

**The Outbuildings,
'Redwood',
Earl Soham, Suffolk
ESO 014**

Historic Building Record

Suffolkc1-62617



Leigh Alston MA (Oxon), Architectural Historian
on behalf of
Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

**The Archaeological Service
(Field Projects Team)
Suffolk County Council, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR
Tel. (01284) 352446**

July 2009

The Outbuildings, 'Redwood', Earl Soham, Suffolk

(TM 232 627)

Historic Building Record

This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a complex of redundant farm buildings formerly in the curtilage of a grade II-listed building. It has been prepared to a brief written by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (Edward Martin, dated 1 July 2009, Ref. SpecHBR(EM)_Redwood_EarlSoham_09) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (Suffolk Coastal District Council application C/09/0244).*

Introduction

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a photographic record in the form of 73 digital images (Appendix 1) but also includes printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is described in a separate schedule and wherever possible includes a scale rod with half-metre divisions in red and white. The site was inspected on 15th July 2009.

Summary

'Redwood' is a modern house on the western side of Brandeston Road at the southern end of a medieval green and approximately 500 m south-west of Earl Soham parish church. The property was built on part of the farm yard belonging to neighbouring Street Farm, which is listed at grade II*, and includes a former stable complex adjoining the farmhouse garden. Although described for planning purposes as 'a barn and associated agricultural buildings' the site does not include the farm's threshing barn which lies on the opposite side of the road.

The oldest structure of the complex is a brick stable with a first-floor granary which adjoins the road at the entrance to the property. This dates from the late-18th or early-19th century and was probably built by the famous Suffolk surgeon and diarist William Goodwin who lived at the 142 acre 'gentry' farm from the mid-18th century until *circa* 1815. Its north-western gable retains a fine example of unpainted external pargeting and a shuttered window that was protected by the addition of a timber-framed and rendered stable in the mid-19th century. The pargeting is now visible only from the latter's hay loft, and is of considerable historic interest as it illustrates the typical appearance of local buildings before the advent of colourwash after the Napoleonic wars. Two additional windows with original mullions survive on the ground floor, but the interiors of both the stable and granary have been otherwise stripped of their historic fixtures and fittings. The second stable re-uses many second-hand timbers, which has given rise to the belief that it pre-dates the brick stable, but with the exception of a small section of hay rack it too has lost its original fittings. The third historic building on the site is a mid-19th century shelter-shed and loose box of brick and slate which incorporates an unusual fragment of masonry from an earlier 19th century structure. While the complex is a good example of a small mid-19th century stable yard and is of local interest, particularly given the well-preserved pargeting of its earliest component, it does not meet the criteria for listing in its own right.



Figure 1
Existing Ordnance Survey Site Plan
Outlining the complex of agricultural buildings in red, and showing the Brandeston Road to the north-east, Street Farm (to which the buildings originally belonged) to the north-west and the modern house ‘Redwood’ to the south-east. The fork of Fair Green is shown to the north.

Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record

The modern house known as Redwood lies on the western side of the road to Brandeston at the southern tip of Fair Green, approximately 500 m south-west of the parish church. The property was built on part of the farm yard belonging to Street Farm when the estate was divided between siblings, and includes a group of farm buildings adjoining the farmhouse garden. Street Farm is a grade II*-listed timber-framed house of great historic interest which dates chiefly from the 17th century but incorporates a rare late-15th century public building where the courts of the market or fair held on the adjacent green may have taken place (Historic Survey, Leigh Alston, July 2008). From the mid-18th century until *circa* 1815 it was the home of the famous Suffolk surgeon and diarist William Goodwin, and at the time of the tithe survey in 1840 it was owned and occupied as a substantial ‘gentry’ farm of 142 acres by Samuel Goodwin. The main barn and yard lay on the opposite side of the road (where it remains) and the tithe map shows only the surviving roadside brick stable with two smaller structures nearby (figure 2). The site had been transformed into a yard complex by 1885, as shown in figures 3 and 4, with the addition of the various buildings outlined in figure 5.



Figure 2.
Earl Soham Tithe Map of 1840 (SRO Ipswich branch)
Street Farm is shown at the southern tip of Fair Green with the main village to the north
and its barn (453) on the opposite side of the Brandeston Road to the right.

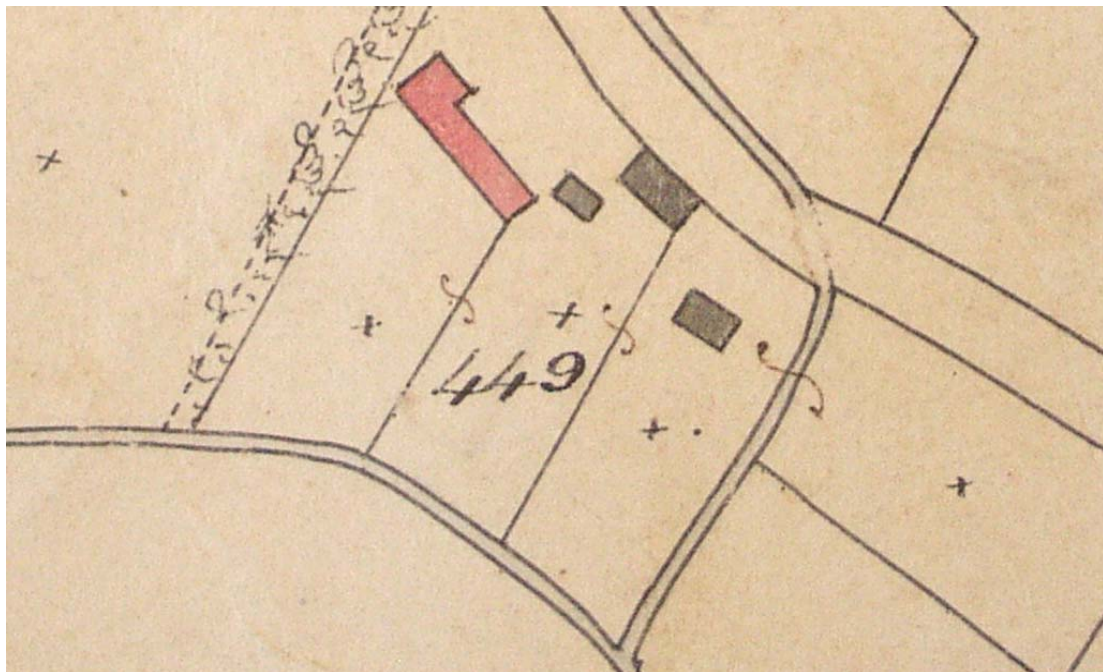


Figure 2a
Detail of the 1840 tithe map, showing Street Farm in red and the roadside stable with
first-floor granary in grey (building 1 in figure 5). Part of the detached outbuilding
between the house and stable may be preserved in the north-western elevation of the
present shelter shed and loose box (3 & 4) but nothing remains of the additional
detached building to the east. The apportionment names area 449 only as 'premises'.

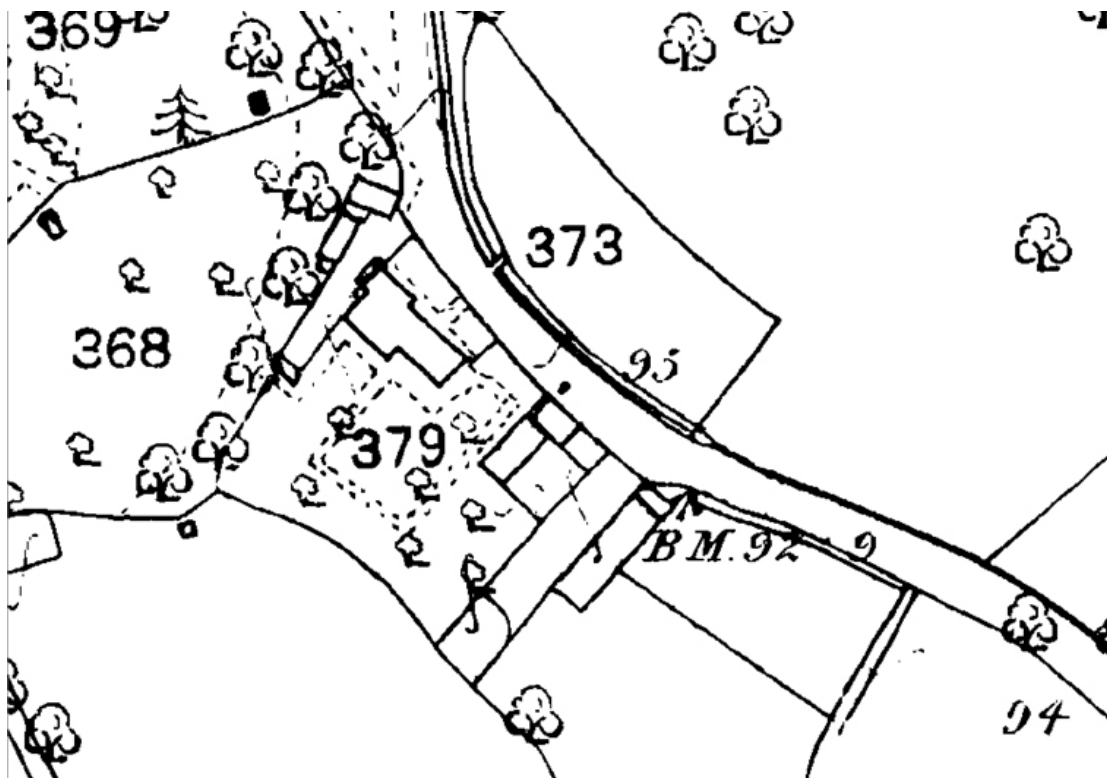


Figure 3

First edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1885, showing the new, mid-19th century yard complex much as it remains today. New outbuildings have also appeared at the northern entrance to the farmhouse.

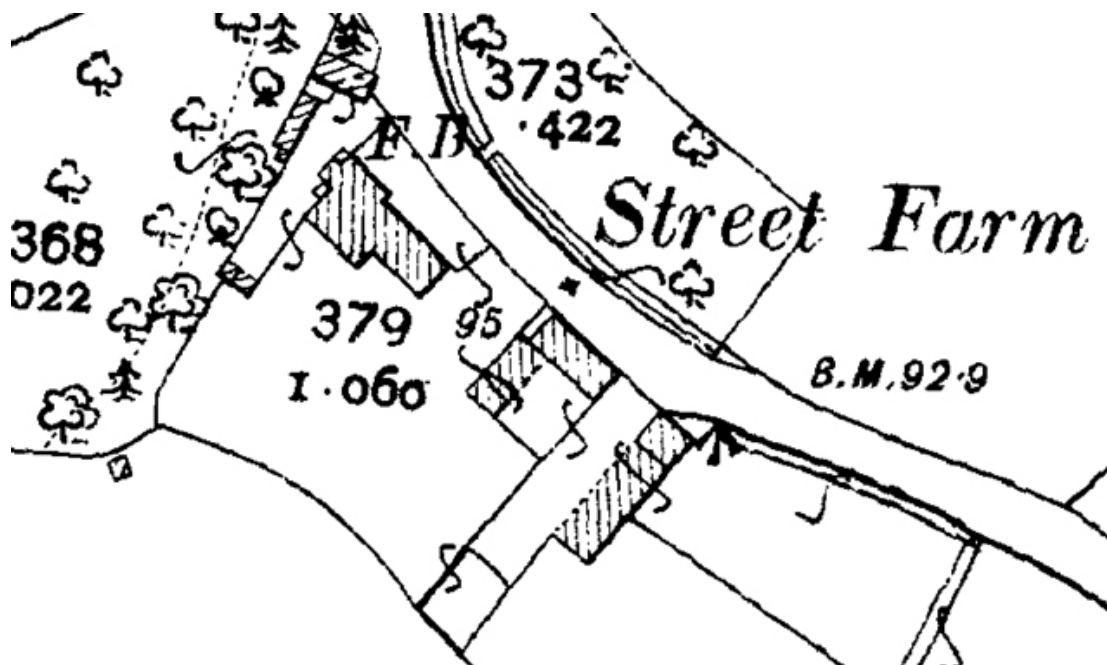


Figure 4

Second edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904, which uses broken lines to indicate open-sided structures. The open arcade of the shelter shed (no. 3 in figure 5) is clearly shown to the north-west of the yard. The southern shelter (5) had not yet appeared. The large open-sided structure to the south-east was probably a cart lodge but it occupies the site of 'Redwood's front garden and no trace now survives.

Building Analysis

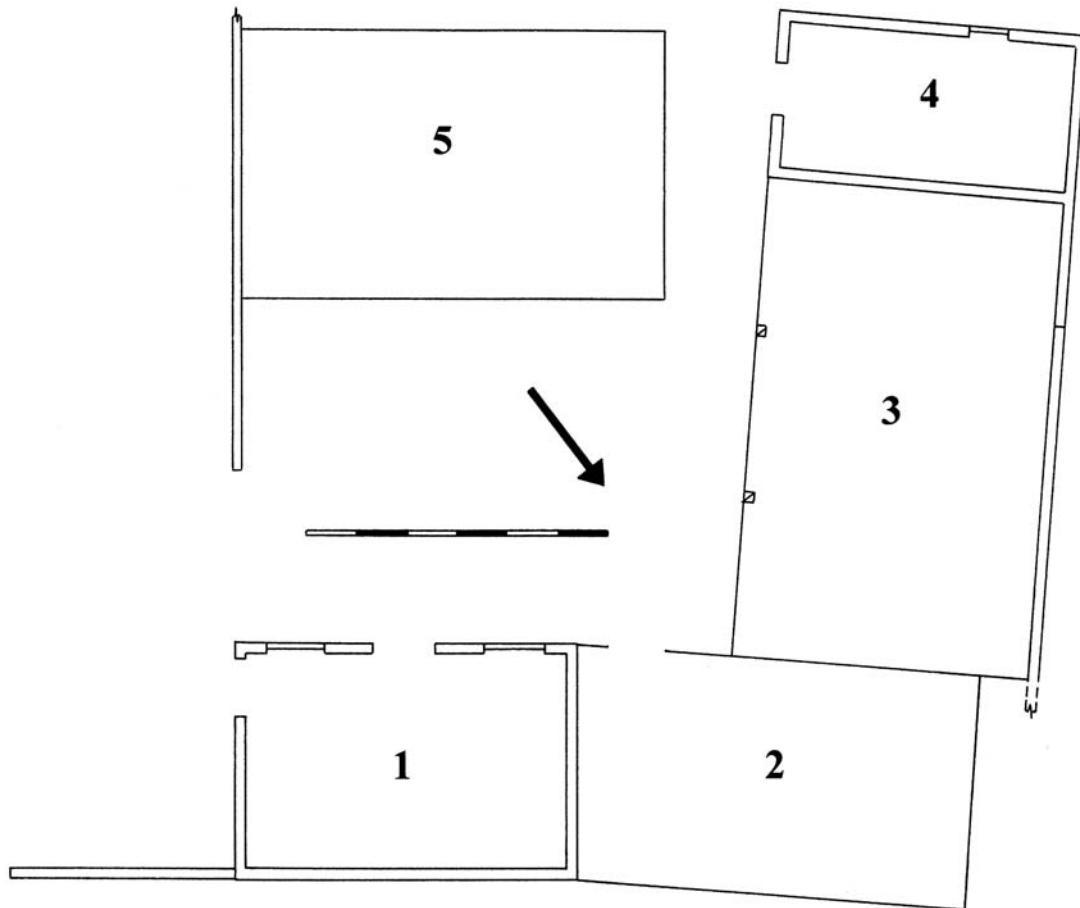


Figure 5

Block plan of the farm buildings numbering each unit for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. Showing the present arrangement of doors and windows on the ground floor but not fully surveyed. Buildings 1 and 2 adjoin Brandeston Road. Scale in metres.

Key

1. Late-18th or early-19th century brick roadside stable originally entered only from the south-west with a first-floor granary entered by an external stair against its south-eastern gable (and now by ladder). An original window with a hinged internal shutter and a section of unpainted but pargeted external lime plaster survives in the north-western gable (exposed in the loft of the later timber stable (2)). Two additional original windows on the ground floor (lacking louver slats).
2. Mid-19th century timber-framed, pantiled and rendered stable with first-floor hay loft which re-uses older timber and contains evidence of a hay rack and loading vent against its north-eastern (roadside) elevation.
3. Mid-19th century brick and slate shelter shed with original arcade posts to south-east. Later converted into loose boxes.
4. Brick and slate loose box integral with the shelter shed (3) but incorporating part of an earlier brick and flint structure in its rear elevation and gable.
5. Mid-20th century open timber shelter consisting of telegraph poles and corrugated iron. Not of historic interest and not discussed below.

1. Brick Stable and Granary

The oldest building in the yard complex is the brick and pantiled structure of the late-18th or early-19th century in its eastern corner, adjoining the road and the site entrance. This extends to 6.8 m in length by 4.7 m in overall width (22 ft by 15.5 ft) and rises to 3.2 m (10.5 ft) at its eaves against the road and 4.1 m (13.5 ft) against the lower yard to the south-west. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond but the individual bricks vary considerably in colour, with irregular bands of burnt headers, uniform reds and Gault bricks in the roadside elevation. The interior contains a deal ceiling of tall-sectioned common joists and neatly chamfered principals at a height of 2.5 m (8 ft) with an upper storey reached by an original external doorway in the south-eastern gable (facing towards 'Redwood' but (unusually) away from the original farmhouse). The original stair has been removed and the loft is now accessible only by ladder. The lower storey was entered by a central door in its south-western elevation, flanked by windows which retain original frames with pegged and tenoned rectangular mullions (formerly with horizontal ventilation slats but now glazed); the present door in the south-eastern gable is a later insertion which is not respected by the brick bonding. The interior was apparently designed as a stable, and retains timber rails for hay racks and hooks set into its walls, but no fixtures or fittings remain with the exception of a 20th century iron hay basket in its eastern corner. The loft contained boarded grain bins with an axial passage but these too have been removed apart from a pair of short posts rising from the floor (grooved for boards). The roof is a well-framed structure of staggered butt-purlins with what appears to be an original ceiling of lath-and-plaster. The north-western gable contains a window with original mullions (again lacking its louver slats) and an original internally hinged shutter. The most remarkable feature of the site is the external elevation of the same north-western gable, which was initially visible from the farmhouse but is now hidden within the loft of the later stable built against it: This retains an almost perfect finish of unpainted lime plaster decorated with chevron patterns divided by broad bands into panels. Most local buildings would have been decorated in this elegant manner during the 18th and early-19th century, before colours such as 'Suffolk Pink' became fashionable after the Napoleonic wars. This example was preserved by the construction of the adjacent stable within a few decades, and was probably commissioned and admired from his parlour windows by the diarist William Goodwin.

2. Timber Stable

The building which adjoins the north-western gable of the brick stable and granary at a slight angle is a timber-framed and pantiled structure of 7.6 m in length (25 ft) by the same width and height as its older neighbour. It consists largely of re-used timber, which produces an earlier appearance, but is poorly framed with nailed primary braces and tenoned but unpegged studs in the typical manner of the mid-19th century. Its clasped-purlin roof incorporates nailed collars and is spanned by a pair of tie-beams of which the northernmost is a fine recycled 16th century example with empty mortises for arch braces. The ceiling contains an aperture along its roadside elevation which would have allowed hay from the loft (reached by an internal ladder in the eastern corner and now by an external loading door) to be loaded into the hay rack. A small section of hay rack survives behind a recent block-work inner wall that is understood to have been inserted to stabilise the structure but is probably having the opposite effect. A pair of harness hooks remains *in situ* at the northern end of the south-western elevation but the interior has otherwise been stripped of historic fixtures and fittings. The roadside elevation is clad in plain 19th century clay render with wattle-and-daub infill and would have been whitewashed or colourwashed initially, but the original render of the north-western gable has been replaced by 20th century weatherboarding (nails in its exposed studs indicate the former presence of lath-and-plaster).

3-4. Shelter Shed & Loose Box

The north-western side of the yard is formed by a single-storied range of red-brick and slate that extends to 12.8 m from the timber stable and is 6.2 m in width (42 ft by 20.5 ft). Its roof plate rises to 2.4 m (8 ft) above the yard, as expected of a shelter designed for horses rather than cattle. An enclosed loose box of 3.3 m in width (11 ft) lies at its south-western end as shown in figure 1, but the remaining length was originally open to the yard with two timber arcade posts (neatly mounted on stone blocks); this open area was enclosed by doors and boarded partitions to form additional loose boxes in the 20th century. The present structure dates from the mid-19th century (probably the 1850s or 1860s) but its gable and the southernmost 2.2 m of its rear elevation were apparently retained from an earlier 19th century building shown on the tithe map (figure 2). The gable incorporates a curved terminal of flint to the right, resembling the shape of a horse stall, and a section of older brickwork to the left. Most mid-19th century yards of this kind were designed for cattle, but this example seems to have formed a small horse yard, although it may have been converted in the 20th century for cattle and later for pigs. Any cattle on the Victorian farm were presumably kept in separate yards alongside the main barn.

Historic Significance

The brick stable and granary of *circa* 1800 in the north-eastern corner of the yard is a particularly good example of its type, which survives largely intact despite the loss of its internal fittings. The well-preserved pargeting of its original north-western gable, facing the farmhouse, is a rare survival of considerable historic significance. Protected by the construction of the adjacent timber stable within a few decades it illustrates the predominantly white appearance of Suffolk's rendered buildings in the 18th and early-19th centuries, as depicted in the paintings of local artists such as Constable and Gainsborough. Despite this feature the building is not of sufficient age or rarity to meet the criteria for listing in its own right, although its conspicuous roadside location and local importance would certainly justify the retention of as much of its character as possible. The timber stable and brick shelter shed are typical of many built during the agricultural revolution of the mid-19th century and having been stripped of their original fittings they are not of special historic interest.

Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Description of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

1. General view of site from north showing Street Farmhouse on right & stable in rear to left.
2. General view of site from south-west showing Redwood to right and yard to left.
3. General view of site from west showing yard to right and Street Farmhouse to left.
4. General view of site from east showing site entrance to left and stable to right.
5. External roadside elevation of stable from north, showing earlier structure (1) to left.
6. External roadside elevation of stable from east, showing earlier structure (1) to left.
7. External roadside elevation from south-east showing change of angle between two structures.
8. Detail of variable external brickwork to roadside elevation of stable (1).
9. Detail of external render to roadside elevation of timber stable (2).
10. Detail of blocked window in external roadside elevation of stable (2).
11. External south-eastern elevation of stable (1) and yard showing 20th century yard roof.
12. External south-eastern gable of stable (1) showing original granary door & modern ladder access.
13. External detail of secondary door in south-eastern gable of stable (1).
14. External elevation of yard wall and 20th century shelter (5) from south.
15. External south-western facade of brick stable (1) showing original door and windows.
16. Covered yard from north-west showing brick stable (2) to left.
17. External detail of northern window of brick stable (2).
18. External detail of southern window of stable (2) showing original pegged mullions with nails for louvers.
19. Northern corner of yard showing junction of brick and timber stables with shelter shed (3).

20. Interior of brick stable (1) showing north-western gable.
21. Interior of brick stable (1) showing secondary door in south-eastern gable.
22. Eastern internal corner of brick stable (1) showing iron hay basket.
23. Internal south-western elevation of stable (1) showing original door and windows.
24. Detail from south of deal joists of ground-floor ceiling in brick stable (1).
25. Detail of tall-sectioned deal ceiling joists in brick stable (1).
26. External gable door of first-floor granary above stable (1) showing cat hole.
27. Interior of granary with original plaster ceiling above brick stable (1) from south-eastern entrance.
28. Detail from east of original staggered butt-purlin roof structure of granary (1).
29. Detail from south-east of grooved corner posts of removed grain bins in granary (1).
30. Detail from south-east of grain bins posts in granary (1).
31. Interior of granary (1) from west showing original entrance door in gable.
32. Internal north-western gable of granary (1) showing its original window & shutter.
33. Detail of original hinged window shutter in north-western gable of granary (1).
34. Internal north-eastern roof elevation of granary (1), showing original plaster and ceiling.
35. Original external gable of stable & granary (1) seen from roof of later stable (2).
36. External north-western gable of granary (1) showing original window and pargeting.
37. Detail of window and pargeting to north-western gable of granary (1) from roof of later stable (2).
38. Detail of unpainted lime plaster and pargeting to north-western gable of granary (1).
39. Detail of brickwork and pargeting to north-western gable of granary (1) from roof of stable (2).
40. Detail of original external pargeting to north-western gable of stable & granary (1).
41. Interior of timber stable (2) from south-east.

42. Interior of timber stable (2) from north-west showing brick gable of earlier stable (1).
43. Detail of ceiling joists in timber stable (2).
44. Internal south-western elevation and entrance of timber stable (2) showing loft ladder.
45. Internal south-western elevation of timber stable (2) showing door to shelter shed (4).
46. Internal south-western elevation of stable (2) showing harness hooks to right.
47. Internal north-eastern (roadside) elevation of timber stable (2) showing modern false wall.
48. Detail of false inner wall in timber stable (2) with original roadside wall above.
49. Loft of timber stable (2) showing north-western gable and clasped-purlin roof structure.
50. Clasped-purlin roof structure of timber stable (2) from window of granary (1) to south-east.
51. Internal south-western elevation of loft in timber stable (2), showing ladder to left.
52. Internal north-eastern roadside elevation of loft in timber stable (2) showing hay rack vent.
53. Detail of hay rack vent in floor of timber stable loft (2) showing remains of rack to right.
54. External north-western gable of timber stable (2) showing modern brick infill.
55. External gable of timber stable (2) showing junction with shelter shed (3) to right.
56. External north-western elevation of shelter shed (4) showing joint in brickwork to right of scale.
57. Detail of shelter-shed (3) from west showing junction in brickwork to right.
58. South-western external gable of loose box (4) showing curve of earlier gable to right.
59. External corner of loose box (4) from east showing door and curve of earlier gable.
60. Interior of loose box (4) from south-east showing curve of earlier gable to left.
61. Covered yard from south-east showing open-sided shelter shed (3) in rear.
62. South-eastern facade of shelter shed (4) showing original posts and later doors.

63. Passage in western corner of yard between shelter shed (3) right and 20th century shelter (5) left.
64. Detail of shaped top rail of arcade post of shelter shed (3) from south-east.
65. Eastern arcade post of shelter shed (3) from south-east.
66. Buttressed stone pad at foot of arcade post of shelter shed (3) from south-east.
67. Western arcade post of shelter shed (3) from south-east.
68. Stone pad at foot of western arcade post in shelter shed (3).
69. South-western external elevation of timber stable (2) from shelter shed (3).
70. Interior from south-east of eastern compartment of shelter shed (3).
71. Western compartment of shelter shed (3) showing buttress at junction of brickwork to right.
72. Interior from south-east of central compartment of shelter shed (3).
73. External north-eastern elevation of 20th century shelter (5) from covered yard to north.

Appendix 2 (pp. 13-18): Selected Printed Photographs



A2.1 General view of site from Brandeston Road to north showing Street Farmhouse on right & roadside stable in rear to left



A2.2 General view of site from east showing site entrance to left and stable to right to left



A2.3 External elevation of yard wall and 20th century shelter (5) from south showing gable door to first-floor granary to right (with modern ladder access)



A2.4 External south-western facade of brick stable (1) from covered yard showing original door and windows



A2.5 Interior of granary with original plaster ceiling above brick stable (1) seen from south-eastern entrance.



A2.6 Internal north-western gable of first-floor granary (1) showing original window & hinged internal shutter



A2.7 North-western external gable of brick stable & granary (1) seen from roof of later stable (2), showing original pargeted but unpainted lime plaster above brickwork. The remains of the hay rack and loading vent in the loft floor are visible to bottom left



A2.8 Detail of window and pargeting to north-western gable of granary (1) from roof of later stable (2). The original window mullions contain nails for missing louver slats



A2.9 Internal south-western elevation of stable (2) showing primary bracing of studwork and harness hooks to right.



A2.10 External north-western elevation of the shelter shed and loose box (3 & 4) showing the north-western gable of the timber stable (2) left and the joint in the brickwork to the right of the scale rod



A2.11 Covered yard from south-east showing the open-sided shelter shed (3) with two original arcade posts and later loose-box doors in rear



A2.12 South-western external gable of loose box (4) showing curve of earlier flint gable to right