

HERITAGE NETWORK



SALTMORE FARM BARNs **Hinxworth, Herts.**

HN500

Historic Building Record



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

SALTMORE FARM BARN Hinxworth, Herts.

HN500

Historic Building Record

Prepared on behalf of Edworth Manor Farms Ltd

by

David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Report no.274

February 2005

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The cover photograph shows a view of Barn 2 from the south

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by David Hillelson and David Kaye, with the advice of Adrian Gibson. Additional cartographic research was undertaken by Tom Doig. The report text was written, and the illustrations were prepared by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to David and Rosemary Smyth, owners; the staff of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies; and the staff of the County Archaeology Office, HCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Saltmore Farm, New Inn Road, Hinxworth, Herts.		
County:	Hertfordshire	District:	North Herts.
Village/town:	Hinxworth	Parish:	Hinxworth
Planning reference:	04/0906/1	NGR:	TL 2272 3910
Client name and address:	Edworth Manor Farms Ltd, Edworth, Biggleswade SG18 8QX		
Nature of work:	Barn conversions	Present land use:	N/a
Site Code:	HN500	Other reference:	N/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Building Recording	Curating Museum:	North Herts Museums
Related SMR Nos:	N/a	Periods represented:	Post-medieval
Previous summaries/reports:	N/a		

Synopsis: As the result of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for the demolition and conversion of farm buildings at Saltmore Farm, Hinxworth, Herts, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to provide a record of the buildings, and an overview of their development, prior to the start of the conversion works.

Only one historic building fell within the study area. Barn 2 is a single storey timber-framed structure of six-bays which appears to have been used as stables. The south-western two bays are likely to form the earliest part of the barn and appear to have been constructed in the late 18th century at the earliest. This fits in with the cartographic evidence which demonstrates that the site was unoccupied when the parish was enclosed in 1802. The farmhouse and Barn 1, which fall outside the study area, are of a similar date. The other buildings on the site are modern.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of Mr and Mrs David Smyth, as part of a programme of recording the historic barns at Saltmore Farm, Hinxworth, Herts. The planning permission for the development (ref. 04/0906/1), granted by the North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC), has been subject to a standard archaeological condition, in accordance with the provisions of the Department of the Environment's *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16). The scope of the required work followed the standard model *Design Brief for Historic Building Recording* used by the *County Archaeology Office* (CAO) of Hertfordshire County Council, acting as advisers to NHDC. A full specification for the work carried out is included in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design dated December 2004.

1.2 The buildings lie to the northeast of Saltmore Farm House (see Figure 2). They comprise four ranges, labelled Barns 1 – 4, sited around an open yard. Barn 1 comprises the northeastern end of a linear block, aligned northeast – southwest, on the western side of the yard. Barns 2 and 3 form an L-shape on the eastern corner of the yard, with Barn 2 aligned on a northeast - southwest axis, and Barn 3 on a northwest – southeast alignment. Barn 4 adjoins Barn 2, and runs parallel to Barn 3. The study area is centred on national grid reference TL 2272 3910 (see Figure 1).

1.3 Barn 1 is currently in use as a farrier's workshop and does not form part of the proposed development. Barns 3 and 4 are modern structures which are proposed for demolition, Barn 3 being replaced by a new structure on the same line. Barn 2 is a timber framed structure of pre-modern date which is proposed for renovation and conversion to office use. Buildings such as this, which can be shown to form part of a Victorian planned farm, have been identified in regional research agendas as being of particular interest and as facing a high rate of loss through redundancy, conversion and demolition (*East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8, 2000*).

1.4 The aim of the building recording has been to make a record of the structures prior to the start of conversion works. Additional documentary research has also been undertaken to place the findings in their historical context.

1.5 The full archive for the project will be deposited with the North Hertfordshire Museum Service in order to preserve a record of the buildings in their present form. It includes architect's plans, elevations and sections, original medium-format black and white photographic negatives and contact sheets, and digital images.

2. Building recording

GENERAL

2.1 The site consists of five ranges of buildings, including Saltmore Farmhouse, set around and within a courtyard (see Figure 2). The farmhouse, which forms the south-western range, and Barn 1, which forms the north-western range, do not form part of the present planning application and are, therefore, excluded from the study. Barn 2, is a timber framed structure which forms the south-eastern range of the courtyard, Barn 3 is a modern machinery shed which forms the north-eastern range, and Barn 4 is a modern machinery shed which runs across the courtyard parallel with Barn 3.

CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

2.2 The earliest map consulted was the Hinxworth Inclosure Map of 1802 which shows the site as falling within a large L-shaped field, being part of Mead Field, and measuring 67 acres, 0 roods, and 8 perches (see Figure 3). No buildings are shown in the present location of Saltmore Farm.

2.3 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1882 shows the present site to be well established, with a pond to the north, and orchard occupying the field to the south (see Figure 4). The farmhouse is in existence together with Barn 1 and Barn 2. A building, which has an apparent porch on the north-eastern elevation and may be a threshing barn, is shown in the present location of Barn 3. The drive gives access to New Inn Road to the south-east.

2.4 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1898 shows a similar arrangement with the exception that Barn 3 has been removed (see Figure 5). This has been replaced by 1924 when the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey was published and a barn has also been built on the site of Barn 4 (see Figure 6).

BARN 2

2.5 Barn 2 is a single storey timber-framed structure, measuring 22.5m (73'10") long by 5m (16'5") wide, and 5m (16'5") high from sole plate to apex (see Figure 8). The elevations are weatherboarded using elm in places, replaced by later softwood, over simple softwood framing with primary bracing. The sole plate rests on a red brick foundation with repairs using Cambridge white bricks. The roof is of clay tile and corrugated iron on replaced modern softwood rafters and purlins.

2.6 The barn is divided into six bays which represent different stages of construction. Bays 1 and 2 appear to be the earliest part of the structure, although close examination was not possible due to the instability of the framework. The principal posts are not jowled, and the queen struts to the roof trusses appear to be lapped and nailed suggesting a later 18th century date, at earliest. A partition and doorway divides Bay 1 from Bay 2, and feeding troughs are located against the south-eastern elevation. Doorways give access to the bays from the courtyard.

2.7 Bay 3 has been added on to Bay 2 using a splayed scarf joint to link the wall plates. The partition between the bays is faced with good quality pine attached on the inside of Bay 2. An

examination of the north-eastern side of this partition suggests an original doorway on the north-western side. The floor is a later concrete addition. A stable door gives access to the courtyard.

2.8 Bay 4 may be contemporary with Bay 3 but this could not be ascertained for certain. It is divided into two stalls across its width, each partitioned area having a feeding trough at its south-west end. An opening above the tie beam in the north-eastern partition suggests the former existence of a hay loft, which may be confirmed by the presence of a detached loft ladder stored in this bay. The wavy struts to the roof truss are indicative of a decline in carpentry skills. The floor appears to be earth. A door gives access to the courtyard.

2.9 Bay 5 is a single-bay extension to the barn. The partition between Bays 4 and 5 is weatherboarded in wide (9-10") planks of softwood. Doors give access both to the courtyard and to the south-east. The floor is formed of brick.

2.10 Bay 6 is a single-bay extension to the barn. The partition between Bays 5 and 6 is weatherboarded in wide (9-10") planks of elm. The gable end of the extension appears to be the end wall of another structure, possibly one of the predecessors to Barn 3, and is formed of Cambridge white bricks, bonded in lime mortar for the first 11 courses, with cement mortar above this level. A door gives access to the courtyard. The floor is of earth.

BARN 3

2.11 Barn 3 is a modern machinery shed of 5 bays, open fronted onto the courtyard, with the rear elevation formed of concrete blockwork to a height of 1.5m and weatherboarding above. The cement asbestos roof slopes down to the rear.

BARN 4

2.12 Barn 4 is a modern open fronted barn of 4 bays facing the farmhouse, and abutting Barn 2 between Bays 3 and 4. The frontage is weatherboarded between the roofline and the wallplate, which is supported on re-used telegraph poles. The rear and north-western elevations are weatherboarded. The corrugated iron roof slopes down to the rear.

DISCUSSION

2.13 Saltmore Farm appears to conform to a pattern of small farms growing up just after, and as a result of, the enclosure of parishes in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It is a compact farm and it follows the fashion of the time to plan farmsteads around a courtyard, sited conveniently for the working of the farm.

2.14 Both the cartographic and the structural evidence suggest that Barn 2 was erected at the turn of the 19th century, very shortly after the Inclosure Map of 1802 was surveyed. It is likely that this is the date at which the farm as a whole was established. Beginning as a two bay structure, it had certainly been extended to its present size by 1898, and probably by 1882, when the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey was published. The barn appears to have been built as stables.

2.15 Although the courtyard has seen rebuilding and change of use since it was first built, the farmhouse and Barns 1 and 2 are largely original, and the overall plan of the farm survives much as it would have been when it was first built.

3. Sources Consulted

CARTOGRAPHIC

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies:

QS/E/36	Hinxworth Enclosure Map, 1802
OS 1898	Ordnance Survey, 25" series, 2 nd edition, 1897 (Sheet III, 11)
OS 1924	Ordnance Survey, 25" series, 3 rd edition, 1924 (Sheet III, 11)
OS 1968	Ordnance Survey, 1:2500 series, 1968 (Sheet TL 2239-2339)

www.old-maps.co.uk:

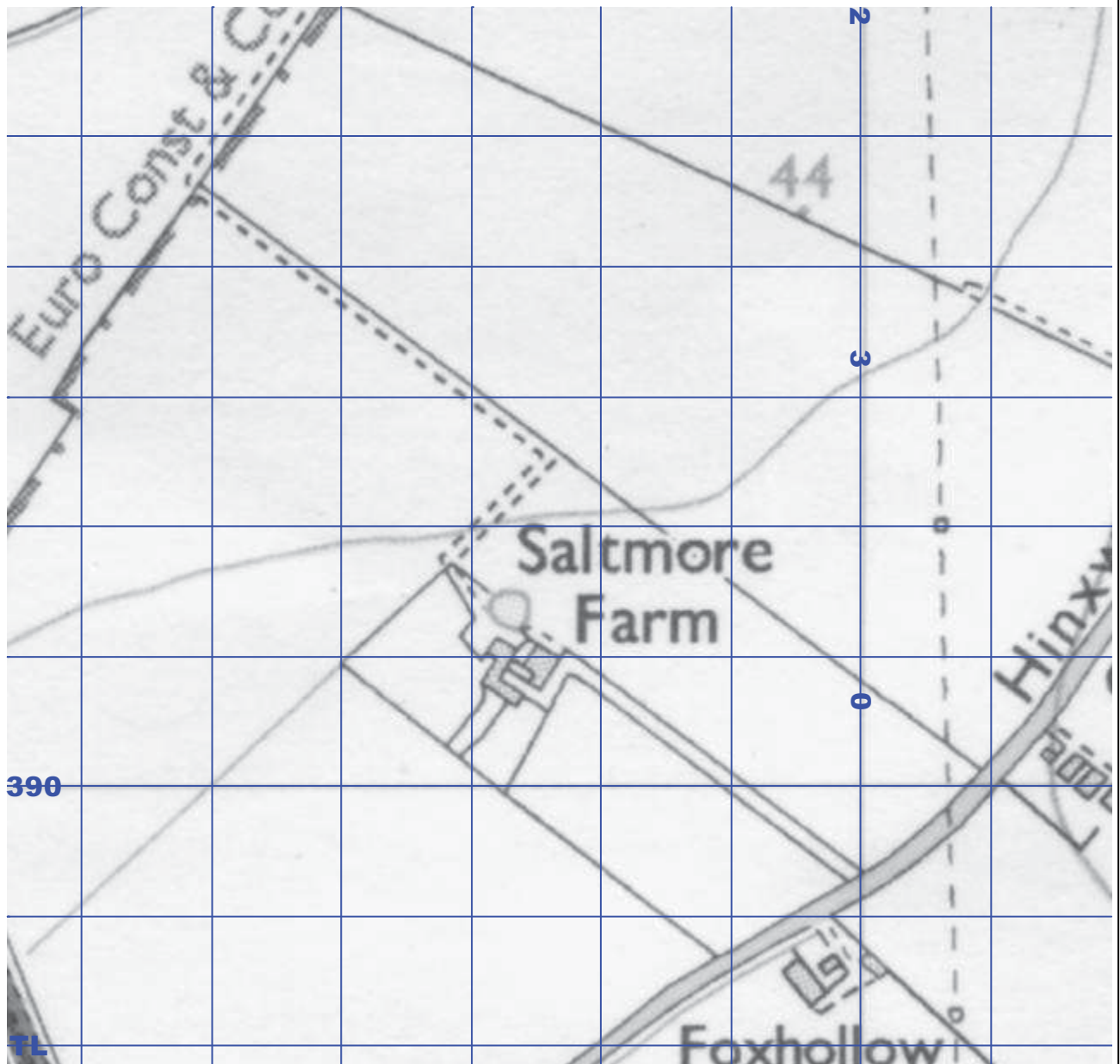
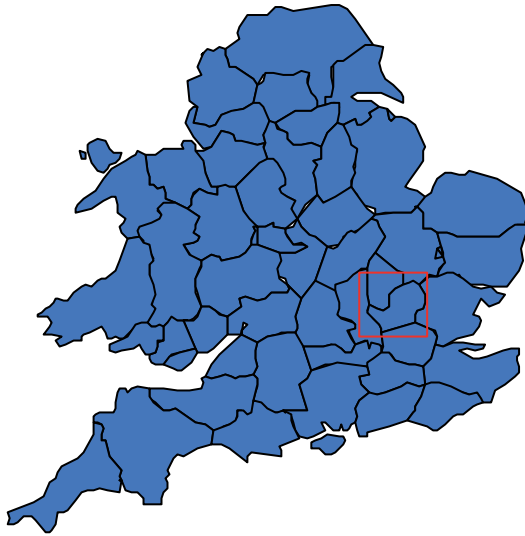
OS 1882	Ordnance Survey, 25" series, 1st edition, 1882 (522720,239070)
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 Harvey, N., 1984, *A History of Farm Buildings in England and Wales*. David & Charles.
 Hewitt, C.A., 1980, *English Historic Carpentry*. Phillimore.
 Hillelson, D., 2004, *Saltmore Farm, Hinxworth: Project Design*. Heritage Network, Dec. 2004.

4. Illustrations

Figure 1.....	Site location
Figure 2.....	Site layout
Figure 3.....	Tracing from the Hinxworth Inclosure Map (1802)
Figure 4.....	1 st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1882)
Figure 5.....	2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (1898)
Figure 6.....	3 rd Edition Ordnance Survey map (1924)
Figure 7.....	Ordnance Survey map, 1:2500 series (1968)
Figure 8.....	Barn 2: plan and interior elevations
Figure 9.....	Barn 2: sections

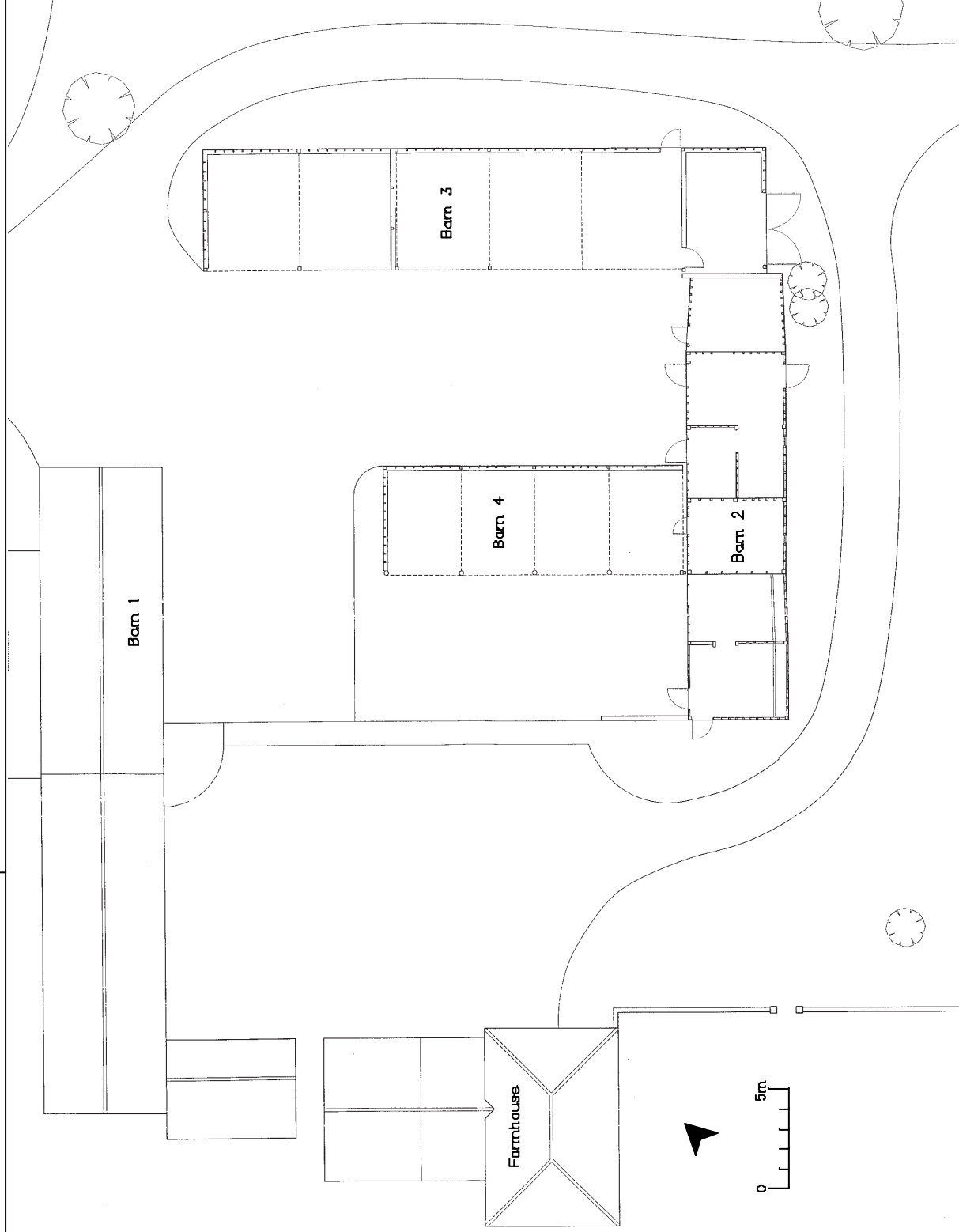


Site Location

Scale 1:5000

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL100014861

Figure 1

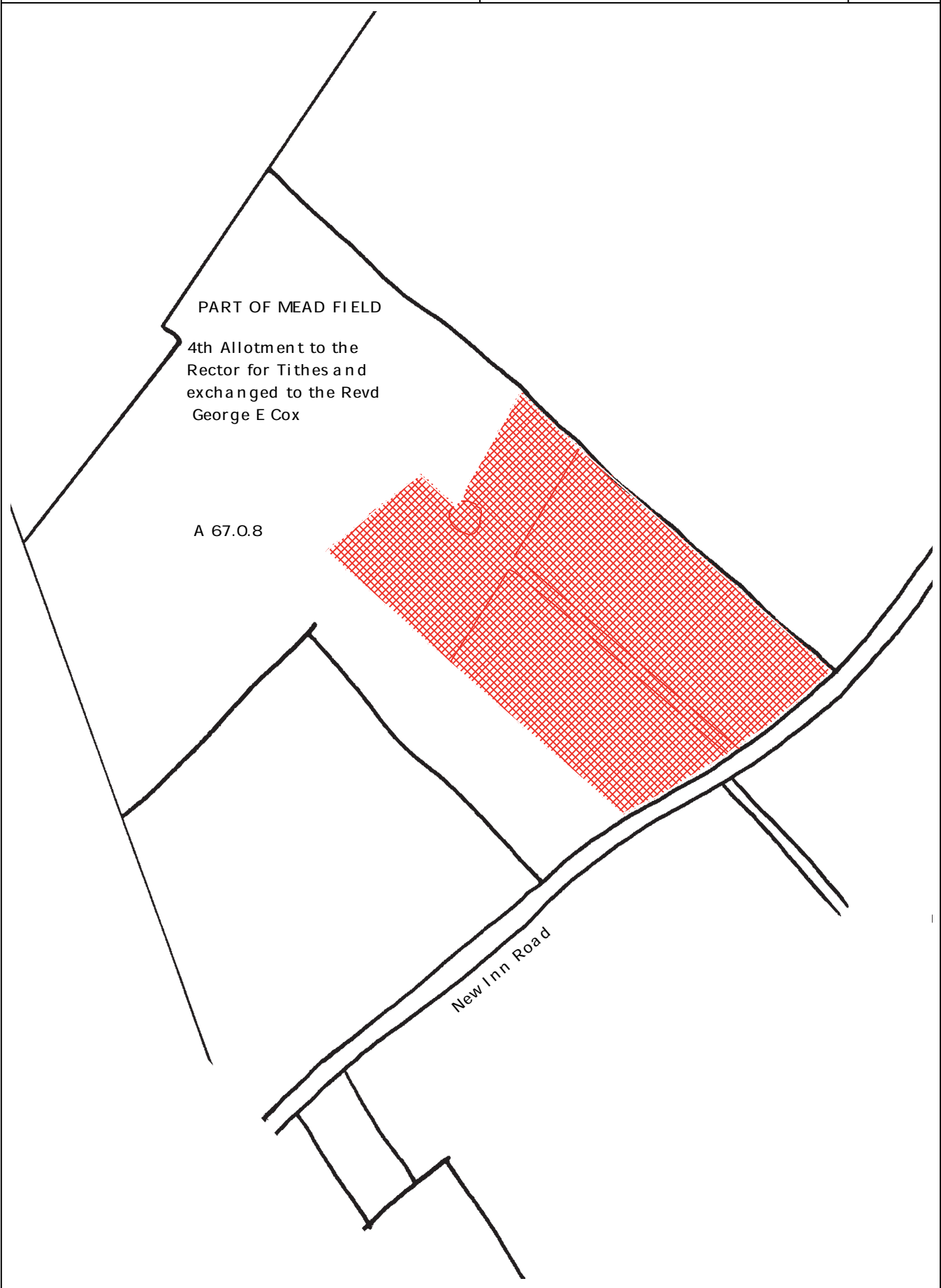


Site Layout

(base plan courtesy of Brian Hull Associates)

Scale 1:300

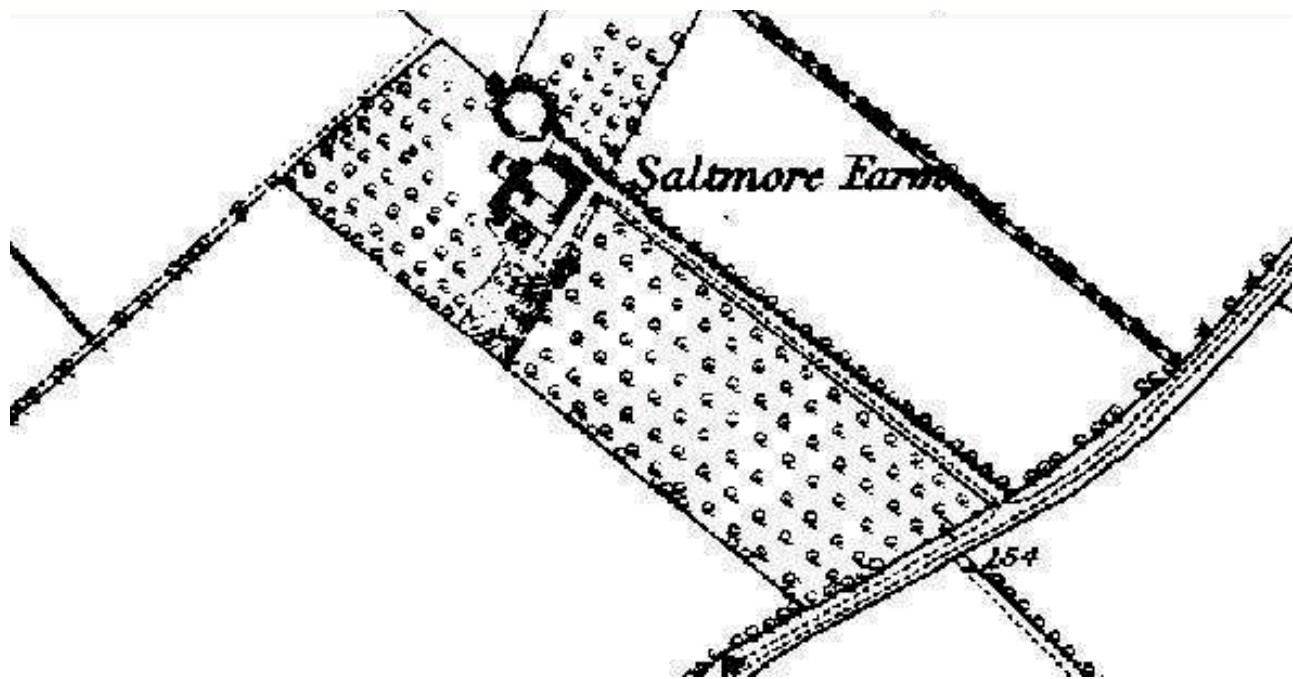
Figure 2



Inclosure Map, 1802
(study area shown hatched)

Scale 1:5000

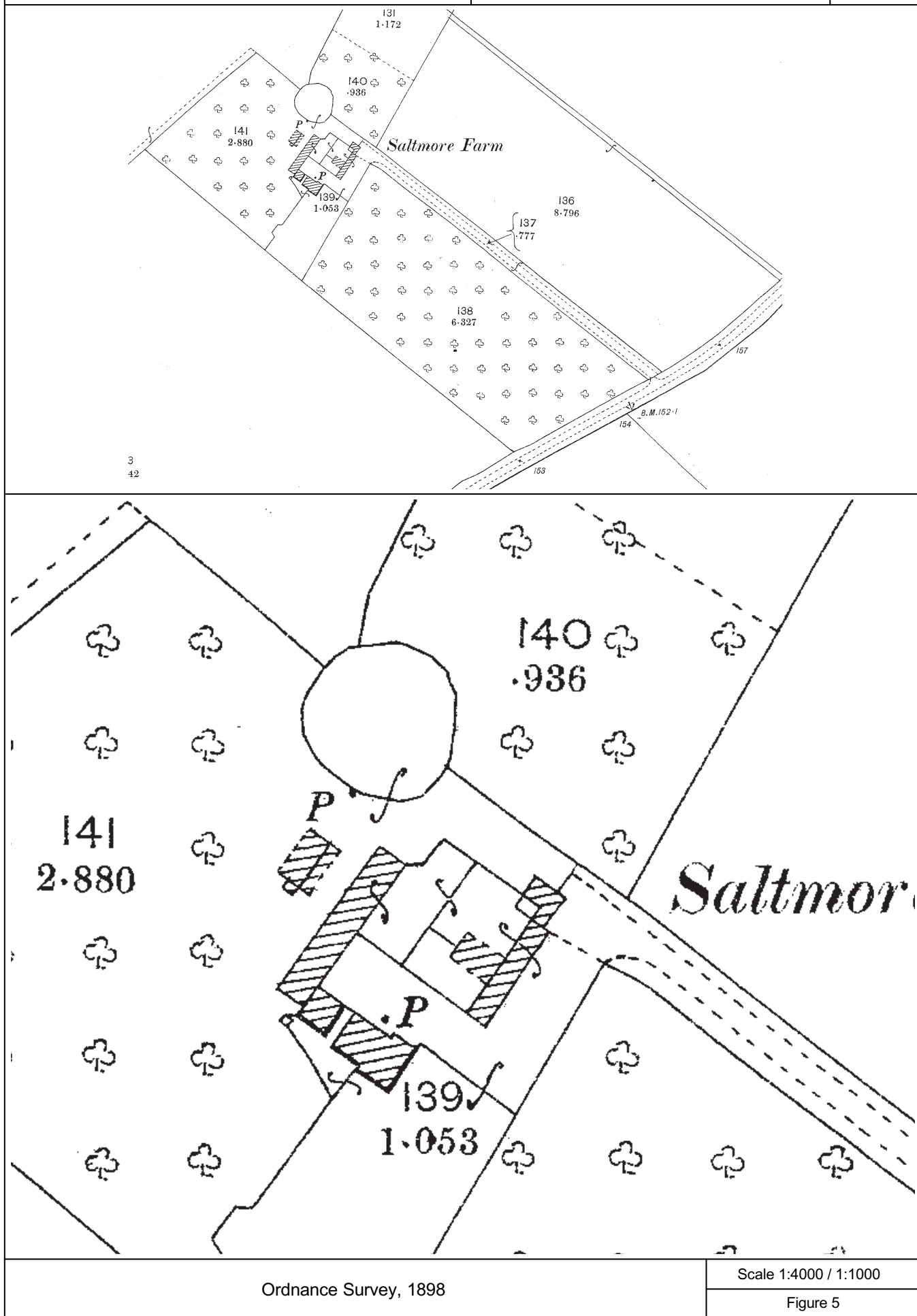
Figure 3

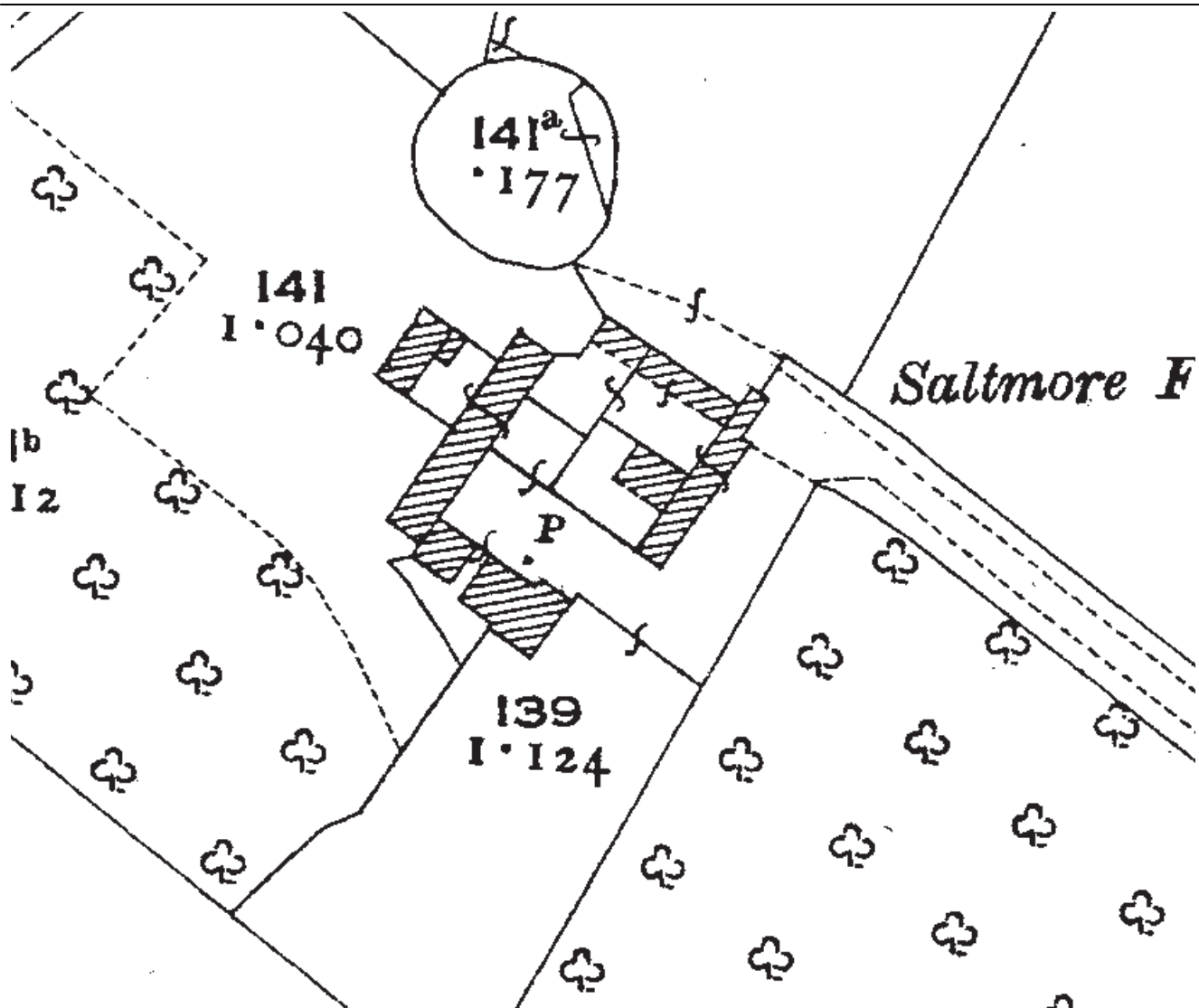
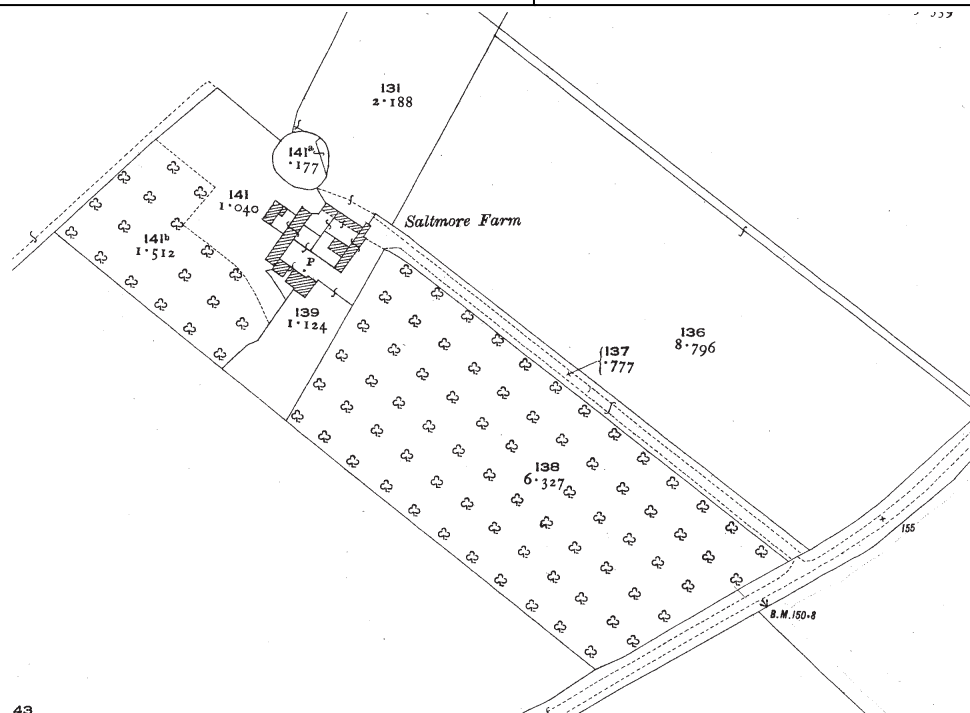


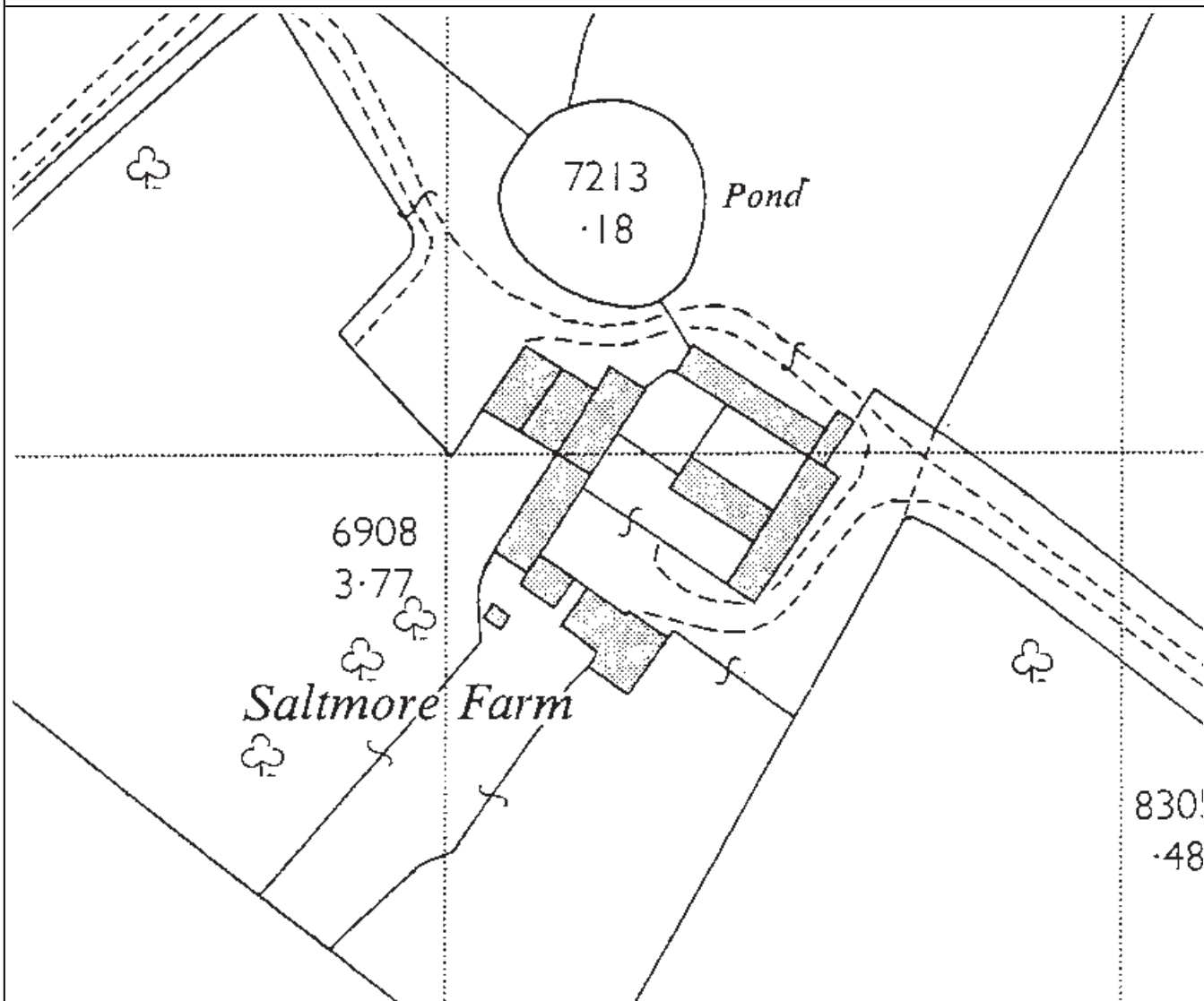
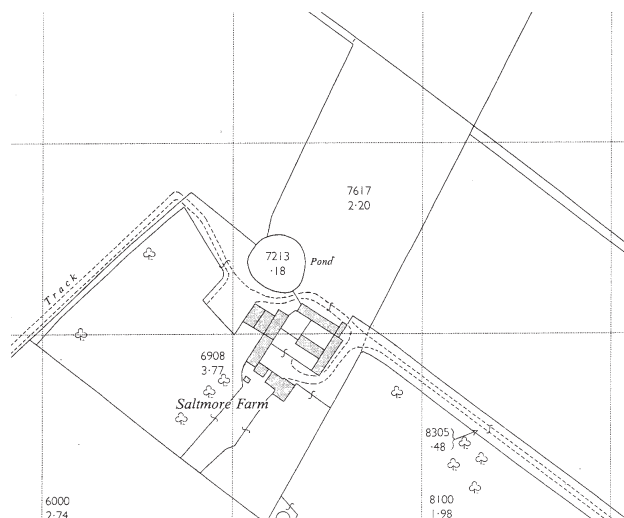
Ordnance Survey, 1882

Scale 1:4000 / 1:1000

Figure 4







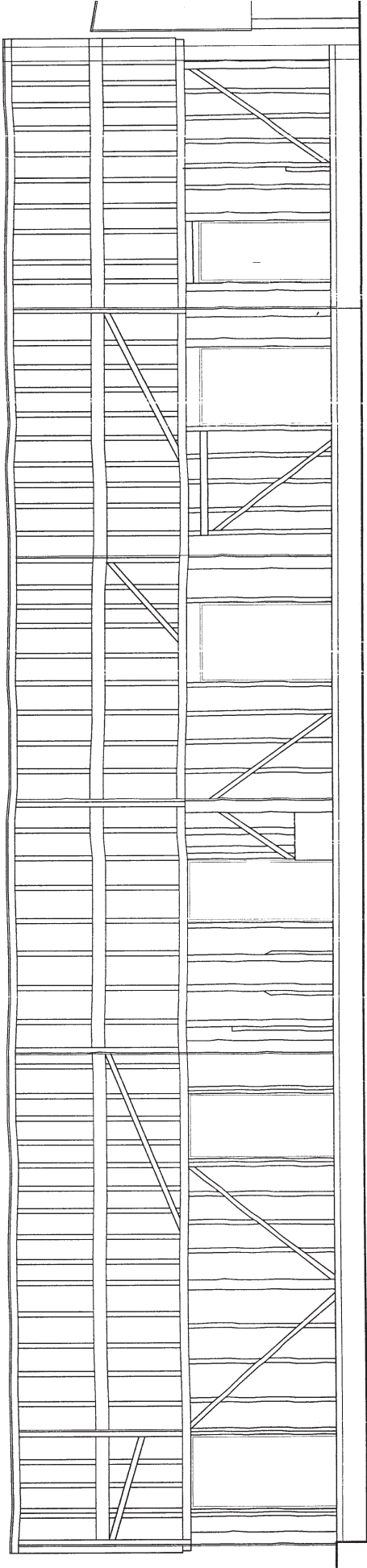
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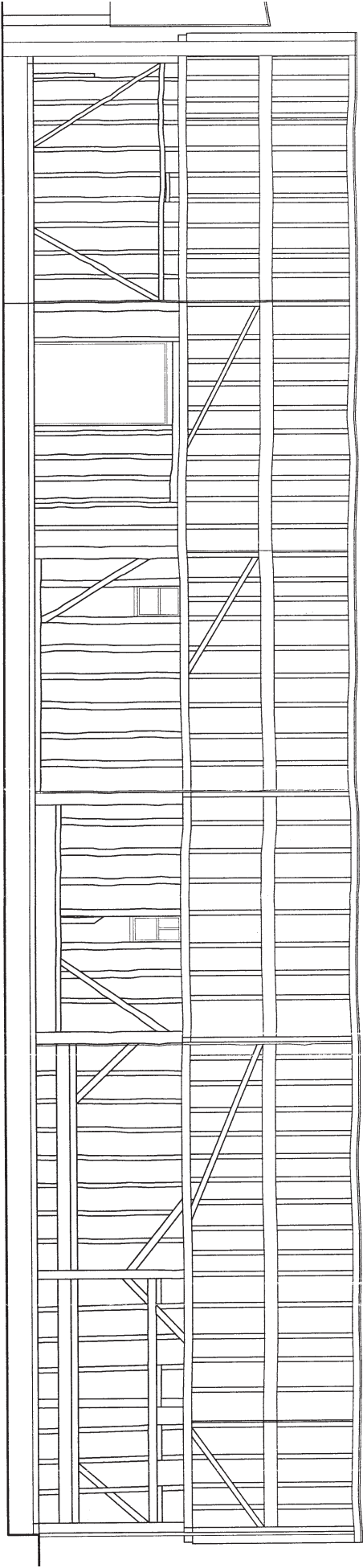
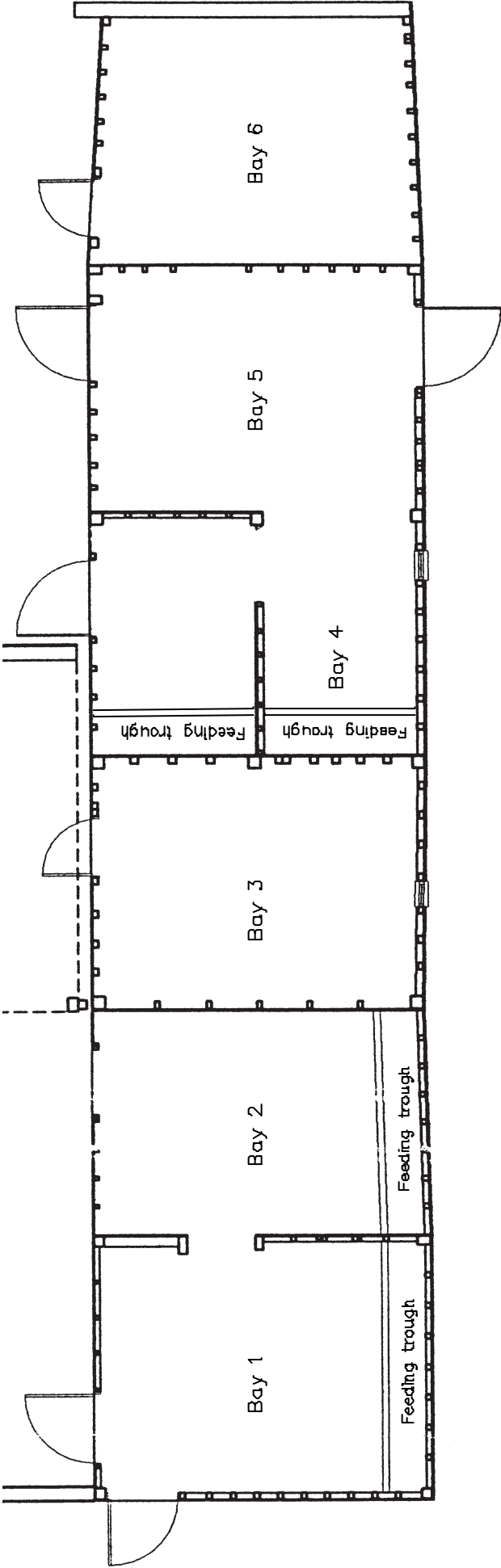
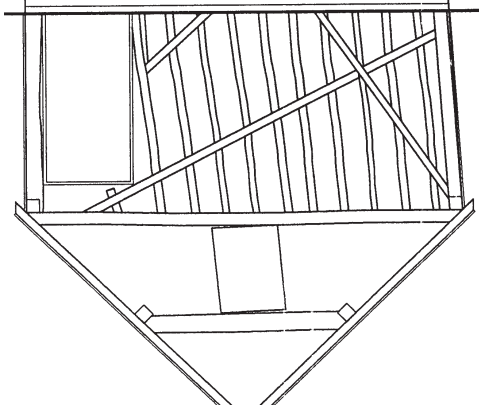
Barn 2:
Plan and interior elevations

KEY:

NW Elevation

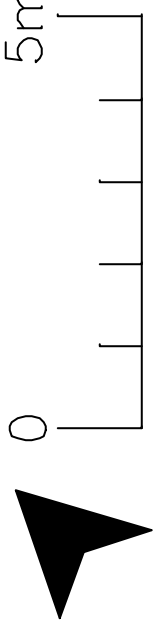


SW Elevation



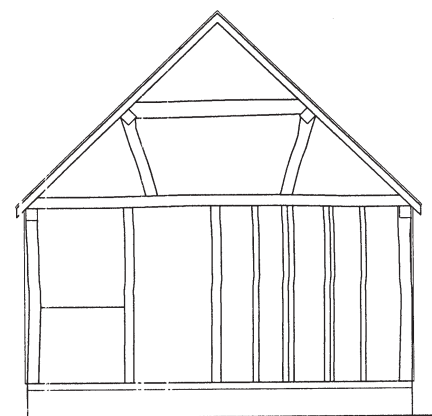
SE Elevation

(base plan courtesy of Brian Hull Associates)

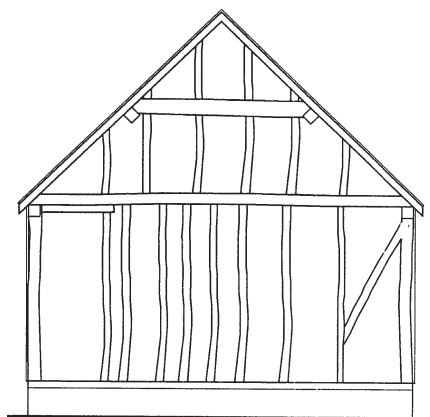


Scale 1:100

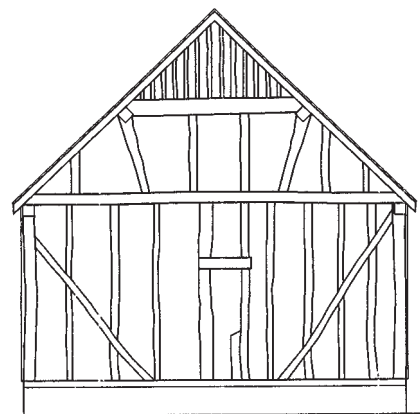
Figure 8



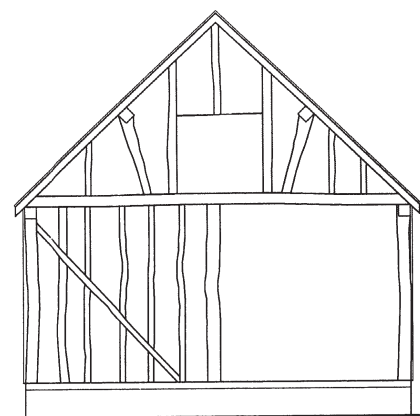
Bay 1 - 2



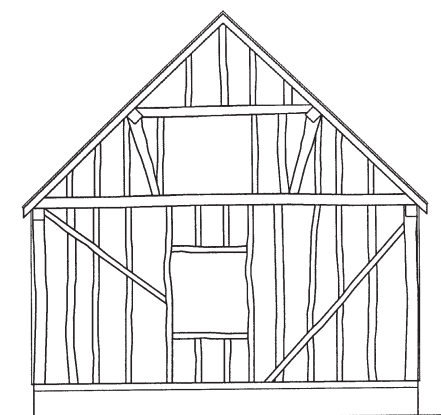
Bay 2 - 3



Bay 3 - 4



Bay 4 - 5


















Bay 5 - 6

























Appendix 1

Photographic Log

Roll No.	Frame No.	Description	Facing
1	1	Approach to Barns from NW, Barn 3, NW & SW elevations	SE
	2	General view, farmyard	S
	3	Barn 3, SE elevation	SW
	4	Barn 3, SE elevation	SW
	5	Barn 3, NE & SE elevations	W
	6	Barns 2 & 3, SE elevations	W
	7	Farmhouse, SE & NE elevations	W
	8	General view, SW end of farmyard	NW
	9	Barn 2, SE & SW elevations	N
	10	Barn 2, SE & SW elevations	N
	11	Barn 2, SW elevation	NE
	12	Barn 2, NW & SW elevations	E
	13	Barn 4, NW & SW elevations	E
	14	Barn 4, SW elevation	NE
	15	Barn 1, NE end, SE elevation	N
2	1	Barn 2, SW end, NE elevation. Barn 4 SW elevation	SE
	2	Barn 4, NW & SW elevations	E
	3	Barn 3, NW end, SW elevation	E
	4	Barn 4, NE elevation	S
	5	Barn 2, NE end, NW elevation	SE
	6	Barn 2, NE end, NW elevation	SE
	7	Barn 2, NE end, NW elevation	SE
Digital	1	Upper SW facing partition, Bay 5	NE
	2	Stall partition, Bay 4	S
	3	Trough, Bay 4 (NW)	SW
	4	Hayloft in Bay 4	NE
	5	Stall partition, Bay 4	NE
	6	Elm weatherboard, Bay 5 (NW elevation)	S
	7	Upper SW facing partition, Bay 3	NE
	8	Ditto	NE
	9	Ditto	NE
	10	Lower SW facing partition, Bay 3	NE
	11	Ditto	NE
	12	Tie-beam detail, SW facing partition, Bay 3	E
	13	Brick foundation to SE elevation, Bay 2	NW
	14	Brick foundation to SE elevation, Bays 3-4	NW
	15	Brick foundation to SE elevation, Junction Bays 4-5	NW

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD		Saltmore Farm Barns, Hinxworth	HN500
			
1/1	1/2	1/3	
Approach to Barns from the NW, Barn 3, NW & SW elevations	General view, farmyard from NW	Barn 3, SE elevation	
			
1/4	1/5	1/6	
Barn 3, SE elevation	Barn 3, NE & SE elevations	Barns 2 & 3, SE elevations	
			
1/7	1/8	1/9	
Farmhouse, NE & SE elevations	General view, SW end of farmyard	Barn 2, SE & SW elevations	
			
1/10	1/11	1/12	
Barn 2, SE & SW elevations	Barn 2, SW elevation	Barn 2, NW and SW elevations	
			
1/13	1/14	1/15	
Barn 4, NW & SW elevations	Barn 4, SW elevation	Barn 1, NE end, SE elevation	
Roll 1			

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD		Saltmore Farm Barns, Hinxworth		HN500	
2/1		2/2		2/3	
Barn 2, SW end, NE elevation Barn 4, SW elevation		Barn 4, NW & SW elevations		Barn 3, NW end, SW elevation	
2/4		2/5		2/6	
Barn 4, NE elevation		Barn 2, NE end, NW elevation		Barn 2, NE end, NW elevation	
2/7					
Barn 2, NE end, NW elevation					
Roll 2					

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DP01: Upper SW facing partition Bay 5	DP02: Stall partition Bay 4	DP03: Trough Bay 4 (NW)	
			
DP04: Hayloft in Bay 4	DP05: Stall partition in Bay 4	DP06: Elm weatherboard Bay 5 (NW elevation)	
			
DP07: Upper SW facing partition Bay 3	DP08: Upper SW facing partition Bay 3	DP09: Upper SW facing partition Bay 3	
			
DP10: Lower SW facing partition Bay 3	DP11: Lower SW facing partition Bay 3	DP12: Tie-beam detail SW facing partition Bay 3	
			
DP13: Brick foundation to SE elevation Bay 2	DP14: Brick foundation to SE elevation Bays 3-4	DP15: Brick foundation to SE elevation Junction Bays 4-5	
Digital Photos			