

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service

Glebe Farm, Ellough, Suffolk

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Historic Building Record

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**Glebe Farm Barn,
Church Road, Ellough,
Suffolk**

(TM 441 866)

An Archaeological Record

This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a barn and attached sheds at Glebe Farm. The report has been prepared to a brief written by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Dr Jess Tipper, 16th October 2008, Ref. /GlebeFarm_Ellough2008) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for residential conversion (Waveney District Council application W/3543/4).

Introduction

The following report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 98 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 20th October 2008.

Summary

The brick and pantiled barn at Glebe Farm was built in *circa* 1830 and is probably contemporary with the adjacent grade II-listed Rectory (now 'The Grange') to which it originally belonged. It served 35 acres of Rectorial glebe adjoining All Saints church, most of which was laid to pasture, and may have operated as a small tithe barn before the Commutation Act of 1836. The building contained a three-bay barn to the south and a shed and loft to the north which, at just 2.7 metres (9ft) was probably too narrow to operate in the usual manner as a stable and is more likely to have served as a vehicle shed. The barn possessed a central porch to the west and a wide, low door to the east which faced the entrance to the site. Parts of the brickwork survive from an earlier structure and are probably of late-17th century origin. The distinctive outline of the building is created by a number of later extensions, all of which are shown on the tithe map of 1845, and the structure has remained largely unaltered since this date. The church is not mentioned in Domesday, when the area was probably served by St Mary's church approximately 300 m to the south-east (in neighbouring Willingham parish), but the existing fabric dates from *circa* 1300 and a Rectory is likely to have occupied the site of the barn since its construction. The tithe map shows no other buildings in the vicinity, but a nearby medieval settlement may have been abandoned.

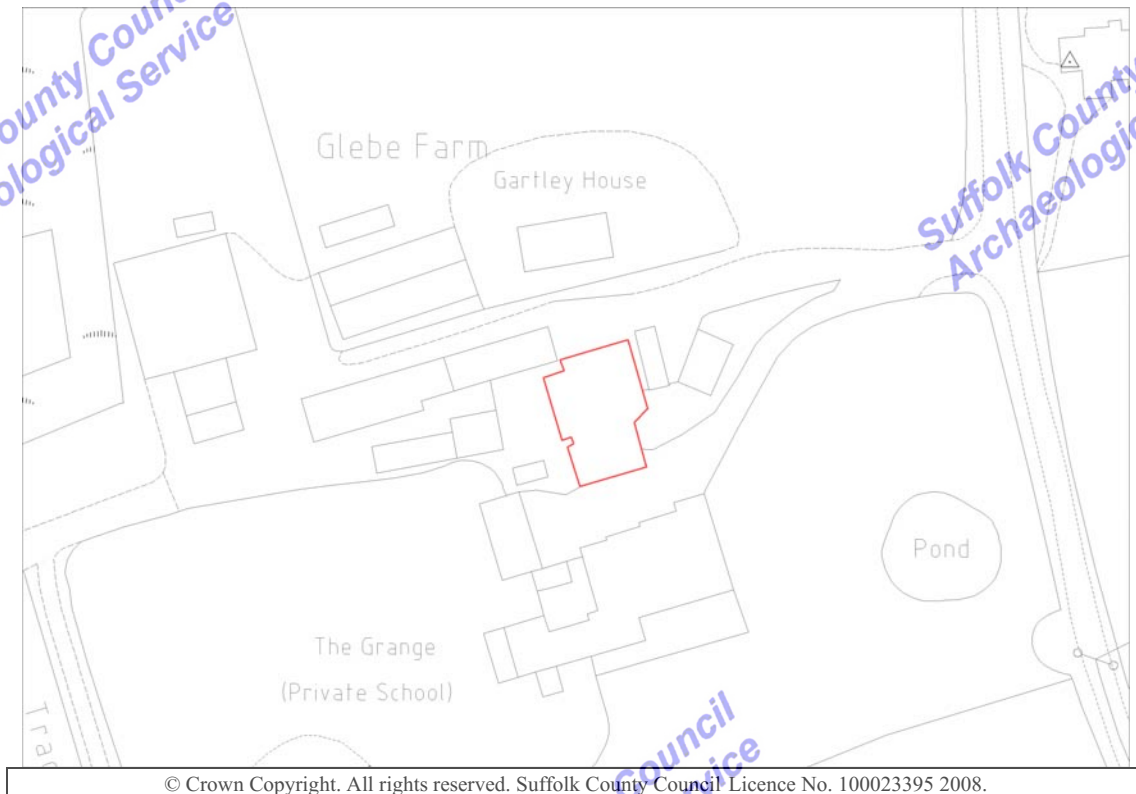


Figure 1
Existing Ordnance Survey Site Plan
Showing the barn outlined in red with the former Rectory to the south (now known as 'The Grange') and Gartley House to the north. All Saints church is shown top-right.

Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record

Glebe Farm lies on the southern slope of a shallow valley in open countryside on the western side of Church Road and approximately 80 metres south-west of All Saints church. At the time of the tithe survey in 1845 the farm consisted of 36 acres of glebe land belonging to the Rectory House, which lies just 10 metres south of the historic barn but is now known as The Grange (or Ellough Grange). There is no apparent historic basis for this name, and the property was still marked as the Rectory on the Ordnance Survey of 1951. The former glebe has been recently divided into at least three lots, belonging to The Grange, the historic barn and a newly erected property known as Gartley House immediately north of the barn. It is understood from the present owner of the barn that a farmhouse known as Glebe Farm stood on or near the site of Gartley House but was destroyed by fire, and a building which no longer survives is shown to the north on the Ordnance Surveys (figures 3-5). However Glebe Farm is not marked on the Ordnance Surveys and it is unclear whether it ever operated as an independent farm in its own right.

The site lies at the southern edge of Ellough parish, within 60 metres of its boundary with Willingham. It is not common for a church to lie so close to a parish boundary, and the situation here is particularly unusual as 16 acres of the glebe land lay across the border and the church of St Mary in Willingham lay only 300 metres to the south-east. The proximity of their respective churches and the overlapping glebe strongly suggests that Ellough and Willingham were anciently connected, and this is supported by the Domesday survey which ascribes land in both parishes to Roger Bigot (of Framlingham and Bungay castles). Ellough church is not recorded, but Willingham already possessed a church with 40 acres of glebe on the holding of Hugh de Montford (of Haughley castle) but shared by a number of free men.

Both the Bigot and Montford holdings lay within the jurisdiction of the same Anglo-Saxon thegn, Burghard, before the conquest, and Willingham church probably served both modern parishes. According to White's Suffolk Directory of 1844, St Mary's church 'went to ruins more than two centuries ago, and only a small part of its west wall remains'; the small parish of Willingham (with just 890 acres and 156 souls) was then served by North Cove Rectory three miles to the north-east – to the benefit of the Rector's income rather than his parishioners. The ruins of St Mary's are marked on the Ordnance Survey in a field north of the entrance to St Mary's Farm. Ellough was also a small parish, with 1,673 acres and 155 souls, and its church dates from *circa* 1300 (Pevsner). The presumed site of the manor of Ellough lies at Ellough Hall some 400 metres to the north-east, and there is no reason to suppose a nucleated settlement ever existed in the vicinity of the church and Rectory – although this cannot be ruled out. The parish was known at Domesday at 'Elga' and Norman Scarfe helpfully suggests the church might occupy the site of a heathen temple, as 'elgr' was a Norse word for temple (Suffolk Landscape, 1987, p.140).

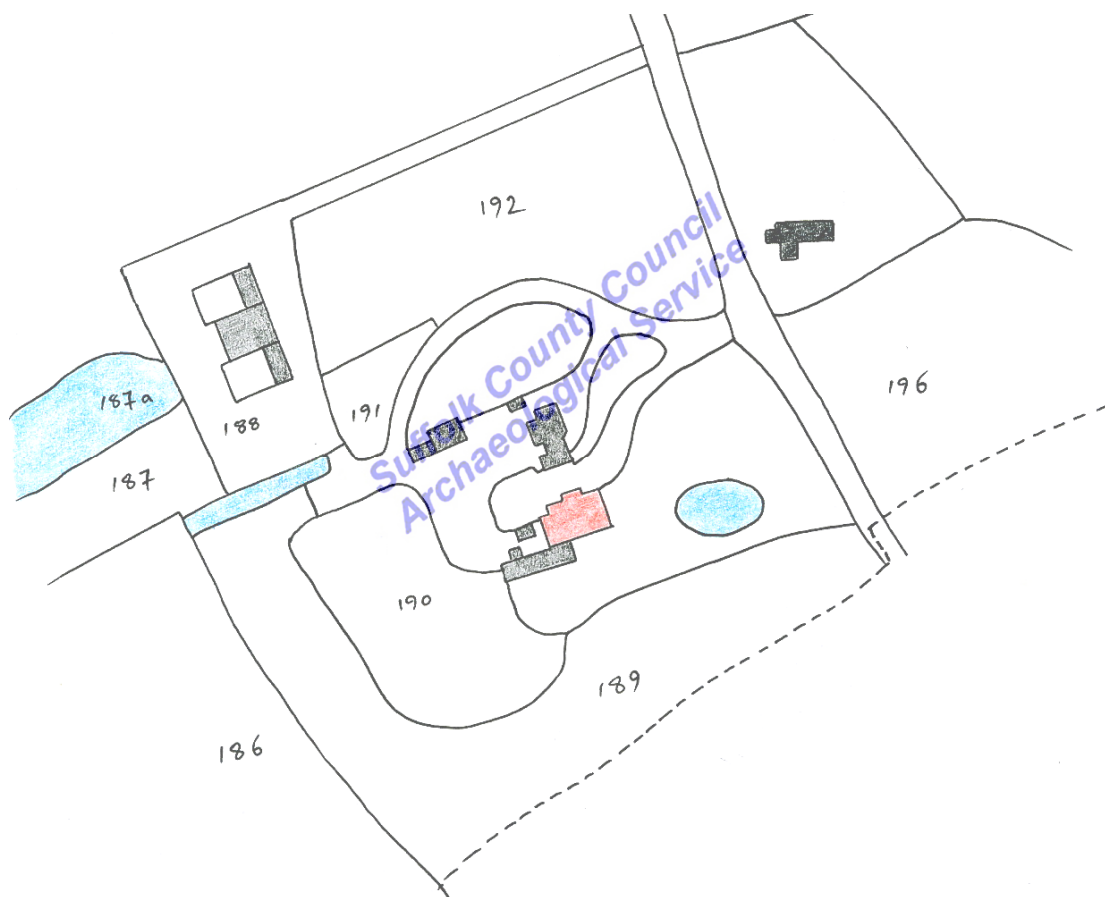


Figure 2

The site in 1845, redrawn from the Ellough tithe map (Ipswich SRO)

The Rectory is shown in red, with the barn immediately north (with its distinctive existing outline) and All Saints church to the east. The dotted line to the south indicates the boundary with Willingham parish, and the accompanying apportionment describes the surrounding glebe land as follows: 186 First Tongs; 189 Part of Lawn (i.e. laund or parkland – the remainder lying in Willingham); 190 House, garden, plantations & yards; 191 Stack yard; 192 Stack yard field; 195 Church yard; 196 Part of church pightle. The areas marked 187 (Little Tonks), 187a (pond) and 188 (barn and yards) belonged to Ellough Hall Farm to the north-east, owned by the Earl of Gosford and occupied by Samuel Holmes.

By the time of the tithe survey in 1845 the Rectory and glebe were owned and occupied by the Revd. Richard Aldous Arnold. Of the 20 acres of land in Ellough parish, all but 4 were

laid to pasture. The tithe map (figure 2) shows the existing barn and Rectory house, with the barn's unusual outline precisely as it remains today. The entrance from Church Road divides into three arms, with the southern arm approaching the house and the northern arm leading to a spacious western yard which adjoined both the barn and the service buildings abutting the house. The central arm allowed access to the barn's eastern elevation, but vehicles would not have been able to pass through the narrow gap between the barn and a small building on the site of the existing detached shed (no. 10 in figure 6). An agricultural building with two small yards is shown to the north-west of the site (no.188 in figure 2) but this belonged to a large tenanted farm of 229 acres owned by the Earl of Gosford and based at Ellough Hall. The Irish Earl of Gosford lived at Gosford Castle in Armagh, Northern Ireland (a spectacular mock-Norman structure built for him by William Hopper) but had married Mary, the daughter of Robert Sparrow of nearby Worlingham Hall and acquired thereby a considerable estate in the vicinity. He was granted the English title of Baron Worlingham of Beccles in 1835, and White's 1844 Directory notes that his son, the future third Earl, was in residence at Worlingham. The manor of Ellough had formed part of the Worlingham estate for several centuries. White's Directly also states that Ellough Rectory House 'was enlarged about ten years ago', and the present grade II-listed building is an imposing red brick structure with pedimented gables of late-Georgian appearance. The Schedule of Listed Buildings dates it to circa 1830 but notes the presence of 'earlier work to west' which is not further described.

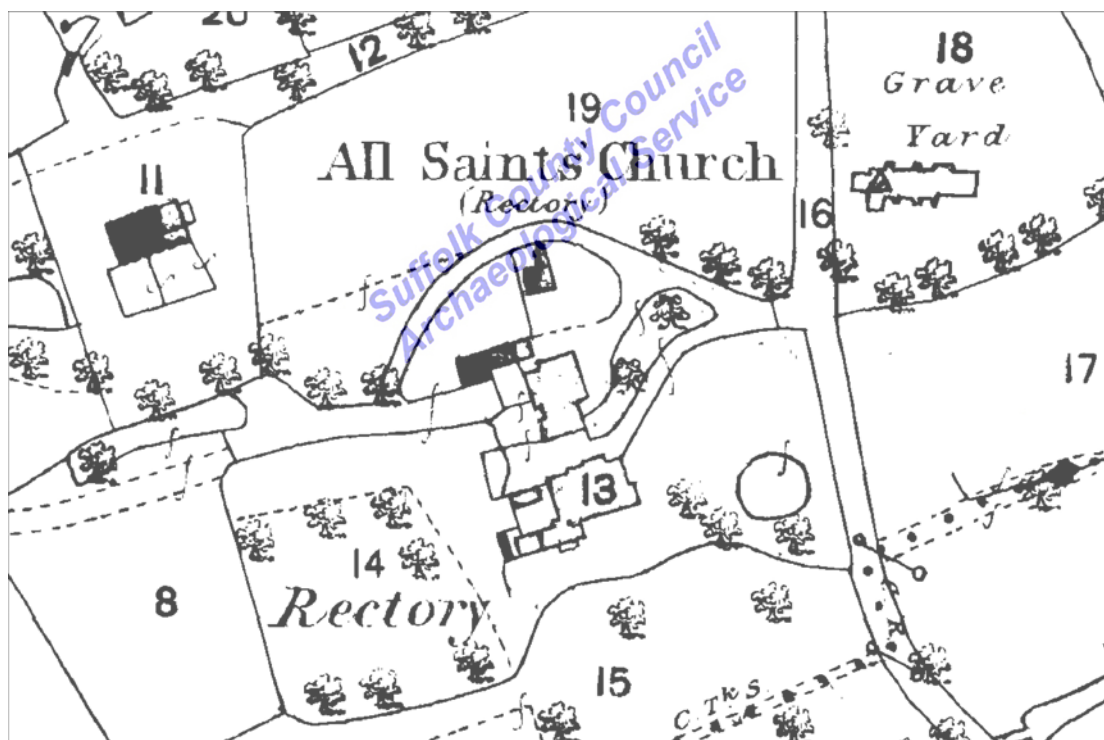


Figure 3

First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey published in 1884

The barn and Rectory have remained unaltered since 1845, but a new detached shed has appeared immediately north-west of the barn (no. 10 in figure 6), replacing another which lay further to the west. A new building to the north may represent the elusive 'Glebe farmhouse' but no longer survives.

The outline of the barn remained constant between 1845 and the present, demonstrating that its various extensions and alterations occurred prior to this date. The detached shed to the north-east first appeared on the Ordnance Survey of 1886 and the Second Edition of 1905 uses broken lines to indicate its partly open-sided southern elevation. The situation was

unchanged in 1927 and the existing sheds and shelters of the stable yard to the west of the barn date only from the mid-20th century and lack historic interest.

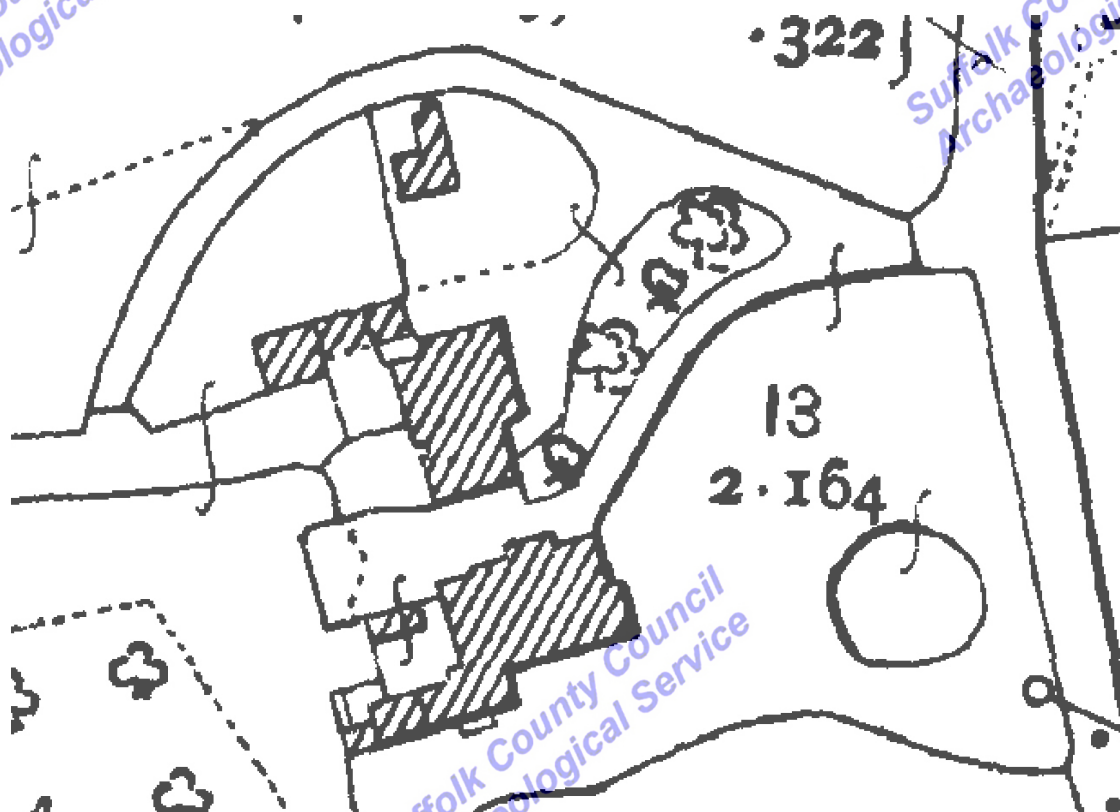


Figure 4
Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1905

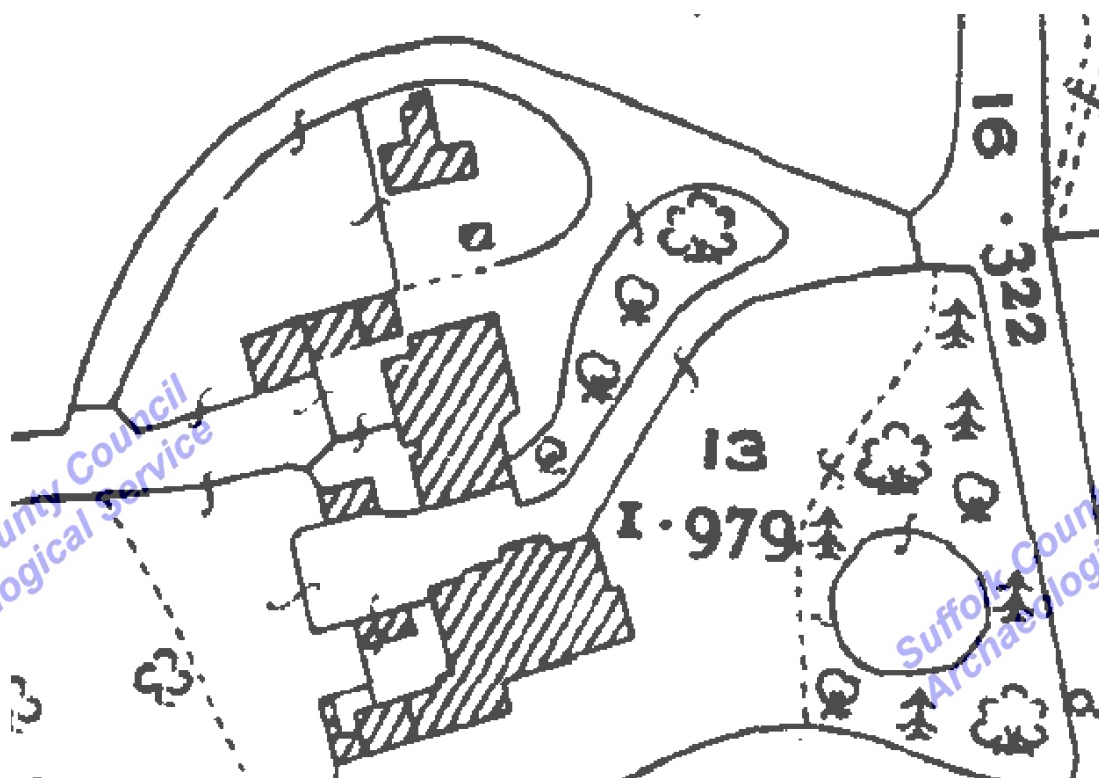


Figure 5
Third Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1927
Building Analysis

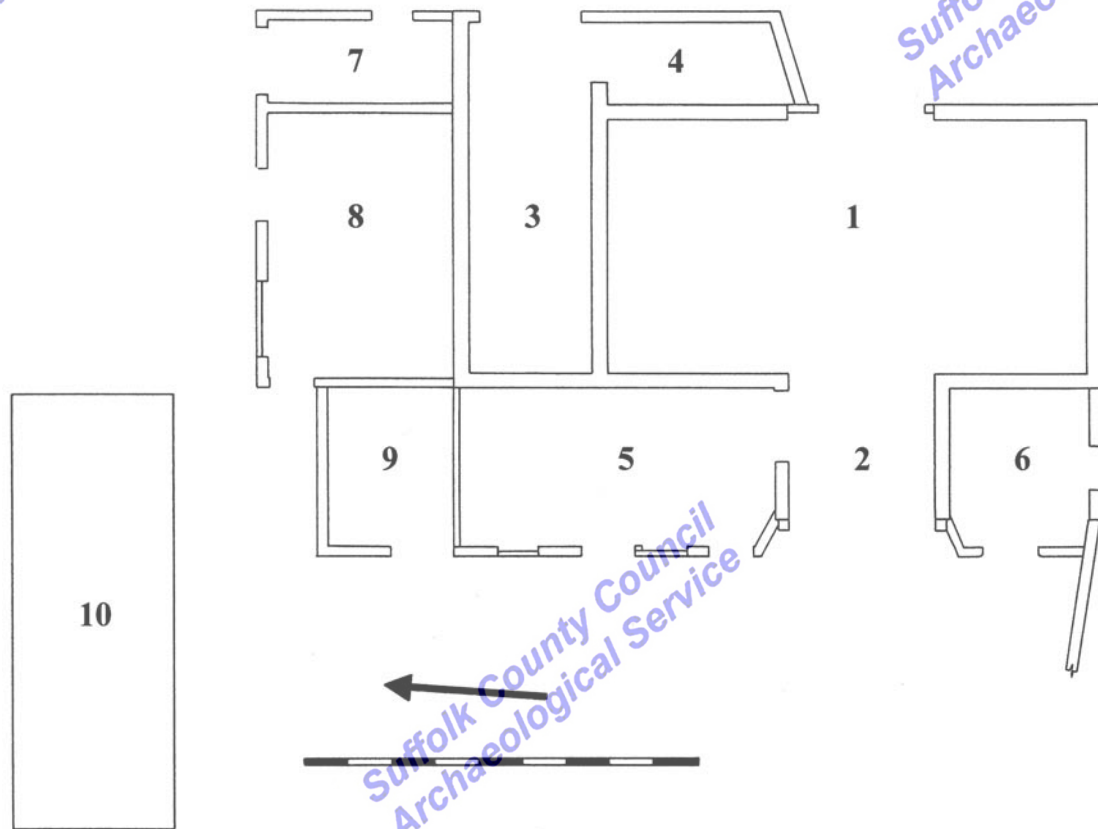


Figure 5
Schematic Block Plan of Barn
Identifying its various component areas for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. Scale in metres.

Key

1. Brick barn of three bays with central thoroughfare and butt-purlin roof structure. Probably *circa* 1830, but incorporating elements of an earlier brick structure to north.
2. Brick porch with arched side-door to north. Integral with barn of *circa* 1830.
3. Narrow brick shed with loft and loading door in northern gable. Entered by lean-to porch from east. Probably a vehicle shed. Integral with barn of *circa* 1830.
4. Lean-to brick shed in angle of barn and lean-to porch of shed (3). Integral with barn of *circa* 1830.
5. Lean-to brick shed with timber-framed and weatherboarded northern gable. Probably added in *circa* 1840 but on the site of a smaller lean-to of *circa* 1830.
6. Lean-to brick shed in the angle of the barn and a brick boundary wall to the south. Probably *circa* 1840 but on the site of a smaller lean-to of *circa* 1830.
7. Lean-to brick and timber shed now entered from north but with evidence of a blocked earlier door to east. Part of an extension of *circa* 1840 to the northern gable of the earlier barn.
8. Brick shed with door and window in northern gable. Secondary door to west. Original loft with secondary loading door in gable. Part of an extension of *circa* 1840 to the northern gable of the earlier barn.
9. Lean-to brick shed. Western elevation rebuilt in 20th century. Probably *circa* 1840.

10. Detached brick shed with enclosed shed to east and shelter shed to west (open sided to south). Mid-19th century (after 1845).

Original Brick Barn (1-4)

Proportions

The barn at Glebe Farm is a red brick structure on a north-south axis which consists of a three-bay barn to the south and a narrow shed to the north. The entire building extends to 14.6 m in length by 6.5 m in overall width (48 ft by 21.5 ft), but the barn possesses a central gabled porch which extends by a further 3 m to the west (10 ft) and the shed is entered by a lean-to porch which projects 2.2 m (7 ft) to the east. The walls rise to 4 m at the eaves, and the barn roof contains two tiers of butt-purlins with a ridge piece.

Date

The roof structure and brickwork indicates a date in the first half of the 19th century, and a wide arched doorway of 1.6 m or 65 ins (now blocked) in the northern side-elevation of the porch reflects the arched windows of the nearby Rectory (now The Grange) and suggests the two buildings are contemporary. As the Rectory was said in 1844 to have been rebuilt 'about ten years ago', a date of *circa* 1830 can be suggested for the present form of the barn. Barn porches typically possessed side entrances to allow access when the main doors were closed, but arched examples are not usual and indicates the influence of the same (unknown) architect responsible for the house.

Earlier Fabric

A number of anomalies in the brickwork of the main external walls suggest they incorporate parts of an earlier barn on the same site. For no apparent reason these walls reduce from 35 cm in width to 23 cm (14 ins to 9 ins) at a height of 3.2 m (10.5 ft) above the present concrete floor, and are laid in English bond in contrast to the Flemish bond elsewhere. The brickwork to the north of the western porch is entirely different in character, with bricks of less regular size, shape and pigment in the manner of the late-17th century, and the northern side-elevation of the porch abuts the main wall with a straight joint. Curiously, the same reduction in thickness and the same change of bonding occurs to the south of the porch, but the brickwork here is consistent with the 19th century structure and the porch's southern side-elevation is fully integrated. It would appear that the walls of the earlier structure were entirely rebuilt to the south but retained their former profile. The central bay of the eastern elevation contains a low, arched door of 2.4 m in width (8 ft) opposite the full-height western entrance of 3.3 m (11ft), but this door is off-set to the south within a wall of 23 cm brickwork that blocks a wider aperture in the original structure. This eastern door is part of the *circa* 1830 reconstruction as its brickwork is integral with the narrow upper wall but not that of the earlier wall to the north, and it seems that the older barn was raised in height by some 32 cm (2.5 ft) and provided with new lateral partitions and a new roof.

Northern Shed

The shed at the northern end of the barn is unusually narrow at 2.75 m (9 ft) in axial length by 8 m (26 ft) in width, including a lean-to porch which projects beyond the eastern wall of the barn. It retains an original floor of white bricks but the joists of its loft have been renewed in softwood of 20th century appearance. An original loft loading door is respected by the brickwork of the northern gable. Sheds attached to barns in this way typically operated as stables, but this example is too narrow for such a purpose and was probably designed as a vehicle shed. This interpretation is supported by the orientation of its entrance, which faces east towards the main approach. The roof of the shed is divided from that of the barn by a brick partition which penetrates the roof (which retains its original pantiles), but the main walls span both areas. A brick lean-to projects from the shed porch and returns to meet the wall of the barn with a distinctive angle as shown in figure 6, respecting the present entrance to the barn but overlapping the jamb of its wider predecessor (the edge of which is visible in the south-western corner of the shed). This lean-to shed probably served as an equipment

store or tack room and was entered from the narrow shed by a doorway which has since been enlarged.

Later Extensions (5-9)

A number of extensions were added to the original barn at an early period, as all are shown on the tithe map of 1845. A lower-pitched extension of 4.5 m (15 ft) in length was added to the northern gable to create a second shed with a loft (no. 8 in figure 6). The present loading door to this loft interrupts the brickwork of the northern gable and appears to be secondary, but the position of any earlier access is unclear. The ground-floor shed was entered by a narrow door of 1 m (3.5 ft) in width and lit by a window in the same gable. The present western door is secondary. The eastern and western elevations are cheaply built of studwork infilled with brick and rendered externally, suggesting they were always abutted by the present lean-to sheds (nos. 7 and 9). Both lean-to sheds have been much altered, and the partition between areas 8 and 7 rebuilt in 20th century block-work, leaving their original purpose unclear.

The two lean-to sheds against the western elevation of the barn now form enclosed animal stalls and may have been designed for cattle, but project by 0.75 m (30 ins) beyond the gable of the porch and are clearly secondary features. Both appear on the map of 1845 however, which shows the porch as a slight indentation in the building's western outline. The southern lean-to (6) retains part of its original pantiled roof structure which respects the porch, and was later extended to its present proportions; the roof of the northern lean-to (5) was completely replaced in the 20th century but it too may well occupy the site of a shallower lean-to built with the barn. There is evidence of a blocked doorway between the southern shed and the grounds of the Rectory.

The Detached Northern Shed (10)

A single-storied brick and pantiled shed to the north-east of the barn rises to 2 m (7 ft) at its eaves and extends to 9.75 m in length by 3.6 m in overall width (32 ft by 12) on an east-west axis. Its eastern end forms an enclosed shed with a gable door, but the remainder was originally an open-sided shelter shed facing south. It is not shown on the tithe map of 1845, although a smaller shed occupied the same site, but appears in its present form on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1884. Its small proportions suggest that it was designed for cattle rather than horses. It was enclosed in block-work and extended westwards during the 20th century. The various sheds and stables of the present horse yard to the west of the barn do not appear on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey of 1927 and relate to a mid-20th century refurbishment.

Historic Significance

Despite the presence of earlier fabric in its external walls the barn at Glebe Farm is essentially a 19th century structure, and is of historic interest chiefly due to its topographical and architectural relationship to the fine grade II-listed contemporary Rectory. Its original layout was unusual, with a lean-to porch opening onto a narrow shed adjoining the barn-proper, and suggests it may have been designed by the same individual. The building is also of historic interest as a late example of a tithe barn, pre-dating the Commutation Act of 1836, but its small scale reflects the limited area of the Rectorial glebe, most of which was laid to pasture, and the limited extent to which tithes were paid in kind at this late period. Its visual appeal derives from its picturesque pantiles and the diversity of its various roofs, all of which were present by 1845.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Description of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. Church Road from south showing site entrance to left and parish church to right.
2. Southern facade of Rectory from south-east (included for site context).
3. Entrance to site from east showing roof of barn in centre.
4. Entrance to site from west showing proximity to churchyard.
5. Entrance to site from east showing Rectory to left and barn in centre.
6. General view from north-west showing church to left and Gartley House in centre.
7. General view of site from west showing horse yard in centre.
8. General view of site from horse yard to west.
9. General view of entrance to site from west showing Gartley House to left.
10. General view of entrance to site from west showing barn to right.
11. General view of site from north showing roof of barn with Rectory in rear.
12. Exterior from west showing detached shed (10) left & Rectory to right.
13. Exterior of roof from west showing brick divide between barn (1) right and shed (2) left.
14. Western horse yard from north showing barn left & 20th century shelter to right.
15. Western horse yard from east showing 20th century shelter to left.
16. Exterior of detached shed (10) from south.
17. Exterior of detached shed (10) from south showing 20th century extension to left.
18. Western horse yard from east showing 20th century stables with shed (10) right.
19. Exterior of detached shed (10) from east showing barn to left.
20. Exterior of detached shed (10) from west showing barn in rear.
21. Interior of detached shed (10) from west.
22. Exterior from east showing Rectory to left.

23. Exterior from north-east showing barn and Rectory to left & extension (7-9) to right.
24. Exterior of gable from north showing detached shed (10) to right.
25. External detail of northern gable showing inserted loft door.
26. Exterior of original barn and shed from east showing barn entrance to right.
27. Exterior of eastern entrance to barn showing angled wall of shed (4) to right.
28. Detail of external eastern entrance to barn showing brick arch.
29. Detail of double-hung external eastern entrance door to barn.
30. Exterior of lean-to shed (4) from south-east.
31. Exterior of entrance to shed (3) from east.
32. Detail of external entrance to shed (3) showing integral brickwork with shed (4) to left.
33. Exterior of lean-to shed (7) showing blocked door and entrance to shed (3) left.
34. Exterior from north-east showing northern extension in foreground.
35. Exterior from north-west showing northern extension in foreground.
36. Exterior from west showing northern extension to left.
37. Exterior of western lean-to shed (5) with porch to right.
38. Exterior of western lean-to shed (6) with porch to left.
39. Detail of external roof of lean-to shed (6) showing extension in foreground.
40. Detail of lean-to shed (6) showing junction with porch.
41. External gable of barn porch from west.
42. Interior of barn porch from west.
43. Exterior of lean-to shed (5) from south-west showing porch to right.
44. Detail of blocked arch between porch and shed (5) from south.
45. General internal view of barn from north showing porch to right.
46. General internal view of barn from south showing porch to left.
47. Interior of barn roof structure from north.
48. Detail of butt-purlin roof structure of barn from east.

49. Interior of barn from south showing apparent lift to external walls.
50. Interior of barn from south-east showing arched door in porch to left.
51. Interior of barn showing central porch to west.
52. Detail of junction between barn and porch from south-east.
53. Detail of straight joint between barn and northern wall of porch.
54. Interior of barn from north-east showing side wall of porch to right.
55. Detail of junction between barn and southern wall of porch.
56. Interior of barn from north showing southern gable.
57. Internal detail of pigeon vents at apex of southern gable of barn.
58. Interior of barn from north-west showing eastern entrance to left.
59. Interior of central bay of barn showing eastern entrance.
60. Internal detail of eastern entrance to barn showing apparently earlier brickwork to left.
61. Internal detail barn's eastern central bay showing junction with earlier brickwork to left.
62. Interior of barn from south-west showing eastern entrance to right.
63. Interior of lean-to shed (6) from west, showing wall of barn.
64. Interior of shed (6) from south showing brickwork of porch to right.
65. Interior of shed (6) showing western entrance with Rectory boundary wall to left.
66. Interior of shed (6) from north showing blocked doorway to Rectory grounds.
67. Interior of shed (6) from north showing straight joint against barn to left & lean-to roof.
68. Interior of shed (5) from north-west showing blocked arch to porch.
69. Interior of shed (6) from south showing rebuilt lean-to roof structure.
70. Interior of shed (5) showing western entrance adjoining porch to left.
71. Interior of shed (5) showing change of brickwork in wall of barn with porch to right.
72. Interior of shed (5) showing western entrance with northern gable to right.
73. Interior of shed (5) from south showing boarded northern gable with blocked door to left.

74. External boarded northern gable of shed (5) seen within later shed (9).
75. Detail of former door or window lintel to external boarded northern gable of shed (5).
76. Interior of shed (9) showing brickwork of northern gable.
77. Interior of northern shed (8) from east showing loft ceiling and inserted door to right.
78. Detail of timber-framed western wall of shed (8) with brick infill.
79. Detail of loft ceiling in shed (8) from east.
80. Interior of shed (8) showing northern gable with partly blocked window to left.
81. Interior of shed (8) showing entrance in northern gable.
82. Interior of shed (8) from west showing 20th century block-work eastern elevation.
83. Interior of shed (8) showing northern gable of original brick barn and shed.
84. Interior of shed (8) showing inserted loft door in northern gable.
85. Interior of shed (8) showing original external loft door in gable of barn structure.
86. Interior of shed 7 from south showing partly blocked aperture in northern gable.
87. Interior of narrow shed (3) from east.
88. Interior of shed (3) from west showing eastern entrance.
89. Detail of brick floor of shed (3) from east.
90. Interior of shed (3) showing original loft door in northern gable.
91. Interior of shed (3) showing renewed loft ceiling to left and eastern entrance to right.
92. Interior of shed (3) showing renewed loft ceiling to right and eastern entrance to left.
93. Interior of shed (3) showing loft ceiling from north-east.
94. Detail of shed (3) from north showing brickwork extending to left of barn roof-plate.
95. Interior of shed (3) from north showing enlarged access to shed (4).
96. Interior of shed (4) from north showing angled southern gable.
97. Detail of south-western corner of shed (4) showing original edge of barn brickwork.

98. Interior of shed (4) from south showing eastern entrance of shed (3) to right.

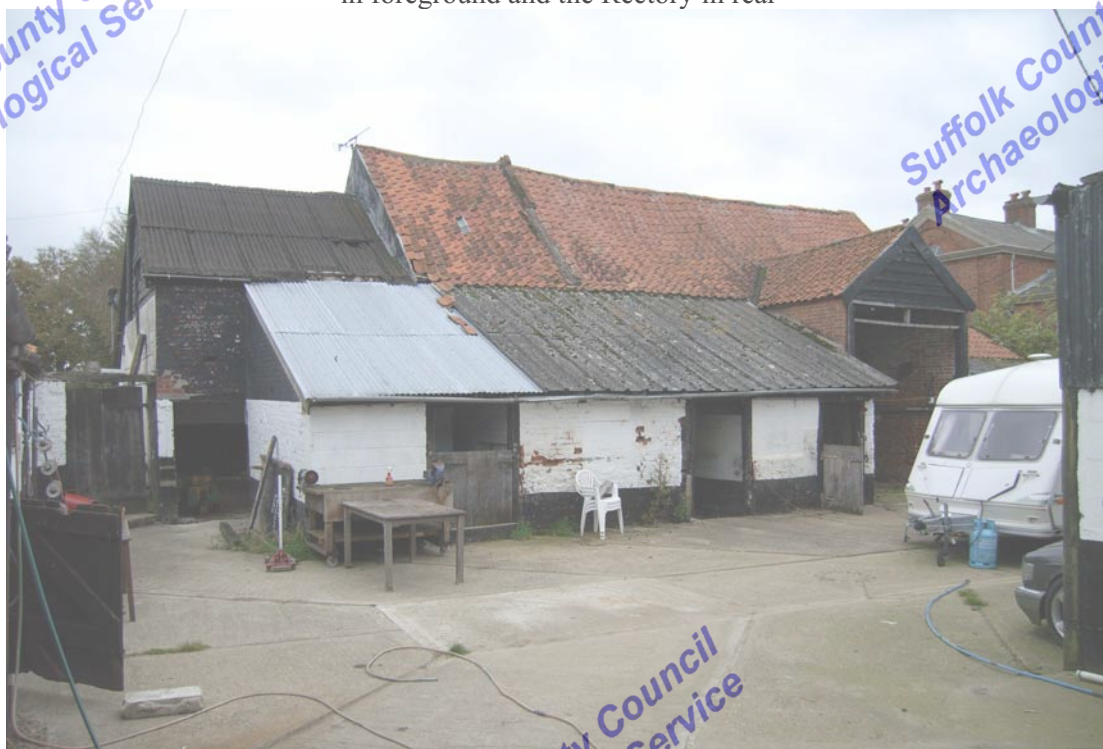
Appendix 2 (pp. 14-18): Selected Printed Photographs



A2.1 General view of entrance to site from west showing All Saints church and fence of Gartley House to left, the barn to right and the detached shed (10) in centre



A2.2 General view of site from north-east showing the barn roof with the detached shed (10) in foreground and the Rectory in rear



A2.3 Exterior of barn from 20th century horse yard to west, showing the detached shed (10) to left & the Rectory to right



A2.4 Exterior of barn from north-east showing extension (7-9) to right and northern gable of Rectory to left



A2.5 Interior of barn (1) from south-east showing western porch to left with blocked arched entrance to lean-to shed (5)



A2.6 Interior of eastern elevation of barn showing arched entrance in central bay with earlier brickwork to left



A2.7 Interior of northern shed (8) from east showing original external gable to left and joists of former loft. The western door is secondary.



A2.8 Interior of original narrow shed (3) to north of barn, viewed from east and showing replaced joists of loft



A2.9 Interior of shed (3) from south showing the original loft door in the northern gable above the renewed ceiling joists.



A2.10 Interior of barn from north showing porch to right and roof structure with two tiers of butt-purlins and a ridge-piece