



CAM ARC Report Number 1017

The Treshing Barn, Chipping Hall, Chipping, Hertfordshire

Historic Building Recording and
Archaeological Watching Brief

Taleyna Fletcher

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Taleyna Fletcher BA, AIFA

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PROJECT DETAILS				
Project name	Chipping Hall Farm, Chipping, Hertfordshire: Building Recording and Watching Brief			
Short description	<p>CAM ARC of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted a historical building survey and archaeological investigations at Chipping Hall Farm, Chipping, Hertfordshire in advance of alterations to two buildings and preparation for the construction of a new dwelling.</p> <p>This work was carried out in response to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Councils Historical Environment Unit. The brief required that a full historical building survey was carried out on an existing building, thought to be a threshing barn and that a rapid recording was undertaken on a second building which was already undergoing alterations. A separate brief was issued for archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a new building.</p> <p>The historic building survey, together with consultation of cartographic and documentary sources enabled the threshing barn to be dated as late 18th/ early 19th century. The second building retained little original fabric and was difficult to access due to alteration works. The archaeological investigations revealed debris and demolition rubble, but no archaeological features were identified and no building material was recorded in-situ.</p>			
Project dates	Start	12 th March 2008	End	25 th March 2008
Previous work	N/A		Future work	Unknown
Associated project reference codes	CAM ARC Site Code: XHTCHH08 Planning Ref No. 3/07/2027			
Type of project	Building Recording and Archaeological Watching Brief			
Site status	Within grounds of listed building			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Disused barns			
Planned development	Conversion into holiday lets and associated services			
Monument types / period (list all that apply)	Farm Building			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply)	Post medieval Barn			
PROJECT LOCATION				
County	Hertfordshire	Parish	Buntingford	
HER for region	Hertfordshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Chipping Hall, Chipping, Hertfordshire,			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	4721sq. m.			
National grid reference	TL 35488 31979			
Height OD	Min OD	103.9m OD	Max OD	104.7m OD
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation	CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Hertfordshire's Historic Environment Office			
Project design originator	CAM ARC			
Director/supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher			
Project manager	Toby Gane			
Sponsor or funding body	The Clarke Smith Partnership			
ARCHIVES				
	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical	None		None	
Paper	Buntingford Heritage Centre Manor House Market Hill Buntingford, SG9 9AB		Site notes, historical background, site photographs, annotated site plans and elevations.	
Digital	As above		Digital Photographs on CD.	
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Summary

On 25th March 2008, CAM ARC (formally the Archaeological Field Unit) of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted a historical building survey and archaeological investigations at Chipping Hall Farm, Chipping, Hertfordshire in advance of alterations to two buildings and preparation for the construction of a new dwelling.

This work was carried out in response to a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Councils Historic Environment Unit. The brief required that a full historical building survey was carried out on an existing building, thought to be a threshing barn and that a rapid recording was undertaken on a second building which was already undergoing alterations. A separate brief was issued for the archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a new building.

The historic building survey, together with consultation of cartographic and documentary sources enabled the threshing barn to be dated as late 18th/ early 19th century. The second building retained little original fabric and was difficult to access due to alteration works. The archaeological investigations revealed debris and demolition rubble, but no archaeological features were identified and no building material was recorded *in-situ*.

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1 Introduction

The work was designed to assess the historical context of the buildings within the development area and to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the location of the groundworks around barn 2, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by Hertfordshire County Councils Historic Environment Unit, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found and future historic building work within the area.

This investigation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Allison Tinniswood of the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (Planning Reference 3/07/2027), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CAM ARC (formally Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit). The Brief required that a detailed archaeological building recording was carried out on the threshing barn and a rapid recording was carried out on a second building undergoing alterations. A separate brief was issued for archaeological monitoring to be carried out during the excavation of the footings for the proposed extension to the second building.

The site archive is currently held by CAM ARC and will be deposited with the appropriate Hertfordshire stores in due course.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Archaeological Background and SMR Entries for Chipping (500m radius of the site)

The HER research was conducted within a 500m radius of Chipping Hall. This generated six records, summarised by period in the table below.

Table 1: HER entries for 500m radius of Chipping Hall

SMR Number	Site Name	Date	SMR Description
13142	Romano-British Field System	Roman (50AD-410AD)	Groundworks for a new access road to the Water Treatment Works uncovered three interconnecting ditches with identical fills. These included abraded Romano-British potsherds. Further unstratified similar sherds were found during the works, suggesting part of a Roman field system in the vicinity of, but not close to, settlement. This system is on a

			similar alignment to cropmarks of rectangular enclosures in the area
11674	Approximate site of Medieval Market	Medieval (1066-1500)	A charter was granted in 1252 to the manor of Popes Hall, Buckland, for a market held on Ermine Street just north of a crossing of the river Rib. The site was called Chipping, a Saxon word meaning market; it was 'moderately successful'. In 1360, after disastrous harvests in the earlier part of the 14 th century and the Black Death in 1349, Chipping was described as a 'vacant place'. As a result the market was transferred 2.8km to the south on Ermine Street to Buntingford (which had been an informal trading place since the previous century).
6321	Dovecote, Chipping Hall	Post Medieval (1500-1900)	c. 1700. Redbrick chequered with blue brick, remains of plastered eaves core and steep pyramidal roof now slated. A tall square dovecote with principal entrance with brick label and ovolo moulded oval window on north. Floor inserted when converted to a granary in C19th.
5044	Milepost	Post Medieval (1500-1900)	Milestone, north of Chipping, made of stone. Turnpike Minute Book 1742 notes a resolution to erect stones from 'Wadesmill to Royston in the northern road'. The top of the stone has been recently chipped. Plate broken, raised black lettering: 33/Buntingford/2. Both the stone and metal plate are very badly damaged; less than half the stone now survives.
4395	Cropmarks	Undated	Cropmarks of a series of intersecting linear ditches showing on aerial photographs. These may be fields.
13119	Chalk Pit(?)	Undated	A large sub-circular blob with signs of disturbed chalk in the field east of Chipping and south of the reservoir. Nothing appears on historic OS maps.

2.2 Historical Background

The village of Chipping is situated along the Roman Road of Ermine Street (A10), approximately half a mile north of the larger settlement of Buntingford (Figure 1).

The name 'Chipping', sometimes called 'New Chipping' meaning marketplace, acquired its name on account of the market which was established there in 1252. In 1252 the Lord of Popes Hall had a grant of a weekly market on Fridays and a three-day fair to be held yearly (VCH, 1971, pg43-48). At this time, Chipping was attached to the

Manor of Popes Hall in Buckland (Seddon, 1999, pg 3). The tolls of the market at Popes Hall were farmed at 16 shillings yearly in 1322 and the market was held at the 'New Cheping'. By 1360 Chipping was described as a 'vacant place' and the Lady of the Manor, Elizabeth de Burgh received licence to transfer the market to Buntingford and the fair was also abolished, however, it appears to have been renewed at some point after, since two fairs; one at Chipping and one at Buntingford were reportedly abolished in 1883. (VCH, 1971, pg43-48).

A study of the placenames of Hertfordshire (Gover, Mawer and Stenton, pg. 176) finds different spellings of Chipping in various historical sources:

1360	le Neuchpyng (Charter Rolls)
1445	Newchepyng
1518-29	New Chepyng in Buckland (Early chancery proceedings)
1533-38	New Chipping
1700	Cheppen (Sessions Books)

Finding specific reference to the history or development of the farm itself was problematic as very little has been written about Chipping. The Department of the Environment listing from 1984 describes Chipping Hall and associated buildings in detail (see 3.3), which suggests that Chipping Hall and the dovecote date to the early 18th century.

By consulting the Kelly's Post Office Directories of Hertfordshire, it was possible to compile a list of the occupants of the farm over a short period of time between 1851 and 1937 (Appendix 1).

3 Building Recording Survey

3.1 Methodology

A site visit was made on 25th March 2008 to carry out historical building analysis of a barn at Chipping Hall Farm, Chipping in north Hertfordshire. The brief required that as well as recording the barn (Building 1, Figure 2), a brief inspection and summary was carried out on another building (Building 2, Figure 2) which was being converted.

A full detailed description of all external elevations and all internal dimensions, fixtures and fittings of barn 1 were undertaken. A floor plan was supplied by the client in CAD format, which was annotated and checked on site. Access to building 2 was restricted due to building work, however photographs and visual observations were

possible. Photographs were taken using a digital and SLR cameras (black and white and slide film).

To fully understand the context of the barn and its historical setting, it was also necessary to carry out a brief external inspection of the other buildings within Chipping Hall Farm, taking photographs where necessary.

All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out in by the IFA (1999) and was undertaken by an experienced archaeologist. Scaled architects drawings, supplied by the client in CAD format, were used for field notes and were annotated and amended on site as necessary. Elevations were drawn at a scale of 1:50 and structure techniques and full descriptions were carried out whilst on site.

3.2 Building Description – Barn 1

During the time the recording was carried out, the barn was being used for storage of building machinery and materials. The west-facing elevation was covered with scaffolding, however, there was full, unrestricted access to this building.

3.2.1 External Description

Barn 1, believed to have been a threshing barn (plate 1) was constructed using a dark orangey-red un-frogged brick in an English bond on chalk and flint foundations. The average brick dimensions were 22cm x 7cm x 6.5cm and the mortar used was a light coloured loose, crumbly, sandy mix with crushed flint and stone inclusions. Voids created by omitting header-bricks created a number of diamond patterns on each side of the building. These have been interpreted as ventilation holes. The entire roof was covered with grey Collyweston slate.

East facing Elevation

This east-facing elevation of the barn fronted onto the farmyard (plate 1).

The building was constructed on a double brick plinth (plate 2), the lower comprising seven course and four on the second. The foundations had been exposed at the time of visit, which revealed the barn was constructed upon brick and flint foundations.

A large opening was centrally located within this elevation with an oak frame set within which would have supported a set of doors, now removed.

Centrally located above the barn door was a datestone bearing the initials "WF" and "LG" and the date 1854 (plate 3).

A blocked up opening/window was located to the right of the doorway (plate 4). This window measured 1.70m wide and 2.14m high, set beneath a three-course brick arch. The archway suggests that the opening is contemporary with the original build and was blocked at some point after.

Two rows of diamond-shaped ventilation holes were present; a row of small diamonds along the roofline, four to the left of the doorway and three to the right and a row of larger ones; two to the left of the door and one to the right.

Within this elevation were several holes within the brickwork which appeared to have been cut into the brick rather than deliberate voids created at time of construction. These may have been created to insert a later addition or extension on this side of the barn. Rectangular areas of white paint were also visible on the wall, again suggesting evidence of other structures against this side of the building.

South facing Elevation

The south-facing elevation (plate 5, Figure 3) was partially covered with ivy on one side. It measures 8.5m wide and 8.75m from the current ground level to its highest point.

A wooden two-part stable-style door was located for ground floor access (plate 6). This door was made from a number of vertical panels held together with horizontal struts on the inside secured with square-headed nails. Four hinges, two on each part of the door held the door onto iron brackets set into the wooden doorframe. The hinges match a dated example from Suffolk dated 1745 (Alycock and Hall, 24). A number of pieces of wood had been set into the brickwork to attach the frame.

Higher up within this elevation was an opening with wooded shutters comprising vertical wooden panels secured with iron hinges. This opening was set beneath a three-course brick arch and appeared to be contemporary with the original build.

Three large diamond ventilation holes were present; one each side of the opening and one set above it, and two smaller ones were located in between.

From this side of the barn, it was possible to see the pitch of the roofline which was moderately gentle with a c.30° slope. The gradient on which the barn was constructed was also clearly visible from this side. Figure 3 demonstrates how the site of the barn slopes downhill from west to east.

West facing Elevation

At the time of visit, the west-facing elevation was covered with scaffolding (plate 7), making photographing the external elevation of this side of the barn difficult.

The door opening on this side was directly opposite that on the eastern elevation, with the same dimensions. A sliding iron door and fittings have replaced the original doors and an iron runner has been secured into the ground in order to slide the door open.

Similarly to the eastern elevation, there were two rows of diamond-shaped ventilation holes; a row of small diamonds along the roofline, four to the left of the doorway and a row of larger ones; two to the left of the door and two to the right (there was one on the right of the eastern elevation due to the window/opening).

A window/opening has been inserted after the construction of the barn, on the far left, truncating one of the diamond patterns (plate 8). This window would have created an opening opposite that on the eastern side (which was original), however it was slightly smaller in size.

North facing Elevation

The north-facing elevation displayed a different pattern of ventilation holes to the opposite south-facing side (plate 9). Ghostlines of what appear to have been two previous buildings were visible. The impressions of what was a steep pitched roof of an earlier building were recorded, with green algae staining from water damage on the roof. Evidence of putlocks to support the scaffolding during construction were clearly visible as well as two bricked up voids which would have keyed the new building into the barn. This suggests that the now removed building was later, not part of the original barn build. The current ordnance survey map (figures 1 and 2) suggest that there was another building against the northern gable, however this was not present at the time of the survey.

3.2.2 Internal Description

Floor (figure 4)

The floor of the barn was covered with concrete at the time of inspection and no original flooring was visible. The floor was at the same level as the outside of the western side of the barn, however, there was a significant drop to the outside ground level on the eastern side.

Roof Construction

The roof construction comprised four tie-beams with down braces and queen posts supported by horizontal collar beams (plate 10). A wooden lintel spanning the entire inside of the barn was built into the construction in order to support the roof. Iron bolts and straps were used rather than traditional pegged mortice and tenon joints; this was commonplace in the 18th and 19th centuries (Harris, 2006, pg 85).

Internal Detail

A large metal container, used as a water tank was located high up against the northern end of the barn. This was elevated upon a platform and against the northern wall.

The internal walls were painted with white paint from the ground up to 2.05m. The level up to where the paint stopped did not respect any current or removed floor level.

There was no clear evidence of a first floor or any loft spaces visible from the inside.

3.3 *Brief description of other buildings within Chipping Hall Farm*

In order to put the threshing barn into context and setting, it is important to briefly consider and describe the other buildings within Chipping Hall Farm.

Building 1: The Threshing Barn

See descriptions in section 4.2 and 4.3.

Building 2

Building 2 (plate 11) (see Figure 2 for location) was undergoing conversion at the time the survey was carried out and was not easily accessible. It was a requirement of the brief (Tinniswood 2008) that Building 2 underwent a brief recording of any original surviving elements.

The only surviving element of an original building was the wall on the north side. Externally, this wall was covered in weatherboarding, with

no visible structural evidence. However, internally, the panelling and timber construction was fully exposed (plate 12). It appeared that other timbers may have been reused on in the first-floor construction, however, this area was not accessible, and none of the beams were *in-situ*. Many of the reused beams appear to have been inserted for aesthetic, rather than structural purposes.

Building 2b

This building appeared to be a “wing” of building 2 (see Figure 2 for location) and was not accessible, however, it did not appear to have been altered very much from the outside, other than the recent addition of a new roof. It was of brick construction and a blocked-up doorway was visible on the north side (plate 13). The south and west-facing elevations were covered with weatherboarding.

Building 3

Building 3 (plate 14) (see Figure 2 for location) was also under-going some basic renovation work at the time of the survey and was not considered safe to enter. From the outside however, it was possible to see that this building was possibly originally a barn. It had two doors and four windows on the ground floor and two openings on the first floor with wooded shutters, which may have been for loading. It was of brick construction – the same English bond as used for the Threshing barn, under a recently added red-tiles roof.

Building 4

Building 4 (plate 15) (see Figure 2 for location) had also been recently re-roofed. It appeared to retain its original rear wall and internal posts, but much of the rest had been replaced or altered. This building may have originally been used as stables or an open cart shed.

Building 5: Chipping Hall

It was not possible to gain access Chipping Hall (plate 16 and 17) (see Figure 2 for location), however, a brief description has been provided by the Department for the Environment:

“House. Early C18, NW wing later C18. Red brick in Flemish-bond with steep old red tile hipped roofs. A 2-storeys, cellar and attics, square, double-pile and chimneys plan house with rectangular 2-storeys NW extension separately roofed. Front on E facing road, symmetrical with 2 hipped dormers on roof slope, moulded brick eaves cornice, 5 upper windows with gauged brick flat arches, 2 similar windows to each side of central railings along frontage. Flush box sash windows with 6/6 panes, and half glazed door with rectangular fanlight under moulded flat hood on bold shaped brackets. Garden front on S with 3 tall sash windows. Contemporary frontage wall extended to S, extended in C19 to enclose walled garden with dovecote. Formerly Popes Hall, the manor house. (VCH (1914) 43, 45-6;Pevsner (1977) 117).”

Building 6

Building 6 (plate 18) (see Figure 2 for location) had also been recently re-roofed and was in the process of conversion. It was a long, single storey building with three original doorways, one window and two large openings. The original function of this building is uncertain.

Building 7: Barn

Building 7 (plate 19) (see Figure 2 for location) was located at the western end of building 6. This building was divided into two by an internal wall with access door. The rear part of the building was not accessible during the visit due to a bat protection order. The other end of this building was open to the north (plate 20) and its timber-framed construction was clearly visible (plate 21). This building was of brick and timber construction. Although from the outside, this building looks broadly contemporary with the other brick buildings around the farm, the timber construction makes this building unusual. This building may have been built as a hayloft and the opening high in the gable end supports this.

Building 8: Dovecote

The HER entry (see table 1) suggests the dovecote dates to approximately 1700, built predominantly from redbrick with a slated roof (plate 22). Along with Chipping Hall and its garden walls, the dovecote holds a Grade II listed status. The Department of the Environment listing from 1984 describes the building in more detail:

“Dovecote, converted into granary, now a garden store. Circa 1700, converted into granary in C19 with new upper door on east. Redbrick chequered with blue brick, remains of plastered eaves cove, and steep pyramidal roof now slated. A tall square dovecote with principal entrance with brick label and ovolo moulded oval window over on north, both now blocked. Ovolo moulded brick now offset to plinth and rounded brick string below plaster base to form eaves cove. Walls 13^{1/2}” thick. Inserted floor for granary and remains of bins on north and south sides of upper part. Lower part dug out as store with door on north side, Interior plastered and ceiling run up inside of roof. Single tie-beam north-south and ties across each corner on base for former cupola or lantern with access for doves (Pevsner (1977) 117)”

Dovecotes are often found associated with buildings like Chipping Hall in the early 18th century when pigeons were kept to provide fresh meat, particularly during the winter months. Their importance declined however later in the century with an increase in livestock being kept. They were perhaps retained for their picturesque appearance and like this one at Chipping, later converted into a garden feature/summerhouse.

3.4 Threshing Barns

In most traditional farmsteads, the barn was the central point to which the other buildings were related and was often the largest of them. The main purpose of threshing barns was to house the threshing floor and for storage (Wade Martin, 1991, pg 166). Generally they had at least one threshing floor with bays for housing the crops coming off of it and the threshing floor always ran across the barn, never along the length (Peters, pg 10). The size of the barn would depend on the size of the farm. The practice of storing all of the crops in barns and so of building larger ones, continued well into the 19th century in the south of England and East Anglia (Peters, 1981, pg 10).

The barn recorded was one of the most common types found throughout Britain with a single threshing floor and a bay either side. (Figure 5). Some barns built to house threshing machines were constructed in the very traditional 'type 1' plan. The machine would stand end-on to the threshing floor, close to a side wall. It required a loft for feeding the corn into it, which covered part or the whole of the bays in that half of the barn. The bays opposite were probably used to store threshed straw (Peters, pg 26).

The threshing barn at Chipping had two opposing high doorways. These were to allow carts and wagons to drive into the barn and unload from the threshing floor into one of the bays. The height also provided light for working and ventilation when winnowing the husks from the grain. It appears that the barn at Chipping may have only been accessible from one side later on in its life as the farm developed around one side. The timber frame of the east-facing door (towards the farm buildings) appeared to have stopped short of the ground level and later bricked up underneath. Many barns had doors, which stopped between 1 and 2 feet from the ground with separate horizontal boards below held in place by a groove in the doorjamb. This was called a "lift" and it meant that the opened doors were kept clear of dirt and manure when opening and closing and animals and birds from the farm yard could not wander in. (Peters, pg 14). Within the opposing opening were sliding doors, which ran along metal grooves set into the ground. These first appeared in the 1840s, but apparently were never very common as they were more expensive and likely to stick. (Peters, pg 13)

At the south-facing end of the barn was a window-like opening with wooden shutters. Pitch holes were often found at the ends of barns such as this, used to pitch the corn or hay directly into the barn from a cart or wagon standing outside. This might be necessary if the barn doors needed to be kept shut, if access was restricted or if perhaps there was already a cart loading on the threshing floor.

The diamond-patterns in the brickwork were created by omitting bricks or half-bricks during construction, this could easily be achieved without

effecting the structural stability of the building. These holes in the walls were designed to provide ventilation within the barn to prevent mould and damp destroying the crops stored within (Peters, pg 15). More interesting and spectacular brickwork patterns occurred in many late barns and many bricklayers enjoyed displaying their skills by creating intricate patterns (Brunskill, 1987, pg 137).

By the end of the 19th century, gas and oil engines were being used to power many threshing machines, replacing horsepower, water, wind and steam (Peters, 29). It is therefore very possible that the buildings added onto the north and east sides of the barn (evident from marks recorded within the elevations) were to house the engine.

The 1853 datestone on the outside of the barn (plate 3) suggests a date of construction or alteration. Many threshing barns had become obsolete and no longer needed by the 1850s (Wade-Martin 1981, pg 168) so it is unlikely that the barn was first built at this time. By looking closely at the east-facing elevation, there is evidence to suggest that alterations and changes have taken place. A window/opening has been blocked up. It also appears that the brickwork along upper courses of the wall may have been repaired or cleaned. If the barn was no longer used for threshing by 1854, it may have fallen into some disrepair, and the owner at the time may have chosen to undertake some alterations. The appearance of many barns changed at this time, some were re-roofed, some changed their function entirely. Many avoided demolition as they formed part of the estate farm. This suggestion certainly seems to apply to the barn at Chipping. It has already been suggested that the datestone was not a reflection of the original build, and may rather be a date of change of function.

The letters on the top of the datestone "W.F" may stand for Walter French. Kelly's Directories were only available for consultation from 1851, where Walter French, farmer can be traced until 1882. Walter may have added this datestone at a time when he changed this building; bricking up the window and possibly adding a new roof (retaining however the original timber construction.)

3.5 Discussion

The presence of the datestone on the barn, provides a date of 1853, however, there is evidence to suggest that it is not the date of the original construction, rather a date of alteration or perhaps to represent a date of change of ownership. The brickwork above it looks as though it has been contemporarily constructed around the datestone, however, on closer inspection, there are signs that these bricks may have been cleaned or replaced when adding the stone. It looks likely that the roof has been replaced and it is possible that the datestone was added at this point. It is not unusual for people to add datestones at a point of alteration or adaptation. Other work has been carried out

to the building, including the bricking-up of one window and the creation of another – could these have been also been part of the 1853 alterations. By looking at other sources available, it is possible to learn more about the context and setting of the building and the development of the farm complex.

The earliest available map of the site from Hertfordshire's Archive and Local Studies (HALS) was the 1844 Tithe Map (Figure 6). Each building or property unit is identified on the map and given a number, which can be checked against the accompanying written 'schedule' which provides a brief description of the property, together with the names of the owner and occupier. Unfortunately, the schedule for this map was unavailable. This map shows a building, which would appear to represent the barn under investigation. Although it must be considered that these early maps were not always closely to scale, this building looks to be in the right location and quite large, making it a likely contender to being the threshing barn. This map shows the barn seems to be located next to a pond, perhaps to provide water for farmyard animals such as chickens and ducks. A similar model is found at Crossing Temple Barns in Essex, however, this is a much earlier medieval example. The boundaries of the site appear largely unaltered and although more internal subdivisions appear visible, these may have simply been fences to restrict the movement of animals. The 1844 tithe map shows that the layout of other farm buildings at the time. Chipping Hall itself appears to be very similar to its current layout, other than an extension at the rear. Although slightly different in shape and size, buildings 2, 3, 4 and the dovecote (8) are all visible in their current locations. Buildings 6 and 7 however are not present at this time. There also appear to be a number of other buildings within the complex, located to the south of the dovecote, which are no longer in existence. Despite the missing schedule, which may list the names/owners or occupiers of farm, a later annotation of "B.H" written in pencil on the map may provide some clues as to the owners of the land. The later enclosure map of 1853 refers to "St Bartholomew's Hospital" and this may be the BH referred to at this point. Further documentary research would be needed to trace the history and link with St Bartholomew's and its local connection. Interestingly, on the opposite side of the road to Chipping Hall there are a number of buildings shown which no longer exist today. Although as with many buildings, some have been altered beyond recognition or completely replaced. Interestingly, those with schedule numbers 213 and 214 no longer exist, nor have they been replaced. Looking at that plot of land now, it is possible to see earthworks, which may represent the foundations of these or perhaps earlier buildings on the site (plate 23).

The next available map, as previously mentioned was the Enclosure Map of 1853 (Figure 7). This map unfortunately does not show the buildings on the farm in any great detail, but simply represents those,

which front onto main streets and access roads. It may be the case that as mapping plots was more significant for these maps, that the surveyor simply sketched any buildings he could see from the road or a particular position. Part of a building is shown in what could be the location of the threshing barn, but little more detail exists. The name of "St Bartholomew's Hospital" is again written on the location of the farm, however no further information is available.

The first Edition Ordnance Map, 1877 (Figure 8) shows the farm as "Popes Hall". It also shows what appears to be the threshing barn; however, by this time it has a small-attached building on its north side. Although there is no evidence of this additional building today, the scars of its roofline were visible in the northern elevation (plate 9). This small extension may have been an additional store as part of the farm building stock, however it may have housed a source of motive power used to drive threshing machines such as a gas or oil engine which had begun to appear by the end of the century. The buildings south of the dovecote are still in existence and by this stage buildings 2-8 are very much the same as they are today. A new range has appeared in the middle of the upper courtyard area and it appears that to the south of building range 6, a more formal layout of gardens or plots for growing produce has appeared. The buildings on the opposite side of the road have all but almost completely disappeared, with only the public house and one other substantial sized building remaining. This may be an indication of economic decline in the village of Chipping. The depopulation of villages across England at this time in favour of urban centres resulted in the shrinking of many settlements.

By 1898, (Figure 9) the lay out of "Popes Hall" has become more enclosed with buildings forming a rectangular shape around a central unit. The threshing barn has a larger extension on its northern side, which has presumably replaced the smaller one noted in the 1877 map. By looking again at the north-facing elevation (plate 9) it is possible to clearly see the outline of a larger building, which once stood in this location, built, up against the barn. On the eastern side of the Threshing barn, this 1898 map appears to show two extensions built to face into the courtyard, separated by what must be gap to allow access through the original opening into the barn. White paint on the external walls of the east facing elevation shows evidence of these earlier buildings, however they only appear to have reached a height of approximately 2.5m from the original ground level. There is no evidence of rebuilding on the opposite side of the road from Popes Hall and the buildings to the south of barn 6 have almost all gone, except for the dovecote. This change in buildings around the farm may indicate a change in activity. The size of the farm appears to shrink, becoming more focussed around the northern half of the buildings, however, more building construction and alteration is taking place. The presence of what seems to be fences encloses areas within the farm, perhaps to pen-in animals. This may indicate a change in activity at Popes Farm, possibly concentrating on animal stock rather than

arable. To understand more about this, further depth research would be necessary to compare the local and national farming economy as to why a shift like this may occur.

The 1923 Ordnance survey map (Figure 10) shows very little change to Popes Hall. The threshing barn remains unchanged, with the additional buildings on the east side and to the north still in existence. Little development has taken place around this part of Chipping; the opposite side of the road is still relatively undeveloped.

Consultation of the 1977 Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 11) shows the farm very much as it appears today, however it is now named Chipping Hall. The threshing barn still has buildings attached to the north and the east, however the eastern entrance now appears concealed, possibly by a door between the two additional extensions. All the other buildings appear as they are presently. However, where there was a central range of buildings showing on first on the 1877 map right through to that from 1923, this has now seemingly been replaced by what may be one or two large sheds or barns. These new buildings dominate the complex and appear at least double the size of the threshing barn. Chipping Hall (building 5) in particular has clearly been altered at the rear since 1977. On the opposite side of the road and approximately 100m to the south are up to five houses labelled "Chipping Hall Cottages". It is not clear if all of these buildings are the Chipping Hall Cottages, however they are numbered 1 to 5 and all share a range of what are likely to be outside lavatories, suggesting they were constructed contemporarily. Although it is hard to date these buildings specifically without further research, it appears that they may have been started to be built on the earlier 1923 map (Figure 10). Chipping Hall Cottages may have been built to house workers at the farm or were simply named after the hall located close by. If they were named after the hall, it does suggest that the farm employed a number of local staff and therefore contributed to the local economy. If at the time of construction there was demand to house worker beyond just the family living in the house, this would suggest both wealth and status of the occupants.

Other historic evidence available included black and white photographs stored at the HALS. Two photographs (Figures 12 and 13), thought to date to 1907 depict Popes Hall on the left side, looking almost exactly as it does today, with ivy covering much of the buildings frontage. These images clearly show buildings 5 (Popes Hall) and building 4, which are both, aligned along the main road. In the distance appears to be a much older thatched building and on the opposite side of the road, The Red Lion Pub (now The Countryman). The images taken in 1984 (Figures 14 and 15) show very little change to Popes Hall as it appears today (plates 16 and 17).

A series of aerial photographs taken in 1971, 1980 and 1990 (figures 16, 17 and 18), which were also held by HALS, gives a different

perspective when looking at the area. The aerial map of 1971 (Figure 16) does not show great detail of the farm buildings, however, the threshing barn can clearly be identified, as well as the two large barns first noted on the 1977 ordnance survey. The boundaries which are visible at the rear of the buildings (west) and also to the south, which are remnants of those tree lines and plots which can be seen on the 1st edition OS map. Chipping Hall cottages can also be recognised as well as The Countryman pub. Also of note, and potentially an area of further research, is the presence of what may be rectilinear cropmarks to the east of the brook. These cropmarks are also visible in the aerial image from 1980 (Figure 17). The image from 1990 (Figure 18) was perhaps taken at a different time of the year or day as the light is very different as are the field conditions. To the rear of Chipping Hall Cottages, this map shows a sub-oval, pond-shaped feature. This may simply be the result of an agricultural practice, however, it may be something worthy of further investigation at a later date.

4 Archaeological Investigations

The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The brief required that all groundwork likely to have an impact on archaeological deposits be suitably monitored and recorded. The work was conducted ahead of construction of a new dwelling on the site, which required excavation of foundation trenches (Figure 2).

4.1 Results

The footings were laid out by the client in the location of the new extension (plate 24). Trench depths varied between 2m at the eastern end and 1.5m at the western end of the excavations. Natural chalk was reached at between 1m and 1.3m below the ground surface.

In the easternmost 10m of the excavations no subsoil or soil sequences were present. Immediately beneath the surface was made ground directly down to chalk. This consisted of orangey brown sand with some gravel with moderate amounts of broken brick and slate. A number of small pits appeared were visible in section which were backfilled with a homogenous gravel sand deposit, and thought to be modern.

In the remainder of the foundation trenches a subsoil was present above the chalk. This was an orangey brown clay and was up to 1m deep. Above this over some of the development area were the

remains of 20th Century buildings and surfaces, which were removed during groundwork for the current development. These were up to 0.4m thick.

A trench had been machine dug in front of the threshing barn, This revealed chalk and flint foundations (plate 25)

4.2 Discussion and Conclusions

Monitoring of the Trenches for any potential archaeological remains was hindered by their narrowness and excessive depth. It was often not possible to enter the Trenches. Cleaning and interpretation of the Trench sections was therefore made difficult. The presence of red brick and rubble however, indicates that there may have been a building close to this location in the past. Consultation of the tithe map suggests that there was a building in this location as early as 1844.

No artefacts or dateable material was recovered from any of the Trenches.

5 Conclusions

Chipping Hall Farm is an interesting collection of buildings, which reflect economic development in a small farm and how buildings have altered and been replaced to accommodate change.

In order to conclude, it is necessary to provide a brief description of the development of Chipping Hall Farm (Figure 19).

The physical evidence on the site in the form of Chipping Hall (previously Popes Hall) and the dovecote suggest that the earliest buildings still in existence date to c.1800. Pevsner has suggested that this was formerly a manor house, and there is no reason to doubt this, however more research on the site and immediate area would greatly substantiate this claim and our understanding of the immediate area.

Cartographic sources have been invaluable in this study. The earliest available map from 1844 shows the threshing barn as well as a range of other buildings, which may be the first physical evidence of the development of agricultural activity at Popes Hall. The following years up to 1923 sees more buildings being constructed and previous ones removed, a common activity within farms as production shifts and focus changes to meet the demands for crops, meat or both.

As a single building, the threshing barn itself is able to reveal some clues about how buildings adapt to changing needs and circumstances. The available evidence suggests that the barn itself is later than 1800 but appears on a map by 1844. By this point, other

buildings are present which are likely to also serve the needs of a farm. At this time, threshing was still carried out by hand; crops unloaded by cart on the threshing floor or through the pitching holes. As technology advanced in the late 18th/early 19th century, threshing machines and portable power sources changed the way threshing was carried out and also impacted on the buildings themselves. As previously discussed, many threshing barns had gone out of use by the 1850s and many were demolished. It appears that the one at Chipping was retained and altered, possibly by Walter French, and converted for another use. The roof was replaced and a new opening was inserted on one side, whilst another was concealed.

The collection of buildings at Chipping, and particularly the threshing barn, is a good example of how buildings are adapted and altered to reflect changing needs and circumstances. This study has also highlighted further potential areas for research;

- Investigation into the earthworks in the opposite field: why did so many of the properties here disappear? Are the earthworks associated with the building platforms? What was the date of these buildings?
- Further documentary research into the development of the Hall: was this originally a manor house? When and why did it develop into a farm?

Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by Hertfordshire County Councils Historic Environment Unit.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the Clarke Smith Partnership who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks also to Tom Phillips for his assistance on site. Tom Lyons carried out the watching brief and the project was managed by Toby Gane.

The brief for works was written by Allison Tinniswood, who also kindly arranged for the HER search of the area.

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Maps Consulted

1877 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile – 1st edition	Sheet VIII.16
1923 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile – 3rd edition	Sheet VIII.16
1977 Ordnance Survey 1:2500	TL 3431-3531

Description	Hertfordshire Local Archive Studies Reference
Enclosure Map 1853 (digital capture)	D/P25.26/2A D/P25.26/2B
Tithe Map 1844 (digital capture)	D/P25.27/1

Other Sources Consulted

Description	Hertfordshire Local Archive Studies Reference
Two Colour Photographs of Pope Hall, and London Road taken in 1985 by Arthur Jones	No ref
Black and White photograph showing Pope Hall on left, 1907	NEG 84/F/3
Black and White photograph/postcard of "Chipping" showing Popes Hall on left	95-58-R2-17A

Aerial Photographs – Black and White	AP 1971
Aerial Photographs – Black and White	AP 1980
Aerial Photographs – Black and White	AP 1990
Executors and trustees papers, Edward Pigg, farmer 1866-1871	D/EL/B274

Appendix 1: Entries for Popes Hall, Chipping from Kelly's Post Office Directories of Hertfordshire

Year	Entry
1851	Walter French, farmer
1862	Walter French, farmer
1867	Walter French, farmer
1869	Walter French, farmer
1870	Walter French, farmer, Popes Hall, Chipping
1874	Walter French, farmer, Popes Hall, Chipping
1878	Walter French, farmer, Popes Hall, Chipping
1882	Walter French, farmer, Popes Hall, Chipping
1886	Popes Hall, Chipping, Edward Pigg, farmer
1895	Popes Hall, Chipping, Edward Pigg, farmer
1898	Popes Hall, Chipping, Edward Pigg, farmer
1905	Popes Hall, Chipping, Edward Pigg, farmer
1908	Popes Hall, Chipping, Edward Pigg, farmer
1912	Pigg, Edward, farmer, Popes Hall, Chipping
1917	Pigg, Edward, farmer, Popes Hall, Chipping
1918	Pigg, Edward, farmer, Popes Hall, Chipping
1922	°Pigg, Stanley, farmer, Popes Hall
1926	Pigg, Stanley, farmer, Popes Hall
1929	Pigg, Stanley, farmer, Popes Hall
1933	Pigg, Stanley, farmer, Popes Hall
1937	Pigg, Stanley, farmer, Popes Hall

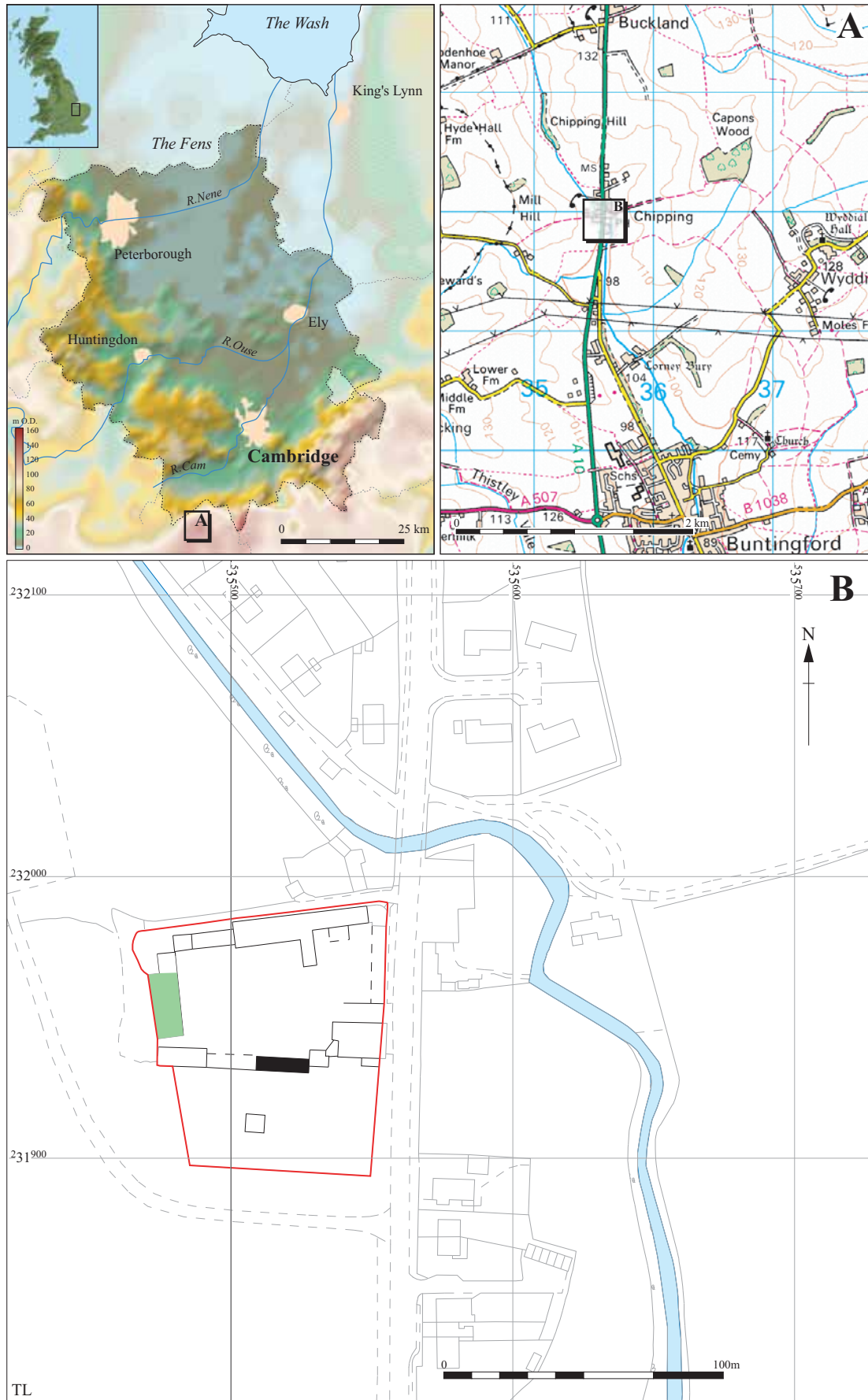
Appendix 2 : HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Chipping Hall, Chipping, Buntingford, Hertfordshire SG9 0PH		
County: Hertfordshire		District: North Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Chipping		Parish: Buntingford
Planning application reference: 3/07/2027		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: The Smith Clarke Partnership, Limberhurst Arts Centre, Haverhill Road, Horseheath, Cambridge, CB1 6RG 01440713585		
Nature of application: Alteration of current building use and associated groundworks for services		
Present land use: Storage		
Size of application area:		Size of area investigated: 4721m ²
NGR (to 8 figures): TL 35488 31979		
Site code (if applicable): XHTBWC08		
Site director/Organization: Taleyna Fletcher, CAMARC		
Type of work Historic Building Survey and archaeological monitoring of groundworks		
Date of work:	Start: 12/03/2008	Finish: 25/03/2008
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies Collection (HALS) County Hall Hertford, Hertfordshire		
Related HER Nos: N/A		Periods represented: Post-medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports None		
Summary of fieldwork results: CAM ARC of Cambridgeshire County Council conducted a historical building survey and archaeological investigations at Chipping Hall Farm in advance of alterations to two buildings and preparation for the construction of a new dwelling. The brief required that a full historical building survey was carried out on an existing building, thought to be a threshing barn and that a rapid recording was undertaken on a second building which was already undergoing alterations. A separate brief was issued for archaeological monitoring of groundworks for a new building. The historic building survey, together with consultation of cartographic and documentary sources enabled the threshing barn to be dated as late 18th/early 19th century. The second building retained little original fabric and was difficult to access due to alteration works. The archaeological investigations		

revealed debris and demolition rubble, but no archaeological features were identified and no building material was recorded in-situ.

Author of summary: Taleyna Fletcher

Date of summary: 18/09/2008



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Figure 1: Location of Chipping Hall Farm, with threshing barn (green)

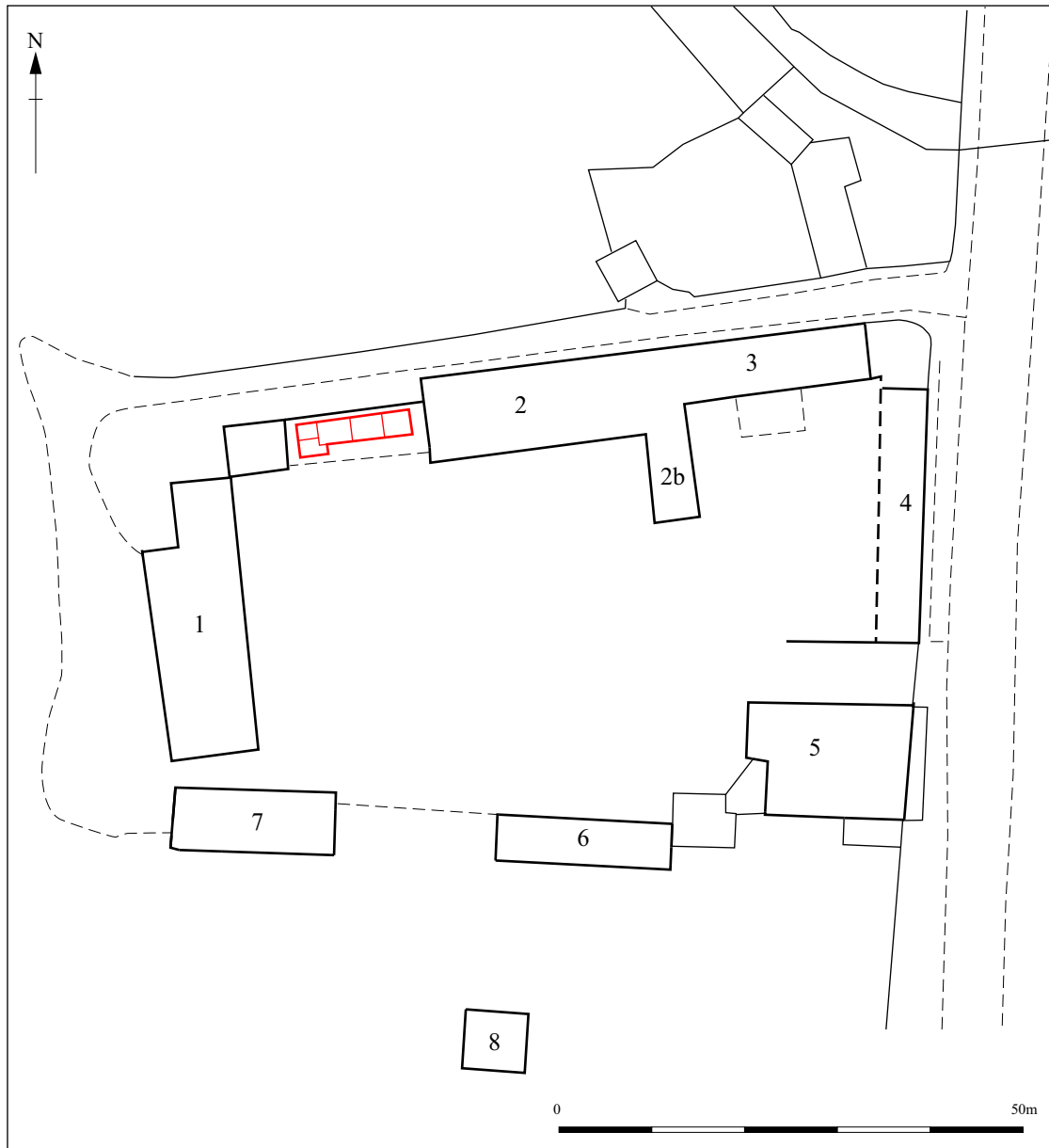


Figure 2: Plan showing location of buildings at Chipping Hall Farm and building footings which were subject to archaeological monitoring (red)

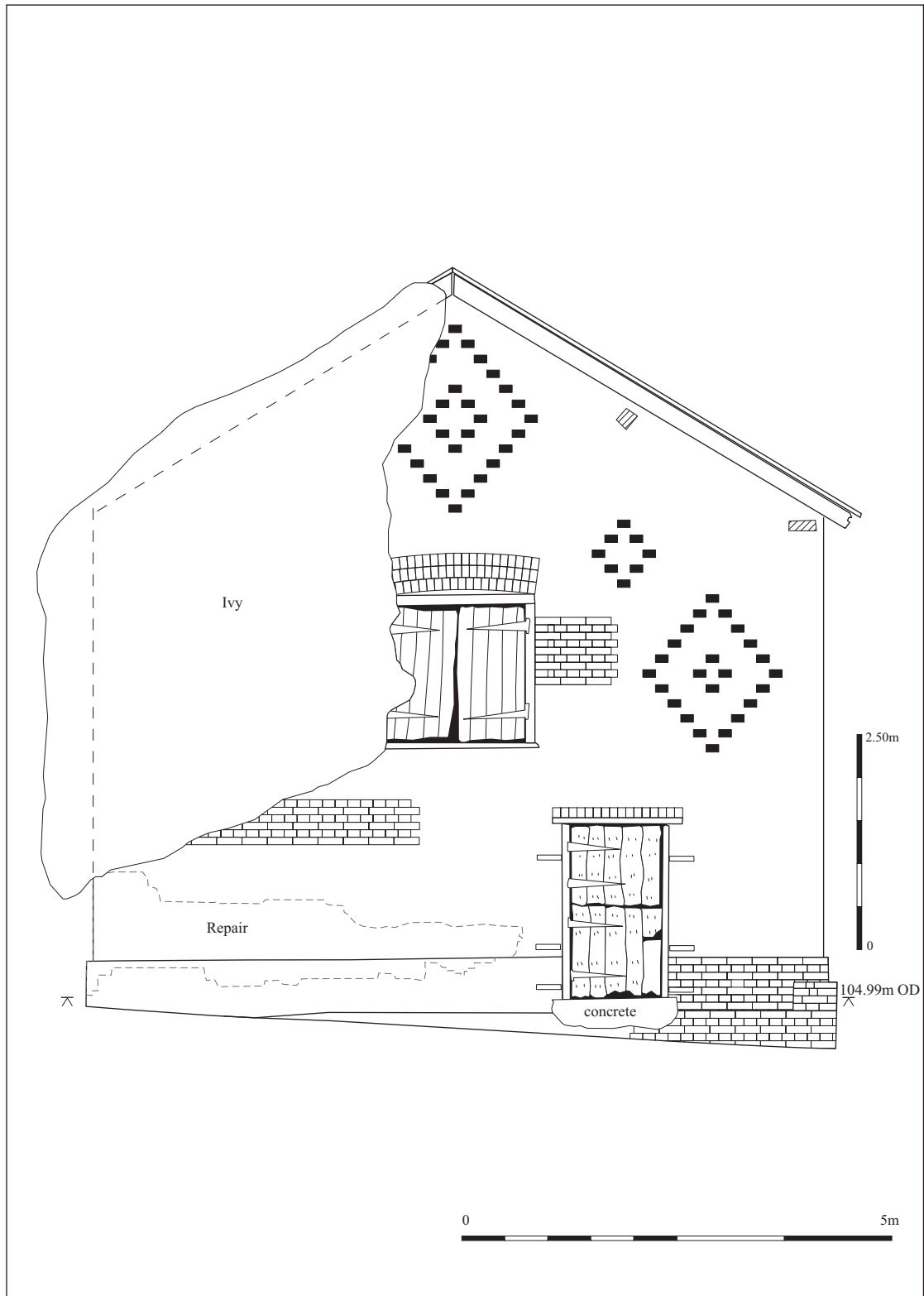


Figure 3: South-facing elevation of Building 1 (Threshing Barn)

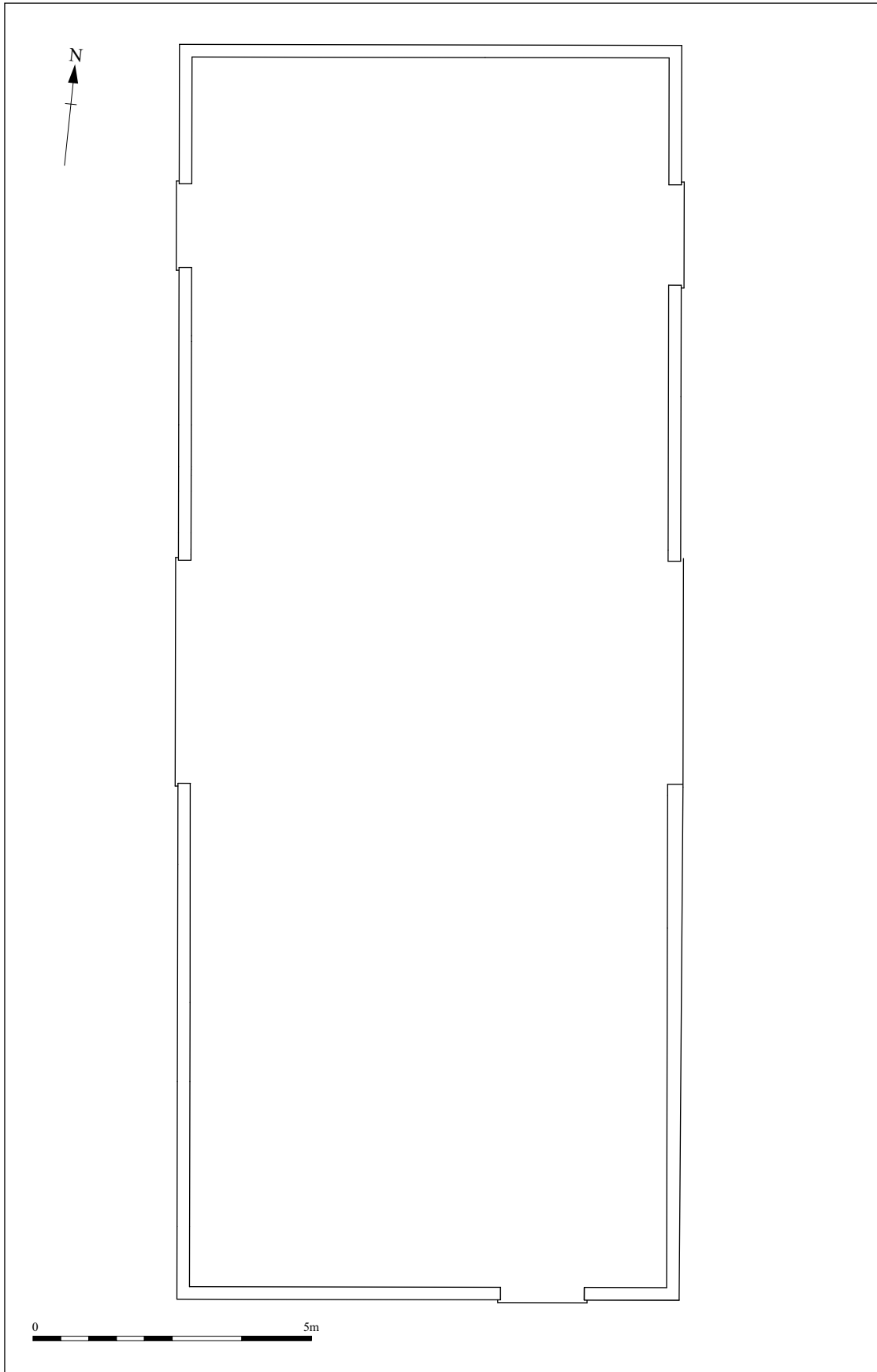


Figure 4: Floor Plan

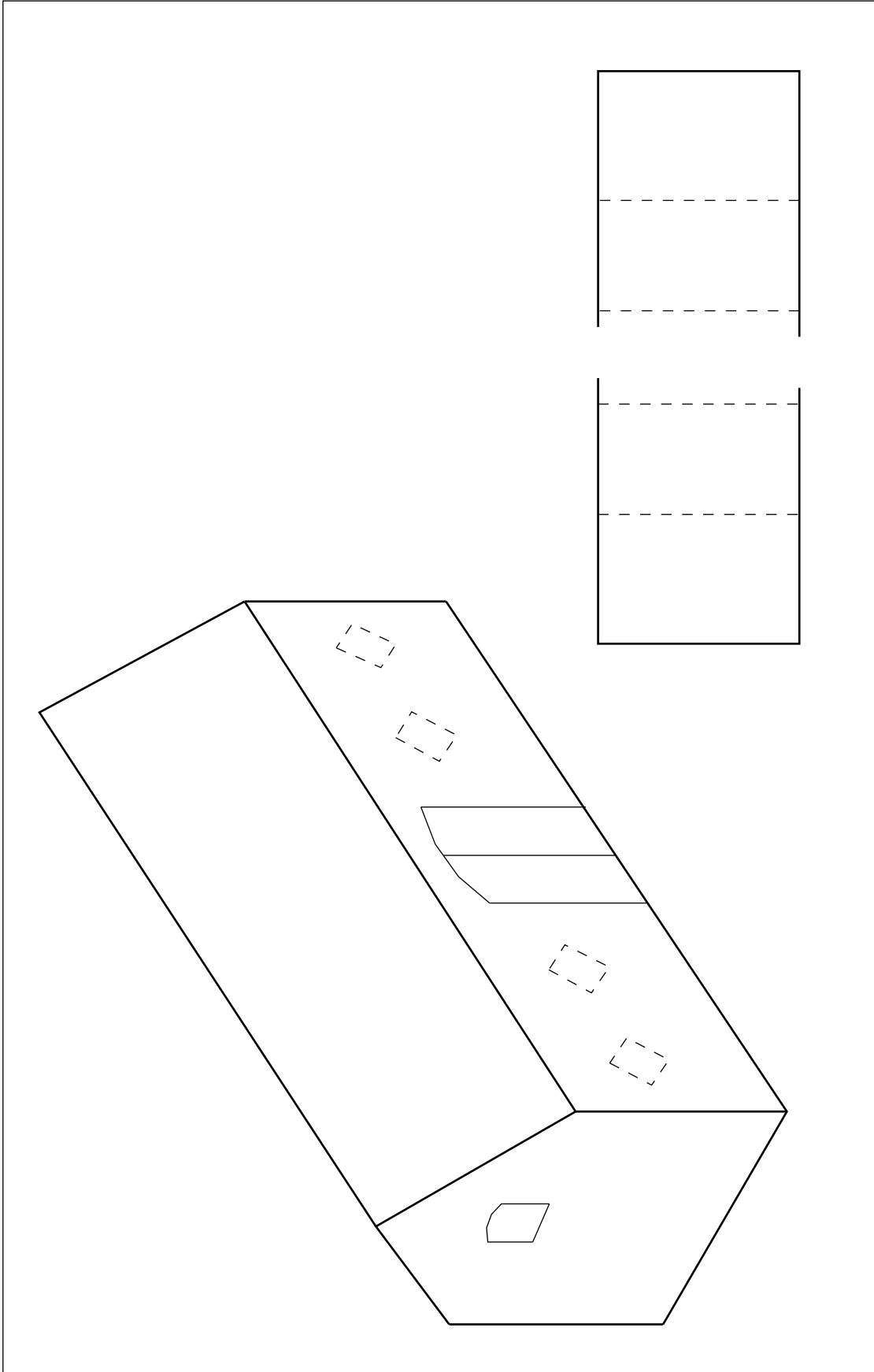


Figure 5: Plan-type 1 Threshing Barn (from Peters, 1981)

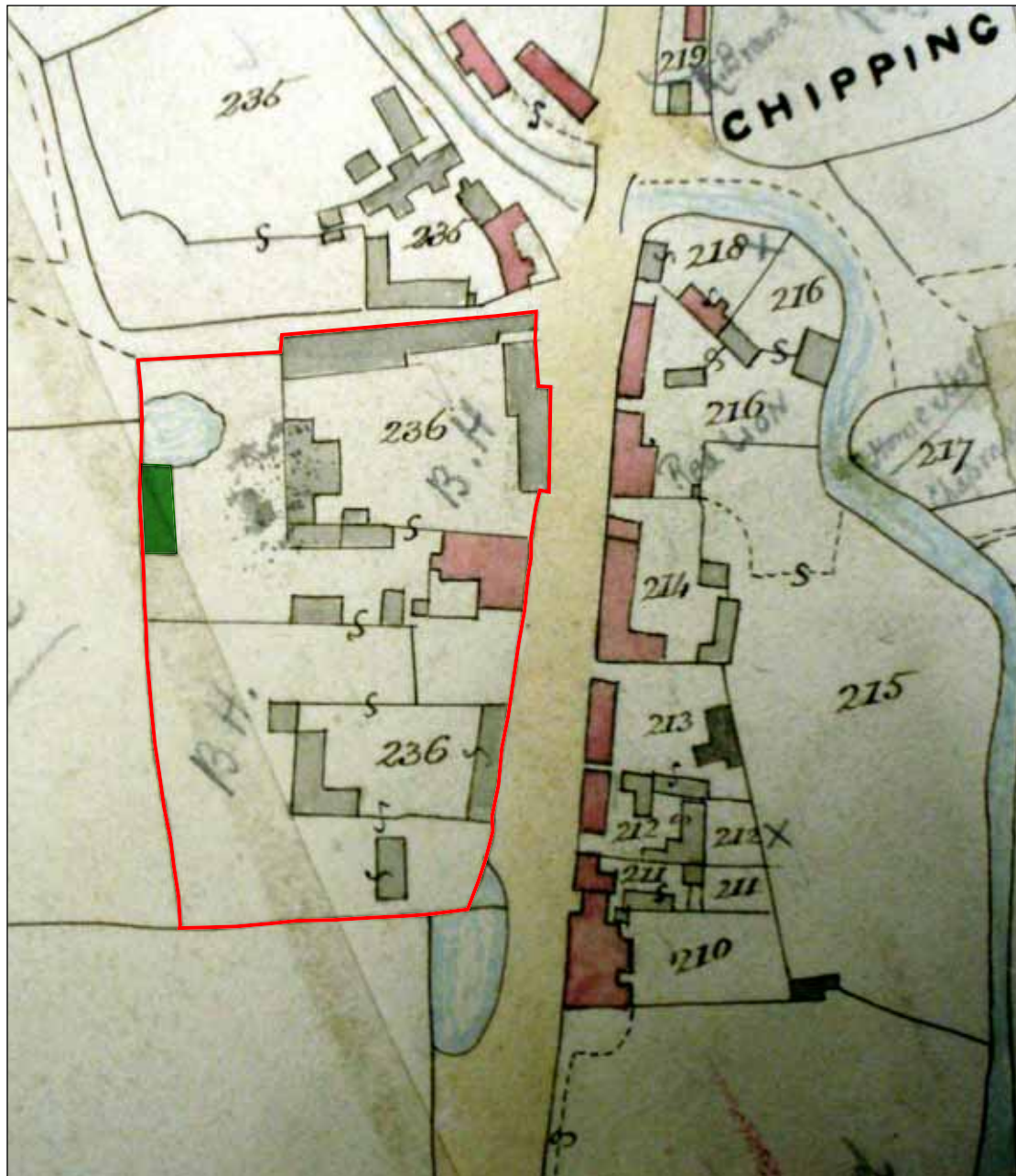


Figure 6: Tithe Map (1844) showing study area (red) and threshing barn (green)

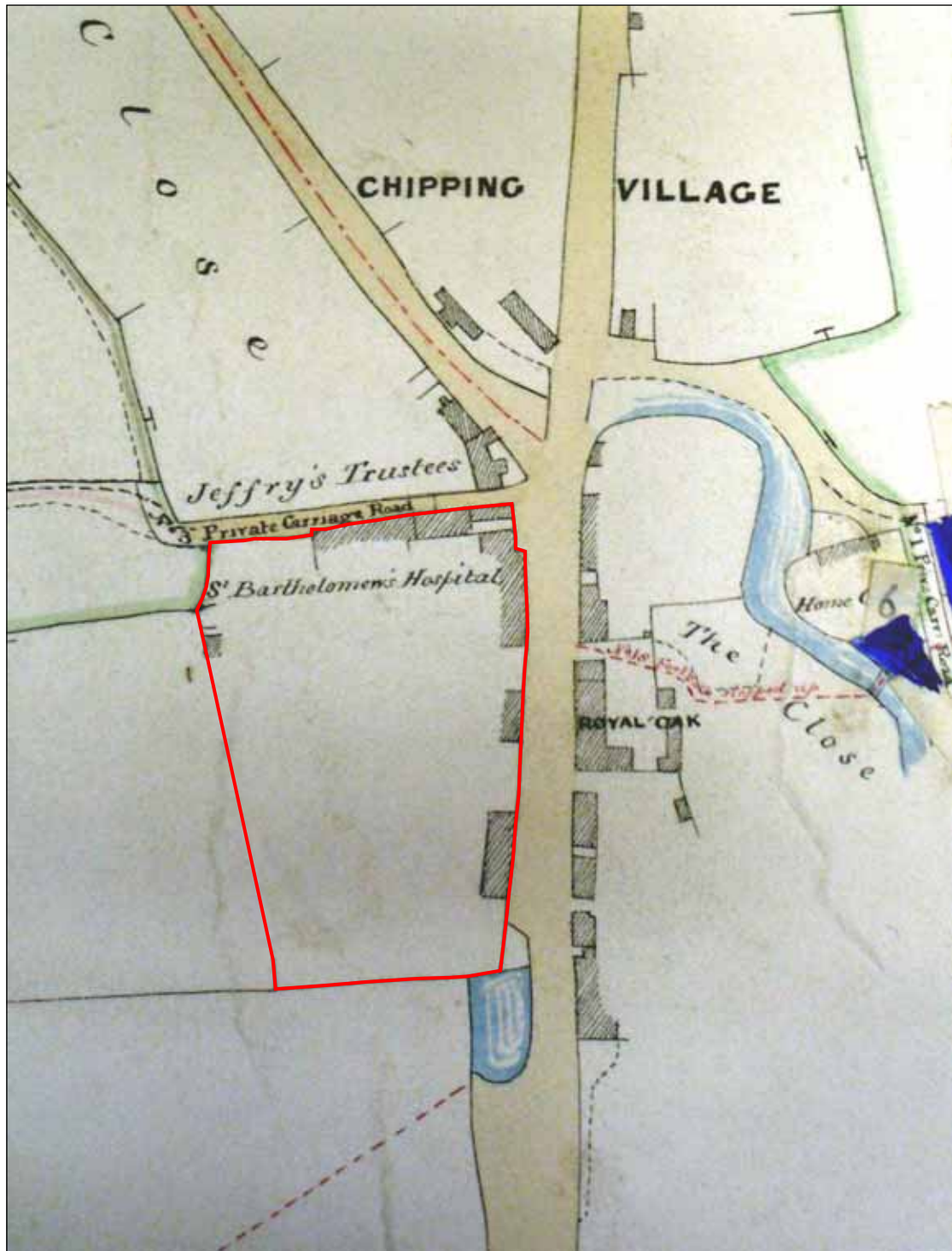


Figure 7: Enclosure Map (1853) showing study area (red)

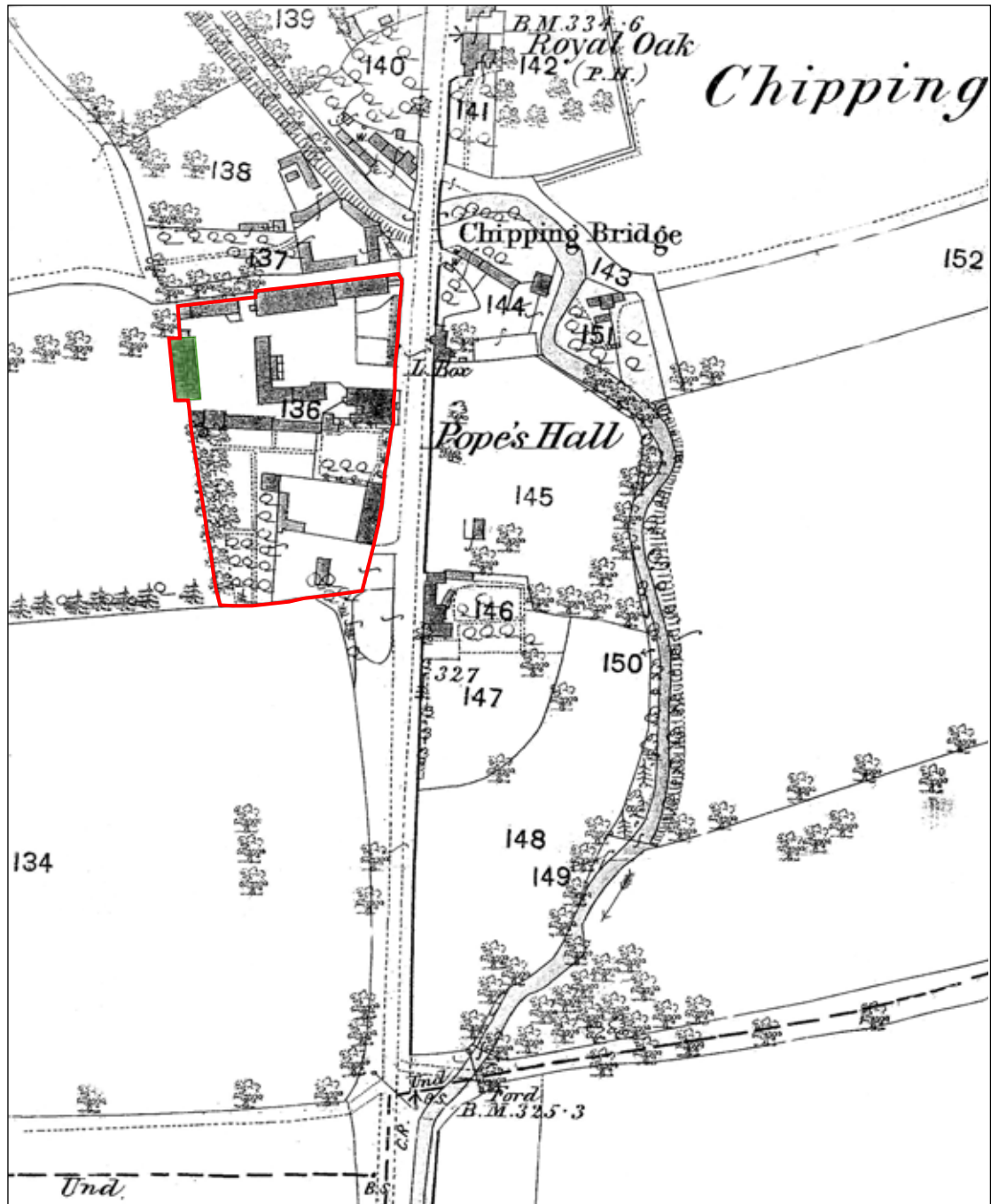


Figure 8: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1877) showing study area (red) and location of threshing barn (green)

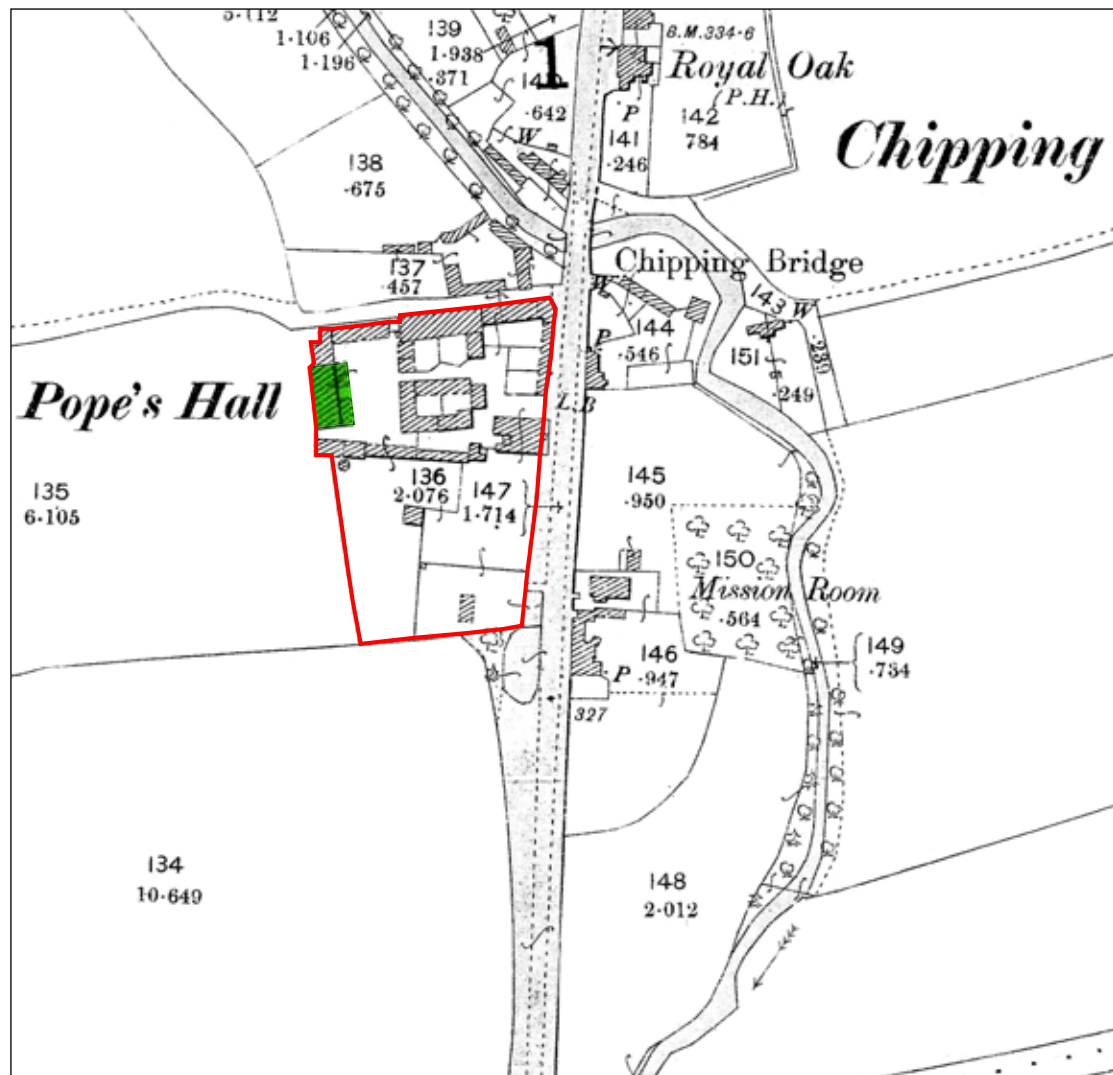


Figure 9: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1898) showing study area (red) and location of threshing barn (green)

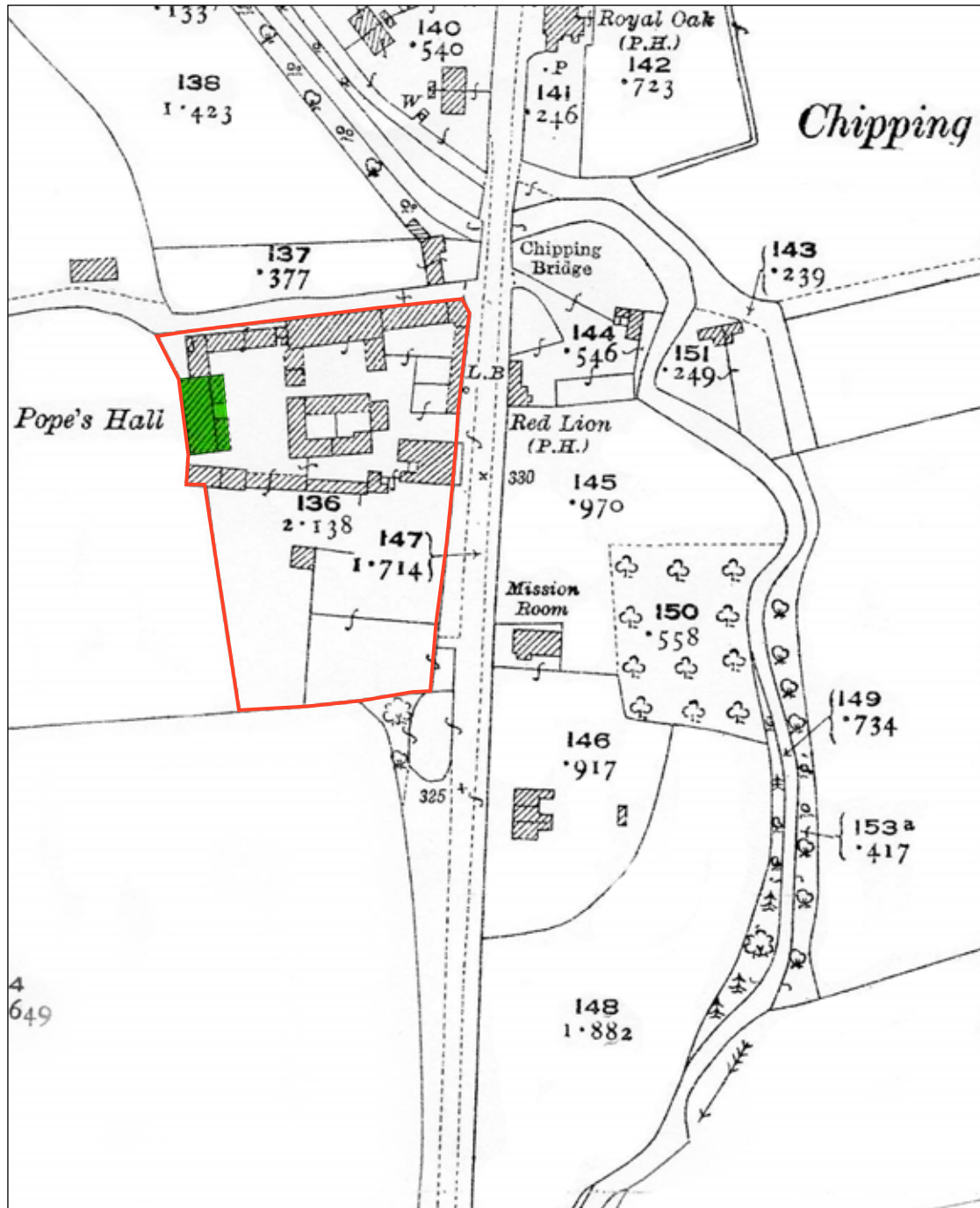


Figure 10: Ordnance Survey Map, 1923, showing study area (red) and location of threshing barn (green)

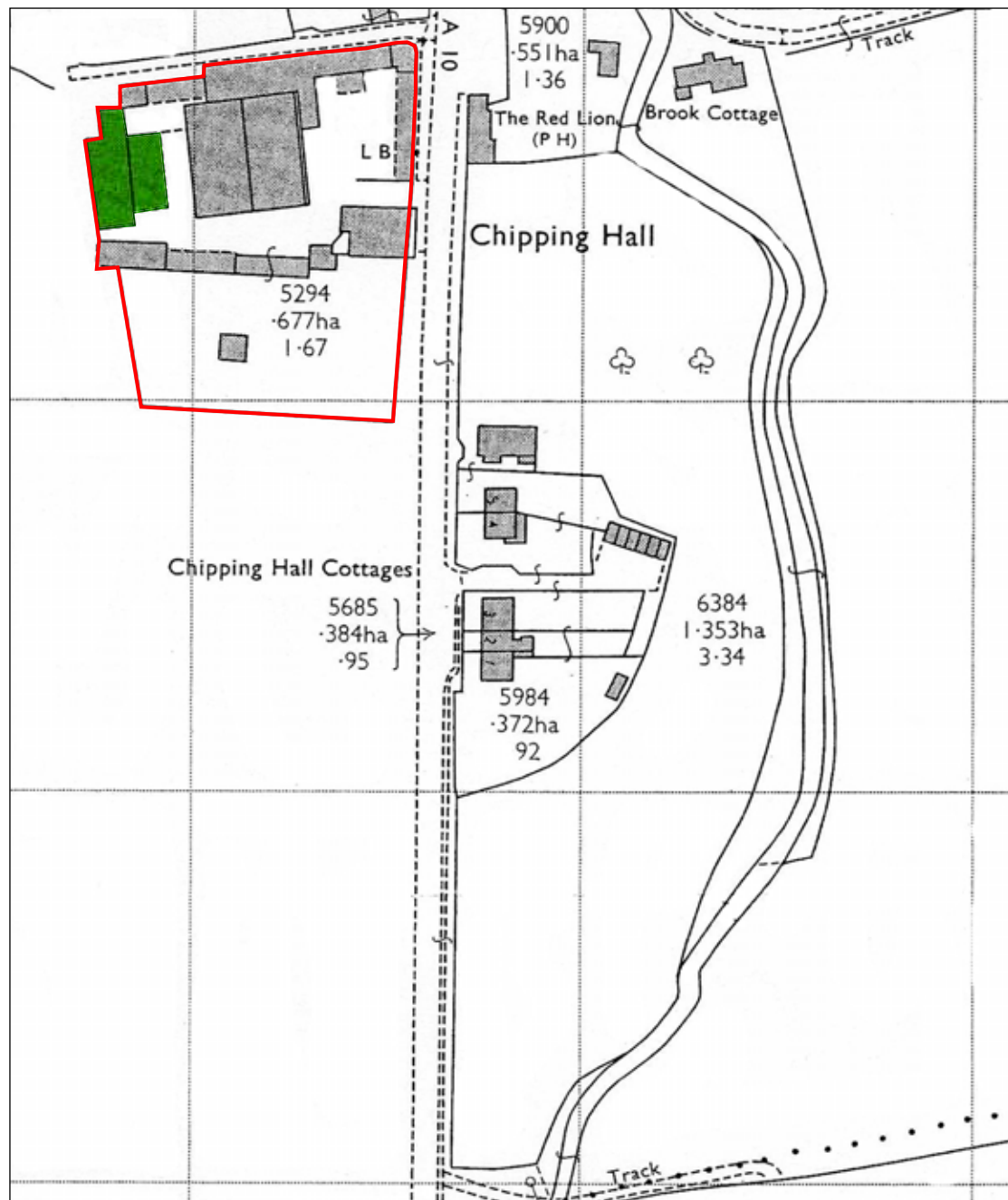


Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Map, 1977, showing studay area (red) and location of threshing barn (green)



Figure 12: Black an White photograph taken in Chipping c.1907?

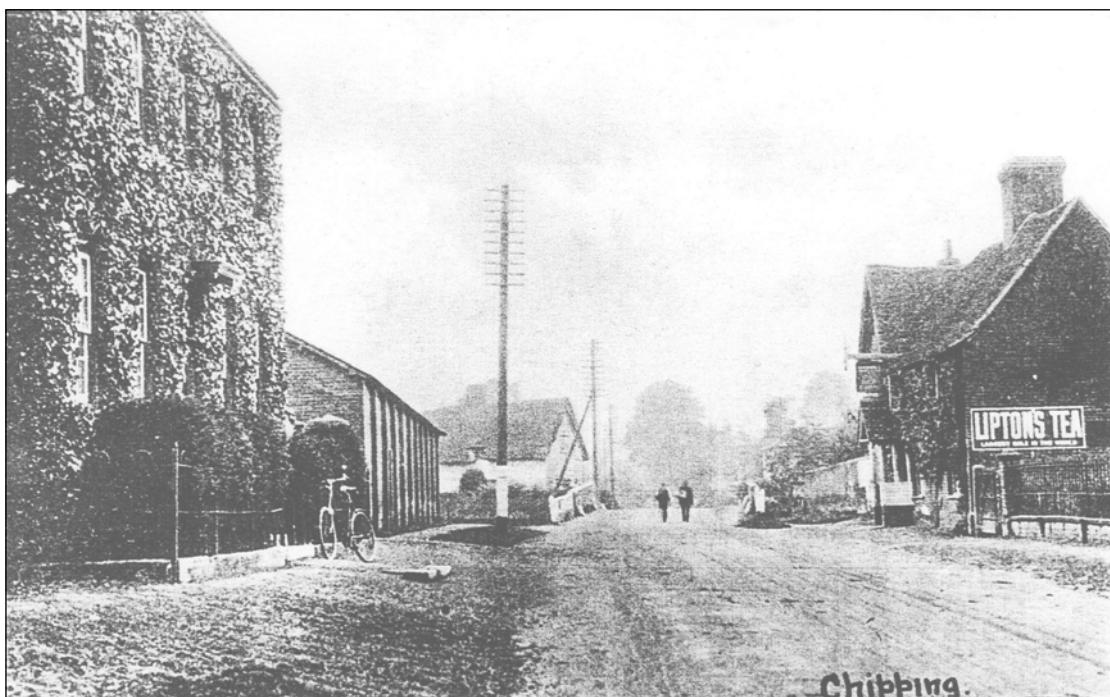


Figure 13: Postcard of Chipping (date unknown, c.1907)



Figure 14: Black and White photograph of Popes Hall, 1985



Figure 15: Black and White photograph showing Popes Hall and Red Lion pub, 1985



Figure 16: Aerial Photograph, 1971, from HALS



Figure 17: Aerial Photograph, 1980, From HALS



Figure 18: Aerial Photograph, 1990, From HALS



Figure 19: Plan showing development of Chipping Hal Farm buildings (existing buildings)



Plate 1: East facing elevation of threshing barn



Plate 2: Brick plinths



Plate 3: Datestone



Plate 4: Blocked up window



Plate 5: South facing elevation of threshing barn



Plate 6: Door in south facing elevation



Plate 7: West facing elevation of threshing barn



Plate 8: Inserted opening in west facing elevation



Plate 9: North facing elevation



Plate 10: Roof construction of threshing barn



Plate 11: Building 2



Plate 12: Detail of inside building 2



Plate 13: Building 2b



Plate 14: Building 3



Plate 17: Chipping Hall, rear



Plate 18: Building 6



Plate 15: Building 4



Plate 16: Chipping Hall, front



Plate 19: Building 7



Plate 20: Building 7 internal detail



Plate 21: Building 7, facing west



Plate 22: Building 8, dovecote



Plate 23: Earthworks in field opposite Chipping Hall farm



Plate 24: Footings for extension to building 2



Plate 25: Footings for threshing barn exposed during groundworks