



Shepherds Farm, Tunstall, Suffolk



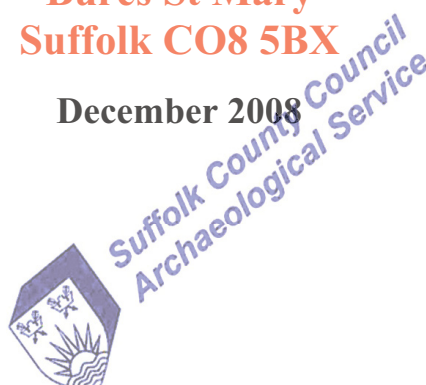
Archaeological Record

OASIS Ref: suffolkc1-53391



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December 2008





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**Shepherds Farm,
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An Archaeological Record

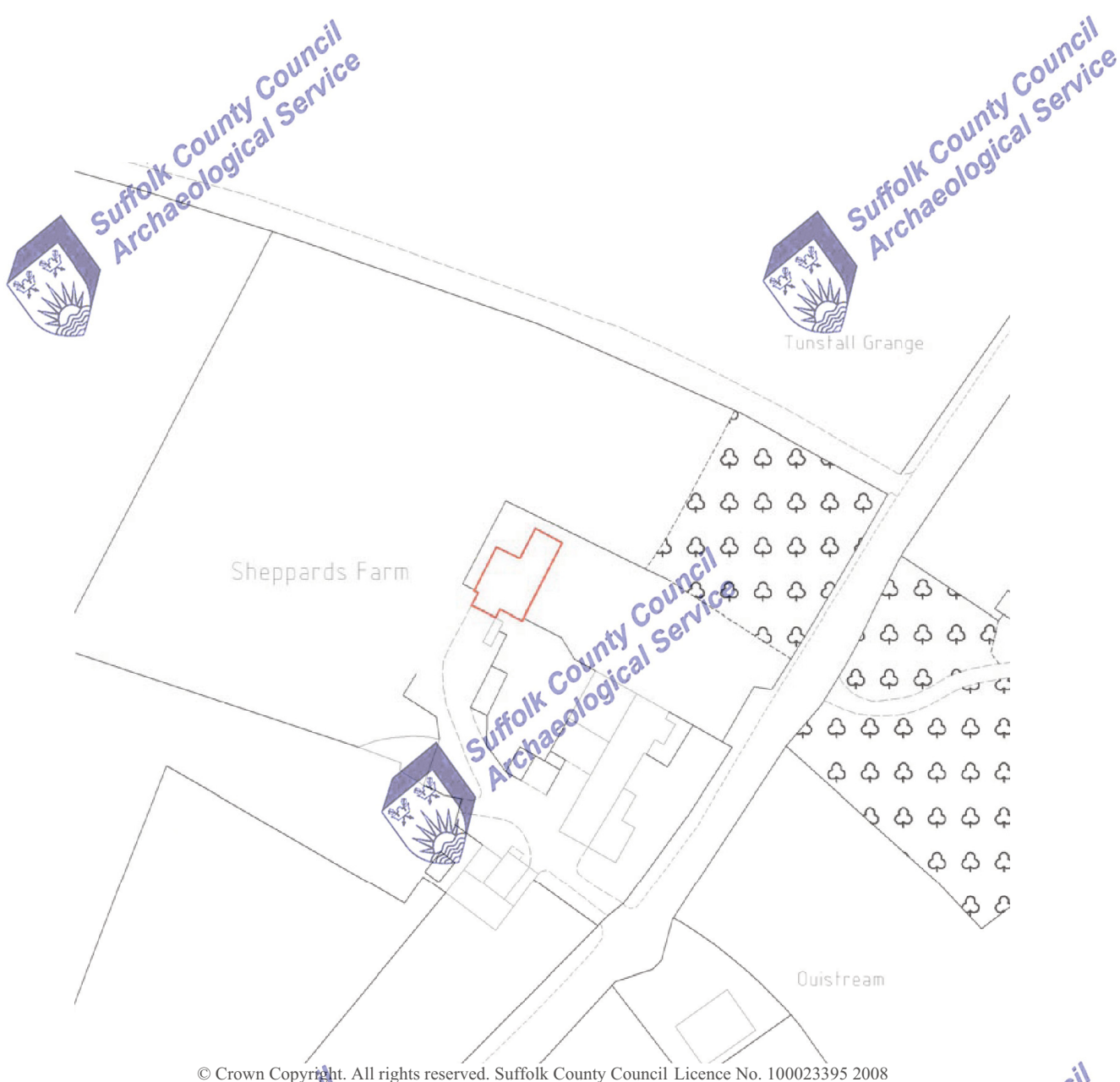
This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a complex of redundant farm buildings at Shepherds Farm. The report has been prepared to a brief written by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Dr Jess Tipper, 7 November 2008, Ref. /ShepherdsFarm_Tunstall2008) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for residential conversion (Suffolk Coastal District Council application C/07/1179).

Introduction

The following report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 72 8.2 megapixel digital images (Appendix 1) but also includes printed photographs of key features (Appendix 2). Each image is separately described in the report, and a white metre scale rod with centimetre sub-divisions was included wherever possible. The site was inspected on 28th November 2008.

Summary

Shepherds Farm lies on the western edge of Tunstall and formed a modest but respectable tenanted holding of 71 acres of chiefly arable land in 1840. All three farm buildings listed in the tithe survey of that year, viz. a barn, stable and granary, survived largely unaltered until the recent partial collapse of the stable. Each timber-framed structure dates from the early-19th century and probably reflects the development of marginal heath land during the Napoleonic wars (although the adjacent unlisted farmhouse dates from the mid-16th century). The farm was then part of a large estate belonging to the Sheppard family of Ash High House in neighbouring Campsey Ash. Complete farm complexes of this period are scarce in Suffolk, where most agricultural buildings were rebuilt or heavily altered during the mid-19th century, and the combined cartlodge and granary is a particularly good example of an increasingly rare type with unusual octagonal arcade and Sampson posts. Despite the condition of the stable the buildings retain sufficient historic group value in my view to merit listing at grade II, particularly given their conspicuous location at the southern entrance to the village.



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Figure 1
Existing Ordnance Survey Site Plan
Outlining the farmhouse in red, and showing the farm buildings adjoining the
Woodbridge road to the south-east

Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record

Sheppards Farm lies in open, arable countryside at the western edge of Tunstall parish, approximately 500 m east of its boundary with Campsey Ash and 1 km south-west of St Michael's church. The timber-framed and rendered farmhouse, which is not listed but dates from the mid-16th century, is set back by some 40 m from the western side of the main road between Tunstall village and Woodbridge. The early-19th century farm buildings which form the subject of this report adjoin the road at the entrance to the site.

The property formed a modest tenanted farm of 71 acres at the time of the tithe survey in 1840, of which all but 9 acres was arable. Tenanted by one James Sawyer it was owned together with several neighbouring farms by the trustees of the late John Wilson Shepherd. White's Suffolk Trade Directory for 1844 notes that 'the greater part of the parish' belonged to Lord Rendlesham, the Rector and the same trustees. The Suffolk Record Office preserves several plans of local farms which belonged to John Sheppard (sic) of Campsey Ash in the 1720s (Ipswich SRO HA30 50/22/26.1). Two of these farms lay in Tunstall, but unfortunately

neither can be equated with Shepherd's Farm and it is unclear why the name became associated with this particular farm rather than others in the area. The Sheppard/Shepherd family were lords of the manor of Campsey Ash and since the 17th century had lived in the fine park and mansion of Ash High House (rebuilt by Salvin in the late-19th century and finally demolished in the 1950s).

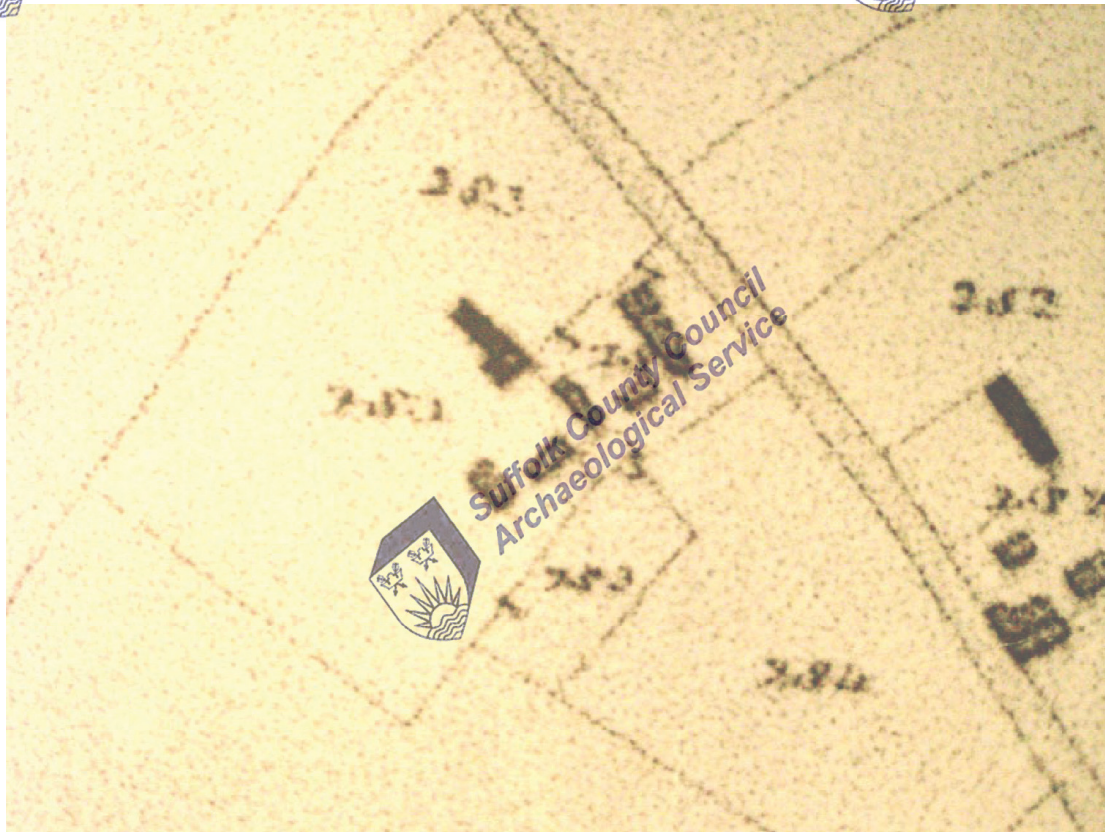


Figure 2
Tunstall Tithe Map of 1840, showing north to the left. The present farmhouse, cartlodge, barn and stable were present, but the shelter sheds adjoining the stable had not yet been constructed. (From a copy in the Suffolk Record Office (Ipswich), which does not possess the original map)

The 1840 tithe map (figure 2) shows most of the existing farm buildings, but the stable does not extend to the northern boundary of the yard and the adjacent shelter sheds are not indicated; the gap between the stable and yard boundary explains the presence of the unusually narrow lean-to shed which now occupies the same site. The accompanying apportionment describes the area of the farmyard, marked 283 on the map, as 'House, stable, barn and granary' (the granary being the structure termed a cartlodge with first-floor granary for the purpose of this report).

The first edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1883 (figure 3) shows the present layout of the site, excepting only the covered cattle yard (1c) which now adjoins the barn to the south; this is shown instead as an open yard with a slightly different outline. The animal shelter shed (3) and the narrow lean-to against the stable's northern gable are clearly shown, along with a building to its west which had collapsed beyond recognition before inspection (2a). The red colouring of the shelter shed (3) probably indicates its brick and flint construction, as opposed to the timber walls elsewhere, although domestic houses of whatever material were always so depicted. It is unusual to find a group of farm buildings that has altered so little since the first edition Ordnance Survey. The second edition of 1904 (figure 4) shows no change, but uses broken lines to define the collapsed building west of the stable as another open-sided shelter.

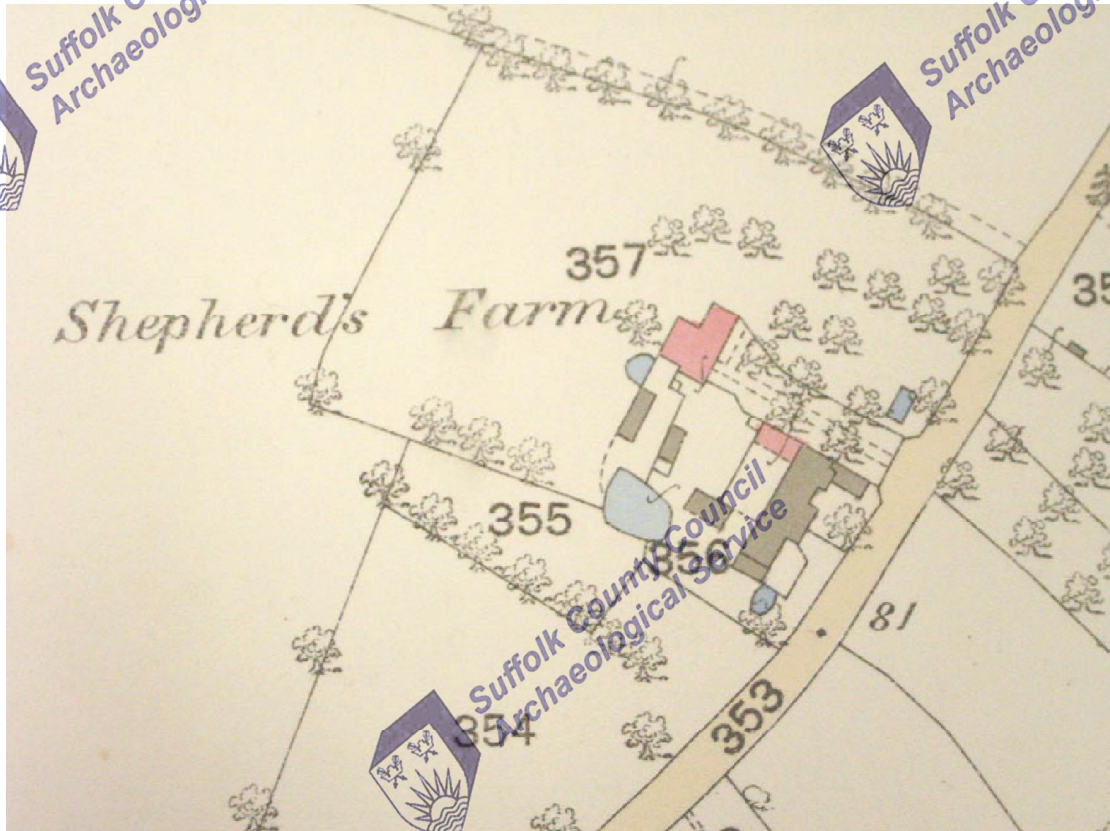


Figure 3

First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey (1883)

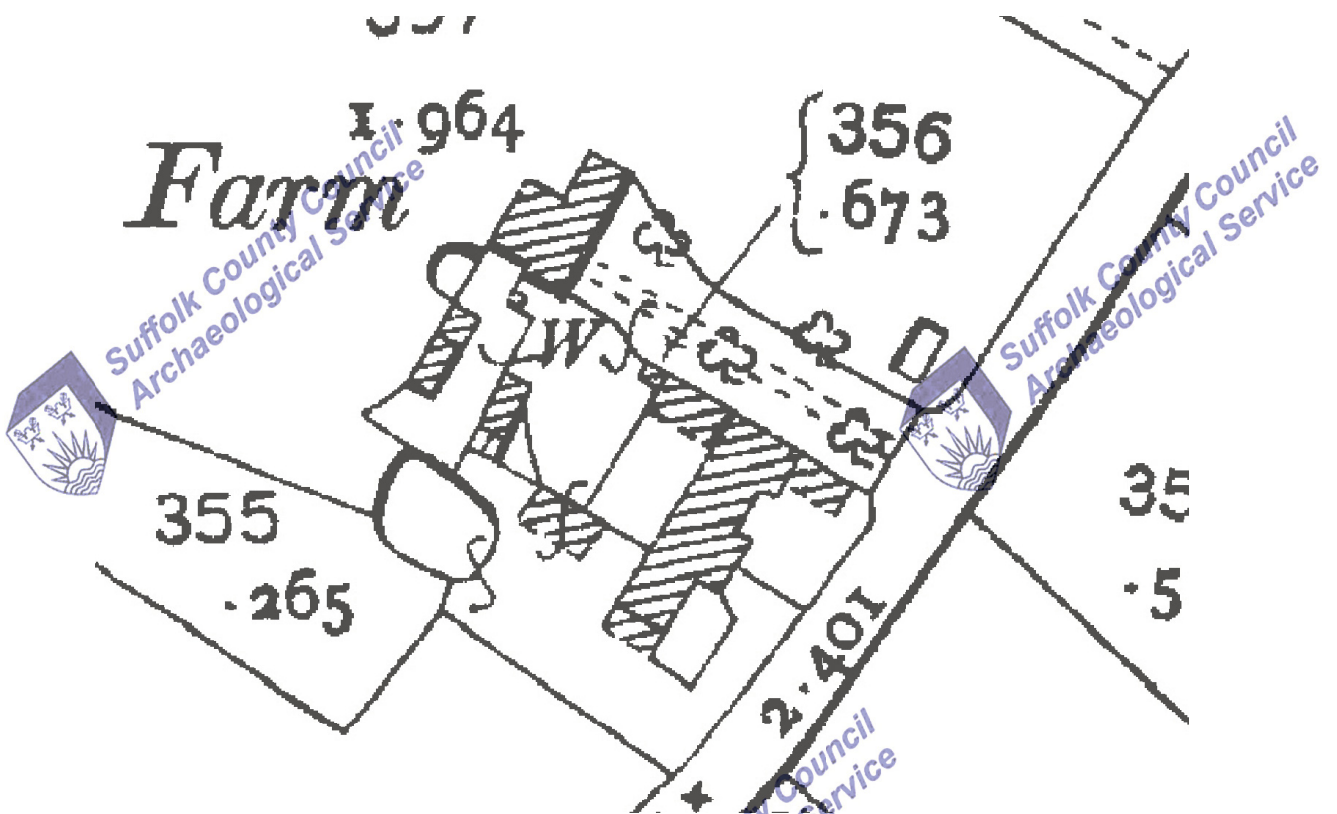


Figure 4

Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey (1904)

Building Analysis

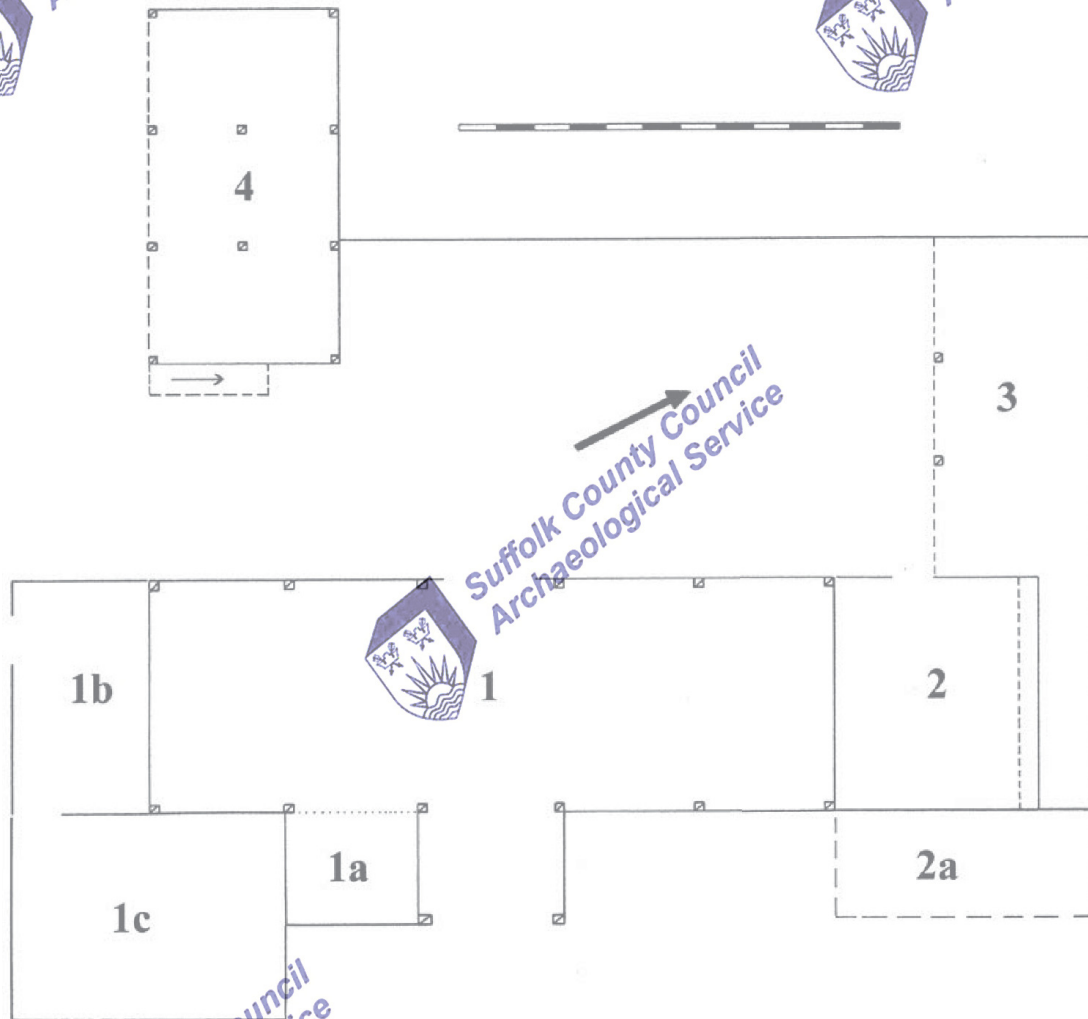


Figure 5

Schematic Block Plan of Farm Buildings

Identifying the various components of the site for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. Scale in metres.

Key

1. Early-19th century timber-framed and weatherboarded barn of five bays with contemporary central porch and entrance to east, and with wide, low doorway in opposite elevation. Staggered butt-purlin roof structure. Arch-braced tie-beams flanking central bay but knee-braces elsewhere. Probably pantiled (now with 20th century treble tiles). A small cattle shed (1b) was added to the southern gable in the mid-19th century, with a cattle yard (1c) to the east and a shed (1a) between the yard and porch. The yard was provided with a roof in the mid-20th century.
2. Early-19th century timber-framed and weatherboarded stable with hay loft (collapsed). Hay rack and manger to interior of northern gable. A probable tack room projects from the eastern elevation (2a) but this had collapsed beyond recognition prior to inspection along with a probable shelter shed in the same direction.
3. Mid-19th century brick and flint shelter shed with original pantiled roof
4. Early-19th century timber-framed and weatherboard cartlodge of three bays with first-floor granary reached by external steps against eastern gable. Unusual octagonal Sampson posts with arch braces.

N.B. The ceiling and roof of the stable (2) had collapsed prior to inspection, and the remaining structure was in an unstable condition that hampered detailed examination and recording. Access to its eastern elevation was particularly restricted.

1. Barn

Proportions

The barn at Shepherds Farm is a timber-framed and weatherboarded structure of five bays which extends to 18.5 m in overall length by 6.2 in width (60.5 ft by 20.5) and rises to 4 m in height at its eaves (13 ft). Each bay is of equal length (at approximately 3.5 m or 11.5 ft), including the central bay from which an integral porch projects by a further 2.9 m (9.5 ft). The building is aligned on a north-west/south-east axis to respect the nearby Woodbridge road, but this is simplified to north/south for the purposes of this description.

Fabric

There is no evidence of wattle-and-daub or plaster mill, and the building was weatherboarded from the outset. The roof structure of staggered butt-purlins incorporates re-used timber, as indicated by empty mortises in the purlins, but there is little evidence of re-used material elsewhere. The framing contains primary diagonal braces which are tenoned and pegged to the jowled storey posts and sill beams, but to which the common studs are nailed. The scantlings of the individual timbers vary considerably. Both the roof and walls remain largely intact, with the exception of the northern side-elevation of the porch and the lower section of the eastern wall in the bay adjoining the porch to the south (the former renewed in modern softwood and the latter removed to create access to a later shed). The roof-plates lie 3 m (10 ft) above the sill beams, which rest on tall red brick plinths of 0.75 m (2.5 ft) in height. Much of the external cladding has been renewed, and the roof is covered in 20th century treble tiles; at approximately 45 degrees its pitch is not sufficiently steep for thatch, and the barn, like the other farm buildings in the complex, was almost certainly designed for pantiles.

Layout

The corner posts and tie-beam of the porch gable are linked by straight corner-braces and the principal entrance doors spanned its full height and width, but the original door aperture in the opposite, western elevation is narrower and lower at 2.5 m in width and 2.2 m in height (98 ins by 88). The jambs of this low but wide rear door are tenoned and pegged to the sill beams, which they interrupt, and braced to the adjacent storey posts by a series of ladder-like horizontal staves. The internal floor is of 20th century concrete, with the exception of the central bay which consists of York stone paving slabs; these slabs lie at the same height as the concrete with which they are almost certainly contemporary (having been laid to provide a hard standing for vehicles rather than as an original threshing floor).

Date

The timber frame illustrates the period of transition between arch-braced tie-beams in the medieval tradition and the bolted knee-braces which quickly became the norm during the 19th century (affording more head-room); the ties flanking the central bay are secured to the storey posts by tenoned and pegged arch-braces, while only bolted knee-braces were used in the open trusses to north and south. All the storey posts are neatly jowled, however. This style of framing, particularly in combination with a relatively tall brick plinth (contrasting with the lower plinths of earlier structures) suggests a date of construction during the first quarter of the 19th century, although an origin in the final years of the 18th century cannot be ruled out.

Extensions

An axial timber-framed and weatherboarded shed with a pantiled roof (1b) was added to the barn's southern gable in the mid-19th century (it is shown on the 1883 Ordnance Survey but

not the 1840 tithe map). The shed is 3.6 m in length (12 ft) and contains the remains of cattle stalls against the barn with a passageway along its southern gable. Wide doors open onto a 20th century covered cattle yard (1c) to the east, which is shown on the first and second edition Ordnance Surveys as an open yard of similar proportions. A mid-19th century shed lies between the yard and porch (1a) but this has been much altered.

2 & 3. Stable and Shelter Shed

A timber-framed and weatherboarded axial stable and hay loft (2) extends by 5.5 m (18 ft) from the barn's northern gable. Although built as a separate structure of lower height (approximately 3 m (10 ft) at the eaves) it appears broadly contemporary with the barn, but had collapsed prior to inspection leaving only fragments of its walls *in situ*. A narrow shed which probably operated as a tack room projects by approximately 2.5 m (8 ft) from its eastern elevation, extending beyond the plane of the barn, but close inspection was hampered by the unstable condition of the structure. The remains of a hay rack and boarded manger lie against the interior of the northern gable as indicated by a broken line in figure 5, and the stable was entered from the western yard by a doorway some 1.5 m from the corner of the barn.

An open-sided shelter shed (3) extends from the western elevation of the barn to serve the former horse yard. Its clasped-purlin roof rests on the northern yard wall, which consists of neatly coursed flint to a height of 2 m (6.5 ft) and a red brick upper tier of 0.5 m (20 ins). The flintwork probably represents the early-19th century boundary wall shown on the tithe map, which was raised in height when the shelter was built in the mid-19th century (during the 1850s or 1860s). The remains of a hay rack rail are still attached to the western end of this northern boundary wall, but one of the two arcade posts to the south is a 20th century replacement. The roof retains its original glazed pantiles. A similar shelter shed lay to the east of the stable, but this had collapsed before inspection, as had a 20th century roof over much of the western yard.

4. Cartlodge and Granary

A timber-framed and weatherboarded cartlodge of three bays with a first-floor granary lies at right-angles to the barn 5.8 m (19 ft) from its south-western corner, and faces south to the present yard entrance (the usual location for such a building). It extends to 9.4 m in overall length by 5.2 m in width (31 ft by 17) and rises to 2.3 m at its internal ceiling and 3 m at its eaves (7.5 ft and 10 ft respectively).

The arcade posts of the southern elevation are linked to the mid-rails by curved knee-braces, but large arch-braces radiate from the two axial Sampson posts which support the binding joists. Unusually, these posts are octagonal in section, and rest on equally unusual conical bases of hollow iron that probably represent secondary insertions; their resemblance to medieval crown-posts is striking, but the timbers have not been re-used and the braces are bolted rather than tenoned to the structure. The western bay contains a 20th century ceiling and is shown as a separate compartment in figure 1. The walls contain primary braces and are of similar style to those of the barn, with a tall plinth of red brick. An external stair against the eastern gable leads to the undivided granary above, which lacks any evidence of grain bins. Its use as a granary is confirmed by the survival of original lath-and-plaster between the studs of the rear, northern elevation, and by the heavy bracing of the floor (with inverted bolted knee-braces). The studs of the front, southern elevation are softwood replacements of the 20th century. The clasped-purlin roof structure is an original feature, and the building survives largely intact from the early-19th century.

Historic Significance

The farm buildings at Shepherds Farm form a complete and representative group of the early-19th century, retaining the barn, stable and granary as listed in the title apportionment of 1840. The great majority of local farms were rebuilt entirely or dramatically altered during the period of mixed animal husbandry known today as Victorian High Farming, and survivals such as this are rare. A small cattle yard and shed were added to the south of the barn, but without significant impact on the earlier buildings, which reflect the wealth of the Napoleonic wars (i.e. the high grain prices which saw new land taken into cultivation, particularly in areas such as Tunstall which still contains large tracts of wooded heath). The cartlodge/granary is a particularly good example of an increasingly rare building type, and the barn is unusual in retaining its roof and evidence of its small rear doorway (normally destroyed to admit large farm vehicles in later years). Although not of great age, the three buildings pre-date the 1840 listing watershed and the barn and cartlodge/granary remain intact and largely unaltered: the group would undoubtedly merit listing at grade II if the stable had not been permitted to collapse, and in my view retains sufficient historic interest and local rarity to justify listing nonetheless. The proximity of a 16th century farmhouse adds to their historic context and value.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Description of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view from Woodbridge Road to south, showing site entrance to left.
2. General view of site from north-west showing farmhouse to left and barn to right.
3. Farm complex from site entrance to south, showing covered yard (1c) to right.
4. Farm complex from west showing cartlodge (4) to left.
5. Farm complex from north-west showing cartlodge to right and shelter shed (3) to left.
6. Entrance to western yard from south-west, showing barn to right & cartlodge to left.
7. Exterior of barn from south-west showing cattle shed (1b) to right.
8. Exterior of barn from western yard showing central entrance.
9. Exterior of barn from south-east showing central porch with later shed (1a) left.
10. Exterior of collapsed shed adjoining eastern elevation of stable (2a), with barn to left.
11. Barn. General view of interior from north showing central porch to left.
12. Barn. General view of interior from south showing central porch to right.
13. Barn. Roof structure from south showing arch-braces flanking central bay.
14. Barn. Detail of staggered butt-purlin roof structure from south.
15. Barn. Detail of staggered butt-purlin roof structure showing re-used timber.
16. Barn. Detail of original jowl and bolted knee-brace in northern open truss.
17. Barn. Detail of stone floor in central bay from east.
18. Barn. Detail of stone floor in central bay from south.
19. Barn. Interior of northern gable.
20. Barn. Interior of northern half of eastern elevation showing primary wall braces.
21. Barn. Interior of central bay from west showing original porch.
22. Barn. Detail of original porch entrance.

23. Barn. Detail of porch roof structure from north.
24. Barn. Entrance to secondary shed (1a) to south of porch.
25. Barn. Interior of southern half of eastern elevation.
26. Barn. Interior of southern gable.
27. Barn. Interior of southern half of western elevation.
28. Barn. Detail of original brick plinth to interior of western elevation.
29. Barn. Interior of central bay showing original wide, low door to west.
30. Barn. Detail of western door showing low lintel and jamb stabilising battens left and right.
31. Barn. Detail of plinth pegged to southern jamb of western door.
32. Barn. Interior of northern half of western elevation.
33. Interior of shed (1b) from west showing door to yard (1c) with cattle stalls to left.
34. Interior of shed (1b) from east showing remains of cattle stalls to right.
35. Interior of shed (1b) showing western elevation with southern gable of barn to right.
36. Interior of 20th century covered cattle yard (1c) from south.
37. Interior of cattle yard (1c) from south-east showing entrance to shed (1b).
38. Western end of shelter shed (3) from yard to south.
39. Western end of shelter shed (3) from east, showing remains of hay rack to right.
40. Detail of clasped-purlin roof structure of shelter shed (4) from east.
41. Interior of shelter shed (3) from east showing renewed arcade posts to left.
42. Interior of shelter shed (3) from west showing collapsed stable.
43. Interior of shelter shed (3) showing yard to south with barn to left.
44. Exterior of collapsed stable from shelter shed to west, showing door to northern shed to left.
45. Interior from west of northern lean-to shed adjoining stable to right.
46. Exterior of stable from west, showing entrance door to right.
47. Exterior of stable from west showing door to right.
48. Interior of stable (2) showing eastern elevation with door to collapsed shed (2a).

49. Interior of stable (2) showing manger and hay rack against northern gable.
50. Remains of hay rack above manger on northern gable of stable (2) with collapsed ceiling above.
51. Interior of stable (2) from north-west showing collapsed ceiling with barn gable to right.
52. Detail of broken western storey post of stable (2) and collapsed principal joist.
53. Cartlodge. Exterior from south showing open arcade with farmhouse to left and barn to right.
54. Cartlodge. Exterior from south-east showing gable, steps to granary to right.
55. Cartlodge. Exterior from north-east showing granary steps against eastern gable.
56. Cartlodge. Exterior of western arcade post showing chamfer stops and braces.
57. Cartlodge. Interior from east showing octagonal Sampson posts.
58. Cartlodge. Interior from west showing octagonal Sampson posts.
59. Cartlodge. Interior from west showing open arcade to right.
60. Cartlodge. Octagonal Sampson post and arch-braces from west.
61. Cartlodge. Detail of conical iron base of Sampson post.
62. Cartlodge. Detail of arch-braces to Sampson post.
63. Cartlodge. Western bay of interior showing modern ceiling with gable to left.
64. Cartlodge. Interior of first-floor granary from eastern entrance.
65. Cartlodge. Interior of granary showing external entrance in eastern gable.
66. Cartlodge. Detail of cat hole in granary door.
67. Cartlodge. Southern elevation of granary showing bolted knee-brace to floor.
68. Cartlodge. Northern elevation of granary showing original plaster.
69. Cartlodge. Detail of original granary plaster between studs of northern elevation.
70. Cartlodge. Clasp-purlin roof structure from south-east.
71. Exterior of shelter shed (3) from yard to south, showing barn to right.
72. Exterior of shelter shed (3) from south-west showing collapsed stable to right.

Appendix 2 (pp. 13-17): Selected Printed Photographs



A2.1 General view from Woodbridge Road to south, showing farm complex and site entrance to left



A2.2 Exterior of barn (1) from south-west showing cattle shed (1b) to right and the cartlodge (4) with steps to its first floor granary to left



A2.3 Barn (1) Roof structure from south showing original arch-braces flanking central bay



A2.4 Barn (1). Detail of the original jowl and bolted knee-brace in the open truss dividing the two northern bays, seen from the north





A2.5 Barn (1). Interior of central bay showing original wide, low door to west



A2.6 Exterior of collapsed stable (2) from west showing position of entrance door to right





A2.7 Interior of stable (2) showing eastern elevation with door to collapsed shed (2a) to right

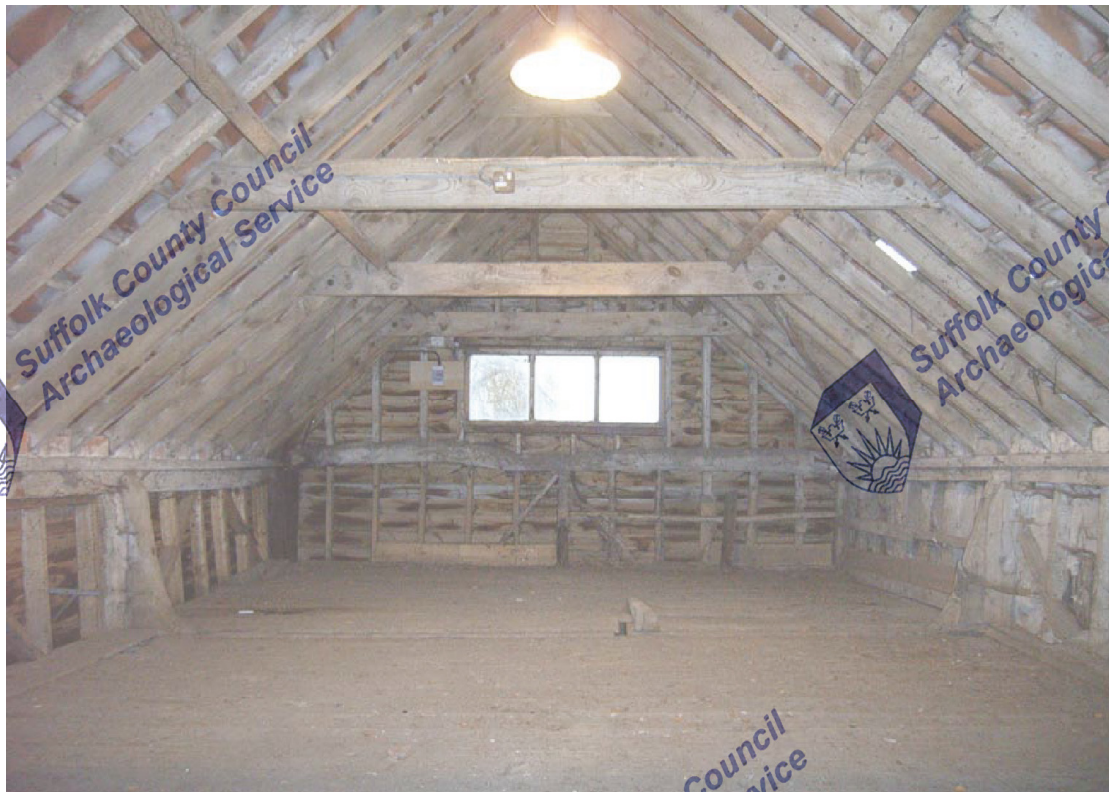


A2.8 Cartlodge (4). Exterior from south-east showing gable steps to granary to right





A2.9 Cartlodge (4). Interior from west showing the one of the two unusual octagonal Sampson posts with arch-braces to the binding joists and conical iron bases



A2.10 Cartlodge (4). Interior of the first-floor granary from its entrance door in the eastern gable, showing inverted knee-braces to the floor joists and original plaster to the right

