

**BARNS AT LITTLEBURY FARM
FAIRSTEAD ROAD
WHITE NOTLEY
ESSEX**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD



Essex County Council

Field Archaeology Unit

July 2010

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

Client: Mrs J. Johnston

FAU Project no.: 2141

NGR: TL 7624 1864

Oasis no.: 79348

Planning Application: 05/00149/COU

Date of Fieldwork: 11th March 2010

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on part of a post-medieval farmstead at Littlebury Farm, White Notley prior to conversion to live/work use. The work was commissioned by the owner, Mrs J. Johnston and the survey was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM).

The farm buildings appear to date to the late 18th century and represent the rebuilding of an earlier farmstead around a 16th or early 17th-century barn. The new farm was built on a courtyard layout, enclosed by ranges for stables, a cartlodge and granary. The development and impact of the agricultural revolution in East Anglia is regarded as an important area for further research by the Regional Research Agenda (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 42 & 45).

Copies of the report will be supplied to ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford. The archive will be stored at Braintree Museum. An OASIS online record has been created at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/index.cfm>.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location and Description

Littlebury Farm is located to the west of the village of Great Notley, along Fairstead Road (TL 7624 1864). A gravel driveway leads from the road to the house and barns, which occupy a large area of garden and lawns, partly comprising re-claimed farmland (fig.1).

The farmstead is formed as three ranges around a central yard, sited to the west of the house on a broadly north-west to south-east layout. The eastern range, containing granary and stable, was converted to residential use by the previous owner and is outside of the survey. So too are modern structures on the west side, used as a garage and guest accommodation since the farm buildings became redundant.

All the structures are grade II listed, including the old 17th century timber-framed farmhouse. Details are provided below

- 16th century barn with attached pig sty and byre (LBS 115097)
- 18th century granary and stables (east range, converted) (LBS 115098)
- 18th century cartlodge and granary (west range, LBS 115099)
- 17th century farmhouse (LBS 115144)

2.2 Planning Background

Braintree District Council received a planning application (05/00149/COU) in January 2005 to convert the north and west ranges into live/work units. Mindful of their listed status and the importance of the farm buildings as a group, a full archaeological condition was attached to the planning permission for building recording, based on advice given in Planning Policy Guidance Notes and 16: Archaeology and Planning.

2.3 Historic Background

Littlebury Farm is probably named after the family of Nicholas *Lyttelbury*, mentioned in documents from 1342, associated with *Lytylbery Tye* in 1500 and *Littleburyes* in 1517 (Reaney 1969). There is no record of an earlier moated site here, but the two linear ponds to the south of the house (fig. 1) suggest this may be the case, particularly the roadside return in figure 3.

The barn is listed as 16th-century and was re-roofed in the 18th century, presumably when the present farm was constructed. The farmhouse is believed to date to the 17th century (Listed Buildings Online) but could be earlier, and has many interesting features.

Documents and maps from the 18th century onwards refer to the farm as *Bats* or *Batts Green*. Chapman and Andre's 1777 map of Essex (plate 13, fig. 2) shows several scattered farm buildings of the earlier farm, though the fact that the 16th-century barn cannot be identified, suggests this map is inaccurate and therefore unreliable.

The style and quality of the timbers in the cartlodge and stable range suggests a late 18th-century or perhaps early 19th century date. Certainly by 1841 the new farmstead has been constructed, appearing much as it does today. The White Notley Tithe Map (D/CT 257, fig. 3) shows 'Batts Green Farm' as three ranges minus the byre and pig sties either side of the barn porch. The tithe accompanying award (D/CT 257A) mentions a modest holding of approximately 25 acres of arable land to the south and west of the farmstead, owned and occupied by Mr William Brown. A labourer's cottage to the south (plot 270) is occupied by Abraham Smith.

The first edition 1875 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (fig. 4) shows the farmstead in better detail. It shows the byre (built between 1841 and 1875) on the east side of the barn porch and the yard divided into three, presumably to provide yards for stock, indicating a move to mixed farming since the 1840s. A trackway leads north-west of the complex between fields, not wholly apparent on the tithe map, perhaps suggesting new holdings on this side. Certainly the old 1841 northern boundary has gone. Further stock houses may have been built onto the western range, doubling its length. Since demolished, their outlines remain today. The eastern range has been re-constructed square to the barn and stables, allowing for a more regular, larger yard. This is at odds with the List description that describes the eastern range on the former layout, canted towards the east (figs. 1 & 3), which is the way it stands today.

The second edition OS map of 1897 shows no change, but the outlines of the buildings are slightly better. For instance, the open side to the byre is shown by dashed lines (fig. 5). This format continues into the early part of the 20th century when, it appears, the farm is referred to as 'Littlebury' (1924 OS map, sheet 45, not shown). As the pig sty is not included on the 1924 map, it is interpreted as the latest structure.

It is unclear when farming ceased at Littlebury Farm and the buildings became redundant, but certainly by the mid-1980s as they were Listed in 1985 (Listed Buildings Online) in advance of the east range being converted by the previous owner to a residential annexe (Mrs Johnson pers. comm.). It is likely that remedial works to the barn's walls, and perhaps roof, were carried out at the same time. According to the List description, the granary was stood on brick piers and still contained the grain bins (LBS 115098). Both granary and stable were timber-framed with asbestos roofs and the byre and sty were built of similar materials (LBS 115097). The farmhouse was Listed in 1991.

2.4 Farming in the 17th and 18th centuries

Early farm buildings were often scattered rather than grouped around a yard. Several aisled medieval barns survive in Essex built for large manorial estates or religious institutions, the most famous being the barley and wheat barns at Cressing Temple. However, few complete farmsteads in East Anglia date to before 1750 and none to before 1600 (English Heritage 1997). Most buildings that survive are barns, because of their adaptable size and good construction. Stables also survive, but lesser so livestock accommodation, which, before the 18th century, consisted of temporary shelters at best. Demands for timber increased during the 17th and 18th centuries, causing prices to rise and old timbers increasingly reused with new, less substantial pieces in more vernacular buildings (Harris 1993).

The agricultural revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries was based on improvements dating back to the 17th century: new root crops and grasses, drainage and colonisation of new land, plus ongoing improvements in manuring, animal husbandry, 'permanent tillage' (elimination of the fallow year) and enclosure. From the 1740s, new planned or 'model' farms were constructed to replace the earlier farmsteads. Buildings were arranged to maximise the natural flow of materials. Typically their layout was symmetrical around a central courtyard, with the (often retained) barn one side and stables and stock sheds and stores for feed and bedding forming perpendicular wings, with the yard open to the warmer southern side.

By the end of the Napoleonic wars (1815) farming had slumped following a wartime boom. But, thanks to further improvements in farming methods, by the 1840s the industry was expanding again. In fact the era between 1840 and 1870 witnessed a 'golden age' of farming, when grain prices were at their peak, leading to an acceleration in farm building and improvement and the wider introduction of mechanisation (Lake 1989).

In the post 1840 period, the courtyard system was adopted to its full potential, aided by mechanisation, artificial fertilisers and new feeds. Mixed farming, combining grain production

with rearing meat and dairy cattle and bullocks, was advocated by contemporary writers as a cushion against depression. Such farms took full advantage of the traditional crop cycle whereby the animals provided manure for the fields in return for food and straw.

Although the model farm remained an ideal, the expense precluded use by anyone other than the wealthier estates. However, high farming ideas did trickle down to the smaller farmers. Many landowners remodelled and modified their farms, retaining some of the older buildings while constructing new housing for livestock to give emphasis to the new stock-rearing techniques.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the historic building survey, as outlined in the brief, was to provide a detailed record of the farm buildings before conversion. As part of the survey, the record was required to consider the following points:

- Plan form, development and phasing
- Materials and method of construction
- Internal layout and function
- Surviving fixtures and fittings
- Dates of the structures
- Context within its contemporary landscape.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Those standing buildings not already converted were recorded with the assistance of plans, elevations and sections supplied by the client. Each structure was given a number and referenced to a block plan of the site (fig. 1). Recording was based on English Heritage (2006) Level 3 standards. External and internal architectural descriptions were made and function of each building assessed, along with its relationships to others in the group.

A series of photographs (digital and 35mm colour and black and white prints) were taken to record the buildings internally and externally. Specific views were taken of areas of important architectural detail, joinery, fixtures and fittings. A representative selection is reproduced at the back of the report as plates 1-18.

The converted eastern range, pig sty and byre, which do not form the main part of the survey, are described briefly in the text and included in the accompanying photographs.

5.0 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 General Description

The three ranges stand around a modern concrete yard that mirrors the 19th century layout but without the yard divisions which were probably lost when the yard was concreted (figs. 1-6). The farm buildings included in the survey are typical timber framed (probably elm and some oak) and weatherboarded Essex farm structures standing on red brick plinths, generally in good condition through continued use.

Roofs are clad in corrugated asbestos sheets lit from clear plastic panels, but originally they were probably thatched. The barn was almost certainly daubed but the later structures have always been boarded. Historic fixtures such as ledged braced and battened doors on pintel hinges remain but there are few internal fixtures and fittings.

Until recently the barn and cartlodge were used for storage purposes by the house and the stables as an art studio. Before the survey the stables were cleared out.

For ease of reference, the external descriptions below have grouped the buildings together under their respective building ranges, followed by individual internal descriptions. Since they have already been converted, the eastern range, sty and byre are described briefly in the report, but appear in several plates as part of the historic group.

5.2 External descriptions

5.2.1 *South elevation* (barn, pig sty & byre)

The main barn elevation faces the yard, with a porch with high cart doors and former pig sty and byre either side (plate 1). The threshold still retains its 'leap boards' (numbered 1-4), which were used to keep the muck from the yard from entering the barn and prevent animals straying in during threshing. Above the leap are large two-leaf cart doors likely to date from the late 18th or 19th century (plate 2).

The former pigsty on the west side of the porch is a modern (post-1900) structure whose details are unknown but now functions as a woodshed and paint store, the latter of which is

converted, with brick walls and pantile roof. The woodshed retains its corrugated asbestos roof, suggesting the pig sty was an open shed with a gate on the front.

The byre still provides an open shed and access into the barn via the porch. A gardening tool store has been built within the third bay and the whole is covered by a pantile roof.

5.2.2 North elevation (barn & cartlodge)

The north elevation comprises the rear of the barn and cartlodge at the back. Modern cartdoors provide entry this side into the barn, which are under a canopied roof (plate 3). All the boards have been replaced this side, probably when the modern stables were built between the north and east ranges (plate 3). There are no openings for windows on the north elevation of either the barn or cartlodge, though there may have been formerly.

5.2.3 West elevation (cartlodge & stables)

The gable wall of the cartlodge contains the wide cart entry facing onto the gravel driveway (plate 4). Boards are missing over the entrance and on the sides and there is no evidence for doors, nor studwork to show this was ever enclosed. The doorway posts either side are inserted (one reused and the other being modern). A disused pitching hatch in the gable (plate 4) suggests there was a hay loft inside.

Attached to the south are stables 3, the main features of which are a fixed 2-light modern window and a half-heck doorway at the far end on this side (plate 4).

5.2.4 East elevation (stables)

A single door provides access from the yard via concrete steps (plate 5) that retains historic door fasteners.

5.3 Barn 1

The barn was built in the 16th or early 17th-century as a three-bay structure with a south-facing porch and its timber frame has characteristics of this date. The original barn measured 12 x 6m (approx. 2 by 1 rods) and comprised three regular 4m-wide bays (fig. 6). Two further bays were added onto the west end in the 18th century when the farm was improved, most of which form the cartlodge. This extension was built slightly lower but with bays of the same proportions (fig. 6). The barn was originally daubed but was later clad in weatherboarding and raised on a high red brick plinth during the improvement stage. Indeed, the soft reds that make up the plinth have dimension of 210-20 x 110 x 60-65mm, typical for 18th or early 19th

century bricks (Ryan 1996), and are laid in (mainly) English bond. Its gabled roof has a pitch of 45° would make it suitable for thatch, while the walls show wattle marks for daub panels.

The whole of the barn has been stripped, clad in pine board and re-boarded in recent years. Battens have been added to the roof and a ridge plate.

During the survey, the interior was still in use and the floor was covered in a variety of items from office furniture to a ride-on lawnmower and a car, which slowed down the recording process but did not affect the quality of the record.

5.3.1 Internal description

The interior (plates 6-9) is laid out over three bays with a central midstrey and part of the two-bay western extension. As the original western wall was removed during the process, It appears the extra bays were added both to extend the barn and provide a cartlodge. Otherwise, the internal layout remains as original except for the division of the midstrey and eastern bay by a 'rustic screen' of relatively late date. A raised concrete floor stands in the midstrey and western bay, while the eastern bay, which is lower, is bare earth. This bay has been affected by the insertion of a steel frame to hold a modern water tank, but this has not interfered with the fabric of the building.

Main-framing consists of good-quality jowled-headed bay posts that define the bays and carry the tie beams, each of which is supported on straight double-pegged braces (fig. 7). Dimensions of the main timbers are c. 20 x 18cm, between 7 and 8 inches. All are cut square. Wall plates of similar scantling extend either side and carry the studwork. Wall frames are of one bay lengths without the need for scarf joints. No scarf joints were observed on the sill beams, that rest on the brick plinth, either. Some of the plates are strapped to the tie beams, a later insertion to prevent the roof 'spreading'.

Wall-framing is a combination of pegged and tenoned studwork (pegged top and bottom) and nailed internally-braced studs, both methods used in the 16th and 17th centuries. Studs are straight and quite wide at 14 x 7cm, (c.5½ x 3 inches) with gaps of between 36 and 42cm, providing 7 studs per bay. Few are reused. The framing on the south side (fig. 10a) shows both methods of construction, while the opposing side is unbraced, and unpegged on the eastern bay, which appears rebuilt (fig. 10b). The bracing of the east wall is cranked (fig. 10c), and the timbers of lesser quality, suggesting perhaps this end was rebuilt in the 18th century. It is not unusual to have more than one building style together in a barn.

Wattle cut marks can be seen most clearly on the northern side of the barn to hold the wattle and daub panels of the earlier barn.

The porch is a contemporary fixture of the barn and has the same internal nailed bracing seen in all other parts, though planks have been nailed across the porch wall plates and midstrey tie beams (plates 7 & 8), suggesting problems in the past. It would seem the door and studwork above the lintel (at least) was replaced in the 18th century as the porch door posts are built with bolted knee-braces rather than the jowled posts that remain in the corners (plate 8, left). The side door into the porch remains (fig. 10c) and possibly an earlier doorway facing it, though it seems not to have been used (plate 8). An additional post has been added in the south-east corner post of the midstrey resulting in the loss of its jowl.

There has been some structural failure around the area of the cart door on the north side of the midstrey. Here the wall plate was cut through in the past, presumably to raise the height of the door, and the frame either side slumped in. Secondary plates have been inserted above the wall plates to correct this (plate 9). A lot of rebuilding has occurred around the door and the wall plates are now bolted to the door frame. Although the canopy over the door appears of some age externally, the studwork is secondary and simply nailed on, perhaps when the new door was fitted.

The so-called 'rustic screen' that divides the midstrey from the eastern bay is of relatively late date but is an interesting feature and perhaps this kind of partition was a common method of segregation that harks back to a farming tradition whose older versions seldom, if ever, survive. The screen is assembled from hazel staves nailed to a light frame attached to the bay posts (fig. 6, plate 6) and appears to have had sacking attached to prevent draught. As the nails have round heads they are more likely to be of late 19th or 20th century date.

Evidence for the original west wall of the three-bay barn survives in the form of empty stud mortices on the western tie beam (plate 10). Bolted knee braces have been added to the bay posts either side. The new wall was built 2.5m to the west (fig. 6) with primary-braced timbers (plate 7), which is the predominant form of construction in the extension/cartlodge. Although obscured by the knee brace, the new wall plates are probably tenoned and pegged into the former corner post. The studwork butts onto the posts (figs. 10a & b, plate 10), providing extra stability rather than adding a new bay post, which is the norm.

A gap in the studs above the mid post on the barn-side gable probably represents a former pitching hatch into the barn.

Recent repair works have been carried out on the roof which is of the clasped purlin form (fig. 7, plate 6). The ridge plate is inserted and all but the end collars are nailed rather than pegged. Possible mortice holes for queen struts were seen on the western end of midstrey, but no pegholes were observed, so this beam may be reused. Quite heavy rafters are set in line with the studs below.

5.4 Barn extension/Cartlodge 2

The cartlodge (plates 4 & 11) is part of the 18th-century barn extension and appears to have been built for this purpose. Its plan and roof form is identical to the barn but the construction is mainly primary-braced, which is a later form. Its height is slightly lower (by 0.55m) so the new build did not affect the construction of the main building. The character of the bricks is the same as the barn, suggesting the plinths were added with the extension.

During the survey the structure was still in use as a workshop, but unlike the barn there have been no recent alterations to the walls and roof,

5.4.1 Internal description

The extension is of two bays, with the division between the barn and cartlodge occurring within the eastern bay (fig. 6) providing a roughly-square 5.5 x 6m area for farm carts, etc. It has a modern paving stone floor and a workbench and shelving units located at the east end. A good ledged and braced door on the south end connects the cartlodge and stables (fig. 6, plate 12).

Construction is more basic than the barn and the timbers are of lower quality, which is common on later farm buildings. Wall-framing is primary-braced, where the diagonal braces are added first and the studs nailed onto them. The studs are variable in size from c.8 x 11cm to 12 x 8cm and quite 'waney', i.e. not straight. Because the frame is relatively flimsy, the studs are grouped closer together, around 8 per bay with gaps typically of 0.32m between them. Some still have bark attached. Some of the studs are pegged to the plate, but generally they are only tenoned in, although the braces are pegged to the bay posts (figs. 10a & b). There is a higher level of reused timbers. There are no wattle cut marks, which suggests the structure was always boarded and this would have added to the strength of the frame. Wall posts are straight, without jowls but these and the other main timbers are similar in size to those in the barn.

Several beams span the building, only one of which divides the bays. The beam closest to the entrance is slightly charred and is obviously reused since there is no other evidence for

fire. The more prominent one between the charred beam and tie beam is a floor joist (plate 12). It is possible the two supported the hay loft above, even though their form is very different. A gap in the studs above the mid post on the barn-side gable may represent a former pitching hatch into the barn, in which case the loft was built across the whole of the cartlodge.

The cartlodge has a similar roof construction to the barn, utilising the clasped-purlin form. Being unaffected by modern repairs, it retains its pegged collars and rafters (fig. 8). An inserted strut is on the south side and short windbraces are nailed to the rafters (plate 12).

5.5 Stables 3

Because the stable is built over the southern edge of the cartlodge roof (plate 11), it signifies the final phase of the historic farmstead and its build typifies the late 18th and early 19th century style. It is built over three equal 2.8m bays (fig. 6), each equivalent to half a rod, and is therefore 1½ rods long and c. 1 rod wide (5m). Being slightly narrower, its roof is pitched slightly higher at 55° to reach the ridge of the cartlodge (fig. 9, plate 5 & 13).

The south end of stables 3 has a similar plinth to the barn but is bonded in Flemish rather than English bond, suggesting a later date. The plinth incorporates flint foundations at the base (plates 1 & 5), also visible on the corner.

5.5.1 Internal description

The floor is laid in concrete and the internal walls are built from waney primary-braced timbers (plates 14 & 15). The braces on the west wall are particularly long and waney (fig. 10e, plate 15). Studwork is close together at between 26 and 32cm and the studs themselves, whilst having a fairly consistent depth (c.12cm), are quite narrow, between 7 and 11cms, mainly the former. None is pegged, not even to the bay posts. As shorter bays, there are 6 per bay with gaps typically of 0.32m between them. Some still have bark attached. Some of the studs are pegged to the plate, but generally they are only tenoned in.

Wall plates are connected in two places by four-pegged face-halved and bladed scarf joints (figs. 10d & 10e) the clearest example being in the southern bay close to the yard-side door (plate 16).

5.6 Converted pig sty and byre

According to the map evidence, the pig sty dates to after 1924 but has an older appearance in keeping with the general farm group. One side functions as a log shed and the other

stores paint (plates 5 & 17). As the log store retains its asbestos roof, it is assumed this is the remnant pig sty, though there are no features to confirm this. The other side appears to have been built from reclaimed timbers with a new roof and door. Both are lined-out in pine boarding.

The byre retains much of its earlier form and also retains its feeding trough beside the porch door (fig. 6, plate 18). The interiors of the gardening store are boarded-out although the partition wall may have some historic significance.

6.0 DISCUSSION

Medieval references to the Littlebury family suggest their presence between the mid-14th century or earlier, although the farm was not named as such until the beginning of the last century. There is some evidence on 19th-century mapping to suggest a moat in line with the house and the road (fig. 3), perhaps surviving today as two ponds laying across the driveway (fig. 1) and it is therefore possible that the former farmhouse stands on an earlier farmstead or incorporates medieval elements. Judging by the construction of the barn, a farm has existed here since the 16th or early 17th century at least, based on the combination of features inside. Jowled wall posts, internal nailed bracing and straight bracing (rather than curved) to the trusses may all be found together around this date, and the frame is relatively light with few variations in scantling to parts of the wall-framing. Several types of wall-framing, pegged and unpegged studwork and internal bracing are found in the barn and this is not unusual in utility buildings. It is possible that some frames have been reused from elsewhere, but the similarities in form and scantling and low evidence of other reuse makes this uncertain.

Changes to the farm occurred in two stages probably between the late 18th century and early 19th century. The cartlodge and stables, which are dated to this period, clearly illustrate the decline in the quality of timber in vernacular buildings. Primary-bracing, initially developed in the 16th century, became extensively-used in the 18th as a means of utilising reused, poor or relatively short timbers. The barn extension/cartlodge frame has timbers of similar scantling to the main building but with more of a waney finish. Bolted knee braces support the bay where the former west wall of the barn stood, which are common features of later farm buildings. The fact that the stable is built onto the cartlodge with low-quality framing and bolted knee braces indicates this was the final range to be built, though further structures

were added in the Victorian period. The low-quality of the frame is offset by the high quality of the scarf joints which, given the late date, is unusual.

The unconverted farm structures blend in with the rural setting of Littlebury Farm and despite some rebuilt parts of the barn, retain their historic exteriors. Internally, though, change and continued use has resulted in few historic fixtures and fittings surviving, which is not unusual, especially if a farm has been allowed to decay over time, as most do after they become redundant. One of the few fixtures to remain is the feeding trough in the former byre. There is no evidence of the former threshing floor or internal detail (stalls, lofts, infills/plaster, etc).

The courtyard plan form was extensively used in the redesign of many Essex farmsteads in the 18th and 19th centuries and this is clearly the case at Littlebury. The new structures created ranges either side of the early barn enclosing the yard, which was open to the warmer southern side for the benefit of livestock. They included the barn, cartlodge (with hay loft over), stables (for cart horses), granary and a second (hackney) stable close to the house. Documentary evidence shows the early 19th century farm was modest in size at 25 acres with an arable holding. It appears likely that the farm expanded northwards in the middle of the century, perhaps accruing new pasture for cattle, after the byre was built and possibly more cattle sheds/houses on the western range. Access to the farmyard was from the fields on the south side of Fairstead Road or the trackway along the west side the stable range. The barn was used for threshing and storing grain and fodder crops, with high cart doors either side to bring in the laden harvest carts into the midstrey and to create a through-draft for threshing during the winter months. Attached was the cartlodge, for storing farm vehicles, with a hay loft over, close to the stables. The stable held working horses, that were fed and groomed in stalls (no longer surviving) and hitched up to carts or ploughs by walking out the rear door to the trackway. A small herd of cattle were housed in the (speculated) cow house and in the yard to create manure that was spread on the fields. There was also an open-sided byre, often used for calving or sick animals. A granary was situated close to the house (grain being an expensive commodity) as well as the hackney stables, for the farmer's own carriage. Pigs were kept in the yard for fattening and to clear up food waste.

7.0 CONCLUSION

The barn, cartlodge and stables at Littlebury Farm form part of an interesting late 18th or early 19th century farm occupying a courtyard layout. Rather than a typical planned unit, it appears to have developed over a period of time around the yard. It incorporates a barn from

the 16th to 17th-century farmstead that is likely to be broadly contemporary with the farmhouse. During the agrarian revolution of the 18th and 19th century many farms in Essex underwent agricultural improvement. Sometimes new farms were established but often the existing farm buildings were replaced whilst retaining the larger more useful buildings, inevitably the barn, in the new layout. Such changes occurred throughout East Anglia, which was the main agrarian centre of the country, and are therefore regarded as important areas of study by the Regional Research Agenda (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 42).

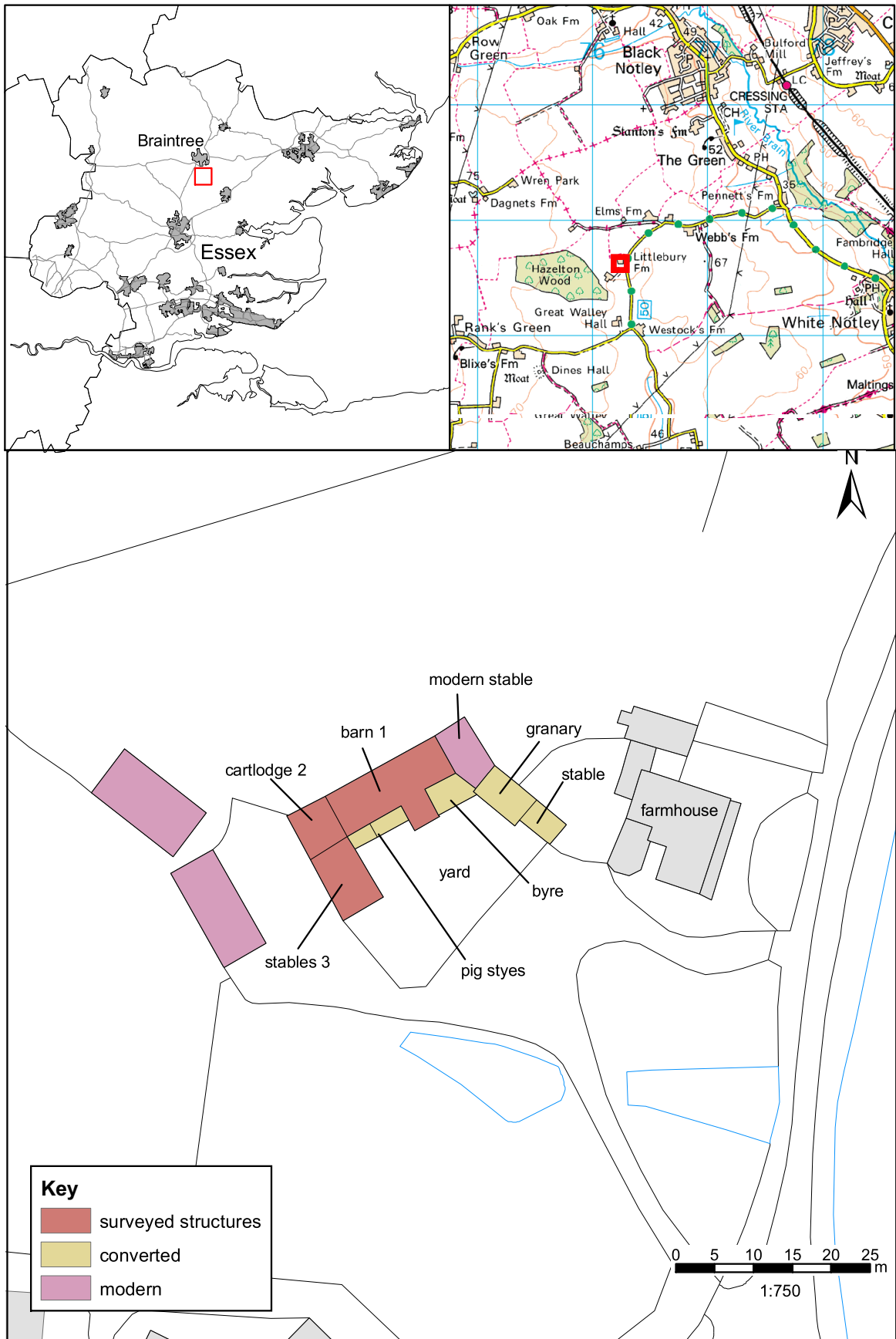
Those structures recorded in the survey provide a good example of the evolution of late post-medieval carpentry in the vernacular tradition at a time when good timber was running out. Other examples of 18th-century farmsteads have been recorded at Gray's Farm, Wethersfield and Walnut Tree Farm, Great Waltham, though in these examples the 18th-century farmstead was again improved in the mid-19th century, which is frequently the case. The converted eastern range and stable blend in with the historic farm and no modern structures have been added to spoil the character of the farm, which is again quite rare, preserving their landscape setting. Historic character, fabric and features are often lost as farms develop over time, especially during the intensive development of agriculture in the modern period. These examples survive in good condition and have good group value.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Jennifer Johnston for commissioning the work and for her help during the project. Also to the architect, Dave Andrews, for providing the drawings. Site visits, recording and photography were undertaken by the author. Drawings used in the report are based on those supplied and adapted by the author and Andrew Lewsey of ECC FAU. The site was monitored on behalf of ECC HEM and the Local Planning Authority by Teresa O'Connor.

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Fig.1. Site location and block plan



Fig. 2 Chapman and Andre map of Essex, 1777 (plate 13)

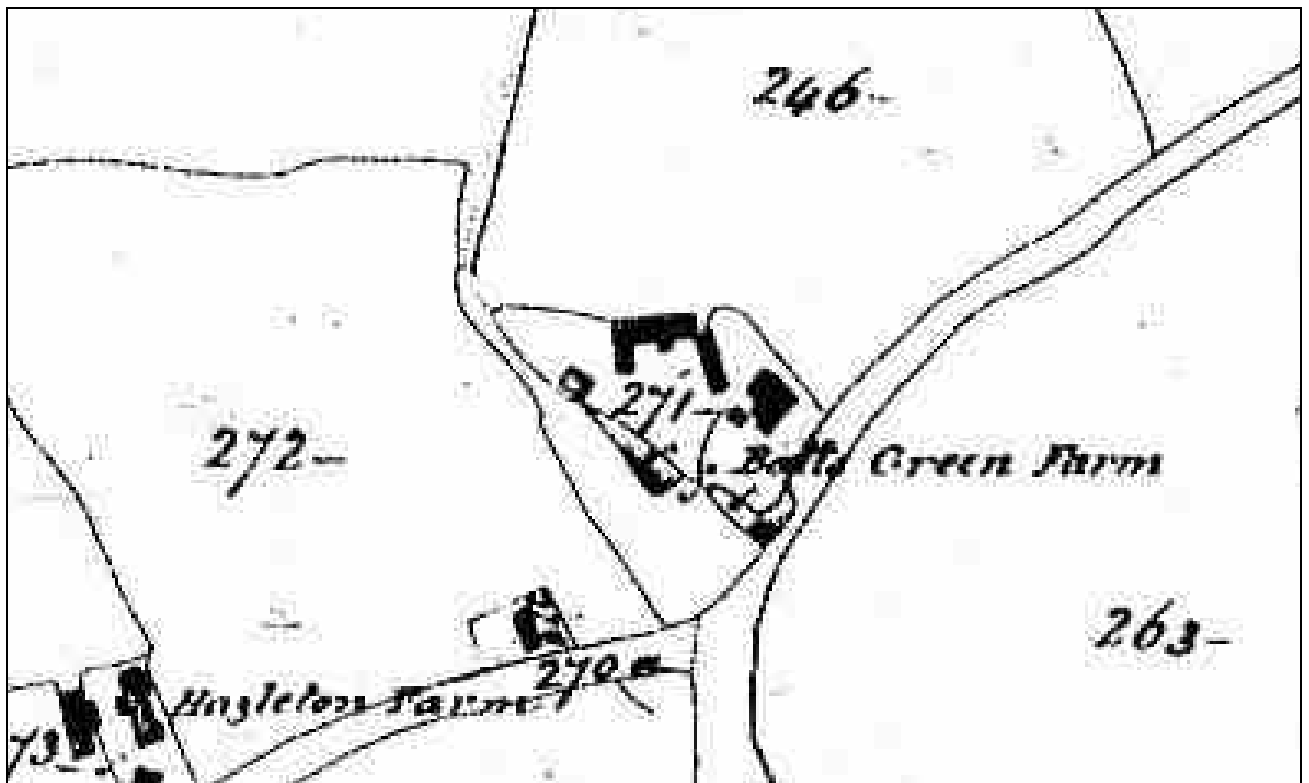


Fig. 3 Tithe map of White Notley, c.1841 (D/CT 257)

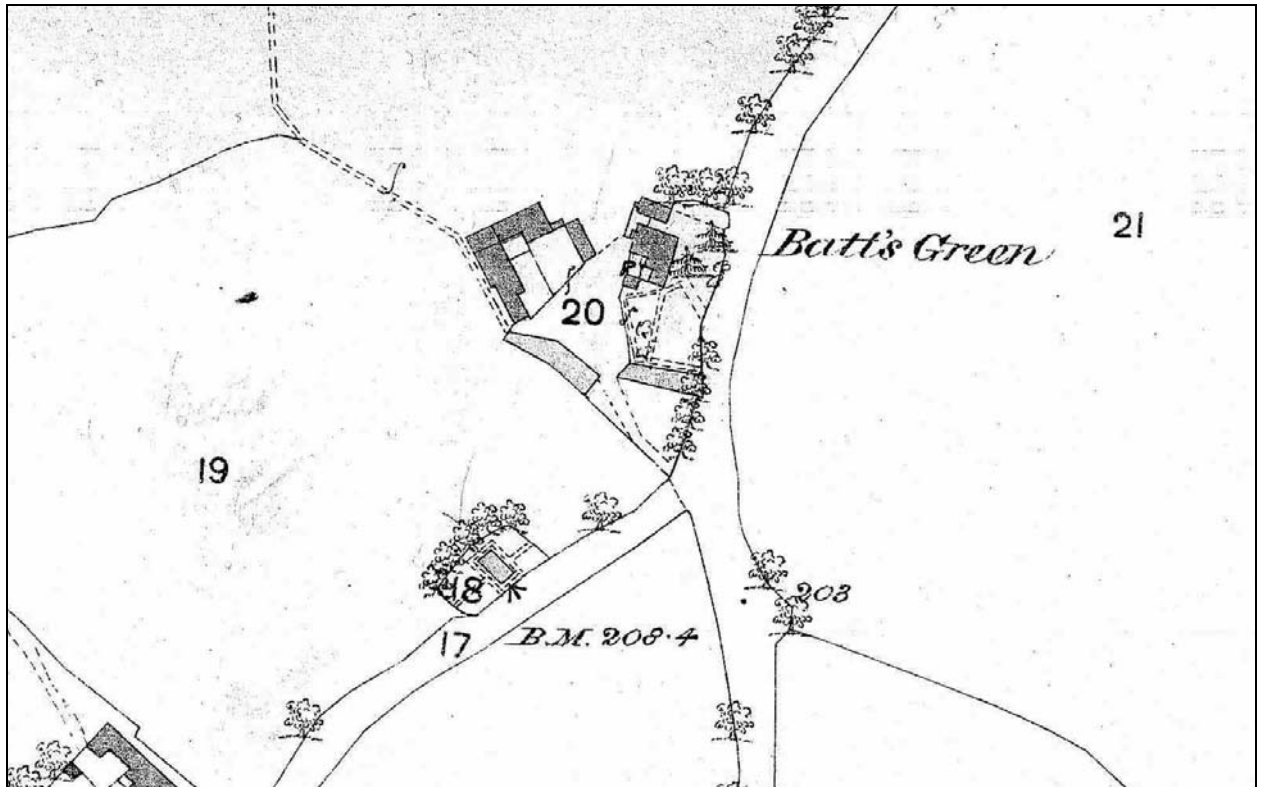


Fig. 4 First edition 25" OS map, 1875 (sheet 34.6)

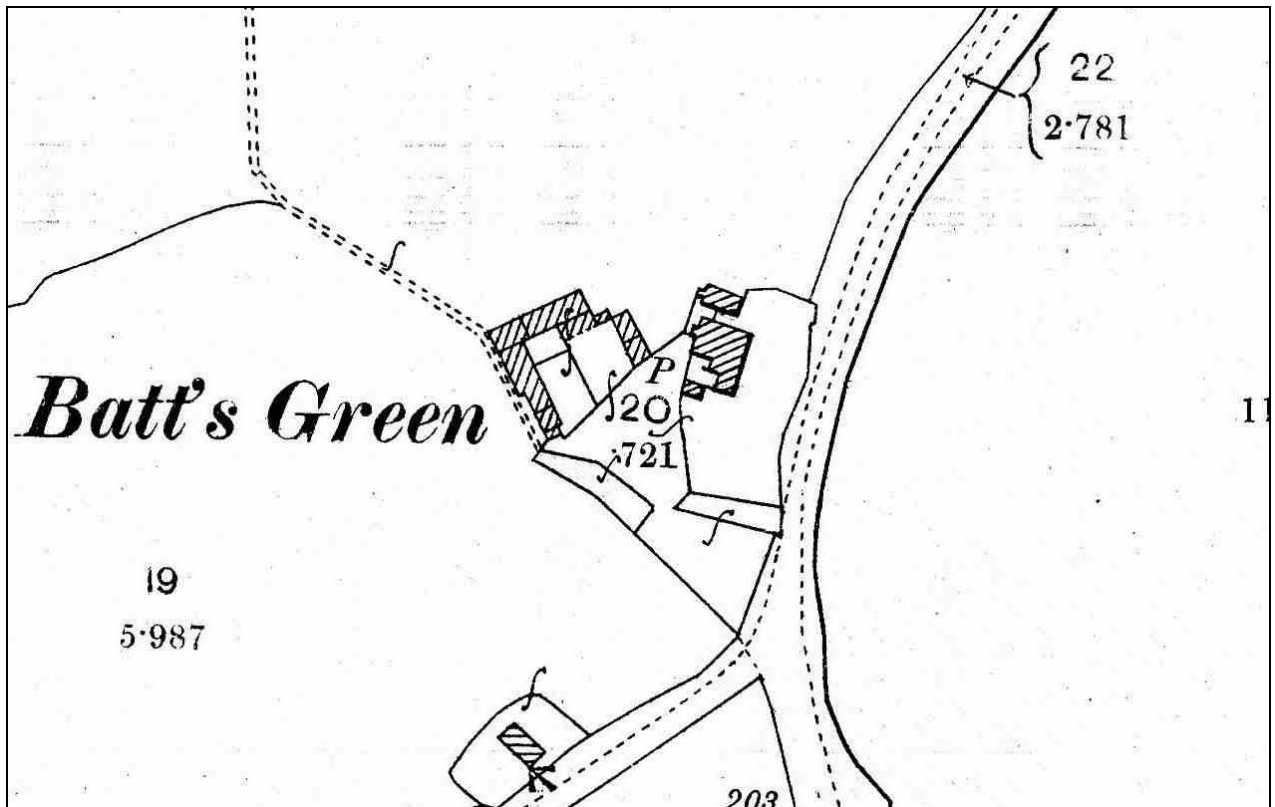


Fig. 5 Second edition 25" OS map, 1897 (sheet 34.6)

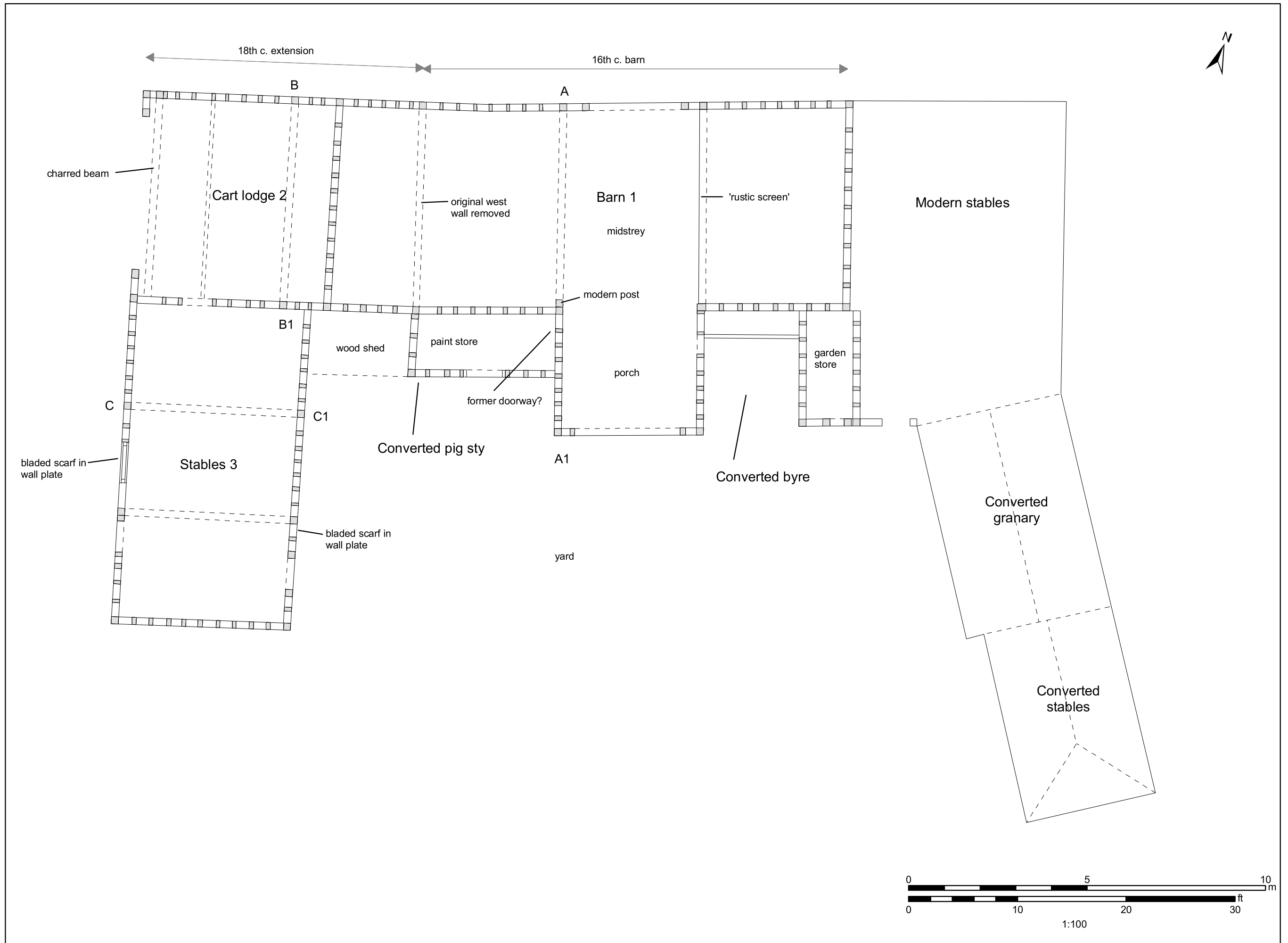


Fig.6. Existing floor plan

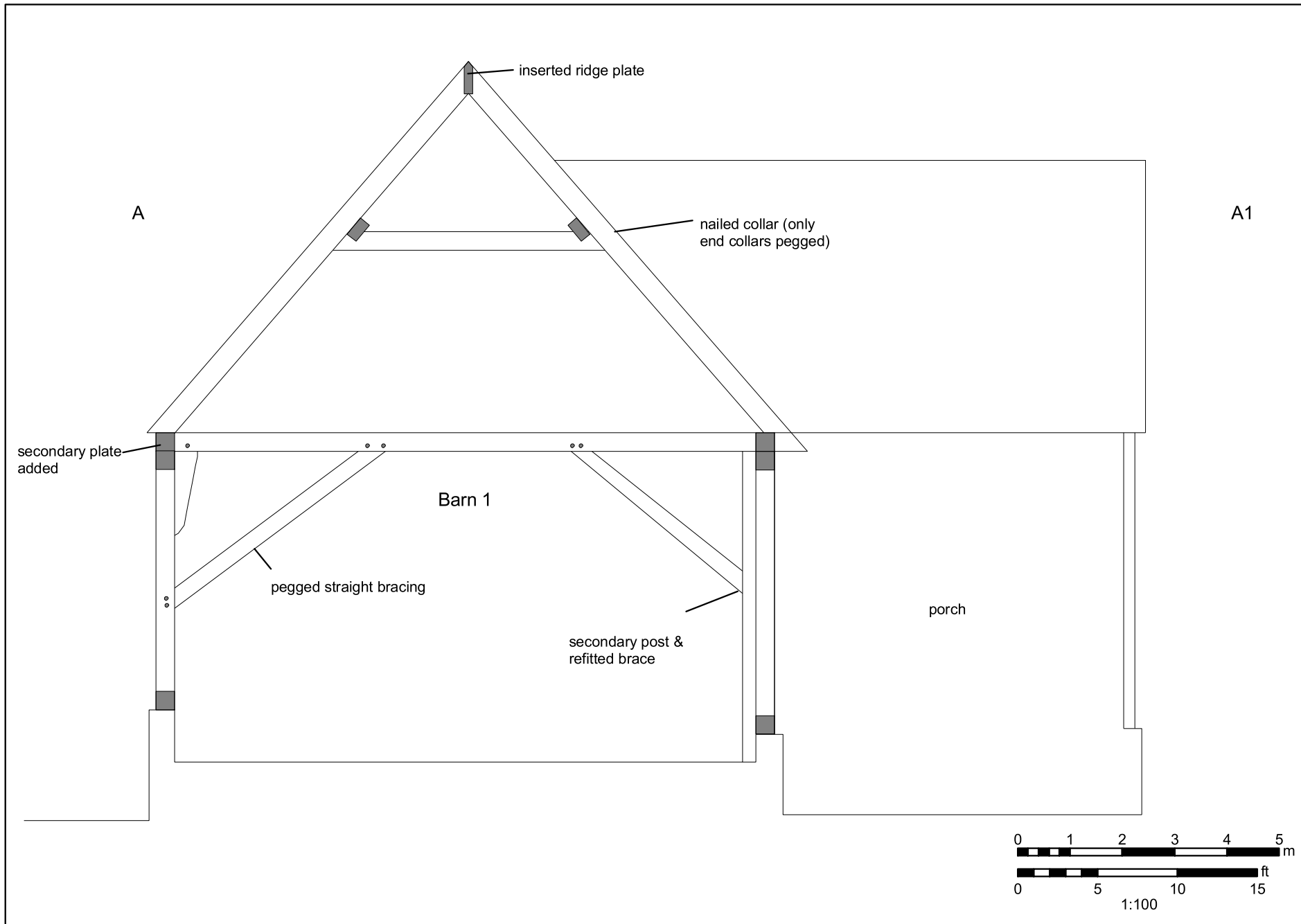


Fig.7. Section A - A1

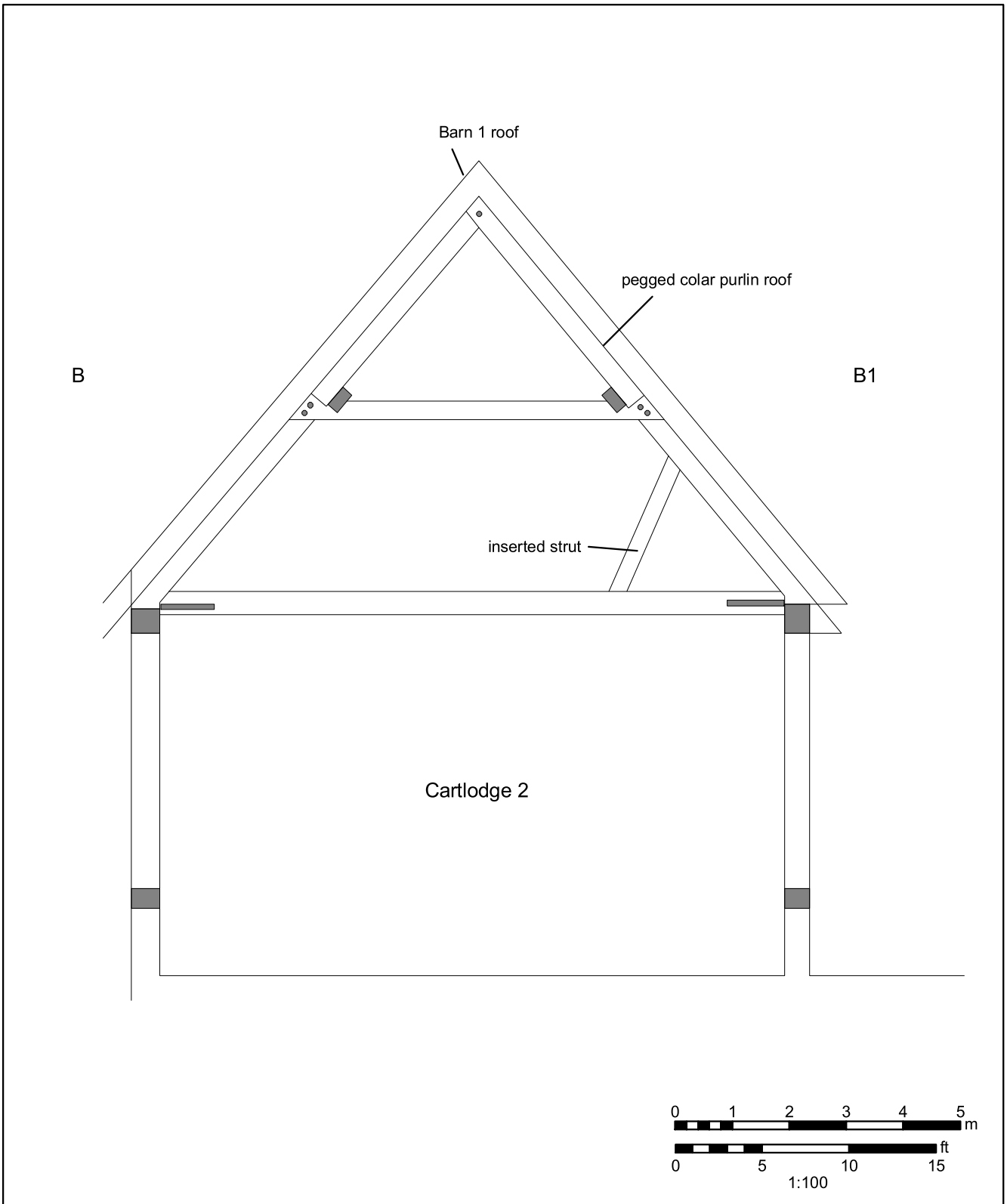


Fig.8. Section B - B1

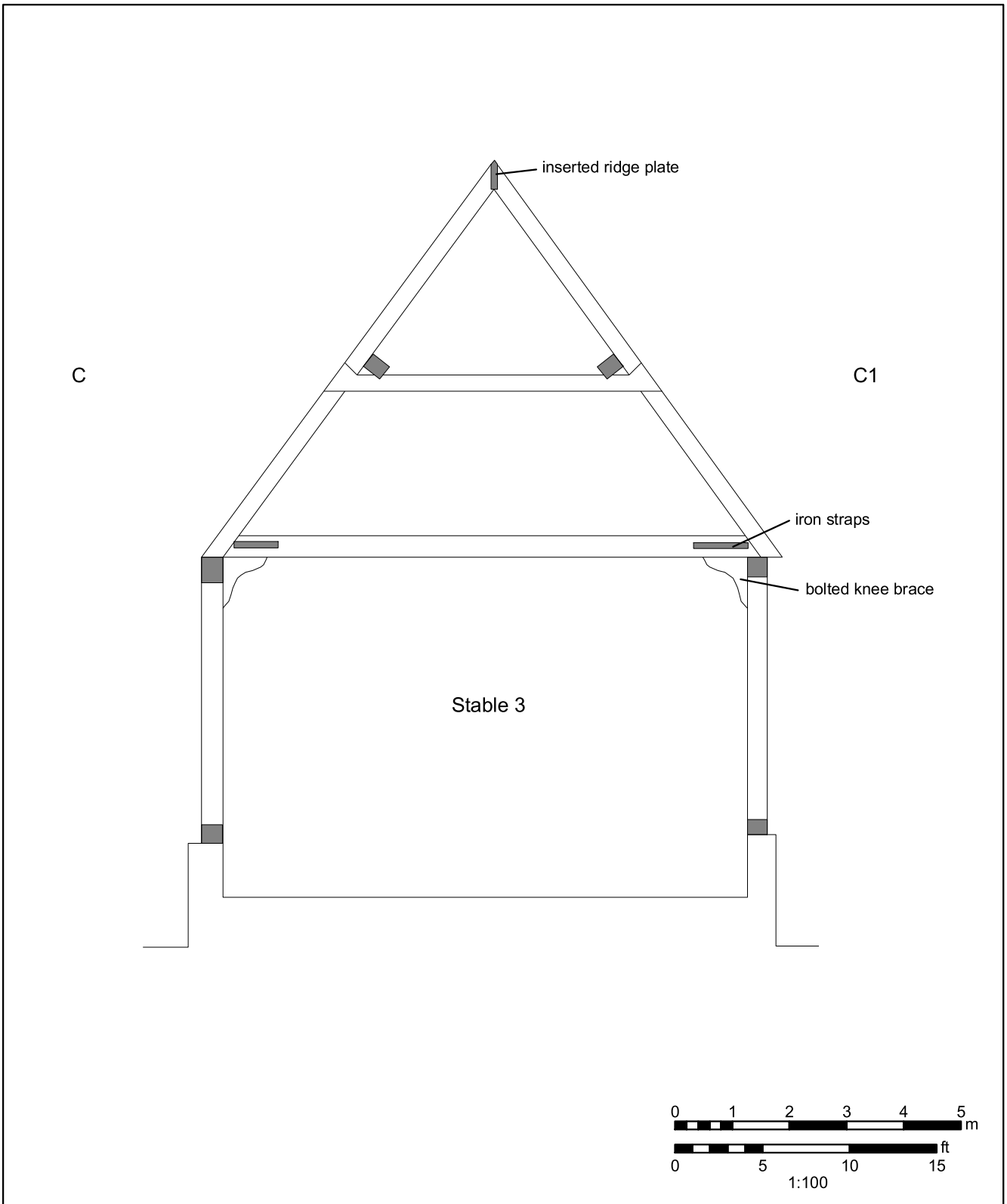


Fig.9. Section C - C1

Barn

Cartlodge

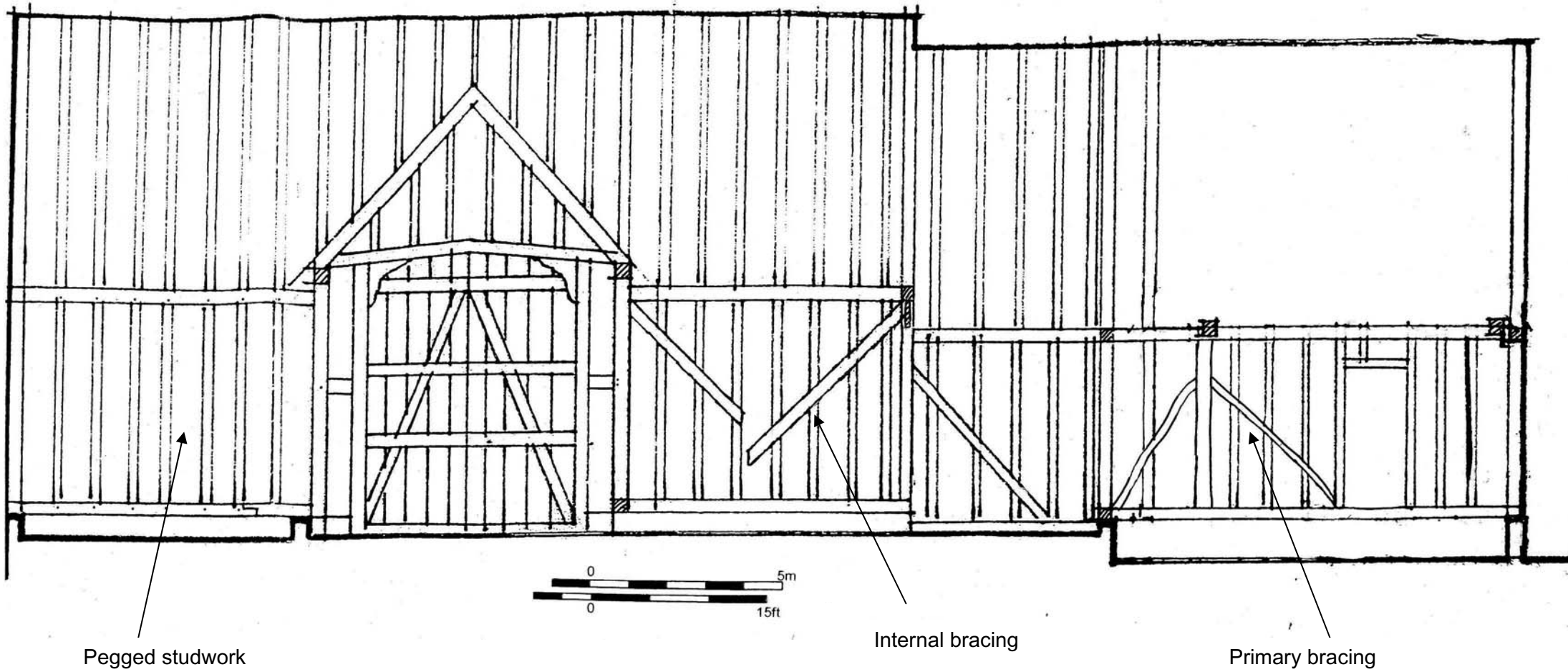
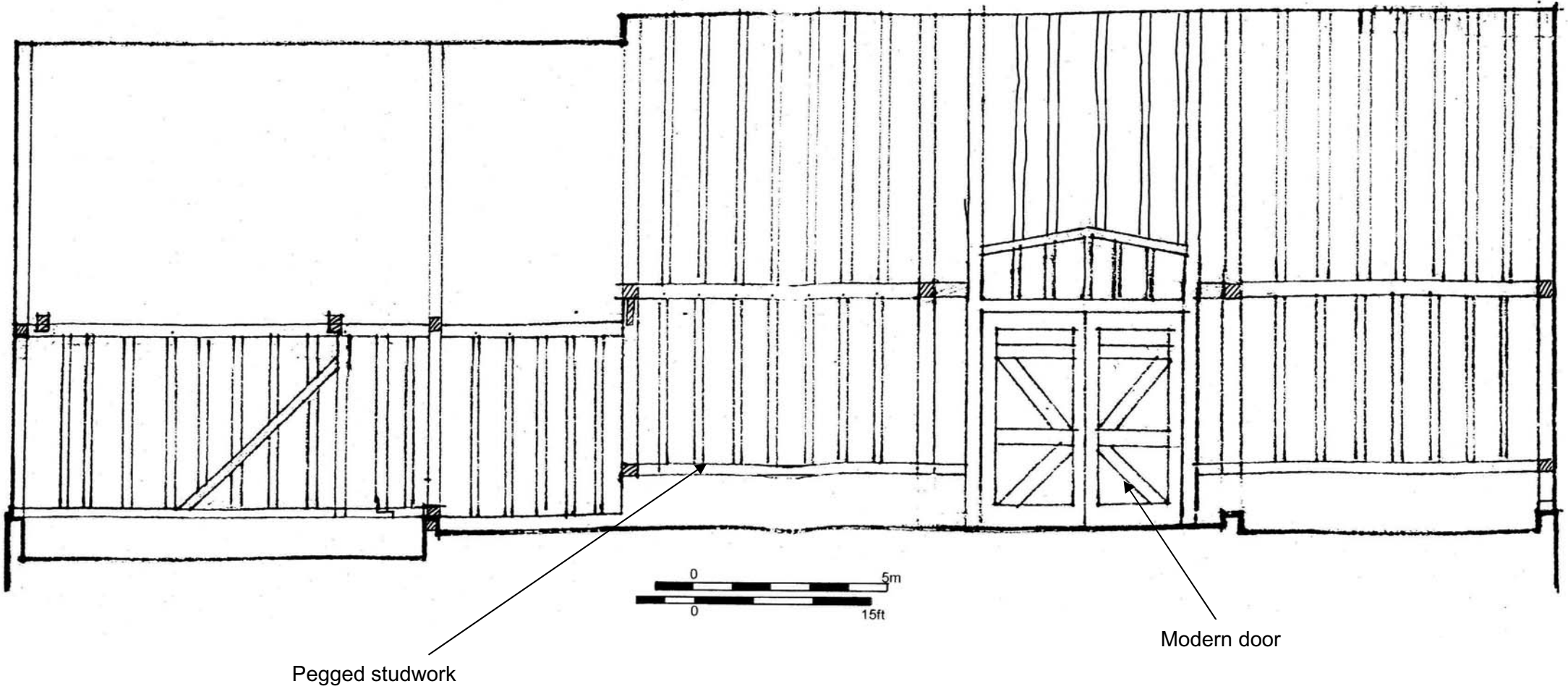


Fig. 10a South wall of barn and cartlodge (internal)

Cartlodge

Barn



Pegged studwork

Modern door

Fig. 10b North wall of barn and cartlodge (internal)

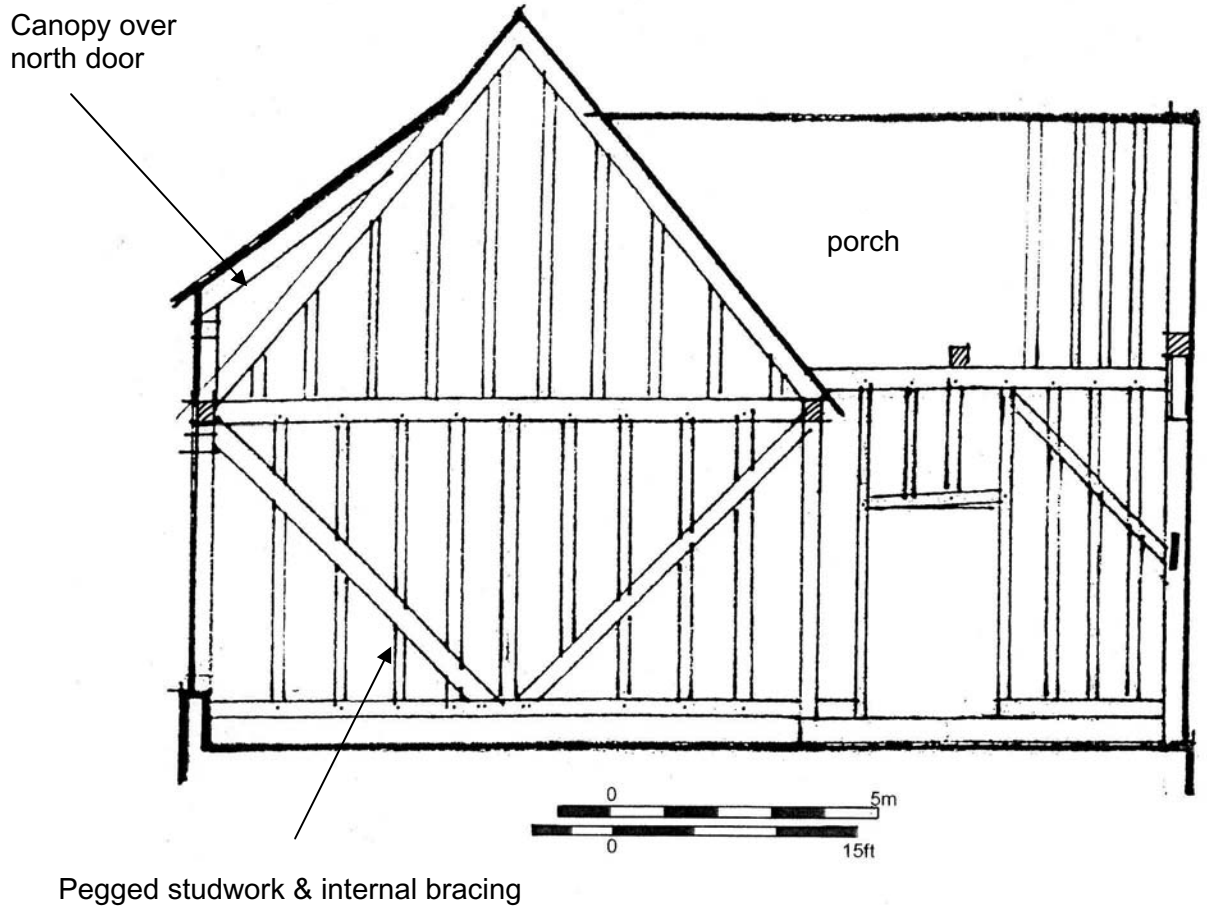


Fig. 10c Eastern walls of barn and porch (internal)

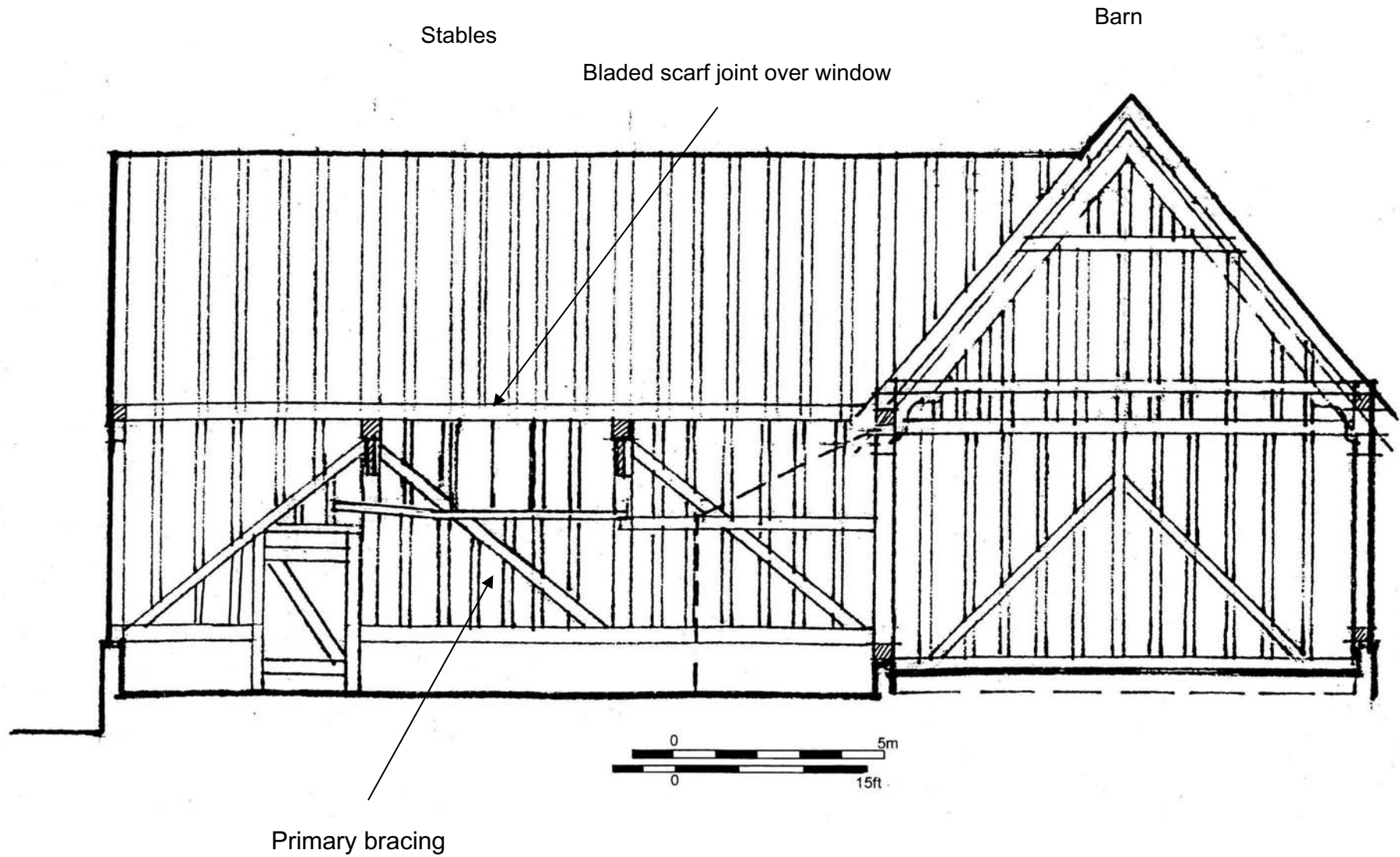


Fig. 10d West wall of barn and west wall of stables (internal)

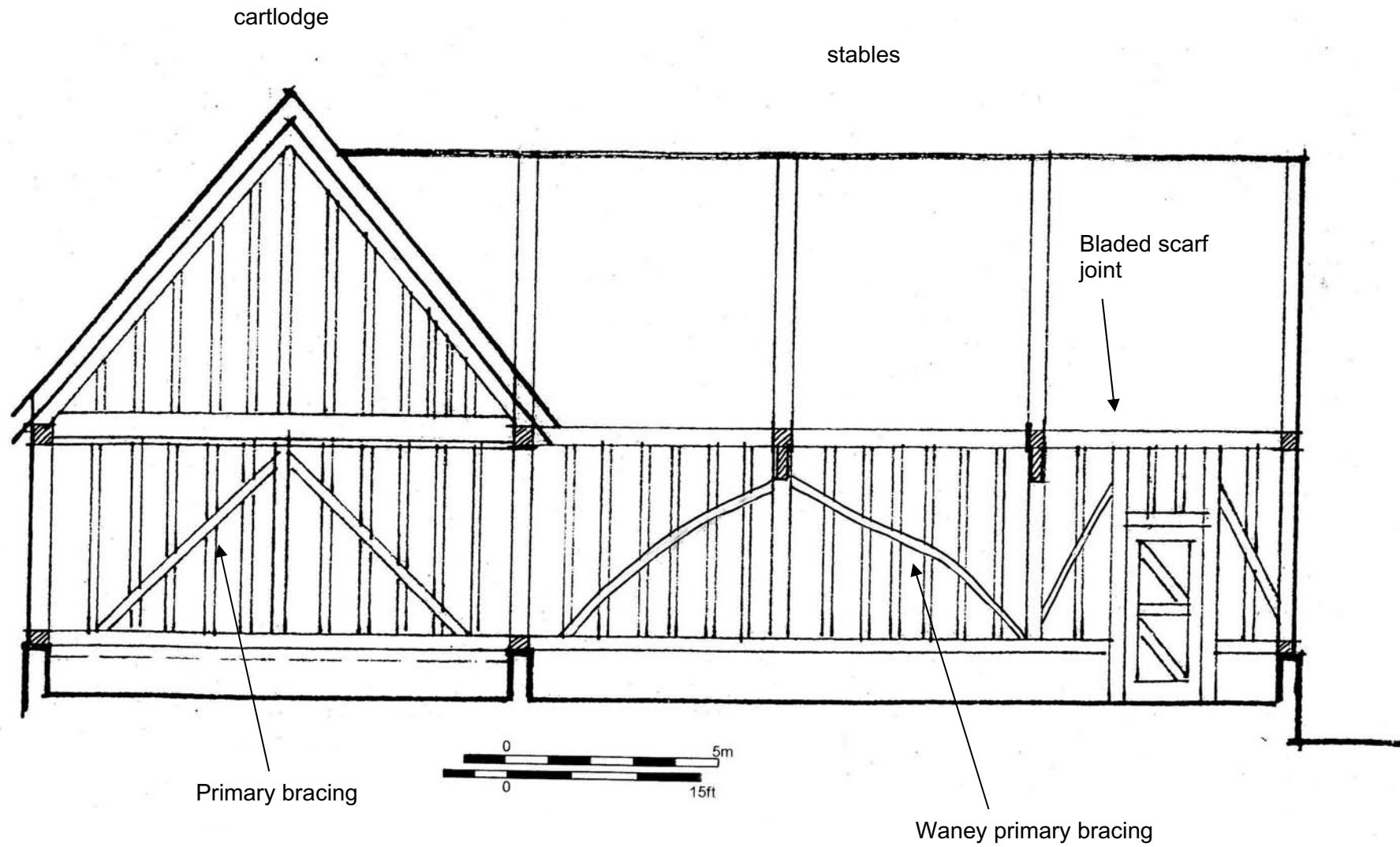


Fig. 10e East wall of cartlodge and stables (internal)



Plate 1 Surveyed farm buildings viewed to north across yard



Plate 2 Barn and converted pig sty and byre to north



Plate 3 North and west ranges viewed to south-west



Plate 4 North and west ranges viewed to south-east



Plate 5 Stables and former pig sty viewed to north-west



Plate 6 Interior of barn viewed to east



Plate 7 Interior of barn viewed to west



Plate 8 View across midstrey to porch (south-west)



Plate 9 Open truss between midstrey and western bay and north door



Plate 10 Intersection of barn and extension, showing different bracing forms on south wall



Plate 11 Cartlodge entrance, with stable built up to it, viewed to north-east



Plate 12 Interior of cartlodge viewed to east



Plate 13 Stable interior viewed to north



Plate 14 Stable interior viewed to south



Plate 15 Wall-framing on west wall of stables



Plate 16 Bladed scarf joint on east wall of stables



Plate 17 Converted pig sty viewed to east



Plate 18 Feeding trough inside converted byre

Appendix 1: Contents of Archive

Site name: Barns at Littlebury Farm, White Notley, Essex

Project no. 2141

Index to the Archive

Document wallet containing:

1. Research Archive

- 1.1 ECC HEM design brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU written scheme of investigation (WSI)
- 1.3 Two copies of the client report (one unbound)
- 1.4 CD containing digital images, & pdf-formatted report

2. Site Archive

- 2.1 Photographic registers
- 2.2 Photographic record (colour digital & 35mm monochrome prints)
- 2.3 Site notes & annotated survey plans
- 2.4 Architect drawings (plans, elevations & frame survey) from previous application (2005)

Appendix 2: EHER Summary Sheet

Site Name/Address: Littlebury Farm, White Notley, Essex	
Parish: White Notley	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 7624 1864	Site Code: WNLF 09
Type of Work: Building recording	Site Director/Group: Andy Letch, ECC FAU
Date of Fieldwork: March 2010	Size of Area Investigated: N/A
Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding Source: Mrs J. Johnston
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related EHER Nos.: LBS 115097-9; 115144
Final Report: Summary in EAH	
Periods Represented: Post-medieval, largely late 18th/early 19th century	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>A programme of building recording was undertaken on the remains of a redundant late 18th century grade II-listed farmstead prior to conversion to a live-work unit. The farmhouse is listed as 16th century in date and the barn, which was incorporated into the improved farmstead, probably belongs to the 16th- or early 17th-century. It forms the north range of the farmstead, with cartlodge attached and stable range on the western side. An eastern range, comprising a granary and hackney stables was converted, it is believed in the 1980s, to a residential annexe.</p> <p>The barn has jowled bay posts, straight braces and an internally-braced pegged studwork frame. It was originally daubed and thatched. The cartlodge and stables are clearly later in date and the quality of framing decreases from one to the other, suggesting the stables were built last. There are no extant fixtures and fittings, although the cartlodge probably had an internal hay loft. Later elements were boarded and most likely thatched. A feeding trough survives within the converted byre built onto the barn porch.</p> <p>The improved farmstead was built on the prevalent courtyard plan form of three ranges surrounding a south-facing stock yard and survive in good condition with little modern impact and therefore have good group value.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports None	
Author of Summary: Andrew Letch	Date of Summary: 12th June 2010