

The Barns, Barningham Park, Bardwell, Suffolk BAR 077

Historic Building Record

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(TL 942 777)

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This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 3 of two redundant barn complexes. It has been prepared to a brief written by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (Edward Martin, 26th January 2010 ref. SpecHBR(EM)_BarninghamPark_2010), and is intended to inform and accompany a planning application for conversion.

Introduction

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a photographic record in the form of 164 digital images (Appendix 1), but also includes 16 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 17th May 2010.

Summary

Barningham Park lies in level, arable countryside at the northern edge of Bardwell, approximately 4 km from the church and village, but is considerably closer to the villages of Coney Weston and Barningham. The farm borders the East Anglian Breckland and the adjoining fields were shown as open 'sheepwalk' (rough grazing) on an enclosure map of 1798. Shortly afterwards the land was enclosed to create a large arable farm of 363 acres owned by the Duke of Grafton's Euston estate. Two barn complexes known for planning purposes as Barn 1 and Barn 2 lie to the north-west and south-west respectively of the grade II-listed early-19th century farmhouse. Each consists of a threshing barn with attached animal vards and sheds. The southern barn is listed at grade II and dated in the Schedule to the early-18th century but is in fact an impressive six-bay 'Napoleonic barn' of *circa* 1800 with two threshing floors that was built to serve the new arable farm. A very similar barn on the neighbouring farm was not shown on the 1798 map, which stops 150 east of Barningham Park, and a boldly carved date of 1810 (or possibly 1800) on a storey post almost certainly commemorates its construction. The barn survives largely intact with a full complement of tie-beam braces and a butt-purlin roof, and remains worthy of listing despite its later origin and the loss of its thatch. The external walls retain their distinctive 'two-tier' original cladding of render above weatherboarding. A series of cattle yards and sheds was added to both elevations in the mid-19th century when mixed animal husbandry replaced intensive cereal production in the region. Barn 1 was built in a single phase in circa 1850 and represents an elegant and unusually complete High Victorian yard complex of flint with glazed pantiles. It consists of a three-bay timber-framed threshing barn adjoining a yard enclosed by singlestoried flint ranges to east and west. The western range contained stabling and the eastern range was probably designed as an open shelter but was enclosed in the late-19th century to form a pair of cow-sheds which retain good floors and boarded cattle stalls. The roof of the barn contains staggered butt-purlins with straight braces to its tie-beams in a manner more usually associated with the early-19th century but the building is not shown on the tithe map of 1839. It retains a brick threshing floor and a series of circular apotropaic marks on the internal plaster of the stable. The complex probably fails to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing but is nonetheless of considerable historic and aesthetic value.

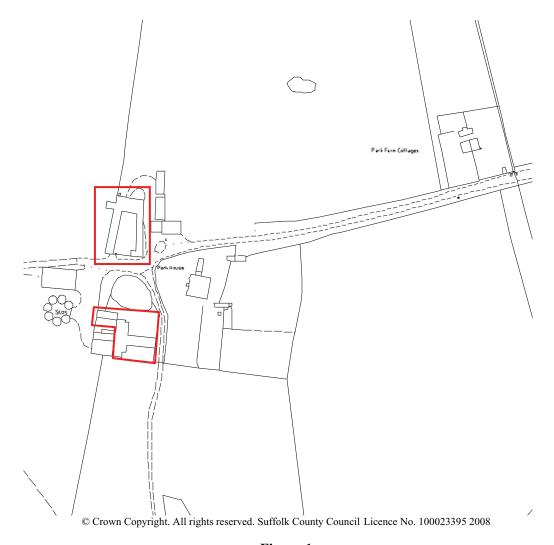


Figure 1
Current Ordnance Survey Site Plan
Outlining in red the two complexes known as Barn 1 to the north and Barn 2 to the south, with the farmhouse to the east. The southern complex (Barn 2) and the house are listed at grade II.

Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record

Barningham Park lies in level, arable countryside at the northern edge of Bardwell, approximately 4 km of the church and village. The site is considerably closer to the villages of Coney Weston and Barningham, respectively 1 km to the east and 2.5 km to the south-east, reflecting the unusually long, narrow outline of Bardwell's medieval parish. This in turn relates to the location of the site on the edge of the East Anglian Breckland which formed a large area of open, sandy heath in the Middle Ages and was used as grazing for sheep with occasional and often short-lived arable 'breaks'. Much of the land was overrun with rabbits from as early as the 13th century and was of little value. The neighbouring parishes (derived from early-medieval estate boundaries) stretched long fingers onto the heath from the better-quality claylands to the south and east. A triangular section of Barningham parish, just 500 m in width, separated Barningham Park in Bardwell from Coney Weston parish to the east. Barningham and Coney Weston are now combined as a single parish, but these medieval irregularities continue to cause confusion and the farm is often mistakenly assumed to lie in Coney Weston.

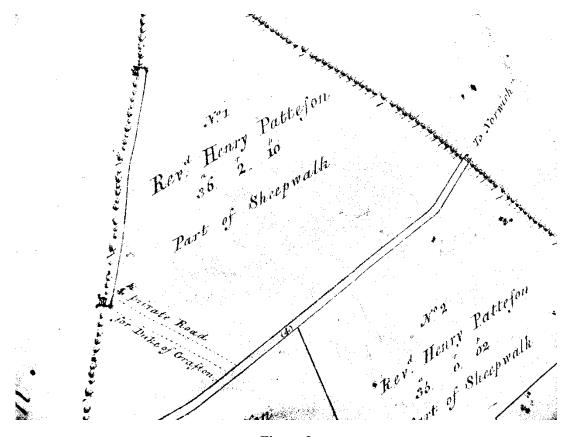


Figure 2

Figure 3. Barningham Enclosure Map of 1798 (SRO EG 565/4/7)

The triangular north-western corner of Barningham parish which divides Coney Weston to the right from Bardwell to the left. The track to Barningham Park is shown in the bottom left-hand corner and labelled 'Private Road for Duke of Grafton' and the adjoining land is described as 'sheepwalk' prior to its enclosure. Barningham Barn (a similar structure to the grade II-listed main barn of Barn 2 at Barningham Park) was erected soon after this date to the north of the highway, but is conspicuous by its absence from the 1798 map. The barn at Barningham Park was also built to exploit the new arable land of the former sheepwalk, ploughed up in response to the high price of grain during the Napoleonic wars.

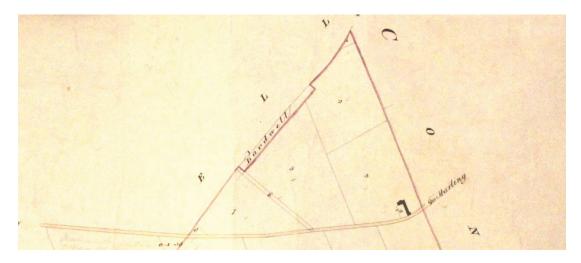


Figure 3

The same area on the 1843 Barningham tithe map showing the new arable fields with the L-shaped Barningham Barn to right and the track to Barningham Park to left.



Figure 4

The Bardwell enclosure map of 1831, showing the boundary with Barningham and the 'private road' to the right. The listed southern barn (Barn 2) is shown as a T-shaped structure adjoining a circular pond to the north, but the site of the northern barn (Barn 1) was occupied by a pair of yards and a scattered group of small outbuildings.



Figure 5
Bardwell tithe map of 1839 showing a similar layout in more detail. A new linear shed has been added to the northern group of buildings since 1831. The broken line of the Barningham boundary to the right follows the course of an 'Ancient Road' as described on the apportionment. 'Barn Pightle' adjoins the southern barn to the south-west and 'Stackyard' on the west.

The landscape was still dominated by rough heathland in the 18th century, but was extensively enclosed to form permanent arable land in response to the high price and profitability of cereal production during the Napoleonic wars (which restricted grain imports from the continent). The 1798 enclosure map of Barningham parish (figure 2) shows part of the farm track to Barningham Park (labelled 'private road for Duke of Grafton') with the surrounding land as 'sheepwalk', i.e. rough grazing for sheep, much as it would have been in the Middle Ages. The map does not show a timber-framed barn at a farm known as Barningham Barn (now in Coney Weston after the aforementioned parish combination) which had appeared by the time of the 1843 tithe map and would have been built immediately after the 1798 enclosure to serve the newly ploughed land. This barn (recorded by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in November 2007) is of very similar construction to the grade IIlisted main southern barn at Barningham Park (known as Barn 2), with straight braces to its tie-beams, jowled storey posts and a roof of staggered butt-purlins. Its single-storied yard ranges are also strikingly similar to those of the northern barn at Barningham Park. This evidence suggests that the southern barn was also built in or shortly after 1798 to serve newly enclosed land and not in the early-18th century as stated in the Schedule of Listed Buildings. It is probably contemporary with the new farmhouse to the east, which is a flint building of late-Georgian appearance that is more accurately dated to the early-19th century in the Schedule. The site is therefore of considerable historic interest in that it illustrates a major change in the agricultural landscape of the region.

The Bardwell enclosure map of 1831 (figure 3) shows the southern barn as a T-shaped building abutting a pond to the north, but the northern barn (now known for planning purposes as Barn 1) is conspicuous by its absence. A scattered group of small outbuildings occupied its site. This enclosure map related chiefly to former common land further south in the parish and shows the present linear field system in the vicinity of the farm. The property belonged to the Euston estate of the Duke of Grafton, whose forebear had purchased a manorial estate in Bardwell in 1734, and it remains in the same ownership today. The 1831 changes did involve the addition of some new land to the estate, however, and the exchange of scattered lands with neighbouring owners to create a more unified holding, and may well have occasioned the need for a second barn at Barningham Park. 16th century documents refer to a manorial park at Bardwell which may well have been located on the heathland and have given its name to the modern farm. (possibly a park for conies (rabbits), which it was fashionable to hunt, rather than deer)

At the time of the Bardwell tithe map of 1839 the northern barn had still not appeared, although an additional structure had been erected since 1831 on the approximate site the eastern cow-shed range of Barn 1. The Duke of Grafton owned approximately 1,100 acres in the parish (and more in neighbouring parishes) divided into two main holdings: Barningham Park of 363 acres (tenanted by William Cooper) and Bowbeck Farm of 637 acres. These farms were very large by the standards of the day and included arable fields of between 20 and 40 acres with approximately 22% of pasture land. Several field names reflect the Breckland-edge site, such as Heath Field, The Brect and Breaky Meadow, but most derive only from their size (i.e. 'Six-and-thirty Acres', 'Six-and-twenty Acres', etc.). The farm premises (plot 1 on the map) are named on the apportionment as: 'Site of Barningham-park, farmhouse, offices, yards, gardens, yards, orchard and drift'. An 'office' at this period often referred to a malting (which may explain the unusual number of detached outbuildings to the north) and the drift is the farm lane. An additional track which crossed the present farm lane to the east was named as 'Ancient road' and was followed by the parish boundary, suggesting a medieval origin although no trace of it now survives. A corner in this road, some 150 m north-east of the farm, was named as 'Park Corner' with 'Park Field' further to the north.

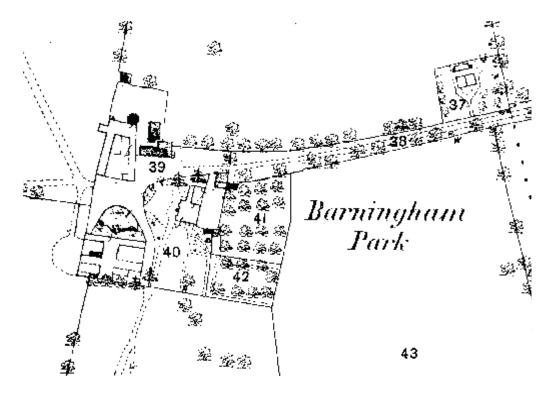
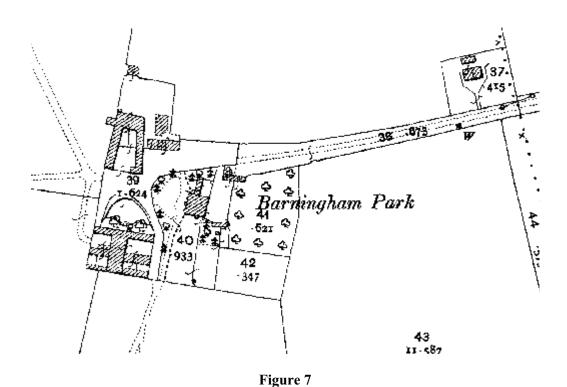


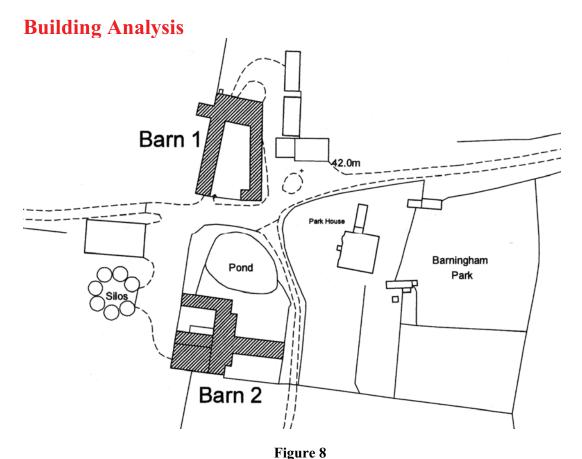
Figure 6
First edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1883

Both barn complexes are shown much as they remain today, with Barn 1 having been built since 1839 and the yard sheds added to the east and west of Barn 2. The circular feature adjoining the north-eastern corner of Barn 1 was probably a horse mill. The dotted parish boundary with Barningham parish is shown to the right.



Second edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1904
Little had changed since 1883, and the southern barn is shown with sheds to the north and south of its eastern yards (both of which have since been demolished).

The buildings underwent the usual mid-19th century transformation found on most Suffolk farms, occasioned by the falling price of grain after the Corn Laws were repealed in 1846 and the introduction of mixed animal husbandry to replace intensive cereal production. The arrival of the railways opened up new urban markets for beef and dairy produce and saw the addition of new cattle yards and shelters to hundreds of older barns across East Anglia. The northern barn complex (Barn 1) was newly built in its entirety between 1839 and 1883, when it was shown in its present form on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey (figure 6). There is nothing to suggest any of the buildings shown on the 1839 tithe map were incorporated into the new barn and yard ranges, but the survival of one or more of the detached outbuildings to the east may well explain the unusual angle of the eastern range with respect to the barn; i.e. the presence of an earlier building prevented the northern end of the new complex from extending further to the east. A circular horse mill adjoined its north-eastern corner and is likely to have been the cause of the blocked window-like aperture in the remaining wall: the mill shaft would have passed through the wall to drive machinery in the adjoining shed. The western and south-eastern extensions to the complex were both in existence by 1883 (i.e. areas 10 and 6 in figure 8) and the yard was shown with a lateral partition. The western elevation of the cow-sheds (3 & 4) appears to be shown with a broken line as open-sided shelter-sheds, as indicated by the structural evidence, but had been enclosed by the second edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 – by which time the horse mill had also vanished (as was usual elsewhere given the increasing availability of steam of internal combustion engines). The southern barn had acquired a series of open-sided shelter sheds and yards for cattle since 1839 but retained the northern bar of its earlier 'T' profile. The three western sheds still remain but only the central shed survives to the east.



Plan of site showing Park House to right with the two historic farm complexes known for planning purposes as Barn 1 and Barn 2 to the west. Park House and Barn 2 are listed at grade II. The un-shaded buildings to the east of Barn 1 are additions of the 20th century.

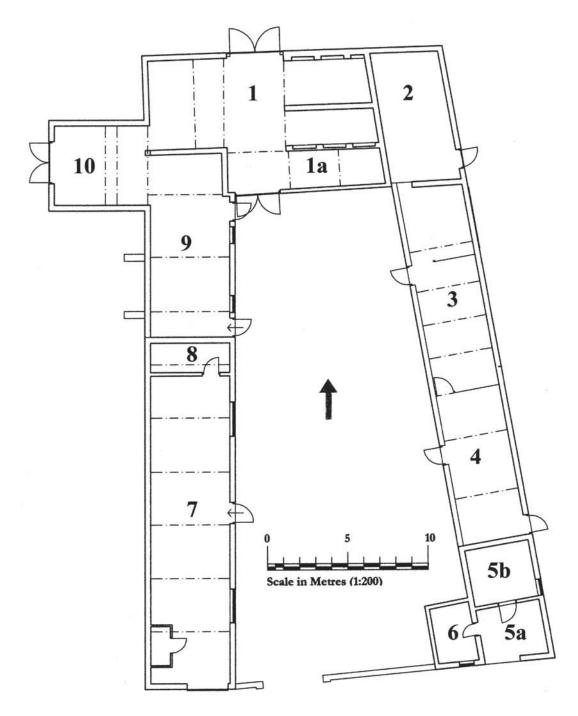


Figure 9

Block Plan of Barn 1

Identifying each historic area with a number for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. Based on a survey by Bidwells Building Consultancy

With the exception of the western and south-eastern sheds (10 & 6), which are slightly later additions, Barn 1 is a uniform, single-phase yard complex of circa 1850 comprising a timber framed barn to the north and single-storied sheds of flint rubble with red-brick dressing to east and west, all with roofs of glazed pantiles.

Key to Figure 9 (Barn 1)

- 1. Timber-framed and weatherboarded barn of six bays with unusually late straight arch-braces to tie-beams (rather than bolted knees), un-jowled storey posts and a hipped roof of staggered butt-purlins. Irregular plan with southern elevation longer than northern (probably to avoid a pre-existing detached structure shown on historic maps). Original brick threshing floor in central bay. Principal entrance to north with smaller doors to southern yard in contemporary flint lean-to porch with grain storage area to east (1a). Inserted early-20th century grain milling floor in eastern bay supported by axial brick pier. Remains of milling machinery on grain floor.
- 2. Lean-to flint shed adjoining eastern gable of barn with external entrance to east. Blocked original aperture in northern gable adjoining demolished horse mill.
- 3-4. Enclosed cow-sheds divided by boarded partition with connecting door and entered by separate half-hung doors from western yard. Low 20th century brick mangers to eastern interior and remains of 19th century boarded cattle stalls, particularly in southern shed (4). Good brick floor with axial drain and narrow lateral drains to yard. Western elevation of weatherboarded studwork but flint eastern elevation. Originally with two external doors in eastern elevation, now blocked, and adjacent internal partitions dividing the northern shed (3) into three compartments (the partitions now surviving above the tie-beams only). This range appears to have been built as an open-sided shelter shed to the stable yard and its present weatherboarded elevation and internal fittings for cattle are insertions of the later 19th century. Despite its early alterations it remains an unusually well preserved 19th century cow-shed.
- 5. Enclosed feed storage shed with enlarged entrance in its southern gable. Now with a block-work chemical storage shed in its northern half (5b).
- 6. Red brick lean-to storage shed built as an extension to the original flint fabric in *circa* 1880. Original arched window above earlier yard wall to south and door to feed shed (5a).
- 7. Former stable with central yard door flanked by two windows (now glazed) to western yard. Interior stripped of historic fixtures and fittings and with a modern concrete floor and secondary sliding entrance door in southern gable. Lateral floor drains in yard elevation. 20th century block-work 'office' in south western corner.
- 8. Narrow unlit tack room with internal door to southern stable (7) and retaining 20^{th} century iron harness hooks.
- 9. Former pair of stables with removed central partition. Each with original half-hung door and louvered window to western yard. Remains of 19th century boarded horse manger to southern end of western interior and good circular apotropaic symbols incised in plaster of southern internal gable adjacent to entrance door and manger.
- 10. Vehicle shed with double-doors in western gable. Built as an extension to the original complex in circa 1870 (its fabric is not integral and differs in texture). Now with secondary internal access to the main barn (1) and stable (9). Probably intended to deliver animals and/or feed to the adjoining pasture.

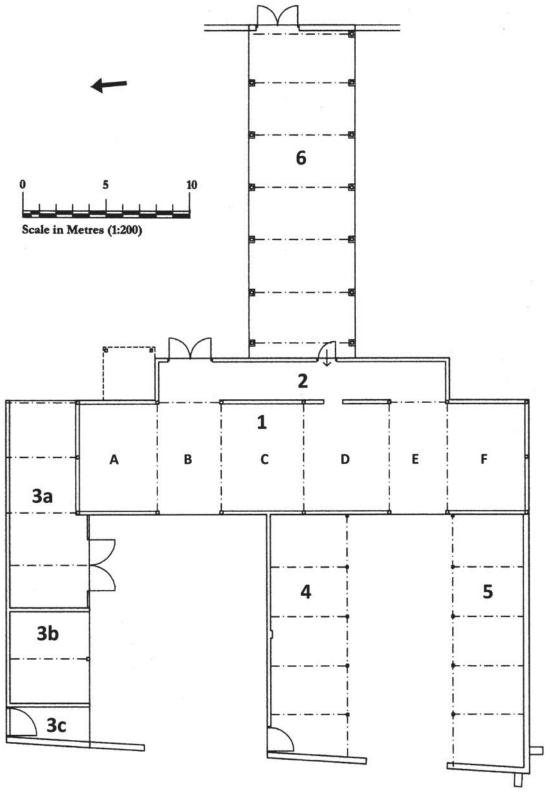


Figure 10

Block Plan of Barn 2

Identifying each historic area with a number for ease of reference in the text and photographic record. Based on a survey by Bidwells Building Consultancy

Key to Figure 10 (Barn 2)

- 1-2. Timber-framed, weatherboarded and rendered barn of three bays with straight arch-braces to tie-beams, jowled storey posts and gabled roof structure of linear butt-purlins. Largely intact original external cladding of plain render above a lower tier of weatherboarding. Steeply pitched roof for thatch but now covered with corrugated asbestos. Two threshing floors of which the southernmost (in bay E) retains a brick threshing floor. Original principal entrances to west in bays B and E (both now lacking doors) with smaller eastern doors in contemporary rear lean-to (2). The lean-to originally with a central partition now removed. A secondary 19th century aperture in the eastern elevation of bay D and some loss to rafters for secondary roof-lights but otherwise a well preserved 'Napoleonic barn' probably built in or soon after the enclosure of the local sheepwalk in 1798. An inscribed date of 1810 (later altered to 1800) to north-eastern storey post of southern threshing floor. Incorrectly ascribed to the early-18th century in the Schedule of Listed Buildings but still worthy of listing at grade II.
- 3. Single-storied red-brick and flint shed with glazed-pantile roof of pre-fabricated king-post trusses. Divided into an enclosed storage shed with double-doors to south (3a) but open-ended to the east, an open shelter shed (3b) and a narrow open-ended passage (3c) linking the two adjoining yards to south and north. A mid-19th century (*circa* 1870) reconstruction of a narrower shed on the same site which extended further to west as shown on the enclosure map of 1831. The outline of this earlier shed is clearly visible in the western gable.
- 4-5. A pair of mid-19th century red-brick and flint cattle shelter-sheds enclosing a central yard. The yard originally open but now with an early-20th century deal roof and both sheds similarly re-roofed at the same time. Glazed pantiles (with corrugated asbestos to yard roof). The southern shed (5) incorporating an earlier flint yard wall. *Circa* 1870.
- 6. A mid-19th century shed with clasped-purlin roof of glazed pantiles and open elevations to former cattle yards to north and south. Flint and brick eastern gable with double doors to admit cattle. Of exceptional width (at 6.1 m or 20 ft) and probably designed as an early form of covered cattle yard rather than a shelter-shed. *Circa* 1870

Barn 1

Structure and Date

The main barn to the north (1) is a timber-framed and weatherboarded structure of three bays on an east-west axis which extends to 6.1 m in overall width by 14 m in length to the north and 14.5 m to the south (20 ft by 46 ft and 47.5 ft). This anomaly continues throughout the entire 40 m width of the complex (130 ft), with its southern end exceeding the length of the northern end by 7 m (at 25.5 m or 84 ft as opposed to 18.5 m or 61.5 ft). There is no obvious reason for this asymmetry and it was presumably necessary to avoid a group of earlier outbuildings to the east of the barn as shown on the 19th century maps above.

The walls of the barn rise to 4.6 m at their roof-plates (15 ft), including a tall brick plinth of 1.1 m (3.5 ft), and its roof structure consists of two tiers of staggered butt-purlins with nailed collars and fully hipped gables. The straight braces linking the tie-beams to the storey posts, which lack jowls, are pegged and tenoned at both ends, while those which frame the upper corners of the central bay are nailed in place. It is unusual for a barn which post-dates the first

quarter of the 19th century to employ tenoned braces rather than bolted knee-braces but in other respects the framing is typical of the 1850s and 1860s with narrow studs nailed to diagonal primary wall braces. A good brick threshing floor survives in the central bay which contains full-height doors to the north (replaced in the 20th century) and smaller double-doors to the southern yard. The latter are contained in a contemporary flint lean-to of 2.75 m in width (9 ft) which includes a grain or feed storage area to the east. The height of the main barn would have precluded its construction in flint rather than timber framing in a region notoriously devoid of good timber but well supplied with flint. Much of the barn's timber has been re-used from earlier structures and the western gable entirely rebuilt in softwood (except its roof-plate and hipped rafters).

Layout and Function

A grain floor of tall-sectioned softwood joists supported on piers of red brick was inserted into the barn's eastern bay during the early-20th century (or possibly the late-19th century). This was a common development which reflected the increasing use of local barns as grain stores and cattle feed mills rather than threshing barns with the advent of machinery during the second half of the 19th century. A pair of iron belt-drive wheels survives on the internal eastern gable of the loft. The lean-to shed (2) adjoining the barn's eastern gable probably contained the mechanism of a horse mill shown to the north on the Ordnance Survey of 1883, and possesses an external door to the south and a blocked window-like aperture to the north. The eastern yard range seems at first sight to contain a pair of original cow sheds with boarded 19th century cattle stalls and an impressive brick floor with a raised standing to the east and an axial drain and passage to the west, but has in fact undergone considerable alteration. A pair of blocked original doors can be seen in the fabric of the eastern wall (their outlines dressed in red brick and blocked with flint), each of which adjoins the corner of an internal partition that now survives only above the tie-beams. The range was evidently divided into four compartments (the northernmost entered from the lean-to shed (2) against its northern gable) rather than two as at present, and was almost certainly open to the west as the existing flint plinth of the weatherboarded studwork is not keyed to the original plinth of the adjoining enclosed feed shed to the south (5). It probably formed the open-sided shelter-shed of a horse yard that was converted in circa 1870 to form a pair of cow sheds. These changes may well have coincided with the addition of the yards to the southern barn and the introduction of cattle to the site. The feed shed was extended by a lean-to brick store (6) before 1883 – as it is shown on the Ordnance Survey – and subdivided with cement blocks in the mid-20th century to form a chemical store (5b). A number of small, square stone blocks of uncertain origin have been incorporated in the external fabric at this end of the complex.

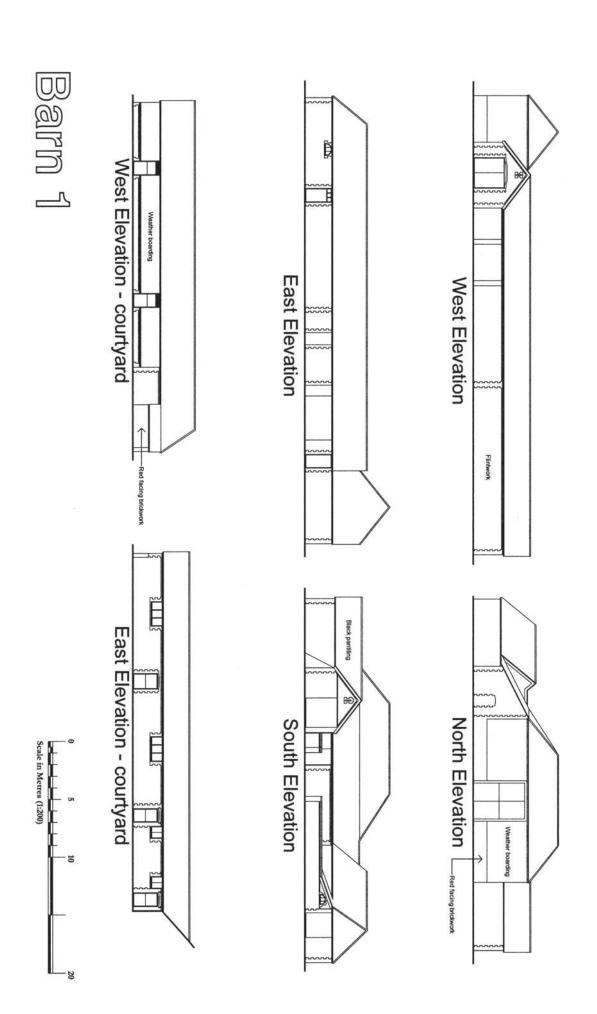
The southern yard wall is integral to the gables of both yard ranges, although the eastern pier of its gateway has been rebuilt, and the southern end of the western range forms a singlestoried stable with a central door and two windows to the east (7). The external buttresses to the western elevation of this range are 20th century additions of Fletton brick. This stable has been stripped of fixtures and fittings, and its gable door is modern, but neatly finished floor drains survive to the yard elevation (matching those of the eastern shed despite the apparent difference in date). At 19.5 m in length by 5.5 m in overall width (64 ft by 18.5 ft) this main stable would have accommodated most of the dozen working horses a farm of some 280 arable acres would have required (at the usual rate of 20 to 30 acres per animal). The eastern range, in contrast, is just 4.25 m wide (14 ft) and 30 cm lower at its eaves (at 2.2 m at its roof plate rather than 2.6 m – or 7.5 ft and 8.5 ft respectively). A narrow tack room of 1.8 m in width (6 ft) with iron harness hooks divided the southern stable from two smaller stables to the north (9) which have now been combined into a single space. The two half-hung doors and louvered windows at this end of the range are original, and a section of 19th century boarded manger survives in its south-western corner. At 1.2 m in height this was designed for horses rather than cattle but the hay rack is lacking. A good series of circular apotropaic (evilaverting) symbols survive on the original lime render of the southern interior, close to both the yard door and manger. Concentric circles of this kind were traditionally used in East Anglia as superstitious devices to protect animals and crops from evil spirits – in much the same way as hag-stones or suspended horse shoes.

The shed which projects from the main barn's western elevation is a secondary addition with vehicle doors in its gable which differs in its flint fabric and is not keyed to the older walls. It was however carefully designed to match the rest of the complex and was present by 1883. It is now connected to both the barn and northern stable by secondary internal doorways, and was presumably intended to allow feed and either horses or cattle directly from the barn complex to the adjoining field which was shown as pasture land on the tithe map of 1839.

Historic Significance

'Barn 1' is a single-phase barn and yard complex of particularly elegant, uniform design with glazed pantiled roofs and (with the exception of the main threshing barn) flint-rubble fabric with dressings of red brick to its corners, windows and doors. Its general proportions and appearance have changed exceptionally little since its construction in *circa* 1850 and it represents one of the best complexes of its kind in the county. Its combination of flint and glazed pantiles is particularly characteristic of the Breckland region and reflects the final phase of enclosure of the ancient medieval heath in the area during the mid-19th century. As such it is of considerable historic interest but may not meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing in its own right due to its relatively late date and the removal of most of its original fixtures and fittings.

Figure 11 (page 14) Elevations of Barn 1 (Drawn by Bidwells Building Consultancy)



Barn 2

Structure and Date

The main barn of the southern complex known for planning purposes as Barn 2 is the oldest farm building on the site. Its timber-framed structure contains six bays and extends to 26.8 m in length by 6.7 in overall width (88 ft by 22 ft) on a north-south axis and its walls rise to 4.4 m at their roof-plates (14.5 ft), including a red-brick plinth of 0.9 m (3 ft). The roof is steeply pitched at *circa* 55 degrees for thatch (in contrast to the northern barn) but is now covered in corrugated asbestos: its structure consists of two tiers of linear butt-purlins and its neatly jowled storey posts are linked by straight arch-braces to the horizontal tie-beams – some of which appear to be of deal rather than oak. With the exception of sections of lost rafters due to the insertion of later roof lights this impressive structure remains intact, unlike most barns of this period in which all or some tie-beam braces were later replaced by bolted knee-braces to increase headroom.

The walls consist of narrow studs interrupted by straight diagonal braces which are pegged and tenoned to the storey posts and sills (unlike the studs), and contain original western entrances in bays B and E which at 3.6 m (12 ft) are narrower than the standard bays (of 4.5 m or 15 ft). The eastern doors immediately opposite are 2.6 m in width (8.5 ft) and housed in a contemporary rear lean-to of 3 m in width (10 ft) which (like that of Barn 1) includes a single grain store to one side of each threshing bay: the central partition has been removed. The main barn, in contrast, has never been sub-divided. The original 'two-tier' external cladding survives to the rear of the northern bay (A), to the external northern gable and much of the western elevation where it is protected within later sheds. This consists of unpainted roughcast render above a section of weatherboarding which rises some 90 cm (3 ft) above the brick plinth (i.e. three quarters render and one quarter boarding - in addition to the brick plinth). The front elevation appears always to have boasted better quality lime render on laths while the gable and rear walls used wattle-and-daub with vertical coppice poles tied to widely spaced external laths. There is no evidence of tar – which became common only at the end of the 19th century as a cheap by-product of town gas production. Many early-19th century barns were clad in this manner, both in the east and west of Suffolk, but few examples survive in such good condition. The inner wall between the main barn and the rear lean-to also retains its original wattle-and-daub (without boarding) and the exposed timbers are chiselled with carpenters' Roman numerals.

The barn is dated to the early-18th century in the Schedule of Listed Buildings but its framing is in fact typical of the many barns that were rebuilt in Suffolk around 1800 in response to the cereal boom of the Napoleonic wars. The high prices of grain caused by restrictions on imports from the continent made it profitable to plough the Brecklands and Sandlings in the county for the first time in centuries. A very similar barn on the neighbouring farm to the east (now known as Barningham Barn in Coney Weston) is not shown on the 1798 enclosure map, which labels the fields surrounding Barningham Park as 'sheepwalk' (i.e. rough grazing), and the barn here is almost certainly dated by the inscription 'I R 1810' carved into the northeastern storey post of the southernmost of its two narrow threshing bays - which also preserves an original brick threshing floor. This date appears to have been altered to read 1800 by squeezing an additional '0' into the narrow gap between the '8' and the following '1', and it is unclear which of the two was originally intended. 'Foundation' inscriptions of this kind are often found in local barns and may well have been associated with a ritual of some form. Despite its later date and the loss of its thatch the barn still merits listing at grade II in my view, although many similar 'Napoleonic barns' in the county remain unlisted. A secondary aperture in the eastern elevation of bay D appears to be a mid-19th century insertion designed to give access to the new eastern cattle yard of the same period.

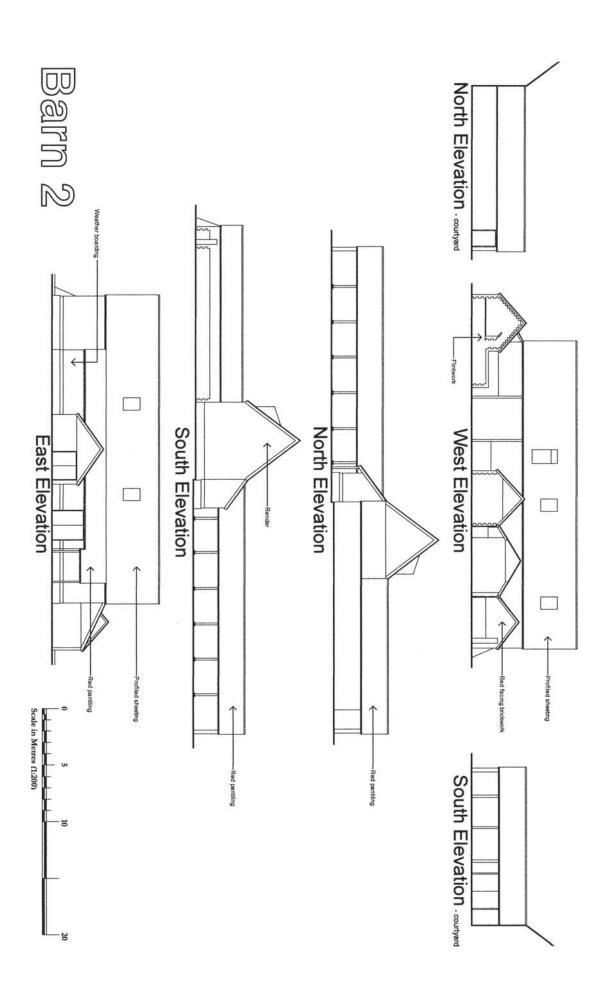
Ancillary Sheds

The single-storied yard sheds of brick and flint with roofs of glazed pantiles which adjoin the western and eastern elevations of the main threshing barn (4-6) are mid-19th century additions which were not shown on the tithe map of 1839 but appeared in their present form on the Ordnance Survey of 1883. They date from circa 1870 when cattle were evidently introduced to the site in some numbers, as described above. The western sheds are 14.1 m in length (46.5 ft) and enclose a cattle yard which was provided with a roof of corrugated asbestos in the 20th century when both sheds were also re-roofed and provided with new arcade posts in softwood. The wall fabric of the southern shed (5) incorporates what appears to be a lower flint boundary wall from an earlier phase of the complex. The eastern shed is unusually wide at 6.1 m (20 ft) and is open to both north and south having apparently been designed as a covered yard rather than a normal shelter shed. The 19th century Ordnance Surveys show the building, which extends to an impressive 20 m in length (66 ft) and retains its original clasped-purlin roof, flanked by open yards with additional sheds that no longer survive. Double doors in the eastern gable suggest it was used as a thoroughfare for cattle. The northern shed (3) adjoins the barn's gable and formerly continued to the east as shown on the Ordnance Surveys. Its roof contains a king-post truss of late-19th century type but a building is shown on the same site in 1831 and the western gable preserves the outline of a lower, narrower flint-rubble structure that formed the building's distinctive T-shape but was later rebuilt. It contains a vehicle shed to the east, an open shelter-shed in the centre and an unusual narrow passage linking the adjoining yards to the west.

Historic Significance

The main barn of Barn 2 is an impressively large and unusually complete 'Napoleonic' example which retains its full complement of original tie-beam braces and much of its distinctive 'two-tier' external cladding of render and weatherboarding. It illustrates an important period in the agricultural history of the region, when the local medieval 'sheepwalk' shown on the enclosure map of 1798 was enclosed and ploughed for the first time, and is of considerable historic interest accordingly. The date of 1810 (altered to 1800) on its storey post almost certainly represents a foundation inscription, and in my view the building remains worthy of listing at grade II despite the loss of its thatch and a later origin than suggested in the Schedule of Listed Buildings. The various yard sheds are additions which illustrate a second dramatic change in the local agricultural landscape: the introduction of the system of mixed animal husbandry known as Victorian High Farming. These too are therefore of historic interest despite the replacement of two of their four 19th century roof structures.

Figure 12 (page 17)
Elevations of Barn 2 (Drawn by Bidwells Building Consultancy)



Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record

Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1

Photograph no.

- 1. General view of site from south-west showing Barn 2 to right and Barn 1 in rear to left.
- 2. General view of site from north showing Barn 1 to right.
- 3. General view of site from south-east showing house to right and Barn 2 to left.
- 4. General view of site from north-west showing Barn 1 to left and Barn 2 in rear to right.
- 5. General view of site from approach track to east showing house to left and Barn 1 to right.
- 6. General view of Barn 1 from south-west showing approach track to right.
- 7. General view of Barn 1 from north-west showing main barn (1) to left, vehicle shed (10) in centre and stable (7) to right.
- 8. Exterior of Barn 1 from south showing yard entrance to right.
- 9. Exterior of Barn 1 from north showing main barn (1) to right and cow house range (2-5) to left.
- 10. Exterior of Barn 1 from south-east showing yard entrance to left.
- 11. Yard of Barn 1 from south showing main barn (1) in centre with stable (7) to left and cow-house (3) to right.
- 12. Southern entrance to yard of Barn 1 showing gable of stable (7) to left.
- 13. Southern entrance to yard of Barn 1 showing cow house (3-4) and feed shed (7) to right.
- 14. Northern exterior of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing 20th century doors.
- 15. Exterior of main barn (1) from yard of Barn 1 to south showing original entrance to left.
- 16. Exterior lean-to shed (2) of Barn 1 from east showing main barn (1) in rear and entrance to left.
- 17. Central threshing bay of main barn (1) of Barn 1 from north-west showing axial brick pier of grain floor to left.
- 18. Interior of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing inserted grain floor to east of threshing floor and entrance to lean-to (1a) right.

- 19. Interior of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing inserted early-20th century grain floor with central entrances to right and left.
- 20. Roof structure of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing original arch-braces flanking central threshing bay.
- 21. Detail of staggered butt-purlins with nailed collars in roof of main barn (1) of Barn 1.
- 22. Internal northern elevation of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing central entrance to right and western gable to left.
- 23. Internal western gable of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing later door to vehicle shed (10) left.
- 24. Detail of hipped roof of western internal gable of main barn (1) of Barn 1.
- 25. Internal south-western corner of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing contemporary lean-to porch (1a) to left.
- 26. Detail of southern interior of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing re-used timber and lattice to stable (9).
- 27. Original brick threshing floor of main barn (1) of Barn 1 looking towards northern entrance.
- 28. Detail of northern entrance of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing original straight 'arch-braces' to tie-beams and roof-plate.
- 29. Southern internal entrance of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing double doors to yard in lean-to porch (1a).
- 30. Interior of lean-to porch (1a) of Barn 1 seen from entrance bay of main barn (1) to west.
- 31. Interior of main barn (1) of Barn 1 from west showing secondary brick piers of early-20th century grain floor in eastern bay.
- 32. Interior of grain floor in eastern bay of main barn (1) of barn showing grain milling fly-wheels to left.
- 33. Detail of iron pulley wheels of grain mill attached to eastern internal gable of main barn (1) of Barn 1.
- 34. Internal southern elevation of grain floor in eastern bay of main barn (1) of Barn 1.
- 35. Detail of central bay of main barn (1) of Barn 1 from north showing nailed braces to roof-plate of entrance to porch (1a).
- 36. Exterior of eastern range of Barn 1 from north-east showing door to lean-to shed (2) to left.
- 37. Interior from south of lean-to shed (2) of Barn 1 adjoining boarded western gable of main barn (1) to left.

- 38. Interior from north of lean-to shed (2) of Barn 1 showing door to cow-house (3) with main barn (1) to right.
- 39. Eastern external gable of main barn (1) of Barn 1 from lean-to shed (20 to southwest.
- 40. Interior of cow house (3) from south showing brick manger to right and floor drain to left.
- 41. Detail of axial floor drain of cow-house (3) in Barn 1 seen from south, showing door to lean-to shed (2) in rear.
- 42. Internal eastern elevation of cow-house (3) of Barn 1 showing original door blocked with flint & remains of removed partition.
- 43. Eastern interior of cow-shed (3) of Barn 1 showing two original doors blocked with flint and remains in roof of removed walls.
- 44. Northern end of eastern interior of cow-house (3) in Barn 1 showing blocked door to right.
- 45. Detail from east of external lateral floor drain of cow-shed (3) in Barn 1.
- 46. Internal detail of floor drain in western interior of cow-house (3) of Barn 1.
- 47. Interior of cow-shed (3) of Barn 1 from north showing manger to left and door to southern shed (4) in rear.
- 48. Interior of southern cow shed (4) of Barn 1 from north showing boarded stalls and external door to left.
- 49. Interior from south of cow-shed (4) in Barn 1 showing boarded stalls to right and door to northern shed (3) in rear.
- 50. Boarded cattle stalls against the eastern interior of cow-shed (4) of Barn 1.
- 51. Detail of floor and stalls at northern end of southern cow shed (4) of Barn 1.
- 52. Clasped-purlin roof structure of cow shed (4) of Barn 1 seen from north and showing feed store (5) in rear.
- 53. External western elevation of cow shed (3) of Barn 1 showing double-hung entrance door.
- 54. External western elevation of eastern range of Barn 1 showing doors to cow sheds (3 & 4 to left and right).
- 55. Detail of double-hung door to cow shed (3) of Barn 1 in western exterior showing floor drain to right.
- 56. Detail of external western yard door to cow shed (3) showing floor drain to right.
- 57. External western door to cow shed (4) showing floor drain to left.

- 58. Detail of floor drain to left of external western door to cow shed (4) of Barn 1.
- 59. Yard of Barn 1 from north showing stable (7) to right and cow sheds (3-4) to left.
- 60. Yard of Barn 1 from south showing original boundary wall pier to left and main barn (1) in rear.
- 61. Western exterior of cow shed (3) of Barn 1 showing straight joint to feed shed (5) to right.
- 62. Detail of straight joint between cow shed (4) of Barn 1 to left and feed shed (5) suggesting cow shed originally open fronted.
- 63. Southern end of eastern exterior of eastern range of Barn 1 showing door to cow shed (4).
- 64. Northern end of eastern range of Barn 1 seen from south-east showing brick dressing of two blocked doors.
- 65. Detail of brick dressing of two blocked eastern external doors to cow shed (3) of Barn 1.
- 66. Interior from south of feed shed (5) of Barn 1 showing modern chemical store (5b).
- 67. Western interior of feed store (5a) of Barn 1 showing door to secondary lean-to shed (6).
- 68. Southern external gable of stable (7) of Barn 1 showing secondary door with yard to right.
- 69. Detail of ventilation loop in roof gable of stable (7) of Barn 1.
- 70. Western exterior of western stable range of Barn 1 showing 20th century buttresses.
- 71. Interior of stable (7) of Barn 1 from south showing central yard door flanked by windows to right.
- 72. Interior of stable (7) of Barn 1 from north showing fixing points of removed manger and hay rack to right.
- 73. Detail of softwood clasped-purlin roof structure of stable (7) of Barn 1.
- 74. Internal southern gable of stable (7) of Barn 1 showing 20th century inserted door.
- 75. Internal detail of ventilation loop of southern gable of stable (7) of Barn 1 showing frogs in bricks.
- 76. Eastern interior of yard door of stable (7) of Barn 1 showing irregular bonding with dressing to door.
- 77. Northern gable of stable (7) of Barn 1 showing door to tack room (8).

- 78. Interior of tack room (8) of Barn 1 from east showing iron harness hooks.
- 79. Interior of tack room (8) of Barn 1 from east showing iron harness hooks and door to stable (7).
- 80. Eastern exterior of stable range of Barn 1 showing doors to stables (7 & 9 left to right).
- 81. Eastern exterior of stable (7) if Barn 1 showing brick dressing to original door and window.
- 82. Northern end of western stable range of Barn 1 from east showing two doors to stable (9).
- 83. Detail of eastern exterior of stable (9) showing northern door and louvered window with barn (1) to right.
- 84. Eastern interior of stable (9) of Barn 1 showing two doors with scar of removed central partition.
- 85. Interior of stable (9) of Barn 1 showing southern exterior of barn (1) in rear with secondary opening to western shed (10) left.
- 86. Roof structure of stable (9) of Barn 1 seen from north.
- 87. Eastern interior of stable (9) of Barn 1 showing lean-to porch (1a) of main barn (1) to left.
- 88. Interior of stable (9) of Barn 1 from north-east showing later opening to western shed (10) to right.
- 89. Internal southern gable of stable (9) of Barn 1 showing boarded manger to right & apotropaic marks to left.
- 90. Detail of boarded manger to southern end of western interior of stable (9) of Barn 1.
- 91. Incised circular apotropaic marks in render of southern interior of stable (9) of Barn 1.
- 92. Detail of circular apotropaic marks above boarded manger in south-western corner of stable (9) of Barn 1.
- 93. Detail of apotropaic marks at eastern side of southern interior of stable (9) of Barn 1 (adjacent to entrance door to left).
- 94. Interior of western secondary vehicle shed (10) of Barn 1 from east showing external double doors.
- 95. Interior of vehicle shed (10) of Barn 1 from west showing later access to stable (9) right and main barn (1) left.
- 96. Roof structure of western vehicle shed (10) of Barn 1 from east.

- 97. Western external gable of vehicle shed (10) of Barn 1 showing main barn (1) to left.
- 98. Eastern exterior of stable (7) of Barn 1 showing floor drain at foot of wall.
- 99. Junction of western shed (10) and stable (9) of Barn 1 from south-west showing later fabric of former to left.
- 100. Western section of yard wall of Barn 1 from south showing integral brick dressing of pier and stable (7).
- 101. Eastern section of yard wall of Barn 1 from south showing later arched window to lean-to shed (6).
- 102. Detail of re-used stone in flintwork of eastern exterior of cow shed (4) of Barn 1.
- 103. Exterior of Barn 2 from south-east showing walled yard and eastern shelter shed (6) to right with main barn (1) left.
- 104. General view of Barn 2 from south-west showing mid-19th century yard sheds in foreground.
- 105. Western exterior of Barn 2 showing main barn (1) in rear with sheds 3, 4 & 5 from left to right in foreground.
- 106. Exterior of Barn 2 from north-west showing gables of yard sheds to right.
- 107. Exterior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 from south-east showing corrugated asbestos with pantiles of eastern lean-to (2) to right.
- 108. Northern end of western exterior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing original entrance in bay B with modern cladding.
- 109. Northern end of eastern exterior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing open shelter shed (6) to left.
- 110. Northern external gable of main barn (1) of Barn 2 from open shed (3a) to northwest, showing original two-tier cladding.
- 111. Northern external gable of main barn (1) of Barn 2 from open shed (3a) to northwest, showing original two-tier cladding.
- 112. Detail of original external render to northern gable of main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- 113. Detail of original two-tier cladding to external northern gable of main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- 114. Northern end of eastern exterior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing open lean-to in angle of barn and rear lean-to (2).
- 115. Eastern exterior of bay A of main barn of Barn 1 showing two-tier cladding with wattle-and-daub above boarding.
- 116. Detail of wattle and daub to eastern exterior of bay A of main barn (1) of Barn 2.

- 117. Western exterior of bays C & D of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing original two-tier cladding (from shed 4).
- 118. Interior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 from south showing intact straight tie-beam braces & brick threshing floor in bay E in foreground.
- 119. Interior from south of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing intact linear butt-purlin roof and steep pitch for thatch.
- 120. Detail from south of roof of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing horizontal tiebeams and braces.
- 121. Roof structure of main barn of Barn 2 showing linear butt-purlins, ridge board and later roof-light apertures.
- 122. Eastern interior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing original threshing bays B & E from left to right.
- 123. Internal northern gable of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing lean-to porch (2) adjoining bay B to right.
- 124. Detail of tie-beam trusses flanking bay B of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing jowled storey posts and braces.
- 125. Eastern interior of bay A of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing original two-tier cladding with brick infill against lower boarding.
- 126. Detail of wattle and daub infill of eastern interior of bay A of main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- 127. Eastern interior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing original apertures to left and right with secondary opening in bay D centre.
- 128. Eastern interior of bays E and F of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing dated storey post to left.
- 129. Carved date to southern edge of north-eastern storey post of bay E in main barn (1) of Barn 2. Originally 1810 but altered to 1800.
- 130. Western interior of bay & original entrance bay E of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing later cattle yard in rear.
- 131. Brick threshing floor in bay E of main barn (1) of Barn 2 seen from east.
- 132. Brick threshing floor in bay E of main barn (1) of Barn 2 seen from west and extending into lean-to porch (2).
- Detail of original corner braces and later studwork in entrance bay E of main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- Western interior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing original entrances in bays E & B to left & right with lath-and-plaster infill.
- 135. Detail of ostensibly original lath-and-plaster to western interior of main barn (1) of Barn 2.

- 136. Detail of groove for retaining board on south-western post of threshing bay E of main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- 137. Detail of chiselled carpenter's numerals and shaped jowl to typical storey post in main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- Detail of secondary aperture in eastern interior of bay D of main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- 139. Original rear door in eastern interior of lean-to shed (2) from threshing bay (B) of main barn (1) of Barn 2.
- 140. Interior from north of rear eastern lean-to shed showing original daub to main barn (1) of Barn 2 to right.
- 141. Detail of carpenter's numeral and original daub to eastern surface of south-eastern storey post in bay B of main barn (1).
- 142. Interior from south of lean-to shed (2) of Barn 2 showing mortises of removed partition in tie-beam with bay D to left.
- 143. Two tier cladding of western exterior of bay F of barn (1) of Barn 2 seen from shelter shed (5).
- 144. Interior of 20th century covered cattle yard of Barn 2 from west showing sheds (4 and 5) to left and right.
- 145. Interior of shelter shed (4) of Barn 2 from east showing cattle yard to left.
- 146. Interior of shelter shed (5) of Barn 2 from west showing cattle yard to left and main barn (1) in rear.
- 147. Yard shelters (4 and 5) with 20th century covered yard of Barn 2 seen from north-west.
- 148. Western external gables of yard shelter sheds (4 & 5) of Barn 2 showing main barn (1) in rear.
- 149. Exterior of yard shelters (4 & 5) of Barn 2 from south-west showing main barn (1) in rear.
- 150. Exterior of northern yard shed (3) of Barn 2 from south-west showing open section (3b) in centre.
- 151. Detail of rubble bonding to western external gable of shelter shed (4) of Barn 2.
- 152. Detail of western external gable of shed 3 of Barn 2 showing possible alteration or extension of earlier gable.
- 153. Interior from west of open shed (3b) of Barn 2.
- 154. King post roof truss from west of open shed (3b) of Barn 2.

- 155. Open arcade of central shed (3b) of Barn 2 from north showing mortises of removed studs in roof-plate.
- 156. Interior of open shed (3a) from west showing north-western external corner of main barn (1) of Barn 2 to right.
- 157. Interior of open shed (3a) from east showing north-western external corner of main barn (1) of Barn 2 to left.
- 158. Open passage at western end of yard shed (3c) of Barn 2 as seen from south-east.
- 159. Interior from south of narrow passage linking yards at western gable of northern yard shed (3) of Barn 2.
- 160. Exterior from north of rear shelter shed (6) adjoining main barn (1) of Barn 2 to right.
- 161. Interior from east of eastern shelter shed (6) of Barn 2 showing lean-to shed (2) in rear.
- 162. Interior from west of eastern shelter shed (6) of Barn 2 showing doorway in eastern gable in rear.
- 163. Eastern yard wall of Barn 2 from south-east showing gable of eastern shelter shed (6) to right.
- 164. Eastern yard wall of Barn 2 from north-east showing gable of eastern shelter shed (6) to left.

Appendix 2 (pp. 27-34): Selected Printed Photographs



Illus. 1. General view of site from south-west showing Barn 2 to right and Barn 1 in rear to left.



Illus. 2. Exterior of Barn 1 from south showing hipped roof of main barn (1) in rear with gable of stable (7) to left and cow shed range (3-5) to right.



Illus. 3. Yard of Barn 1 from south showing hipped main barn (1) in centre with western stable range (7-9) to left and eastern cow-house range (3-5) to right. The latter was converted from an open-sided shelter shed.



Illus. 4. Interior from west of main barn (1) of Barn 1 showing the early-20th century inserted grain floor to the east of the central bay which retains an original brick threshing floor. The lean-to shed (1a) adjoining the yard is visible to the right.

Note the unusually late straight braces to the tie-beams.



Illus. 5. Interior of northern cow-shed (3) of Barn 1 from north showing low secondary brick manger to left and door to southern shed (4) in rear. The two blocked doors of the eastern elevation are visible to the left, and the two associated lateral partitions still survive above the tie-beams.



Illus. 6. Interior from south of southern cow-shed (4) of Barn 1 showing 19th century boarded stalls to right and door to northern shed (3) in rear. Note the brick floor with axial drain and yard elevation of boarded studwork to left (replacing an original open arcade).



Illus. 7. The original double-hung doors and louvered windows in the eastern exterior of the northern stable (9) which was originally divided in two. The secondary doors of the main barn (1) of Barn 1 are shown to the right.



Illus. 8. Internal southern gable of northern stable (9) of Barn 1 showing its yard door to the left and an original boarded manger to right. Circular apotropaic marks are incised in the barn adjacent to the entrance and above the manger.



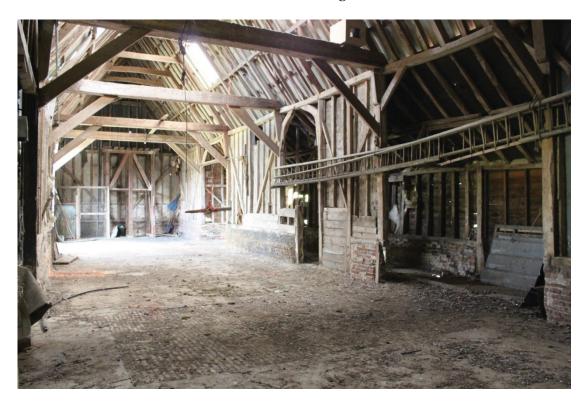
Illus. 9. Detail of circular apotropaic marks incised in lime render to eastern side of southern interior of stable (9) in Barn 1 (adjacent to entrance door to left).



Illus. 10. Western exterior of grade II-listed Barn 2 showing main barn (1) in rear (originally thatched but now with a corrugated asbestos roof) and sheds 3, 4 & 5 from left to right in foreground. The roof over the cattle yard between sheds 4 & 5 to the right is an addition of the mid- $20^{\rm th}$ century.



Illus. 11. Northern external gable of main barn (1) of Barn 2 seen from adjoining open shed (3a) to north-west, showing the original two-tier cladding of render above weatherboarding.



Illus. 12. Eastern interior of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing the two original threshing bays B & E from left to right with an intact brick threshing floor in the foreground. The central doorway is a later insertion. The northern (left-hand) storey post of bay E to the right bears the carved date and initials shown in illus. 14.



Illus. 13. Detail from south of roof of main barn (1) of Barn 2 showing intact horizontal tie-beams and braces with two tiers of linear butt-purlins above. The roof is steeply pitched for thatch.



Illus. 14. Carved date and initials to southern edge of north-eastern storey post of threshing bay E in main barn (1) of Barn 2. Originally 1810 but altered to 1800 by inserting a narrow second zero. This is contemporary with the initials I R (probably representing J R), while 'E A' was carved in 1922. The barn's structure suggests it was built in or very shortly before 1810.



Illus. 15. Interior of 20th century covered cattle yard of Barn 2 from west showing open shelter-sheds 4 and 5 to left and right respectively. The southern entrance in bay E of the main barn (1) is visible in the rear, flanked by original two-tier cladding.



Illus. 16. Detail of western external gable of shed 3 of Barn 2 showing the outline of the narrower, earlier shed (as shown on the tithe map) which was incorporated into the present building.