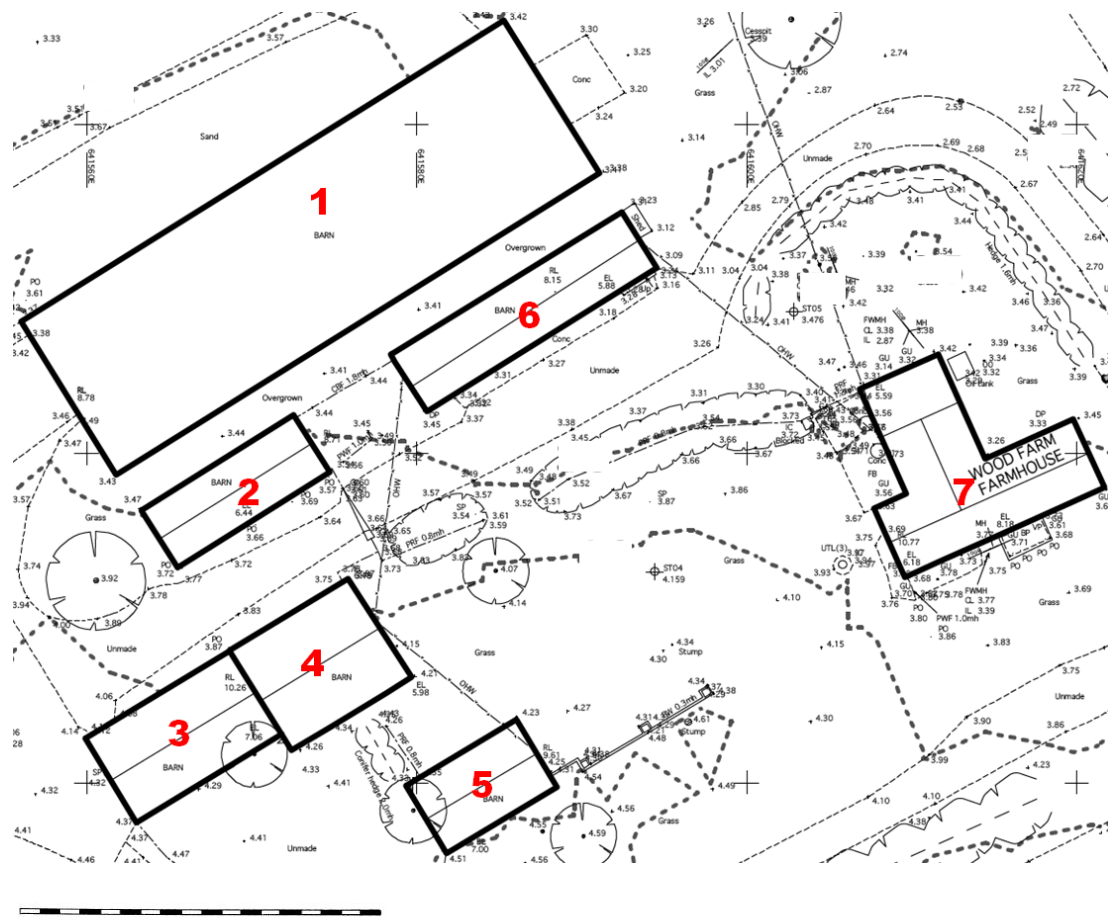


Figure 7

Block plan of the site identifying each building with a number for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. The historic maps demonstrate that a large barn occupied the position of the modern lawn between buildings 4 and 7 until its demolition after 1974. Adapted from a supplied survey by Studio RHE. Scale in metres.

Key

1. A substantial black-painted corrugated steel structure with a semi-circular profile in the manner of a Nissen hut. Entered by sliding doors in both gables. Large examples of this kind were marketed as Romney sheds in the decades after WWII and were suitable for a variety of agricultural purposes including tractor sheds and breeding units for both pigs and poultry. The interior was inaccessible at the time of inspection.

2. A red-brick and pantiled animal shelter-shed with an open sided southern elevation supported by three wooden posts resting on conical iron pads. The roof of machine-sawn softwood is contemporary with the walls and consists of clasped purlins with nailed collars and a ridge board in the typical manner of the late-19th century. At 2.5 m the height of the eaves indicates the shed was designed for horses rather than cattle, and this is confirmed by figures 4 and 5 above which show an enclosed yard between the shed to the north and the surviving mid -19th century stable (4) to the south. This building is shown for the first time on the Ordnance Survey of 1904 and was not present in 1882. The western external gable bears the deeply incised initials GB and LK flanking the date 1889 (each eight resembling a lower case g), and its construction can therefore be confined to the period 1882-1889. The interior retains a number of

secondary boarded stall partitions that probably relate to its conversion into loose boxes for cattle or sheep, but no original fixtures or fittings remain.

3. A red brick cart lodge in the usual position for such structures at the entrance to the farm. The open sided northern elevation is supported by two wooden posts resting on unusual pyramidal iron pads which may represent early-20th century replacements. The corrugated asbestos roof was entirely renewed in the early-20th century using pre-fabricated king-post trusses. This building is depicted on the Ordnance Survey of 1882 and is likely to date from the 1850s or 1860s when many local farms were refurbished in a similar style.

4. A red brick structure with an integral rear (southern) lean-to that was built as a stable in the mid-19th century. It may represent the western end of the building shown on the 1840 tithe survey but was more probably added to the western gable of an older threshing barn in the 1850s or 1860s. Extending to 8 m in length by 6.7 m in total width (27 ft by 22 ft) it is entered from the north by a central doorway flanked by windows with internal vertically hinged shutters. The corrugated asbestos roof is a reconstruction of the early-20th century that can be accurately dated by a painted inscription on a roof collar to 23 October 1923. The rear lean-to contains two compartments entered by central doors from the main stable; the easternmost with a low rear door immediately opposite and the westernmost with a window or loading hatch in both its eastern gable and southern elevation. Low concrete cattle troughs on the floors of each compartment indicate their conversion into loose boxes for calves in the mid-20th century. This layout appears to be original and is unusual in that the horses were accordingly stalled against the two gables rather than the rear wall. One lean-to compartment is likely to have operated as a tack room and the other as a chaff box (feed store) and loose box.

5. The southernmost building on the site is a single-storied red brick shed with a pantiled roof that was present by 1904 but not shown in 1882. It is entered by replaced double doors in an original aperture in the eastern gable and was apparently designed as a vehicle (cart) shed, but there is evidence of a narrow original door in the opposite western gable that opened into a small enclosure (figures 4 and 5). This door has since been converted into a window but two original windows with brick arches are preserved in the southern elevation. This building was not accessible for internal inspection but no relevant fixtures or fittings survive inside.

6. A red-brick and pantiled animal shelter-shed with an open sided southern elevation supported by four wooden posts resting on conical iron pads. This building is structurally identical to and contemporary with the eastern shelter-shed (2) and retains its original roof, but was converted into a stable consisting of five loose boxes in the late-20th century. This conversion involved the insertion of various cement-block partitions and external doors. At 2.1 m the height of the eaves is lower than that of its eastern counterpart, suggesting it was designed for cattle rather than horses. Figures 4 and 5 above show an enclosed yard between the shed to the north and the demolished barn or adjoining cow shed to the south. The building is shown for the first time on the Ordnance Survey of 1904 and was not present in 1882.

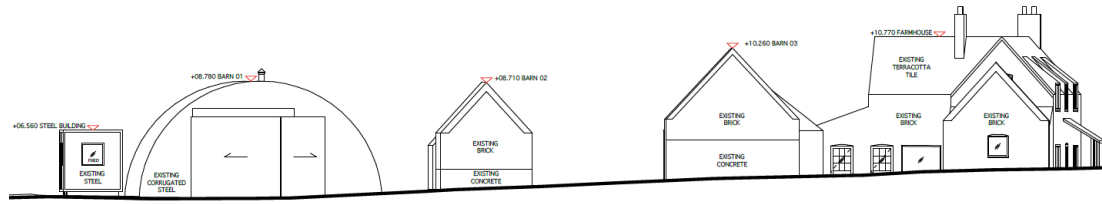
7. The farmhouse is a red brick and plain-tiled structure laid in stretcher bond with lime mortar in the manner of the early-20th century. Its distinctive L-shaped ground plan was shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1927 (figure 5), replacing a T-shaped predecessor on the same site. The brickwork indicates a date of *circa* 1910, but it may be as late as the refurbishment of the farm buildings in 1923 commemorated in the roof of the stable (4). The fabric and profile of the house remains largely original but a lean-to extension was added to the southern end of the western elevation in *circa* 1970 when many windows were replaced and an open porch added to the south. Two mill

stones serve as door steps at the northern end of the western wall, perhaps salvaged from an animal feed mill on the site. The interior was inaccessible at the time of inspection, but an early-20th century staircase with a turned balustrade was visible through the glazing of the southern entrance door.

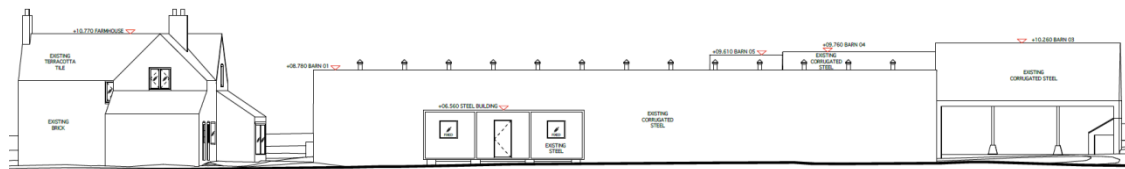
Historic Significance

Wood Farm is a late-19th century brick and pantiled farm complex with an early-20th century farmhouse. It is typical of many small estate farmsteads on the Sandlings of Suffolk, and is accordingly of considerable historic and visual interest. The mid-19th century stable is the oldest of the various structures, retaining an exceptionally well preserved and picturesque northern facade despite the replacement of its roof in 1923. Its original layout was unusual, with a tack room and feed store housed in a low rear lean-to that may have reflected the profile of the adjoining threshing barn. The demolition of this barn during the late-20th century has depleted the historic significance of the site as a whole, but archaeological evidence of early occupation, possibly dating back to the medieval period, may survive under the lawn where it stood. The house was rebuilt on the same site as its predecessor between 1904 and 1927, and the groundworks associated with any successor may also yield evidence of the site's origins, particularly as the northern wall of the structure adjoins the ancient boundary between Iken and Sudbourne that is likely to have been defined by a ditch in the early Middle Ages. No buildings on the site meet the English Heritage criteria for listing.

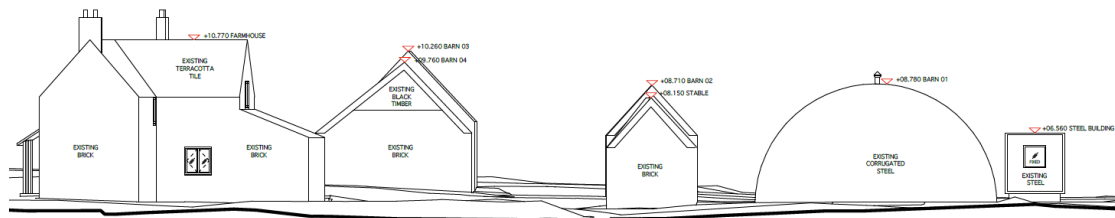
External elevations by Studio RHE



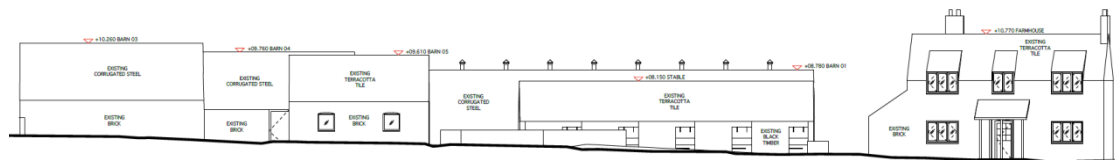
Site elevation from south west



Site elevation from north west



Site elevation from north east



Site elevation from south east

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view of site from south-west showing isolated location in open countryside.
2. General view of site from north-east showing farmhouse (7) to left & Nissen hut (1) to right.
3. General view from site entrance to west showing Nissen hut (7) to left and cart lodge (3) to right.
4. General view from south showing the cart lodge (3) to left, vehicle shed (5) & modern stable (6) in centre and farmhouse (7) to right.
5. General view from south-east showing farmhouse (7) to right with vehicle shed (5) to left & original stable (4) in centre.
6. Southern facade of farmhouse (7) showing altered windows and secondary open porch.
7. Western exterior of farmhouse (7) showing original northern lean-to to left & later lean-to extension to right.
8. Detail of graffiti above western door of farmhouse (7). WKI, MKI and BK.
9. Detail of mill stones serving as door steps against western exterior of farmhouse (7).
10. Detail of ostensibly early-20th century staircase within southern door of farmhouse (7).
11. Eastern exterior of farmhouse (7).
12. Farmhouse (7) from north-east showing original brickwork with good quality lime mortar and integral lean-to on right.
13. Eastern exterior of northern lean-to of farmhouse (7) showing lime mortar & replaced window frame.
14. Farmhouse (7) from north showing original horizontal sliding sash windows of lean-to in foreground.
15. Western external gable of former shelter-shed (2) with Nissen hut (1) to left.
16. Detail of graffiti to western external gable of shelter-shed (2). GB 1889 LK.
17. Detail of graffiti to western external gable of shelter-shed (2). JW 1939.
18. Open-sided southern exterior of western shelter-shed (2) showing eastern shelter-shed converted into modern stable (6) to right.

19. Interior of former shelter-shed (2) from west showing boarded partitions and open-sided southern elevation to right.
20. Northern interior of shelter-shed (2) showing original softwood roof structure with water tank to left.
21. Detail from west of original wooden arcade post of shelter-shed (2) showing conical iron pad.
22. Eastern external gable of western shelter-shed (2) showing Nissen hut (1) to right and 19th century stable (4) to left.
23. Southern exterior of eastern shelter-shed originally open-sided but converted into modern stable (6).
24. Formerly open-sided southern exterior of eastern shelter-shed now converted into stable (6) showing western shelter-shed (2) to left.
25. Exterior of eastern shelter-shed (6) from north-east showing gable and blind northern elevation.
26. Detail of iron pad to wooden post of original southern open arcade of eastern shelter-shed converted to stable (6).
27. Southern interior of eastern shelter-shed (6) showing original wooden arcade post with iron pad and modern stable partitions.
28. Southern interior of eastern shelter-shed (6) showing cement-block and boarded partitions of stable conversion.
29. Northern interior of eastern shelter-shed (6) showing cement-block partitions of modern stable conversion.
30. Eastern gable of Nissen hut (1) showing eastern shelter-shed (6) to left.
31. Brick vehicle shed (5) from east showing replaced doors in original position of entrance in eastern gable.
32. Southern exterior of vehicle shed (5) showing two original window apertures respected by closers.
33. Western gable of vehicle shed showing original door respected by closers partly blocked by later window.
34. Blind northern exterior of brick vehicle shed (5).
35. Farmhouse (7) from west showing original stable (4) to left and vehicle shed (5) to right.
36. Rear (southern) exteriors of cart lodge (3) to left and original stable (4) with integral lean-to to right.
37. Southern exterior of original stable (4) showing closer bricks respecting original door and window positions.

38. Cart lodge (2) from north-west showing original open arcade with 19th century stable (4) to left.
39. Interior of cart lodge (2) from west showing softwood roof trusses with open arcade to left.
40. Interior of cart lodge (2) from east showing softwood roof trusses with open arcade to right.
41. Blind southern internal wall of cart lodge (2).
42. Northern facade of original stable (4) showing central door flanked by windows - all respected by closers.
43. Eastern external gable of original stable (4) showing integral brick southern lean-to on left.
44. Interior of original stable (4) from west showing central entrance to left & rear lean-to on right.
45. Interior of original stable (4) from east showing central entrance to right & rear lean-to on left.
46. Northern interior of original stable (4) showing original central entrance flanked by shuttered windows with floor drains.
47. Detail from south-east of ostensibly original vertically hinged shutter to northern interior of original stable (4).
48. Rebuilt roof structure of original stable (4) from east showing date Oct 23 1923 painted on collar.
49. Southern interior of original stable (4) showing doors to twin original compartments in lean-to.
50. Detail of central southern doors of original stable (4) with mortises for jambs in lintel and notches for missing loft joists.
51. Interior from west of western lean-to compartment of stable (4) showing late-20th century cement cattle trough.
52. Interior from east of western lean-to compartment of stable (4) showing recently rebuilt boarded partition to main stable on right.
53. Interior from north of western lean-to compartment of stable (4) showing original low rear door and modern concrete cattle trough.
54. Interior from north-west of eastern lean-to compartment of stable (4) showing original windows or loading hatches with modern cattle trough.
55. Interior from west of eastern lean-to compartment of stable (4) showing window or loading hatch in eastern gable.

56. Interior from east of eastern lean-to compartment of stable (4) showing partly rebuilt partition against main stable area to right.
57. Interior from south of eastern lean-to compartment of stable (4) showing original door to main stable area.

Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pp. 15-20

Appendix 2 (pp. 15-20): Selected Printed Photographs



Illus. 1. A general view of the farm from the south-west showing its isolated location in open countryside.



Illus. 2. A general view from the south-east showing the early-20th century red-brick farmhouse (7) to the right with the late-19th century vehicle shed (5) to the left and the mid-19th century stable (4) in the centre.



Illus. 3. The open-sided southern exterior of the late-19th century western shelter-shed (2) which initially served the stable (4) immediately opposite. The contemporary eastern shelter-shed (6) to the right was converted into a stable in the late-20th century. The parish boundary between Iken and Sudbourne runs along the track in the foreground.



Illus. 4. The late-19th century eastern shelter-shed (6) seen from the east, with the Nissen hut (1) in the rear to the right and the stable (4) and western shelter-shed (2) on the left. The buildings to the north (right) of the track are in Iken but the farmhouse and other structures lie in Sudbourne parish. The southern elevation of the shelter-shed was originally open to match its western counterpart but was enclosed in the late-20th century to form a stable consisting of five loose boxes.



Illus. 5. The late-19th century brick vehicle shed (5) from the east showing the replaced doors occupying its original gable entrance and two original window apertures in the southern elevation. There is evidence of a narrow original door in the opposite western gable (now converted into a window). The stable (4) with its integral southern lean-to is visible to the right.



Illus. 6. The rear (southern) exteriors of the cart lodge (3) to the left and the mid-19th century stable (4) with its integral lean-to on the right. Both roofs are clad in 20th century corrugated asbestos.



Illus. 7. The 19th century cart lodge (2) at the entrance to the site as viewed from the north-west and showing its original open arcade with the contemporary or slightly earlier stable (4) on the left.



Illus. 8. The northern facade of the original 19th century stable (4) showing its central half-hung door flanked by shuttered windows - all respected by closer bricks. Note the circular drain apertures marking the internal floor level.



Illus. 9. The interior of the 19th century stable (4) from the east, showing its central entrance to the right and the twin central doors opening into the two compartments of the integral rear lean-to on the left. The roof was rebuilt in 1923 as dated by an inscription on the further of the two roof collars shown here. The horses were presumably stalled against the gables, although no evidence survives, with the lean-to containing a tack room and chaff box.



Illus. 10. The northern interior of the 19th century stable (4) showing its original central entrance flanked by vertically hinged shuttered windows with floor drains.



Illus. 11. The interior from the north-west of the easternmost lean-to compartment of the 19th century stable (4) showing two original windows or loading hatches with a late-20th century concrete cattle trough. Part of this space may have served as a chaff box.



Illus. 12. The early-20th century farmhouse (7) from the west. The northern lean-to on the left is an original feature but that to the right is a late-20th century addition. A pair of mill stones serves as door steps and may have been used to grind animal feed on the farm. The present house appears on the Ordnance Survey of 1927 but not that of 1904 and appears to date from *circa* 1910. It may, however, be contemporary with the re-roofing of the stable (4) in 1923.