

**23 Trimley Road,  
Kirton,  
Suffolk**

**Historic Building Record**

OASIS Reference: Suffolk1-56001



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**23 Trimley Road,  
Kirton, Suffolk  
(formerly Malting Farm and Malthouse)  
(TM 277 394)**

## **An Archaeological Record**

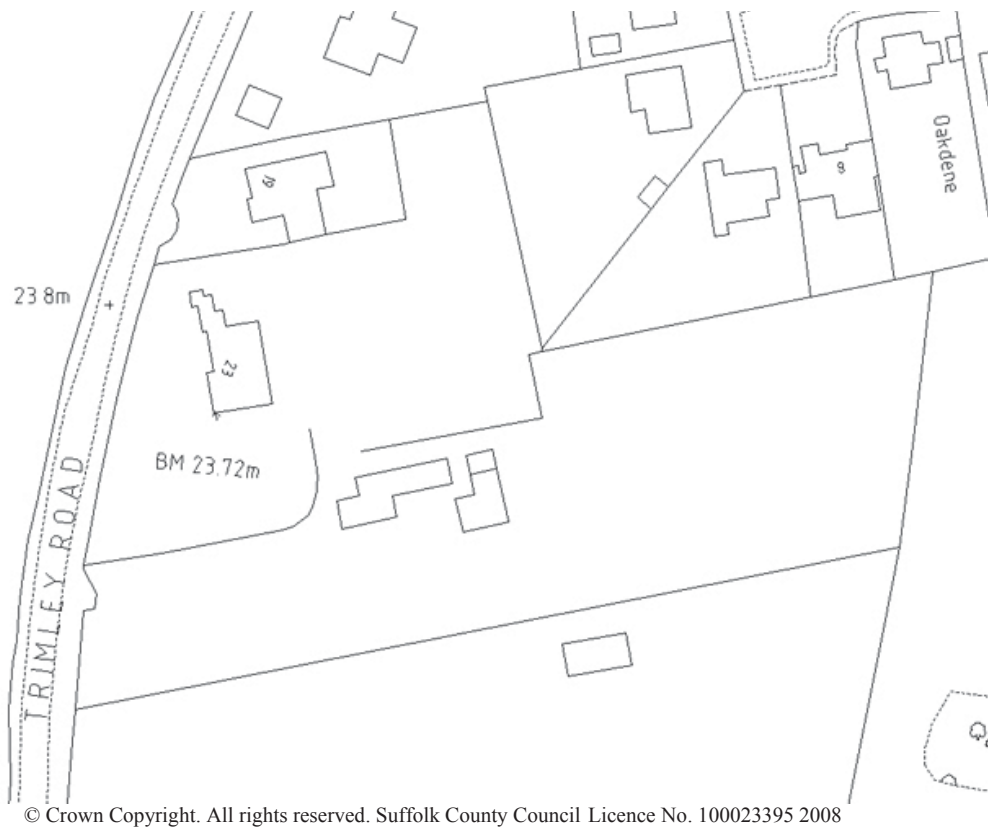
*This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of two outbuildings adjacent to the site of a demolished maltings. The report has been prepared to a brief written by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (RD Carr, 3 March 2008, Ref. 23 Trimley Road) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for a development of five dwellings (C/07/1427/FUL).*

### **Introduction**

The following report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 58 8.2 megapixel digital images (Appendix 1) but also includes printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is separately described in the report, and a white metre scale rod was included wherever possible. The site was inspected on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

### **Summary**

23 Trimley Road lies on the eastern side of the road between Kirton and Trimley, approximately 500 m south-west of the parish church. The site is shown as Malting Farm on the Ordnance Survey of 1902, and included a farmhouse and a group of agricultural buildings in addition to a large malthouse to the south. The malthouse and most of the farm buildings had been demolished prior to inspection, leaving only a brick stable and a timber-framed barn in addition to the unlisted early-19<sup>th</sup> century red-brick farmhouse. The stable is a good example of its type, which retains an original brick floor, manger, hay rack, tack room and boarded stalls. In its present form the structure dates from the 1860s or 1870s, but its walls incorporate parts of an early-19<sup>th</sup> century brick building of uncertain purpose shown on the tithe map of 1839. The tithe map also shows the malthouse, but not the barn. The latter is a four-bay structure of typical form but was extensively rebuilt in the late-20<sup>th</sup> century and has partly collapsed. The chief interest of the remaining buildings lies in the extent to which they illustrate the small scale and agricultural basis of many malting operations in Suffolk before the advent of industrialisation during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A concrete WWII gun emplacement to the south of the barn did not form part of this recording brief.



**Figure 1**  
**Existing Ordnance Survey Site Plan**  
**Showing the two remaining outbuildings to the south-east of the house. The structures attached to the eastern elevation of the stable and the northern gable of the barn had been demolished prior to inspection**

## **Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record**

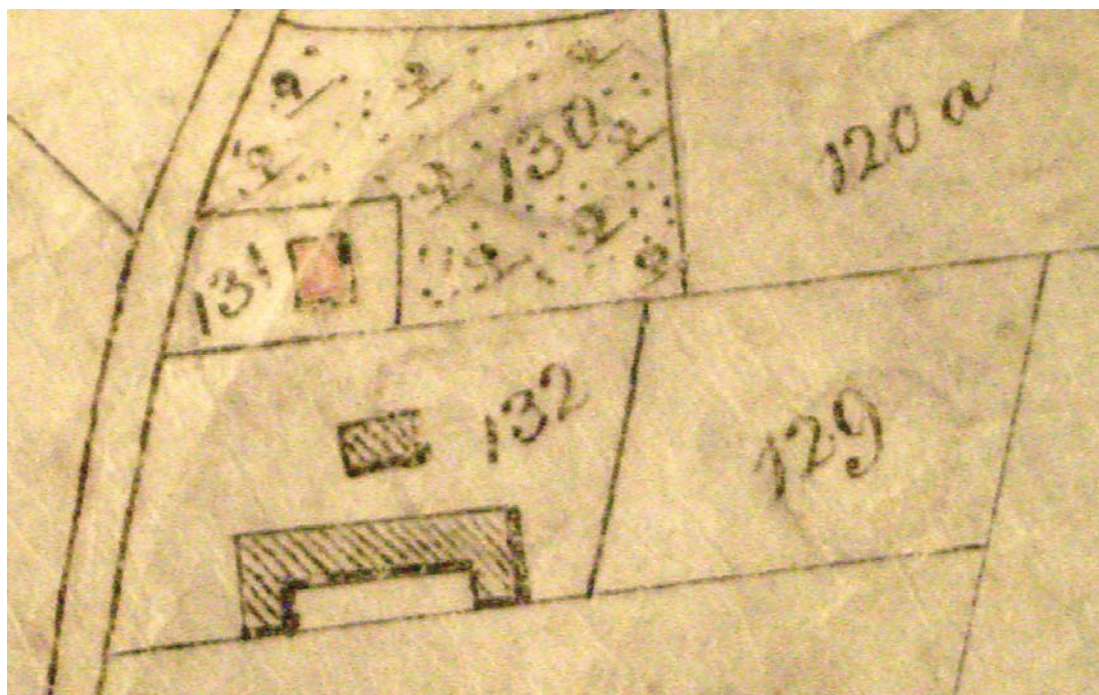
The site known as 23 Trimley Road lies on the eastern side of the road between Kirton and Trimley, approximately 500 m south-west of the parish church. The unlisted house on the site is a red-brick and slate structure of early-19<sup>th</sup> century appearance which is shown without its mid-19<sup>th</sup> century rear extension on the Kirton tithe map of 1839 (figure 2). The map also shows a small, rectangular building on the site of the present stable, and a long detached range to the south with projecting wings at its eastern and western ends. The contemporary tithe apportionment identifies the latter as a ‘Malt Office and Yard’ of 3 perches 20 roods, belonging to John Wood and occupied by Thomas Marriott. The property included the ‘House and garden’ and a total of 15 acres 23 perches of land of which most (12.5 acres) was arable. Thomas Marriot is described as a farmer and corn merchant in White’s Directory of 1844.

The first edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1879/80 (figure 3) ostensibly shows the same large building to the south of the site, but without its western projection. The house and stable had been extended since 1839, and a new barn with attached sheds erected to the east. The second edition Ordnance Survey of 1902 shows an additional small shed and enclosures resembling pig sties to the south of the barn, and names the site as Malting Farm; the southern range is labelled ‘Malthouse’, and as its long, narrow proportions are typical of malting offices it may be presumed to have operated as such since at least 1839. The situation remained unaltered at the time of the third edition in 1926, but all except the house, stable and barn had been demolished prior to inspection. The maltings is not recorded by Bob Malster in ‘An Historical Atlas of Suffolk’ (Suffolk County Council 1999), which includes only those sites named as such in Whites Directory of 1855.



Figure 2 (with detail below)

Kirton Tithe Map of 1839 (SRO FDA 161/A1/1b) showing the maltings with the original structure of the stable to the north. The apportionment describes the numbered areas as follows: 128 First Office Piece; 129 Pightle; 130 Orchard; 131 House and garden; 132 Malt Office and Yard; 137 (adjoining no.128 on the east) Further Office Piece. Area 133 to the south contained an additional 4.5 acres of arable land occupied by Thomas Marriot but owned by the Trustees of the Poor of Kirton and known as Town Land – the rent from which was used to benefit the parish poor.



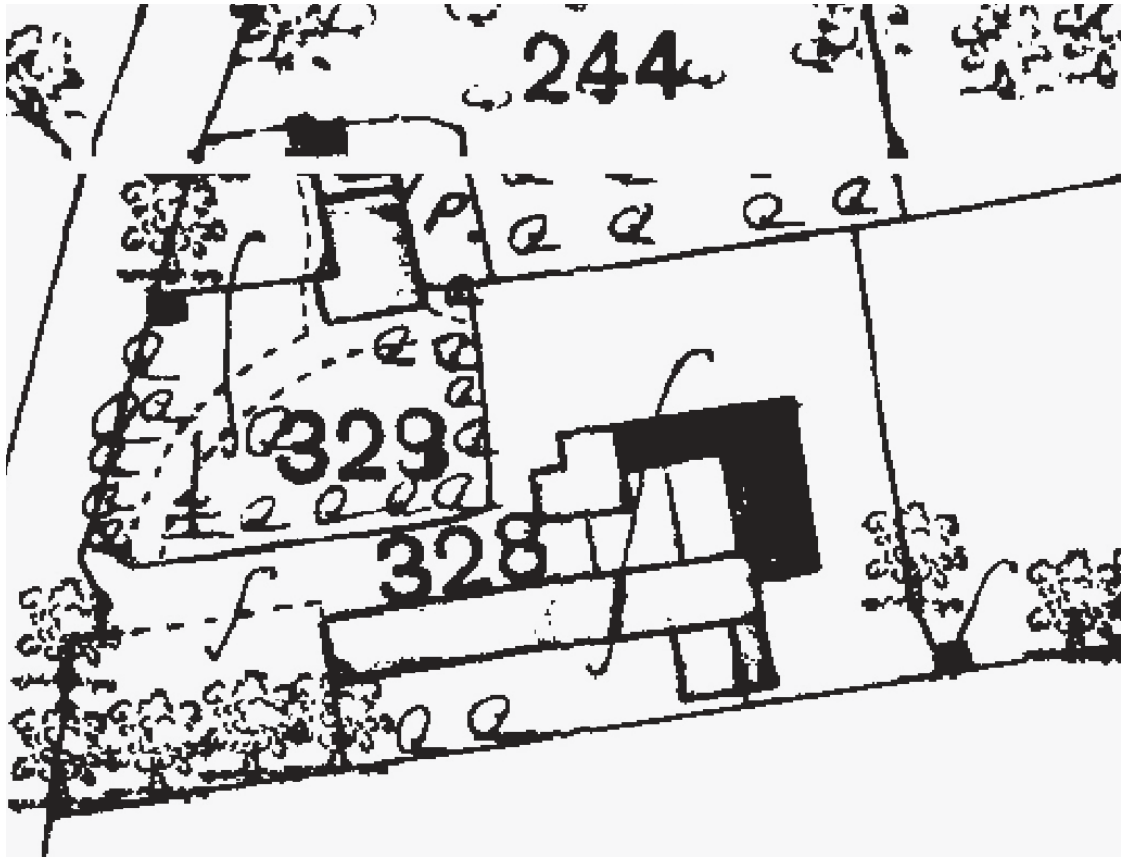


Figure 3

First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1879/80

The malting range has lost the western projection shown in 1839, and the stable to the north is shown with its present outline having been provided with a rear extension. Its southern door opens onto a small enclosure which presumably operated as a horse yard.

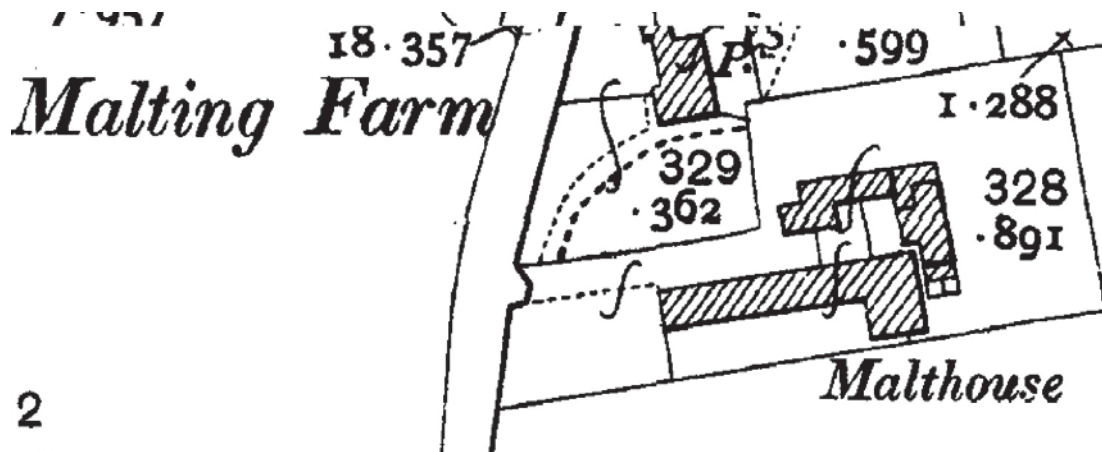


Figure 4 (with detail below)

Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1902

The site is labelled Malting Farm, and the outline of the barn is shown more clearly than in figure 3 above. The small enclosures to the south of the barn had been added since 1880 and resemble pig sties. The various buildings form a typical small farm complex in addition to the malthouse, having been associated with at least 17 acres of arable land in 1839.

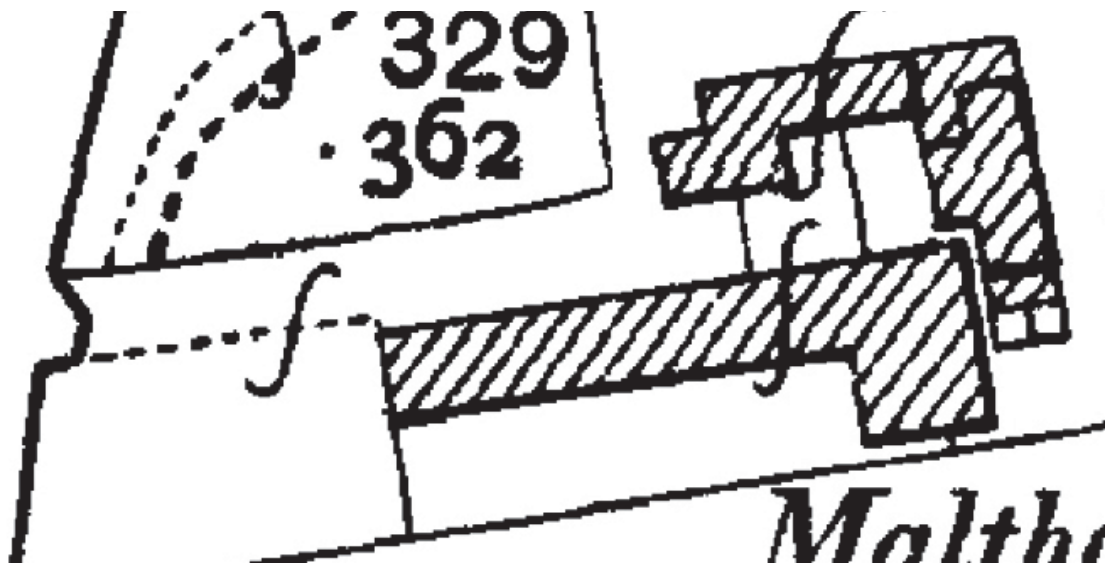


Figure 4 (detail)

## Building Analysis

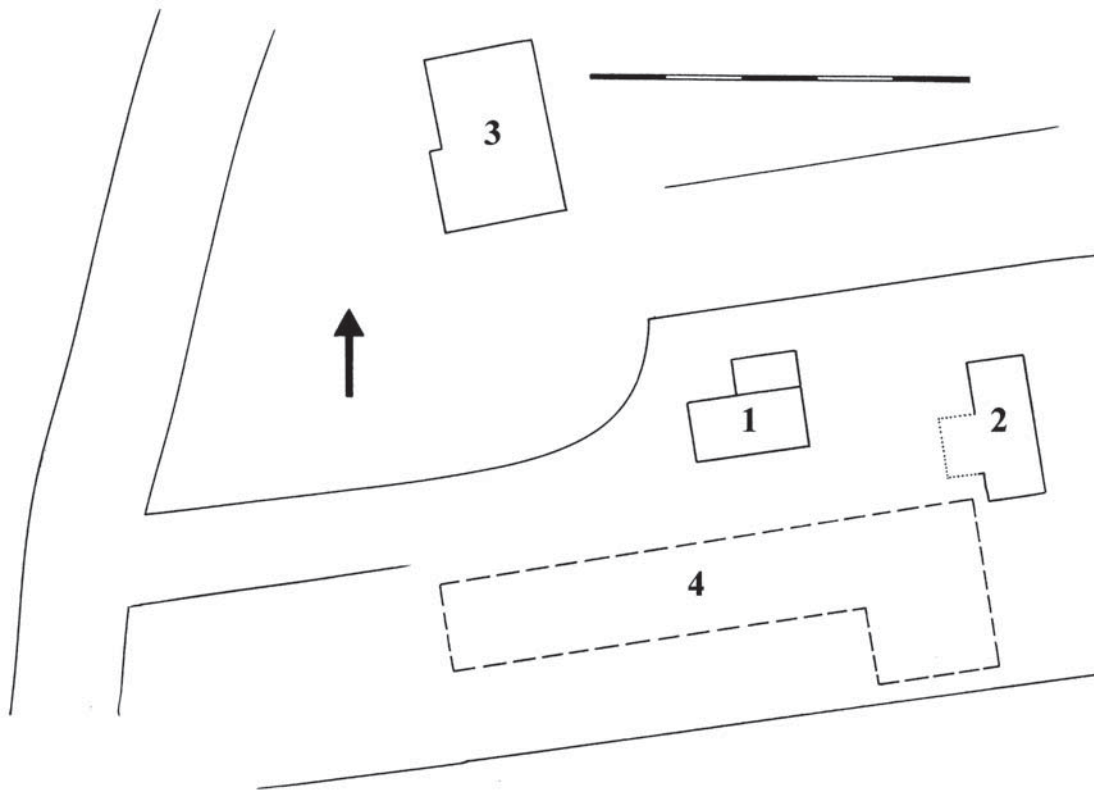


Figure 5  
Schematic block plan of historic buildings. Scale in multiples of 5 metres

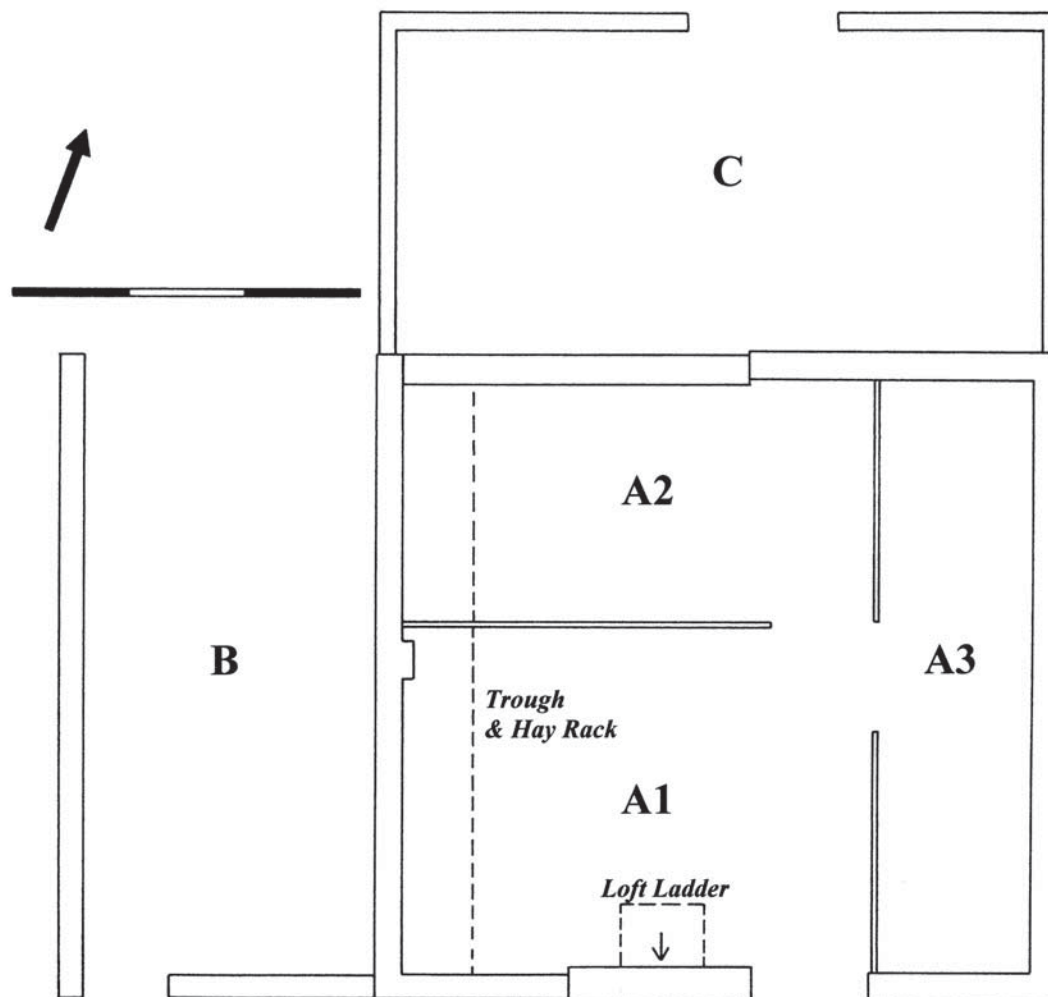
### Key

1. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century brick stable incorporating parts on an early-19<sup>th</sup> century building of uncertain purpose (see plan in figure 6).
2. Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century four-bay timber-framed and weatherboarded barn with collapsed western porch/shed. Much rebuilt.

3. Early-19<sup>th</sup> century brick farm house with mid-19<sup>th</sup> century rear (northern) wing.
4. Site of demolished malthouse as shown on tithe map of 1839 and Ordnance Survey of 1879/80. A fragment of intact early-19<sup>th</sup> century brickwork to the south-west of the barn may represent its north-eastern corner.

*N.B. The following analysis is focused on the two 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings remaining on the site, which had undergone extensive clearance prior to inspection. It does not include the concrete WWII emplacement to the south of barn, which is not shown in figure 5.*

### 1. The Brick Stable



**Figure 6**

**Ground Plan of Stable (1), showing its two stalls (A1 and A2) divided by a boarded partition, with narrow tack room to the east (A3). Area B is an axial vehicle shed entered by wide doors from the north, and area C a lean-to storage shed. Metre scale.**

Building 1 in figure 5 is a red-brick former stable and vehicle shed on an east-west axis which extends to 8.7 m in overall length by 5.6 m in width (28.5 ft by 18.5). Its walls rise to 2.9 m (9.5 ft) at their eaves and a lean-to brick shed extends by a further 2.8 m (9 ft) to the north, as shown in figure 6.

The area of the stable (A) contains a ceiling of tall-sectioned joists 2.2 m (7 ft) above an apparently original brick floor, with a hay loft above. This ceiling does not extend to the vehicle shed (B) of 2.5 m (8 ft) in length to the west, which is entered by double-doors to the

north and a narrow door to the south. The stable is entered by a double-hung door of 1 m (39 ins) in width to the south and is divided by boarded partitions into two stalls and a tack room. The tack room (A3) retains wooden harness hooks embedded in its brickwork and contains a window in its eastern gable, but the interior is otherwise unlit. An original boarded manger and a hay rack with diamond-section deal bars survive against the western wall, as shown, but the rack has been removed from the northern stall (A2). The ceiling contains a loading vent above the rack, which lies 1.5 m (60 ins) above the floor. The lip of the manger rises to 92 cm (3 ft) above the same floor. Access to the loft is afforded by a wall ladder the west of the entrance, and a loading hatch in the southern elevation. The loft is ventilated by a lozenge-shaped pattern of apertures in the northern elevation which now opens onto the lean-to.

The building is shown in its present form on the Ordnance Survey of 1879/80 and was probably refitted in the 1860s or 1870s. The present pantiled roof structure of clasped-purlins with nailed collars and a ridge-board consists of machine-sawn softwood and is consistent with this period. The Ordnance Surveys show a small enclosure to the south which probably operated as a horse yard for the three animals which this small stable could accommodate; appropriate to the small holding of some 20 acres which the tithe apportionment ascribes to Malting Farm.

The brickwork contains numerous anomalies which do not relate to the stable's late-19<sup>th</sup> century layout, and the building evidently incorporates parts of an earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century structure of uncertain purpose. This structure is shown as a simple rectangle on the tithe map of 1839, and may have operated as a storage or vehicle shed. The arch of a blocked window is visible to the south of the eastern gable, now interrupted by the loft ceiling, and a probable blocked door lies to the north. Both the southern and northern elevations contain straight joints where brickwork of different dimensions and date abut each other. The height of the blocked window suggests the early-19<sup>th</sup> century building did not contain a hay loft and did not therefore operate as a stable.

## **2. The Barn**

The timber-framed and weatherboarded barn to the east of the stable contains four bays with full-height double-hung doors in the penultimate southern bay of its eastern elevation. The same bay opened onto a porch or lean-to shed to the west, but this had collapsed prior to inspection. The building is shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1879/80 but not the tithe map of 1839, and its fabric is consistent with an origin during the 1860s or 1870s.

The barn extends to 10.1 m in overall length by 4.9 m in width (36 ft by 16) and its walls rise to 3.5 m (11.5 ft) at their eaves including a red brick plinth of 60 cm (30 ins). The framing consists of straight, nailed primary bracing with a pantiled butt-purlin roof structure of machine-sawn softwood and bolted knee-braces to the tie-beams. The open truss between the two northernmost bays is A-framed without a tie-beam but with knee-braces to its collar. The fabric of the northern gable and the western elevations of the two northernmost bays have been rebuilt within recent years, and the southern gable is clad in corrugated iron.

## **Historic Significance**

The stable is a relatively well-preserved example of its type, with an original brick floor, stall partitions, manger and rack of late-19<sup>th</sup> century appearance. Small, detached stables of this kind are not common, and the building was presumably designed to serve both the malting business and the smallholding. It illustrates the relatively small scale of many agricultural malting operations in Suffolk before the growth of commercialism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and is accordingly of considerable historic interest. The timber-framed barn also illustrates the connection of the maltings with a small farm, but is not of particular historic significance given its relatively late date and the extent to which its original fabric has been renewed.



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

### **Description of Photographs in Appendix 1**

#### **Photograph no.**

1. General view of site from Trimley Road entrance to west, showing house to left & stable right.
2. General view of site from west showing stable to left & site of demolished maltings to right.
3. General view of site from east showing stable to left & house to right.
4. General view from north showing barn to left, stable to right & modern housing estate in rear.
5. Facade of house, seen from stable to south (included for site context).
6. General view of site from south showing house to left and stable to right.
7. Stable. Southern external elevation showing entrance to right.
8. Stable. Detail of southern external elevation showing loft hatch to right.
9. Stable. Eastern external gable showing blocked window to left and scar of demolished range to right.
10. Stable. Exterior from north east showing lean-to to northern elevation.
11. Stable. Exterior from north-west showing northern lean-to to left.
12. Stable. Southern internal elevation of lean-to (C) showing joint in brickwork to left.
13. Stable. Interior of lean-to (C) showing ventilation apertures in north wall of hay loft.
14. Stable. Interior of lean-to (C) showing blocked window in northern wall of tack room (A3).
15. Stable. Interior of shed (B) from north showing straight joint to left of southern entrance.
16. Stable. Interior of shed (B) from south showing northern entrance.
17. Stable. Interior from southern entrance showing detail of brick floor.
18. Stable. Hay rack and manger against western elevation of stall A1.
19. Stable. Detail of hay rack in stall A1 from north, showing loading vent in ceiling above.

20. Stable. Detail of lower rail of hay rack in stall A1.
21. Stable. Detail of manger in stall A1 from north.
22. Stable. Detail of hay rack in stall A1 from south.
23. Stable. Interior of stall A2 showing manger against western elevation.
24. Stable. Interior of northern elevation showing vertical joint in brickwork.
25. Stable. Interior from southern entrance showing boarded partition between stalls.
26. Stable. Interior of stall A1 from south-east showing door to stall A2 left & tack room A3 right.
27. Stable. Detail of ceiling to hay loft.
28. Stable. Internal southern elevation of stall A1 showing loft ladder to right of entrance.
29. Stable. Detail of loft ladder showing vertical joint in brickwork to right.
30. Stable. Detail of manger in stall A1 showing interruption of central pilaster.
31. Stable. Interior of stall A1 from west showing entrance to tack room (A3).
32. Stable. Interior of tack room A3 showing blocked window in northern elevation.
33. Stable. Interior of tack room A3 from north showing harness hooks to right and left.
34. Stable. Interior of tack room A3 showing window in eastern gable.
35. Stable. Interior of hay loft from west showing blocked window in eastern gable to right.
36. Stable. Northern internal elevation of hay loft showing western gable to left.
37. Stable. Northern internal elevation of loft showing eastern gable to right & brick joint to left.
38. Stable. Clasper purlin roof structure view from south.
39. Stable. Interior of western gable of hay loft against open shed (B).
40. Barn. External western elevation showing possible corner of demolished brick maltings to right.
41. Barn. Exterior from south-west showing possible north-eastern corner of maltings in foreground.
42. Barn. Exterior from north-west showing collapsed porch with possible corner of brick maltings to right.
43. Barn. Exterior from east showing double-hung doors with house in rear to right.

44. Barn. Exterior from south-east showing corrugated iron cladding to southern gable.
45. Barn. Interior of rebuilt northern gable.
46. Barn. Original butt-purlin roof structure with bolted knee-braces to collars from south.
47. Barn. Interior from north showing secondary braces flanking midstrey.
48. Barn. Original butt-purlin roof structure viewed from north.
49. Barn. Original framing of eastern internal elevation showing midstrey to right.
50. Barn. Internal western elevation showing modern framing with northern gable to right.
51. Barn. Original roof structure from south showing collapsed porch to left.
52. Barn. Collapsed western porch viewed from interior of barn to south-east.
53. Detail of entrance doors in penultimate southern bay of eastern elevation.
54. Detail of tarred weatherboarding to eastern external elevation showing double-hung doors to left.
55. Site of demolished maltings from east showing barn to right and WWII emplacement to left.
56. Possible remains of brick maltings from north-west showing barn left and emplacement to right.
57. Remains of WWII gun emplacement from north-west.
58. Remains of emplacement from north showing sandbag impressions in concrete walls.

## Appendix 2 (pp. 12-16): Selected Printed Photographs



A2.1 General view of site from Trimley Road entrance to west, showing house (3) to left with stable (1) & barn (2) in centre and site of demolished maltings (4) to right



A2.2 General view of site from east showing site of demolished maltings in centre with southern gable of barn to right and remains of WWII gun emplacement to left



A2.3 General view of site from north showing barn (2) to left, stable (1) to right & modern housing estate in rear



A2.4 Stable. Southern external elevation showing double-hung entrance door with hay loft hatch to right



A2.5 Stable. Eastern external gable showing blocked window of original building to left with blocked door and scar of demolished eastern range to right



A2.6 Stable. Hay rack and manger against western elevation of southern stall (A1)



A2.7 Stable. Internal southern elevation of southern stall (A1) showing loft ladder to right of entrance, with vertical junction in brickwork & hay rack to right and boarded partition to tack room (A3) to left.



A2.8 Barn. Exterior from north-west showing collapsed porch with possible brick corner of demolished maltings to right



A2.9 Barn. Exterior from east showing double-hung doors with house (3) in rear to right



A2.10 Barn. Original butt-purlin roof structure viewed from north, showing secondary tie-beam braces