

**Nuttall Farm,  
Frostenden,  
Suffolk  
FOS 029**

**Archaeological Record**

**OASIS Reference: Suffolkc1-56853**



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**February 2009**



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**Outbuilding at Nuttall Farm,  
Frostenden,  
Suffolk**

**(TM 483 802)**

**An Archaeological Record**

*This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a brick outbuilding adjacent to a listed farmhouse. It has been prepared to a brief written by the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Edward Martin, 9 February 2009, Ref. SpecHBR\_NuttallFarm2009) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (Suffolk Coastal District Council application DC/08/0266/FUL).*

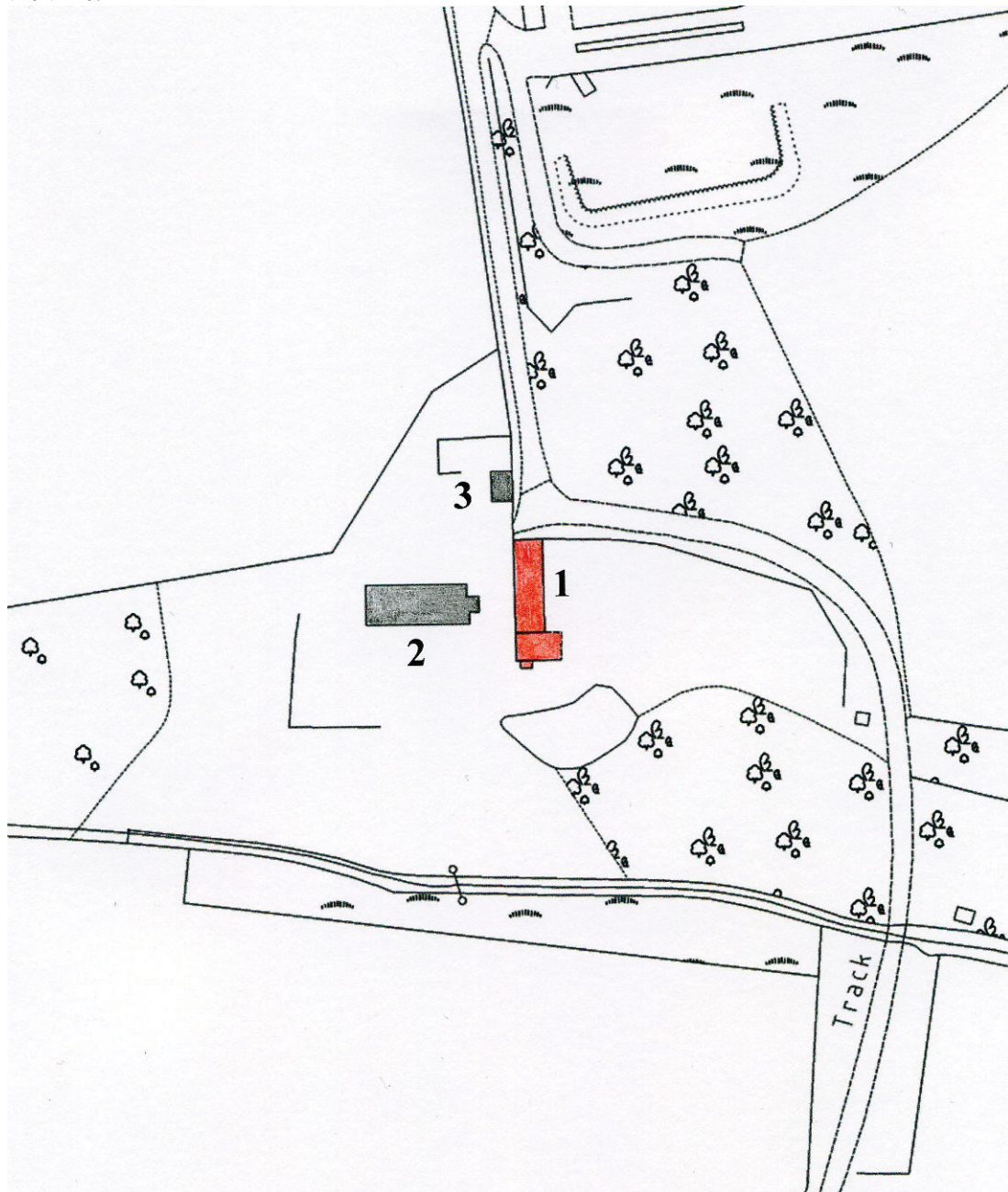
**Introduction**

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 46 digital images (Appendix 1) but also includes printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is separately described and includes a scale rod with half metre divisions wherever possible. The site was inspected on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

**Summary**

Nuttall Farm lies in open countryside at the bottom of a gentle valley, immediately north of the brook which forms the boundary with Reydon parish and approximately 1.5 km south of Frostenden church. It was known as Valley Farm until *circa* 1900, and formed a modest tenanted holding of 43 acres at the time of the tithe survey in 1840. The tithe map shows a complex of farm buildings immediately to the east of the grade II-listed 16<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse, but the present brick outbuilding on the same site is a replacement of *circa* 1870. It consists of a single-storied range of sheds that formed the western side of a demolished farmyard, and probably contained cattle accommodation and a vehicle shed. Precise interpretation of its purpose is hampered by the loss of any relevant fixtures and fittings. The building retains some points of interest, such as an apotropaic 'daisy-wheel' cut into its external brickwork, and a pair of low arches that were probably designed for calves, but is not of sufficient age, rarity or architectural merit to justify separate listing. A contemporary detached stable, vehicle shed and hay loft to the north of the site is of greater significance, given its small proportions and striking appearance, and supports the view that both structures

were rebuilt to reflect the status of the cleric who is understood to have occupied the house at the time.



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**Figure 1**

**Existing Ordnance Survey Site Plan**

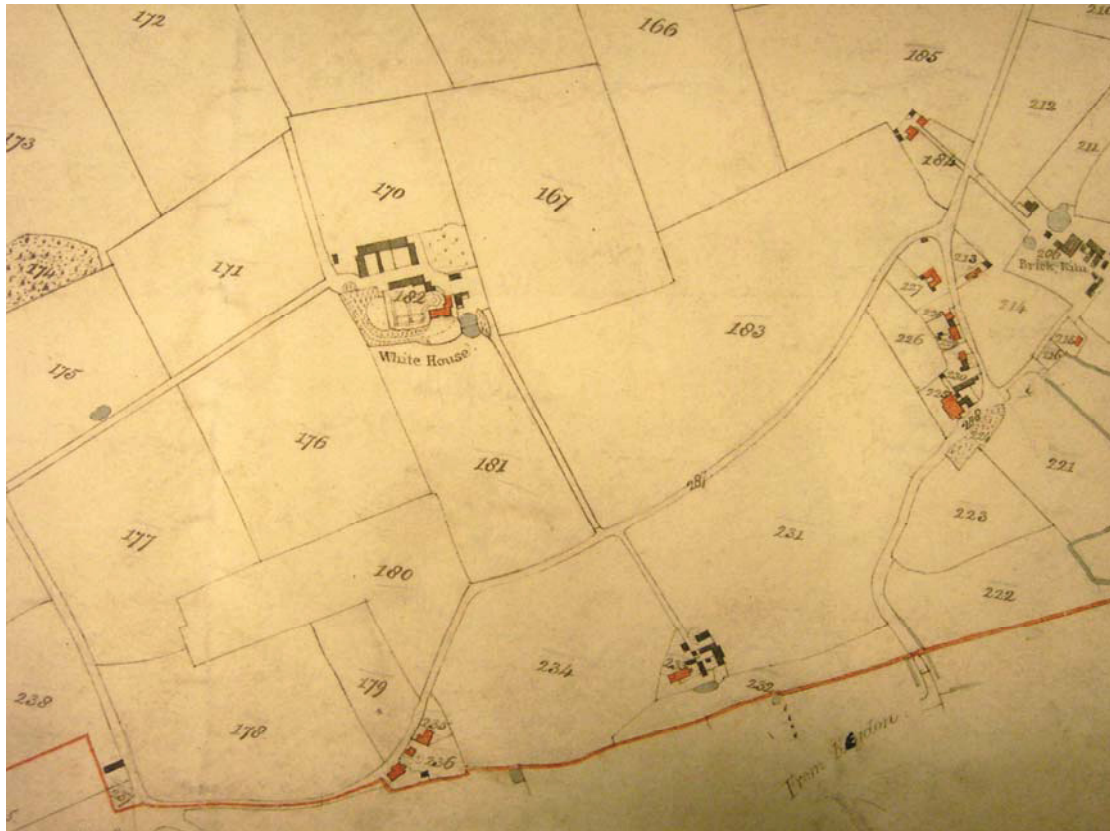
**Showing the outbuilding (1) in red to the east, the 16<sup>th</sup> century listed farmhouse (2) to the west and the stable (3) at the northern entrance to the site. The boundary of Reydon parish follows the brook shown to the south (flowing from west to east)**

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

Nuttall Farm lies in open countryside at the bottom of a gentle valley, immediately north of the brook which forms the boundary with Reydon parish and approximately 1.5 km south of Frostenden church. The grade II-listed timber-framed and rendered farmhouse is a complete 16<sup>th</sup> century structure with a central hall flanked by a high-end chimney and parlour on the west and a cross-passage and twin service rooms on the east (the entrance now blocked and

the service rooms combined). It preserves parts of an original plank-and-muntin cross-passage screen and a queen-post roof.

At the time of the tithe survey in 1840 the property formed a tenanted holding with a modest 42 acres in Frostenden, although more land may have extended into neighbouring Reydon and Wangford. 32 of the 42 acres were arable (75%) despite the valley location. The farm was owned by Charles Chapman and occupied by John Parry – spelled Perry in White's Trade Directory of 1844. The tithe map (figure 1) shows the farmhouse with its present rectangular profile and the distinctive projection of a bread oven from its eastern gable; a complex of farm buildings enclose at least two yards to the east of the house in an unusually sophisticated manner for the period. Most yard complexes of this kind were built during the 1850s and 1860s after the Repeal of Corn Laws in 1846 forced local farmers to diversify from arable to mixed arable husbandry, but the presence of a 'Bullock Shed Field' on the farm suggests it already stocked cattle. This field lay on the western side of the present A12, 500 m from the farmhouse, but is shown with an isolated rectangular outbuilding that presumably represents the eponymous bullock shed. The large building to the east of the farmyards, of which no trace now survives, was probably a barn as the adjoining field is named 'Barn Field'. Although a shed is shown on the approximate site of the present outbuilding it does not extend beyond the northern elevation of the farmhouse and cannot represent the same structure.

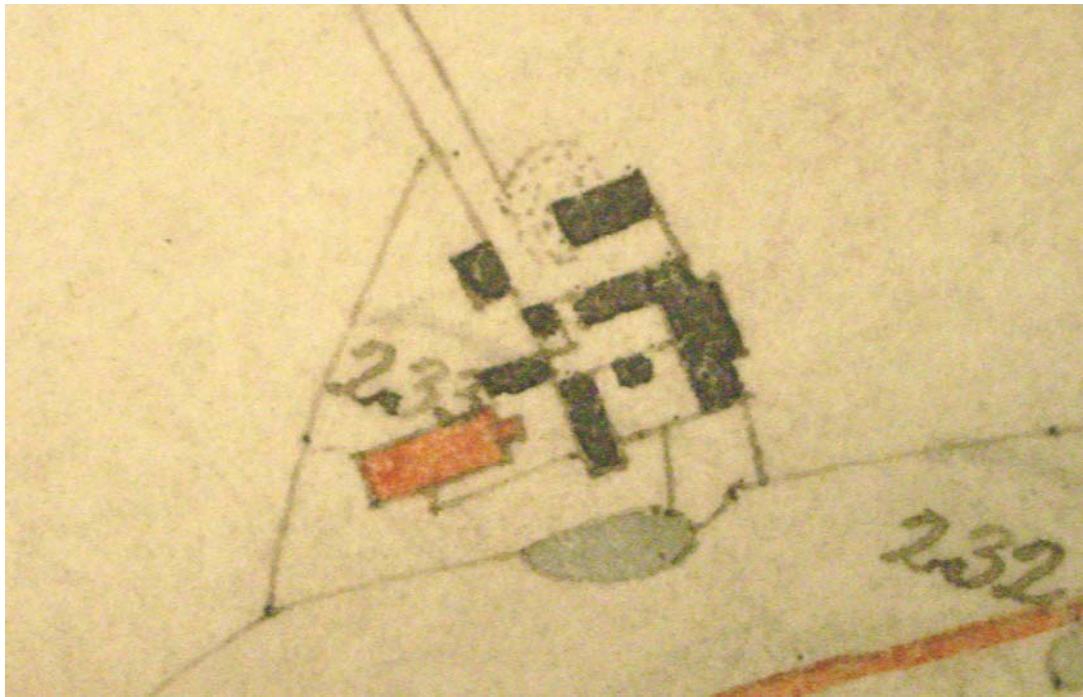


**Figure 2**

**Frostenden Tithe Map of 1840, with detail below (figure 2a)**

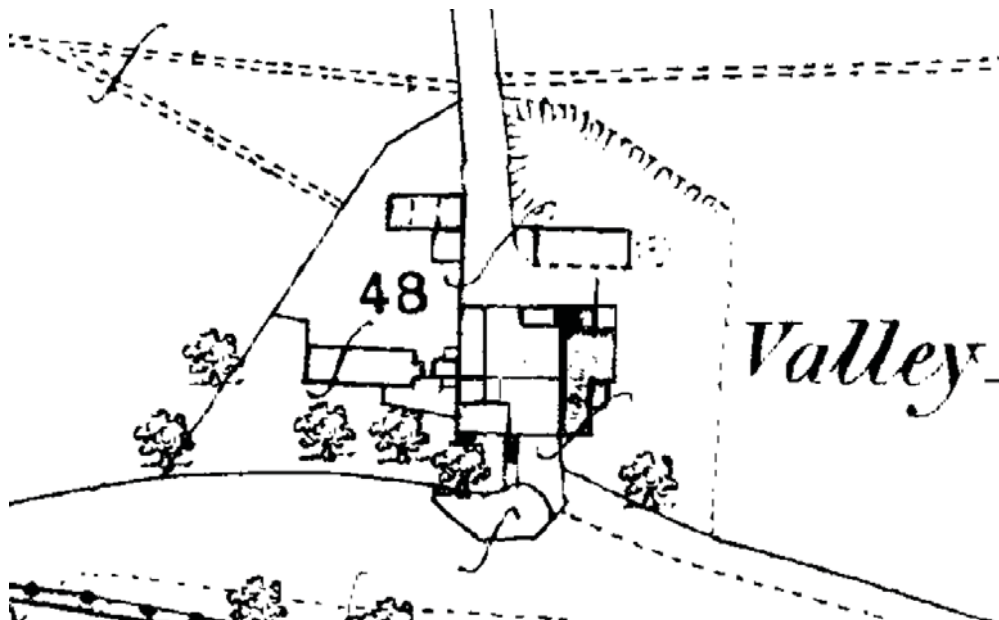
**Nuttall Farm is shown to the south, close to the red line which marks the stream and the parish boundary between Reydon to the east and Wangford to the west. The present A12 is shown in the bottom left-hand corner, adjoining an isolated outbuilding in 'Bullock Shed Field' (no.238). A brick kiln is shown in the hamlet of Frostenden Corner to the right.**





**Figure 2a**

**Detail of 1840 Frostenden tithe map, showing Nuttall Farmstead  
 The farm is marked as 'Farm Homestead' (no.233) on the apportionment, with 'Barn Field' to the east, Home Field to the west and Home Meadow (232) to the south  
 The rectangular structure on the site of the present outbuilding does not extend sufficiently far to the north to represent the existing structure**



**Figure 3**

**First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1884  
 The map names the site as Valley Farm, and clearly shows the present outbuilding forming the western side of a substantial yard complex. The barn to the east no longer survives, but the stable (3) is shown to the north.**

The existing outbuilding, with its distinctive L-shaped outline, appears for the first time on the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1884, when it formed the western side of a yard complex that no longer survives. The map also shows a small yard or enclosure adjoining the blocked arches in its eastern elevation, but omits the internal partition between sheds C and D (as labelled in figure 6). The present owners of the property understand that a vicar resided at the farm in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, and this may explain the unusually high ‘gentry’ quality of the outbuilding and the contemporary northern stable with its integral vehicle shed and hay loft.

The farm is not named on the tithe map, but is clearly labelled Valley Farm on the 1884 Ordnance Survey, which identifies the neighbouring farm just 200 m to the south (in Reydon parish) as Northend Farm. Curiously, the second edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 shows it as Nuttall Farm and Northend Farm as Valley Farm. The latter is now known as Vale Farm, yet the area marked as Frostenden Vale on all maps lies 1 km to the north-east, beyond the nearby hamlet of Frostenden Corner. The present owners of Nuttall Farm believe its 20<sup>th</sup> century name derives from an early-19<sup>th</sup> century owner or tenant of the farm, but it is unclear why both farms in the vicinity changed their names at the same time.

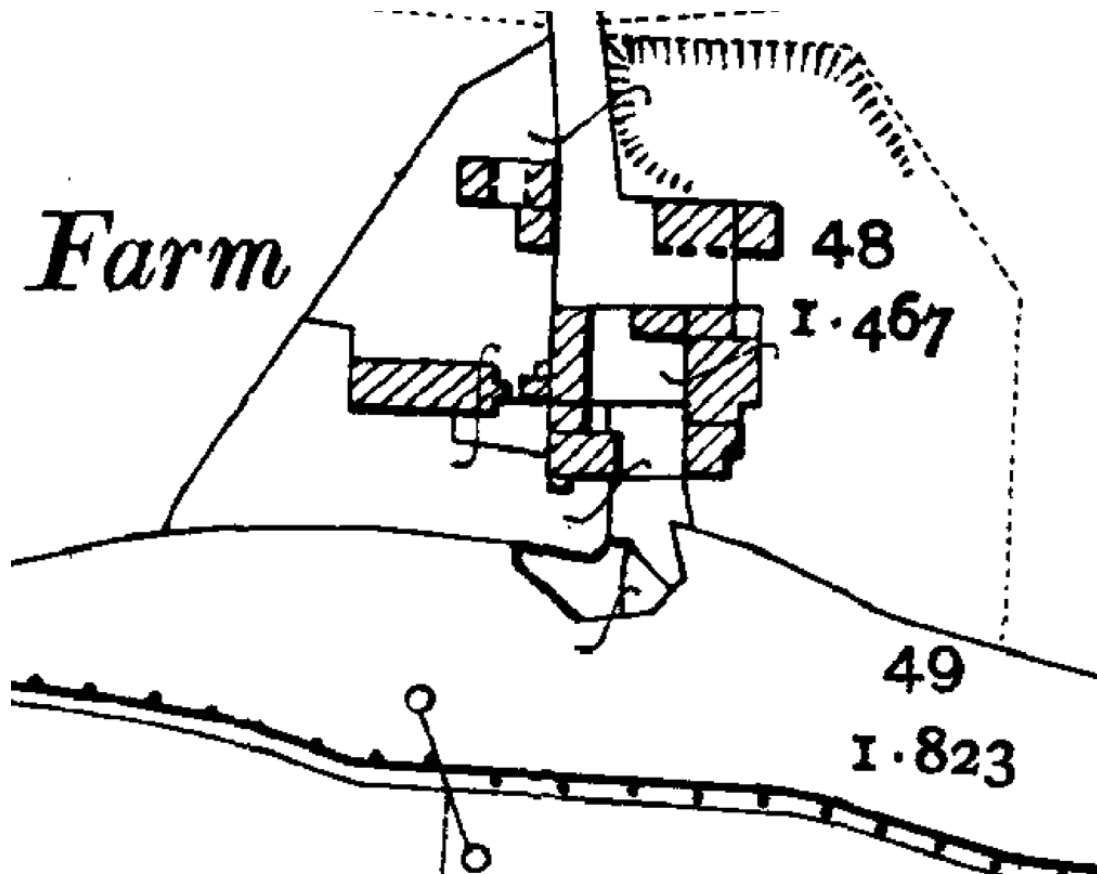


Figure 4

Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904, showing little change since 1884, although the property had been renamed Nuttall Farm. Open-sided structures are indicated by broken lines, and the demolished building to the north-east probably formed a cart lodge. The small yard to the north of the stable (3) was flanked by open-sided shelter sheds and probably operated as a horse yard.

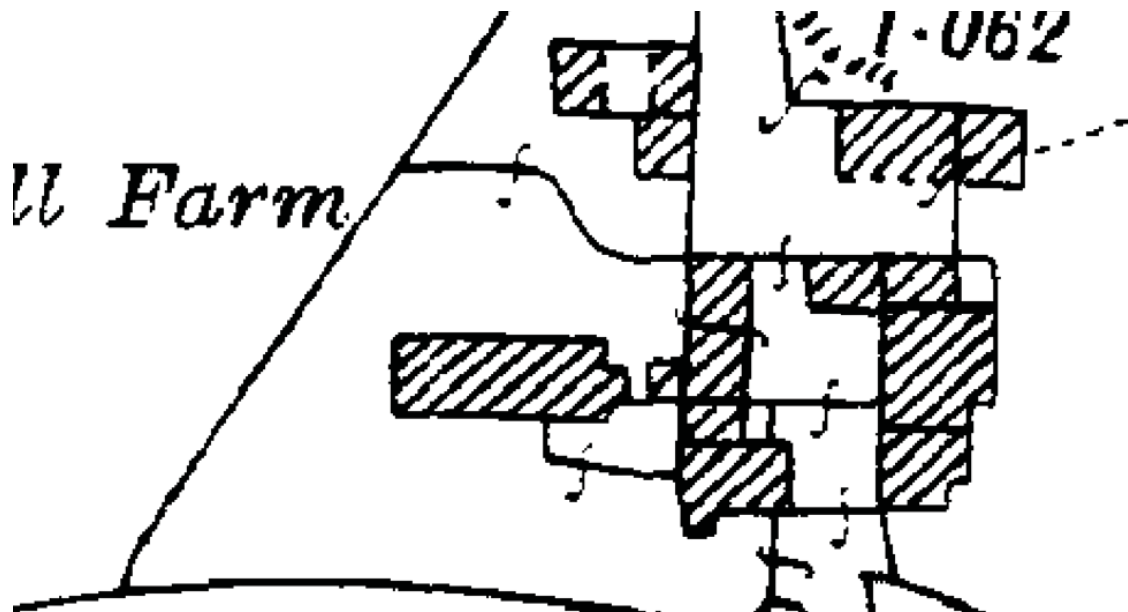


Figure 5

Third Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1927. The outbuilding remains largely unaltered today, although the small yard adjoining the arches of shed B has been removed, along with a small additional shed which projected towards the farmhouse from the western elevation of shed C.

## Building Analysis

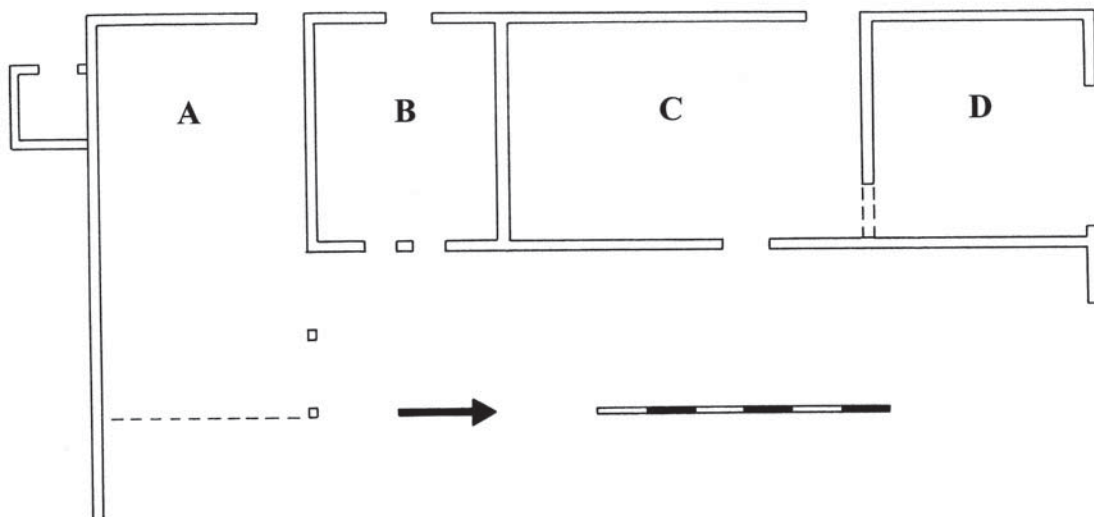


Figure 6

Ground plan of the single-phase single-storied brick outbuilding showing its four compartments and original doors. Scale in metres, north to right

- A. Shed with rebuilt roof at right-angles to main range and open elevation to east and in part to north. Possibly a shelter shed but heavily altered. A small secondary shed which projects from its southern gable was probably designed as a privy
- B. Enclosed shed with western entrance and two small arches to allow swine or (more probably) calves to enter a yard.



- C. Shed with entrance to eastern yard and evidence of a manger against its western elevation. Probably a cow shed.**
- D. Vehicle shed with double doors to northern site entrance and secondary internal door to shed C.**

*N.B. The brick outbuilding formed the western side of a complex of farm buildings and yards which has otherwise been demolished. At the time of inspection its agricultural fixtures and fittings had been removed, and its various compartments were used as domestic and garden stores and workshops. An apparently contemporary stable, vehicle shed and hay loft to the north of the site lies outside the area of inspection but is briefly mentioned for the purpose of historic context.*

### **Proportions and Structure**

The outbuilding is a red brick single-storied structure with a pantiled roof of pre-fabricated king-post trusses which extends to 20.5 m in length on a north-south axis by 4.9 m in overall width (68 ft by 16). It is divided into four original compartments or sheds, as shown in figure 6, of which the southernmost (A) is roofed at right-angles to the main range and projects by an additional 3.3 m (11 ft) to the east. The structure was built in a single phase, but its roof is stepped between sheds B and C to accommodate the irregular ground, which slopes downwards from north to south. The brickwork is uniformly laid in Flemish bond on a flint plinth, and the walls rise by approximately 2.7 m (9 ft) to a dentil eaves cornice where they are exposed to their full extent on the eastern (yard) side. The lower courses of the southern elevation (to a height of approximately 1.3 m) differ in colour and appear to form part of an earlier boundary wall (perhaps of the early-19<sup>th</sup> century) that was subsequently incorporated into the present building. The small shed or former privy attached to the same elevation is a slightly later addition. A short spur wall which projects by 1.1 m (45 ins) to the east from the building's north-eastern corner originally formed part of the yard boundary and abutted its missing gate. The manufactured king-post trusses and dentil cornice are typical of late-19<sup>th</sup> century agricultural buildings in the region, and suggest a likely date of construction in the 1870s. The building is shown with its present profile on the Ordnance Survey of 1884, but not the tithe map of 1840 (although an earlier shed occupied much of its site).

### **Original Layout and Function**

The building is divided into four internal compartments, but the function of each is no longer entirely certain as any relevant fixtures and fittings have been removed.

The southern shed (A) is now open to its eastern gable but its roof has been recently rebuilt and it is not shown as such on the Ordnance Surveys. It may have formed an open-sided shelter shed in the corner of a cattle yard, but this is not clear. The adjoining small shed extends to only 3.6 m (12 ft) in length and is entered by a central door from the direction of the farmhouse to the west (6 m or 20 ft distant) but contains two small, blocked original arches in its eastern elevation. Each arch is 60 cm in width by 84 cm in height (24 ins by 33) and lies some 60 cm above the base of the flint plinth. There is no evidence of any internal partition, but wooden stalls may have existed. The Ordnance Surveys show a small enclosure adjoining the eastern elevation and the arches were evidently designed to allow either calves or piglets to enter this yard while confining their mothers. Such features are associated with cattle accommodation elsewhere, and the former is by far the most likely. The ground level would have been considerably heightened by the depth of manure on the yard side. The largest shed (C) extends to 7.3 m in length and was entered from both the west and east; it contains notches in its western elevation for a manger and almost certainly operated as a cow shed – although stabling for working horses cannot be ruled out. The present eastern window

is secondary, and the only internal light in the various sheds was obtained by half-hung doors (all of which have been renewed). The northernmost shed is entered by double doors in its gable, facing the entrance to the site (the Ordnance Surveys show no access from the south) and clearly served as a vehicle (cart) shed. A large 'daisy wheel' apotropaic (evil-averting) symbol has been incised into the external brickwork of its western elevation. The internal door which now links sheds C and D is a secondary feature.

### **Historic Significance**

The outbuilding to the east of Nuttall farmhouse is a late-19<sup>th</sup> century structure which represents only a fragment of the farm complex shown on contemporary maps. It was probably designed chiefly as cattle accommodation, but its historic significance was largely lost when any relevant fixtures and fittings were removed during the late-20<sup>th</sup> century. It retains some points of interest, such as its apotropaic 'daisy-wheel' and arched apertures, but is not of sufficient age, rarity or architectural merit to justify separate listing. The unusual detached stable, vehicle shed and hay loft to the north is of greater significance, given its small proportions and striking appearance, and was built at the same time; both structures were designed to reflect the status of the cleric who is understood to have occupied the house.

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

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

#### **Photograph no.**

1. General view of site from north-east showing sheds (1) to left, house (2) in centre & stable (3) to right.
2. General view of site from east showing pond to left and stable to right.
3. General view of entrance to site from north showing stable to right and sheds to left.
4. General view of site entrance from north-east showing house to right and sheds to left.
5. Northern external elevation of 16th century house (included for site context).
6. Southern external elevation of house from south-west showing sheds to right.
7. General view from south showing house to left, stable in centre and sheds to right.
8. General view from north showing proximity of house to right and sheds to left.
9. Exterior from south-west showing privy against southern gable to right.
10. Exterior from west showing corner of house to right.
11. Exterior from site of demolished farmyard to east showing gable of house in rear.
12. Southern external gable showing secondary privy.
13. Southern external gable showing earlier brick wall incorporated into later structure.
14. Detail of earlier brickwork and flint plinth in southern external gable.
15. Southern end of western external elevation showing doors to sheds A right & B left.
16. Detail of modern door in western external elevation of southern shed A.
17. Northern end of western elevation showing door to shed C in centre.
18. Detail of modern door to shed C in western external elevation.
19. Northern external gable showing doors to vehicle shed D with remnant of yard wall to left.
20. Detail of dentil cornice to western corner of northern gable.

21. Northern end of western external elevation showing incised daisy-wheel in centre.
22. Detail of daisy-wheel to western external elevation.
23. Additional detail of daisy-wheel apotropaic mark to western external elevation.
24. External eastern elevation of sheds C & D showing door to shed C to left.
25. Detail of door to shed C in eastern external elevation.
26. Eastern external elevation showing blocked arches to shed B to left.
27. External eastern elevation of shed B showing blocked arches.
28. Detail of blocked arches in eastern external elevation of shed B.
29. Eastern external elevation of shed A showing truncated southern yard wall to left.
30. Southern internal elevation of shed A.
31. Western internal elevation of shed A showing entrance door to right.
32. Northern internal elevation of shed A from south-east.
33. Rebuilt roof structure of shed A viewed from south-east.
34. Original king-post roof structure in shed D viewed from north.
35. Southern internal elevation of shed D showing secondary door to shed C to left.
36. Northern internal elevation of shed D showing double entrance doors.
37. Interior of shed C from north showing notches of manger to western elevation to right.
38. Interior of shed C from south showing eastern yard entrance to right.
39. Original king post roof structure in shed C viewed from south.
40. Detail of south-eastern corner of shed C showing secondary window with harness hook above.
41. Internal eastern elevation of shed B showing blocked arch to right.
42. Internal eastern elevation of shed B showing tops of blocked arches to right and left.
43. Internal western elevation of shed C showing western entrance.
44. Eastern external elevation of stable and vehicle shed (3).
45. Exterior of stable from south-west showing scar of external stair to hay loft.

46. Detail of southern gable of stable showing identical dentil eaves cornice to shed range.



**Appendix 2 (pp. 13-16): Selected Printed Photographs**



A2.1 General view of site from north-east showing range of brick sheds (1) to left, 16<sup>th</sup> century house (2) in centre to rear & contemporary stable (3) to right.



A2.2 Exterior from south-west showing privy against southern gable to right. Note the step in the roof which was designed to accommodate the slope of the ground





A2.3 Exterior from west showing corner of house to right



A2.4 Exterior from site of demolished farmyard to east showing gable of house in rear and stable to right





A2.5 Detail of 'daisy-wheel' apotropaic mark incised to brickwork of western external elevation



A2.6 External eastern elevation of shed B showing blocked arches





A2.7 Interior of shed C from north showing notches of manger to western elevation to right and original king-post roof



A2.8 Exterior of stable (3) from south-west showing scar of external stair to hay loft. Included for site context