
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

GODWICK GREAT BARN, GODWICK HALL
TITTLESHALL, NORFOLK

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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NGR: TF 9041 2208		Report No: 4029
District: Breckland		Site Code: n/a
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk</i>		
<p><i>Godwick Great Barn is the principal architectural survival of a larger mansion complex constructed in the late Elizabethan period. The evidence suggests that when first built, it stood as an architectural introduction to the contemporary hall, standing to one side of an outer court. After three centuries, the house was itself abandoned, and had become entirely ruinous by the end of the 19th century. A decorated porch and various high perimeter walls were all that remained by the mid-20th century, and its ruins were cleared in the 1960s. The barn, by contrast survived because it continued to be useful, but the embellishments of its principal show-facade have given rise to a misconception that it was once a house, latterly reduced in status. However, it can be shown that it has always been a barn, with its northern two bays given over to other uses, possibly as stabling with modest, unheated accommodation on two upper floors.</i></p> <p><i>Internally, the barn bears stylistic similarities with examples at Waxham and Paston. Though constructed slightly later, in 1597 or thereabouts, a familial connection suggests some interchange of influences or craft, though the precise nature is impossible to detect in the absence of documentary records. As a working building, later change is discernible, and has not always been carried out with regard to the architecture. The domestic arrangements were probably extended for a further two bays into the interior in the later 17th or 18th century, while the southern end was also given an inserted floor in the 19th, probably to support a granary at upper level. Some external reconfiguration took place with the introduction of pitching doors, and disturbance of the original symmetry. Modern interventions have similarly resulted in changes. Overall, the barn retains many original historic features however, and survives as one of Norfolk's most important buildings of the type and period.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>26th January 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4610</i>	Site code	<i>n/a</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic Building Recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Barn, empty</i>		
Planned development	<i>To be altered, repaired and extended</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>Tittleshall</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER (NHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE32 2RJ</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TF 9041 2208</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>Approximately 65-68m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Stephen Heyward)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)			
Funded by	<i>Stephen Doughty (Wood Stephen Ltd)</i>		
Full title	<i>Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk: historic building recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Tansy Collins, Lee Prosser, Peter Thompson & Rosanna Price</i>		
Report no.	<i>4029</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2012</i>		

GODWICK GREAT BARN, GODWICK HALL TITTLESHALL, NORFOLK

A HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

Godwick Great Barn is the principal architectural survival of a larger mansion complex constructed in the late Elizabethan period. The evidence suggests that when first built, it stood as an architectural introduction to the contemporary hall, standing to one side of an outer court. After three centuries, the house was itself abandoned, and had become entirely ruinous by the end of the 19th century. A decorated porch and various high perimeter walls were all that remained by the mid-20th century, and its ruins were cleared in the 1960s. The barn, by contrast survived because it continued to be useful, but the embellishments of its principal show-facade have given rise to a misconception that it was once a house, latterly reduced in status. However, it can be shown that it has always been a barn, with its northern two bays given over to other uses, possibly as stabling with modest, unheated accommodation on two upper floors.

Internally, the barn bears stylistic similarities with examples at Waxham and Paston. Though constructed slightly later, in 1597 or thereabouts, a familial connection suggests some interchange of influences or craft, though the precise nature is impossible to detect in the absence of documentary records. As a working building, later change is discernible, and has not always been carried out with regard to the architecture. The domestic arrangements were probably extended for a further two bays into the interior in the later 17th or 18th century, while the southern end was also given an inserted floor in the 19th, probably to support a granary at upper level. Some external reconfiguration took place with the introduction of pitching doors, and disturbance of the original symmetry. Modern interventions have similarly resulted in changes. Overall, the barn retains many original historic features however, and survives as one of Norfolk's most important buildings of the type and period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2011 and January 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out historic building recording at Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk prior to barn renovations and extensions (Breckland District Council Planning Approval Ref. 3PL/2010/1200/LB & F; HES Ref. CNF 43190) (TF 9041 2209; Figs.1-2).

1.2 The historic building recording was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA) (Stephen Heywood 26/10/2011) and a specification by AS (28/10/2011). The objectives were

- To compile a record of the barn using existing plans as a baseline survey in order to adequately record the structure in its current form to better understand its form, function, evolution, and any remaining architectural/technological embellishment.
- To provide a brief review of the local and regional historic context of the structures recorded with enough detail to place the findings in context. A fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition is to be created to preserve the record of the barn prior to conversion.

1.3 The survey was carried out in tandem with a programme of tree-ring dating by the Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory. This is the subject of a forthcoming report, though a summary was issued by English Heritage in order to allow a consideration of those results to be included in this analysis.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 – 2)

2.1 Godwick Great Barn lies in the parish of Tittleshall in central Norfolk, approximately 40 km north-west of Norwich. The surrounding landscape remains largely agricultural, with some wooded areas to the south. The immediate setting is distinguished by the presence of earthworks of a deserted medieval village, which are scheduled and remain in excellent condition. The remains of the medieval parish church tower provide a visual focus. Immediately to the south, a large square enclosure defined by banks marks the site of old Godwick Hall, which had been ruinous since the 19th century and was cleared in the 1960s. A large farm complex lies to the east, while modern Godwick Hall has been constructed to the north.

2.2 The barn is aligned north–south and is given access from a metalled trackway to the north. It is Grade II Listed (Appendix 2). The rear (east) side of the building is marked by a large cement slab, marking the position of a modern agricultural building which, until recent times abutted the building. The barn is currently used as a wedding venue.

3 METHODOLOGY

Archaeological databases

3.1 The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area which might contribute to understanding the site. Those sites of relevance are described below (4.2).

Historical & cartographic documents

3.2 The source for maps and primary documentary sources included Norfolk Landscape Archaeology, Norwich Millennium Library and the Norfolk Archive Centre and are reproduced as Figs. 3-9.

Secondary sources

3.4 Secondary material consulted has been referenced appropriately in the bibliography. In addition the barn has been the subject of a number of small articles published in issues of the Norfolk Historic Building Group newsletter.

Building recording

3.5 The site was visited on 26th January 2012 in order to compile internal descriptions of the building and undertake the photographic work. The written description, analysis and photographic survey were carried out by Tansy Collins and Lee Prosser, and labelled plans and elevations provided by the client have been included as Figs. 10-11 for descriptive purposes.

3.6 The photographic recording was conducted using medium format (4.5cm x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 120mm film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000D (10 megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Where necessary, architectural detail was captured using 35mm black and white film and supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Fig. 10).

4 THE EVIDENCE

Topography, geology and soils

4.1 The barn is located at approximately 65-68m AOD on land sloping gently down from south-east to north-west. The local soil is of the Beccles 1 Formation comprising seasonally waterlogged slowly permeable soils with a

distinctive topsoil which occur widely in lowland Britain, on tills and soft argillaceous rocks (SSEW 1983). The underlying solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk.

Archaeological and historical background

4.2 Known prehistoric activity in the area is limited to finds of a flint scraper (NHER 39369) and occasional flint flakes associated with possible Iron Age pottery (NHER 39371), while the Roman and Saxon periods are similarly represented by dispersed finds of pottery (NHER 39377).

4.3 The principal archaeological feature of the area comprises the earthworks and other traces of the deserted medieval village of Godwick, which was recorded in Domesday Book and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHER 1104, List Entry No. 1002889). Within the earthworks, the course of the main thoroughfare and house-platforms or toft enclosures remain discernible. Amid these remains, the Grade II listed tower of the medieval All Saints church still stands. The church remained in use after repair in c.1600, before becoming progressively ruinous thereafter. The tower remained fairly complete until it collapsed during a storm in 1981, leaving just three walls standing.

4.4 The village is not well documented, but appears to have contracted before becoming unviable in the early 16th century. In 1508 there were 18 messuages listed in a terrier, though only nine remained occupied. By the end of the century this had declined to just five. In 1580, Sir Edward Coke, Chief Justice to Queen Elizabeth I purchased the manor (and village) from the Drury family and had Godwick Hall constructed shortly after. This was of red brick, with diaper-work (Pevsner 1999). The history of the house is poorly understood, but it had been abandoned by the end of the 19th century, and by the time the earliest known photographs were taken in the 1920s or '30s, only the porch and part of the carcass of the house remained, with a surrounding wall. Early prints or antiquarian illustrations might be expected, but none have been located for the present survey.

4.5 The barn was once part of the hall complex, defined within a courtyard in front of the house, so facing the principal public entrance. As the last surviving vestige, and with domestic embellishments, it has become subject to the misconception that it too was built as a house. Pevsner was rightly skeptical, but considered that it was probably contemporary with the hall. Tree-ring analysis can now confirm that it was actually built a short time after the main residence, while more recent technical analysis reiterates its primary function as a barn from the outset.

4.6 The dates suggested by historic documentation are consistent with the style and form of construction, now confirmed by tree-ring dating. Indeed the barn does not appear on a map of the estate dating from 1596, but by tracing earthworks depicted, it appears that the barn was built over the older main road through the village, suggesting that the site is unlikely to have been laid out with specific reference to the dying settlement; in fact they may have

heralded its final abandonment. During the 1970s the floor of the barn was excavated, revealing a pit with 16th century pottery sherds sealed by a clay floor (NHER 1102).

4.7 The growth of Godwick probably mirrors the career of Sir Edward Coke, who was appointed attorney-general in 1594. Often such promotion came with considerable perquisites and privileges, allowing courtiers to spend money, but also encouraged them to raise their social profile by purchasing country estates and erecting lavish buildings.

4.8 Some development can be traced in the later cartographic sequence. In 1725, an estate map (Fig. 4) depicts the barn set in garden enclosures or courts, some of which can still be traced from the air. The east farm complex was well-established by this date. By the time the tithe map was produced in 1840 (Fig. 5) however, various extensions had appeared on the east side of the barn at the north end, and to the south. Ample physical traces of these survive. Also of note is a small inhabited structure immediately to the west of the barn, of which no physical trace now survives.

4.9 Over the next 50 years, Godwick Hall became derelict and by 1891 is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of that date as in ruins (Fig. 6). The barn is depicted with much the same outline as shown on the tithe apart from a small additional structure on the east side of the courtyard. By this time, a new Godwick Hall had been constructed to the north.

4.10 The two final OS maps (Figs. 8 and 9) show little change to the landscape apart from the removal of earlier extensions to the barn on the east.

4.11 Several brief investigations into the physical characteristics of the barn have been carried out by Norfolk Historic Building Society and have been published in the group newsletter (Rossi 2004 and Hinton 2007) as well as notes in studies of two similar Norfolk barns at Paston and Waxham (Clarke 2006 and Rossi 2005).

4.12 Significant parallels between Godwick, Paston and Waxham suggest a close affinity. Paston is Grade II* listed (List entry no. 1306240), ascribed a 1581 date from a date-stone set into the north gable, while Waxham is Grade I listed (List entry no. 1172536) and has been dated to 1583 / 84 by tree-ring analysis (Moir 2004).

4.13 Shared characteristics of Paston and Waxham include the use of flintwork incorporating stone, probably appropriated from local monastic sites (Rossi 2005). All three have show-facades, though Godwick is conspicuously extravagant, does not have diapered brickwork and uses render in imitation of stone window and door dressings. Most significantly however, all three employ alternating tie-beam and hammer-beam roof trusses.

4.14 Anthony Rossi's study was fairly comprehensive, although considerable additional information has been gathered by further close study,

and the tree-ring analysis confirms the physical observations. This also indicates at least two clear felling phases. Those timbers from the initial construction included two with complete sapwood, allowing an exact felling date of 1597 to be pin-pointed, with a second and / or third phase comprising repair and augmentation a century or more after initial construction (Howard 2012).

5 THE BUILDING

Exterior

5.1 The barn is constructed of fine, homogenous orange brickwork rising to a pitched roof, with gables at the north and south ends. The roof is covered with shingles on the west side and pan-tiles on the east, although earlier photographs show that the shingles are a relatively recent addition and replace pan-tiles on this pitch also. Internal evidence indicates an earlier covering of thatch.

5.2 The brickwork on the west has weathered back to a fairly rough texture but is evenly-laid in English bond, the bricks measuring 9¼" x 4½" x 2" (235mm x 114mm x 51mm) with a fairly high proportion of flint inclusions. On the east, particularly where the external wall was once protected by later buildings, the brick has been protected, and patches of the original fine, double-struck pointing survive intact. A high, chamfered plinth survives around the whole building, though with a few areas showing evidence of cutting back and repair.

5.3 The west side was designed for show (Plate 1), and was dressed originally with a symmetrical arrangement of large blind windows with transoms and mullions, pedimented at ground floor level, together with a single surviving domestic-style door at the north end (Plate 2). The northern windows may once have been open. This is discussed further below. The arrangement has been much disturbed by later intervention, including a large central threshing door set beneath a cambered arch of 18th or 19th century date. Close inspection suggests that the area immediately above has not been rebuilt, and may replace a second, small door as at the north end, and not a large pedimented window. This would mirror the barn at Paston where a modest ventilation door lies opposite the original threshing door.

5.4 The brickwork is expertly constructed. The upper windows are of six lights, divided by chamfered transoms and mullions, and abut the eaves, while the lower windows were similarly dressed, but are topped with closed pediments in cut or moulded brick. The southern pair of windows have now disappeared and were blocked with almost indistinguishable brick, but their position can be traced by a straight joint in the masonry and other subtle signs visible at close quarters. The blocking material may have been quarried from the ruinous house or some other nearby contemporary structure. At this point a high-set pitching door with a second, standard door at lower level have been introduced. In addition, the two lower windows flanking the central opening

have been disturbed with the insertion of iron-framed, many-paned windows of industrial form beneath cambered arches.

5.5 The question of the original status of the windows can be addressed by close inspection. In most cases, the brick infill appears to be of contemporary brick, and most windows are not expressed on the internal face. Many have surviving patches of render or plaster, though early photographs show that this was originally much more extensive, covering not just the blind panels, but also the jambs, mullions, transoms, and also the pediments. The pediments have lost almost all trace of plaster, but the jambs retain distinct quoining, suggesting that the intention was to convey the impression that the windows were entirely dressed with stone

5.6 The northern windows display subtle differences. Here they are expressed with internal reveals, and there are differences in the texture of the plaster to the blind panels. It may be that these were originally open, or subsequently pierced, but then blocked up again, but it is not apparent whether the entire window was opened, or just one or two lights. On the second window, the loss of render reveals a block of timber, which is, in fact the back of an original timber corbel supporting the roof, showing that this area could never have been open.

5.7 The north gable was also a show face. This was clearly the public approach to the house, but has been much disturbed in recent times. A large glazed doorway at ground floor level, and a timber window at first floor level are modern. Rossi noted modern sliding doors at lower level and a further pedimented window above, which has now disappeared, leaving only the outline of the original aperture. The gable above is finished by tumbled-in brickwork which has been suggested as an 18th century alteration from an earlier crow-stepped gable.

5.8 The east and south sides of the barn are much more utilitarian and 'barn-like', being plain, and dressed originally with cruciform ventilation slits. The removal of a modern structure on the east side has exposed much of this fabric again (Plate 3). A short lean-to at the south end is probably of 18th or 19th century date, while the scars for a second, single storey lateral range depicted on the old maps is visible. The centre is dominated by a large, three-quarter height doorway with chamfered jambs and lintel, all original as it retains queen-closers, though the doors are modern.

5.9 A distinct sequence is discernible at the northern end of this elevation. The old lateral extension has been demolished, except for its northern wall, which consists of roughly coursed flint cobbles interspersed with old brick, now reinforced on the inner face with modern cement blockwork and occasional pink Flettons. The purlins of the old roof were once set into pockets in the main structure; three in each pitch. Adjoining to the south is a later inserted doorway. At this point, the brickwork is much disturbed, which is reflected in the internal arrangements adjoining the staircase, discussed below. It appears that there was once a doorway set at high level, which was

latterly blocked with 18th or 19th century brick, and filled in with a new cruciform ventilation slit.

Interior

General description

5.10 Structurally, the barn is of ten bays with conventional braced tie-beams alternating with hammer-beam trusses of similar form in eight of the bays (Plate 4). At the north end, the construction varies slightly to accommodate the domestic arrangements. The bays and trusses are noted on Fig. 10. A general description is followed by a more detailed consideration of individual areas, below.

5.11 The floor of the barn is covered in concrete and retains some slight scarring for removed machinery, although the HER notes a clay floor discovered during work in the 1970s. The outer walls are of exposed brickwork laid in English bond, with good chalk-rich lime-mortar joints. All walls, apart from the two northern bays, have concrete render to waist-height, a reflection of mid-20th century agricultural regulations. Ventilation apertures are visible on the east at high level, within arched heads. Four to the south are now blocked, but two to the north remain exposed. The west is fairly plain, except for later windows noted above, and recesses or blockings at the north end for the earlier window form. Possible put-log holes are visible at high level on both sides although these do not correspond exactly.

5.12 In the 19th century, an upper floor was inserted into the southern bays. This was latterly removed, but the stump-ends of softwood joisting survive in the outer walls, while a large, central transverse joist is also indicated on the south gable wall. Their size and close spacing suggest the use of the space as a storage area for grain or similar.

5.13 The roof is an impressive and much-admired feature of the building. Raised wall-posts resting on shaped, timber corbels support slender, curved braces to the tie-beams or hammer-beams (Plate 5). These are triple-pegged, while other members are secured with a single peg. Both hammer-beams and tie-beams are chamfered on both sides and have elegant lambs-tongue stops. Likewise the ends of the hammer-beams are also finished with chamfers. Slender queen struts rise from the junction of the inner brace with the tie-beam to the principal rafters. Each pair of principal rafters is joined with a collar, while there are three, butted, in-line purlins, single- or double-pegged to the principals in each pitch. The central purlin is more substantial to accommodate morticed upper and lower flights of common rafters, which ride over the upper and lower purlins. There are generally six common rafters per bay, although with some variation. Bays 5 and 6, spanning the midstreys have a shorter span with five rafters, while Bay 3 has seven rafters. Slender, nailed-on intermediate collars are also present, but appear original. Additional lateral support is provided by short, straight wind-braces, which rise from the principal rafters to the upper purlin, though these are not present in every bay.

Detailed examination shows the loss of one or two, but empty mortices are not present everywhere, and there is no consistent pattern. There appears to be some replacement of rafters, and these may reflect the phase of later work demonstrated in the tree-ring analysis.

5.14 The trusses differ in the northern bays, where the tie-beams support a floor. These are not carried on raised posts or corbels but rest on short sections of timber wall-plates.

5.15 Each truss (noted as T1 – T11 on the plan) has assembly markings in Roman numerals scribed into the south face of many timbers, suggesting that the barn was framed up from north to south. The scantling of all accessible timbers was measured and is as follows:

Truss post	5" x 5½" (127mm x 140mm)
Tie-beam	11" x 11" (279mm x 279mm)
Inner brace	12" x 3" (305mm x 76mm)
Wall-plate	4½" x 9" (114mm x 229mm)
Queen post	6" x 3" (152mm x 76mm)
Principal rafter	7" x 8½" (178mm x 216mm)
Lower purlin	4" x 5½" (102mm x 140mm)
Middle purlin	7½" x 5" (191mm x 127mm)
Upper purlin	3½" x 5½" (89mm x 140mm)
Common rafter	3" x 4½" (76mm x 114mm) spaced 10½" – 12" (267mm x 305mm) apart
Collar	3½" x 6½" (89mm x 165mm)
Wind brace	7½" x 1½" (191mm x 38mm)
General peg diameter	¾" (19mm)
Binding joist (north end)	12" x 12" (305mm x 305mm)
Bridging joist (north end)	12" x 4" (305mm x 102mm)
Common joist (north end)	6" x 2½" (152mm x 64mm) spaced 12" (305mm) apart

Detailed description

5.16 At the north end, two bays were originally partitioned from the rest of the barn; these survive in part on the upper floors. The walls were once plastered at ground and first floor levels, but much has been lost.

5.17 The first floor is contemporary with the construction of the barn and is carried in both bays on binding joists of massive scantling consistent with an early date, and retain chamfers and lambs-tongue stops as seen in the roof (Plate 6). The joist beneath truss 3 retains evenly-spaced redundant mortices in the soffit, for a substantial studwork partition. In addition the joist is chamfered and stopped only on the north side facing into the domestic arrangements. Both supporting joists sit on an integral bearer on the west which also forms the lintel of the window in Bay 2. The area was once entered from the small domestic doorway and possibly also lit from windows on the north and west. The doorway has deep splayed reveals with a timber

lintel, this having two large peg-holes for some attachment, perhaps a shelf, but no trace is visible for pintles or a door-check. The rear face of the surviving window has exposed flat-faces to the transom and mullions, while small timber-bearers, possibly forming a low shelf are set into the reveals at lower level (Plate 7). A doorway on the east side of this bay has rendered jambs, but its date is not known.

5.18 The upper floor was once reached by a staircase in the north-east corner, but this has been taken out of commission and boxed in with modern materials. The ceiling housing the staircase is framed with trimmer joists which appear primary, and are properly pegged, with a second joist having mortices in the soffit. A nearby post is much mutilated but also probably original. The lower flight of the stair can still be reached from first floor level, and so could be examined. It is constructed of simple triangular timber baulks, nailed to carriage beams to create a ladder-like construction (Plate 8). Each tread has a curious square notch cut into the soffit, perhaps suggesting that these are reused from elsewhere. The outer wall, as noted above, is complicated and multi-phased at this point. At the base, the wall is corbelled out with a timber bearer, possibly forming a door lintel, while approximately halfway up, a probable blocked window preserves a single splayed reveal and a timber lintel, which has in turn been truncated to accommodate a second doorway at landing level. This in turn was later blocked and partly filled with a cruciform ventilation slit noted above from the exterior. The lintel appears to have been insufficient, later causing some structural failure immediately above.

5.19 The first floor only survives in Bay 1, where it remains floored with wide 9" (229mm) boards. Empty mortices for original joisting are preserved in both binding joists of Bay 2 and show that the common joists were housed, with a diminished haunch. The walls of both Bays 1 and 2 at this level retain a good amount of plasterwork. On the west side of Bay 2 the window is expressed with plastered reveals, but is blocked.

5.20 The existing window on the north has been reduced from its original dimensions with Fletton brick, but the original window aperture measures 6' 1" x 5' 10" (1.85m x 1.78m), corresponding exactly to the dimensions of its companion on the west. In 2004 this may still have existed as a pedimented transom and mullion window, although is now only indicated by a large double lintel and the return of plasterwork into the original jambs. To the south at Truss 3, a single stud survives along with traces of further nailed-on studs for the earlier partition from the main barn.

5.21 As elsewhere, the tie-beams are chamfered, with lamb-tongue stops. In addition, the tie-beam of Truss 2 preserves an extra decorative stop which indicates the position of a now-lost lateral bridging joist which must have supported the original staircase, but was cut off to insert the existing structure. Corresponding double mortices survive in the northern tie-beam, while a second, double mortice to an east-west tie is lap-dovetailed to the wall-plate, again part of the original boxing in which must have enclosed the stair. The existing staircase is of crude construction but nonetheless of great age,

perhaps 17th or 18th century, rising in quarter- or half-pace landings and all enclosed with rough studs, nailed and trenched over the existing frame (Plate 9). The upper stairs are of hewn oak treads and risers. A door aperture from the intermediate lower flight preserves a rough door-check and two robust pintles with cut-off ironwork for a probable locking bar and latch piece. Small grooves for removable boards in the manner of a thresh-leap are attached to the doorway to the upper stair, probably relating to later activity.

5.22 The common joists supporting the upper floor were formerly underdrawn but are now exposed. There is no sign of underdrawing in Bay 2, by contrast, which suggests differential treatment across the area.

5.23 Within these bays, the outer brickwork rises slightly higher than the wall-plate seen elsewhere in the barn, while the northern tie-beam has been repaired with a good scarf in modern times.

5.24 The staircase continues to a half-pace landing and on to the attic floor, where Bays 1 and 2 are open to the roof. There are many tell-tale signs that the common rafters were formerly underdrawn; one tiny patch of plasterwork survives on the west side in the spandrel of a wind-brace. This is simply white-washed. Here, Truss 1 lies close to the gable end but does not engage with the brickwork and instead, two short stub purlins and a single common rafter-couple are probably intended to be sacrificial. At this level, the north partition from the main barn is almost complete, preserving simple, and crudely nailed-on studwork above and below the collar.

5.25 The common rafters on the east in Bay 2 have been replaced, but before the last phase of thatching, as fragments remain. A few of the original wind-braces remain: to the north of Bay 1 and Bay 2, but others are lost.

5.26 There is evidence that Bays 3 and part of Bay 4 were also once enclosed as traces of plaster remain on the outer walls at ground and first floor levels, and small pockets survive for the original joisting, now carefully blocked. Other indications include applied studwork in the roof of Truss 5. However nothing appears to be primary, and most was subsequently removed.

5.27 Bays 5 and 6 are, as noted above narrow, and house the threshing doorways on either side. A metal-framed window lights the west side of Bay 7, while Bay 9 has a modern doorway on the east to the outshut as well as a second standard doorway on the west. This has splayed plastered reveals and so is of some age with a pitching door at high level. Remnants of a Victorian driveshaft remain attached to large softwood baulks at high level.

5.28 The south gable end has an inserted iron-framed casement at ground floor level and a second window above the tie-beam. At first floor level, three cruciform ventilation apertures are now all blocked, with two further examples above in the gable flanking the inserted window. The tie-beam at this end, like its northern counterpart, does not engage with the brickwork but instead short stub purlins carry an extra rafter-couple to tie the structure in (Plate 10).

Outshut

5.29 The outshut is probably of early 19th century date and as noted has served to protect the original barn wall and pointing in this area from the elements. It is constructed of similar red brick to the main barn, laid in English bond, apart from a section of the south wall which incorporates lower panels of flintwork, suggesting that an earlier curtilage wall was raised and roofed over. The brickwork is all now whitewashed. The east wall has a blocked window with bull-nosed brick jambs. The roof is simple, having two softwood trusses with cleats supporting two purlins with wide-spaced softwood rafters to a corrugated roof. As noted above, the outshut clearly extended further north by at least two further bays, as this side is now enclosed with a flimsy boarded partition and the barn wall, now external once more, shows traces of whitewash with pockets for the ties and rafters, and also preserves original brick pointing in good condition.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Detailed technical analysis gives refinement to the already extensive knowledge of Godwick Great Barn. In it we perceive a building much diminished, both in context and appearance from its original grandeur, but which does, however, retain the impressive features which make it one of Norfolk's most splendid and interesting barns. Its early appearance can be reconstructed tentatively to show how important symmetry was (Fig. 12). The wider landscape evidence suggests that it was constructed as a visual counterpart to, or introduction to the nearby old hall, and with boundary walls, courts and gardens was an integral architectural component of a larger complex, and not the isolated building we see standing in a field today. The brickwork is handled confidently, and embellished with expensive cut brick, dressed fictively in imitation of stone. It confirms the barn as a statement in its own right. It is likely that the blind panels were painted with leaded comes to complete the illusion. With typical Elizabethan practicality, little expense was invested in the rear or working elevation, which has ventilation slits and a large wagon door but no other pretence. The brick is not diapered, which is unusual for the date, but the quality is high and the pointing, itself a rare survival, is refined and delicate.

6.2 Internally, the barn was multi-functional. It could be used for threshing and storage, but it is also apparent that the northern bays were reserved from the outset for some other function on three floors. Stabling and unheated accommodation for agricultural workers have been suggested as logical uses, but there is now insufficient evidence to be sure. The architecture incorporates domestic touches such as plasterwork, a staircase and possibly open windows, but there was also interaction with some associated structure to the east, perhaps an external stair, or ancillary accommodation.

6.3 The roof is the predominant feature, both in terms of its quality, but also its similarity with the Waxham and Paston barns. All three fall within a broadly

contemporary time-frame, although the tree-ring analysis confirms that Godwick was constructed over 10-20 years later, in 1597, while the others are closer together in terms of date. The date for Godwick also coincides with Coke's appointment to the office of attorney-general in 1594.

6.4 The distinctive character of alternating tie-beam trusses with hammer-beams is unusual, although variations of the form can be seen on a number of roofs, usually over barns, large halls or non-domestic buildings. For example the Golden Fleece at South Weald in Essex alternates tie-beams with arched braces and Clothier's Hall in Ipswich, Suffolk, uses alternating hammer-beam trusses (Stenning 2011). An example further afield can be seen at Moat House, Longnor in Shropshire which has a roof over the open hall with a tie-beam centre truss and numerous intermediates (Walker, J. unpublished lecture material).

6.5 These common attributes, together with their architectural pretence appear to project wealth, prestige and power, but the exact nature of the links between them is more difficult to establish with any certainty. The similarities may represent a common pool of craftsmen or expertise, or some other dynamic such as rivalry between families. Conflict between the Woodhouse family of Waxham and the Paston family was well established and can be traced back to the mid-15th century, so that architectural emulation might be expected. Godwick is slightly later in date, and as Coke married Bridget Paston in 1582, the roof form may equally reflect a sharing of expertise, or direct employment of carpenters from the Paston Estate.

6.6 The barn has a long history of care and maintenance. The tree-ring analysis has identified repairs carried out to the roof in the late 17th or early 18th century which may correspond with other visible alterations such the rebuilding of the staircase and various blockings in the outer walls.

6.7 The decline of the house is mirrored in the treatment of the barn, and various later modifications ignored any architectural niceties. In the 19th century, additional flooring was inserted, windows were pierced through their fictive precursors and lean-tos built up against the structure on the east side. Otherwise, the west façade was largely left alone. By the 1920s, when we see the first photographs, the building appears to be in poor condition, with slipped tiles and decaying brickwork, while old Godwick had almost disappeared. However, in recent years, the barn has been put into good order, though with some further loss of historic fabric.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Physical analysis has confirmed Godwick as a building of great beauty and importance, worthy of concerted efforts for enhancement and protection. In addition, the programme of tree-ring dating has secured an accurate felling date for the timber as 1597 which is well reflected in the style and construction of the barn.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client Stephen Doughty of Wood Stephen Ltd for commissioning the project as well as Sarah Howard of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and staff at the Norwich Millennium Library and the Norfolk Archive Centre.

AS would like to acknowledge the advice of Stephen Heywood of the Historic Environment Service, Norfolk.

Thanks should go to Cathy Tyers for issuing a preliminary dendrochronological summary on behalf of the English Heritage Scientific Dating Team, as well as Robert Howard of the Nottingham tree-ring dating laboratory.

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WEB SITES

Website 1 - Abandonedcommunities

<http://www.abandonedcommunities.co.uk/norfolk4.html>

Website 2 – Notes on the Daniel family

<http://www.prattens.co.uk/families/DANIEL/THOMAS.HTML>

Website 3 - Norfolk Heritage Explorer

<http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Website 4 - Norfolk Historic Maps

<http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>

Website 5 – The life of Sir Edward Coke

http://www.archive.org/stream/lifeofsiredwardc01john/lifeofsiredwardc01john_djvu.txt

APPENDIX 1: Cartographic Sources

Fig.	Title	Source	Date	Scale
1	Site Location	OS Explorer	Modern	
2	Detailed site location	Client	Modern	1:500
3	Estate map of Godwick, reproduction	Abandoned Communities website	1596	
4	Estate map of Godwick	Norfolk Archive Centre	1725	
5	Tithe map	Norfolk Historic maps	c.1840	
6	1st edition OS map	Norwich Millennium Library	1891	1:10,560
7	2nd edition OS map	Norwich Millennium Library	1905	1:2,500
8	OS map	Norwich Millennium Library	1958	1:10,560
9	OS map	Norwich Millennium Library	1985	1:10,000

APPENDIX 2 NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST ENTRY

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: BARN 305 METRES SOUTH OF GODWICK HALL

List Entry Number: 1342509

Location: The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Norfolk

District: Breckland

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Tittleshall

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 14-Jun-1984

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 220508

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

TF 92 SW TITTLESHALL GODWICK

4/52 Barn 305 metres south of

Godwick Hall - II

Former house associated with Godwick Hall (demolished); now barn housing grain silos. Probably 1576. Brick in English bond with shingle (to west) and pantile roof. Formerly of 2 storeys with attic. Facade with remains of 7 symmetrically arranged 3-light brick chamfered mullion and transom windows with pediments. One original blocked doorway with pediment to northern end of facade. Several later openings. Rear facade obscured by corrugated asbestos barn. North gable end with remains of a window pediment. C18 gables with tumbling-in. Worn remains of decorative ridge tiles. Roof, probably original, of alternating hammerbeam and queen strut trusses arch braced with 3 sets (per pitch) of butt purlins, collars and wind bracing. Some surviving partitions and floor joists.

Listing NGR: TF9041422088

**APPENDIX 3
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name and address:	Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall
County: Norfolk	District: Breckland
Village/Town: Tittleshall	Parish: Tittleshall
Planning application reference:	-
Client name/address/tel:	Stephen Doughty (Wood Stephen Ltd)
Nature of application:	Repair and extension
Present land use:	Barn, empty.
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated: -
NGR (8 figures):	TF 9041 2208
Site Code:	n/a
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Historic building recording
Date of work:	January 2012
Location of finds/Curating museum:	-
Related SMR Nos: -	Periods represented: 16 th or 17 th century
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>Godwick Great Barn is the principal architectural survival of a larger mansion complex constructed in the late Elizabethan period. The evidence suggests that when first built, it stood as an architectural introduction to the contemporary hall, standing to one side of an outer court. After three centuries, the house was itself abandoned, and had become entirely ruinous by the end of the 19th century. A decorated porch and various high perimeter walls were all that remained by the mid-20th century, and its ruins were cleared in the 1960s. The barn, by contrast survived because it continued to be useful, but the embellishments of its principal show-facade have given rise to a misconception that it was once a house, latterly reduced in status. However, it can be shown that it has always been a barn, with its northern two bays given over to other uses, possibly as stabling with modest, unheated accommodation on two upper floors.</i></p> <p><i>Internally, the barn bears stylistic similarities with examples at Waxham and Paston. Though constructed slightly later, in 1597 or thereabouts, a familial connection suggests some interchange of influences or craft, though the precise nature is impossible to detect in the absence of documentary records. As a working building, later change is discernible, and has not always been carried out with regard to the architecture. The domestic arrangements were probably extended for a further two bays into the interior in the later 17th or 18th century, while the southern end was also given an inserted floor in the 19th, probably to support a granary at upper level. Some external reconfiguration took place with the introduction of pitching doors, and disturbance of the original symmetry. Modern interventions have similarly resulted in changes. Overall, the barn retains many original historic features however, and survives as one of Norfolk's most important buildings of the type and period.</i></p>
Author of summary: Lee Prosser	Date of Summary: July 2012

**APPENDIX 4
BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM**

Site Details							
Site Name: Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall					NGR: TF 9041 2208		
County: Norfolk				Museum Collecting Area:			
Site Code: n/a				Project Number: 4610			
Date of Work: January 2012				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
26 th Oct 2011		Yes		28 th Oct 2011		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
14 sheets A4 notes							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
-							
Architect's Drawings:							
1 sheet A3 drawings (annotated)							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
4029		Historic building recording				Yes	
Site Photographs							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
Film No	Film Type	Negs	Negs Present	Contacts Present	Film No	Negs	Present
1	120mm	9-15	Yes	Yes	1	1-14	Yes
2	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
3	120mm	1-6	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printout in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography duplicates black and white photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD.							

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1 West elevation of the barn, taken from the west (DP 09)



Plate 2 West elevation of the barn (north end), taken from the west (DP 10)



Plate 3 East elevation of the barn, taken from the east (DP 01)

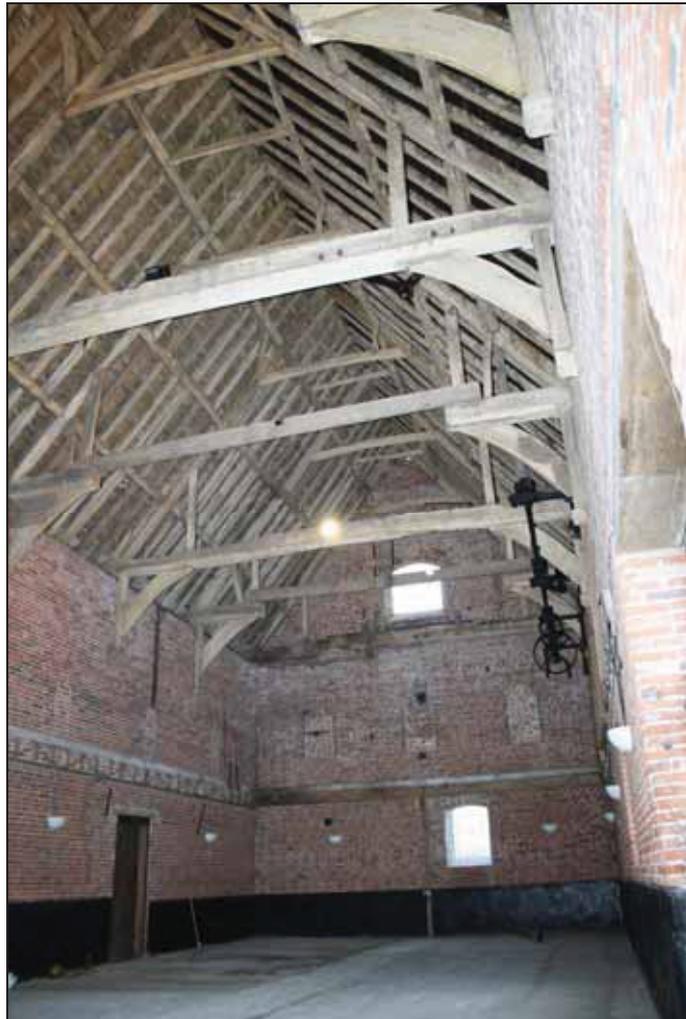


Plate 4 Interior of the barn, taken from the north (DP 20)



Plate 5 General view of the roof structure, taken from the south (DP 32)



Plate 6 Detail of lambs tongue chamfer stops on binding of Truss 2, taken from the north-east (DP 44)



Plate 7 West side of Bay 2 at ground floor level, taken from the east (DP 42)



Plate 8 Staircase at ground floor level, taken from the south (DP 64)



Plate 9 View of staircase at first floor level, taken from the west (DP 47)



Plate 10 Detail showing west side of Truss 11 showing stub purlin and additional rafter, taken from the east (DP 36)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1

East elevation of the barn, taken from the east



DP 2

East elevation of the barn (north end), taken from the east



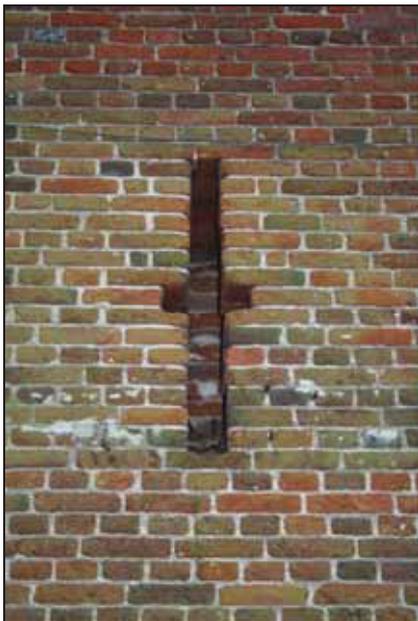
DP 3

East elevation of the barn (centre), taken from the east



DP 4

Detail of the east elevation showing plinth terminus of central door jamb, taken from the east



DP 5

Ventilation aperture on the east elevation, taken from the east



DP 6

Pent-roofed outshut on the east elevation, taken from the north-east



DP 7

South elevation of the barn, taken from the south-west



DP 8

West elevation of the barn, taken from the south-west



DP 9

West elevation of the barn, taken from the west



DP 10

West elevation of the barn (north end), taken from the west



DP 11

Detail of the west elevation showing plinth terminus of north door jamb, taken from the west



DP 12

West elevation of the barn (centre), taken from the west



DP 13
West elevation of the barn (south end), taken from the west



DP 14
North elevation of the barn, taken from the north-west



DP 15
North elevation of the barn, taken from the north-east



DP 16
Wall extending from the north-east corner of the barn, north wall of former north-east range, taken from the north-east



DP 17
Roof structure of the south-east outshut, taken from the south-east



DP 18
Former external wall of the barn enclosed in the south-east outshut, taken from the east



DP 19

East wall of the south-east outshut, taken from the south-east



DP 20

Interior of the barn, taken from the north



DP 21

West wall, taken from the south-east



DP 22

North end of the barn at first floor level, taken from the south



DP 23

Detail of the east end of Truss 5, taken from the north



DP 24

Detail of the roof, taken from the north



DP 25

Assembly mark on the east queen strut of Truss 6, taken from the north



DP 26

Assembly mark on the east queen strut of Truss 7, taken from the north



DP 27

Detail of the east end of Truss 5, taken from the south



DP 28

Roof structure above tie-beam level, taken from the north



DP 29

Roof structure, taken from the south



DP 30

Detail of the east end of the roof trusses, taken from the south



DP 31

General view of the interior of the barn, taken from the south



DP 32

General view of the roof structure, taken from the south



DP 33

Detail view of the roof structure, taken from the south



DP 34

Assembly mark on the east queen strut of Truss 11, taken from the north



DP 35

View of blocked ventilation aperture, taken from the north



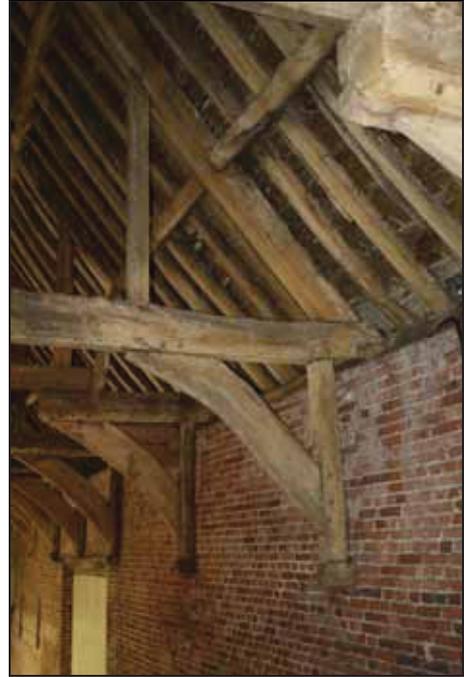
DP 36

Detail showing west side of Truss 11 showing stub purlin and additional rafter, taken from the east



DP 37

Detail of the roof structure, taken from the north



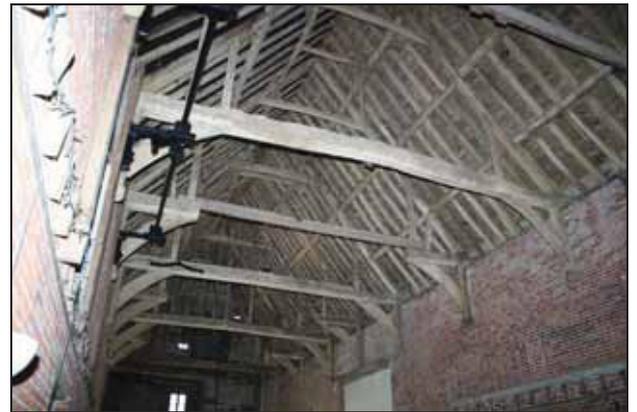
DP 38

Detail of the east end of Truss 9, taken from the south



DP 39

East wall of the barn, taken from the south-west



DP 40

General view of the roof structure, taken from the south



DP 41

West side of Bays 3 and 4, taken from the east



DP 42

West side of Bay 2 at ground floor level, taken from the east



DP 43

East wall of Bays 3 and 4, taken from the west



DP 44

Detail of lamb's tongue chamfer stops on binding of Truss 2, taken from the north-east



DP 45

Staircase enclosed with modern boarding at ground floor level, taken from the west



DP 46

West side of Bays 1 and 2 at first floor level, taken from the east



DP 47

View of staircase at first floor level, taken from the west



DP 48

General view of the interior of the barn, taken from the north



DP 49

West side of the barn, taken from the north-east



DP 50

Detail of chamfer stops framing the trimmer for the original staircase at first floor level, taken from the north-west



DP 51

Bay 1 at attic floor level, taken from the south



DP 52

Roof structure above Bay 1, taken from the north-west



DP 53

Partition between Bays 2 and 3 at attic floor level, taken from the north



DP 54

West side of Bay 1 at attic floor level, taken from the east



DP 55

Roof above Bay 1, taken from the north-east



DP 56

Stair balustrade at attic floor level, taken from the south-west



DP 57

Double mortise for lost staircase trimmer in the north wall-plate of Bay 1, taken from the south



DP 58

Staircase to attic level, taken from the east



DP 59

Possibly original studwork of the staircase at first floor level, taken from the west



DP 60

Graffiti on a staircase stud at first floor level, taken from the west



DP 61
Graffiti on a staircase stud at first floor level, taken from the west



DP 62
Graffiti on a staircase board at first floor level, taken from the north



DP 63
Graffiti on a staircase stud at first floor level, taken from the west



DP 64
Staircase at ground floor level, taken from the south



DP 65
Staircase at ground floor level, taken from the north-west



DP 66
View of staircase from first floor level to the east wall at ground floor level, taken from the west



DP 67

Window on the north wall of Bay 1 at first floor level, taken from the south



DP 68

Detail of modern repair on the north side of Bay 1 at first floor level, taken from the south



DP 69

Detail of ceiling form in Bay 1 at first floor level, taken from the west



DP 70

Detail of common joist mortices in Bay 2 at first floor level, taken from the north-west



DP 71

Detail of window jamb on the west side of Bays 3 and 4 at upper level, taken from the south



DP 72

Detail of window on the west side of Bays 3 and 4 at upper level, taken from the west



DP 73

Detail of rafter feet protruding on the west side of the barn, taken from the west



DP 74

Detail of render on the west window of Bay 2 at ground floor level, taken from the west



DP 75

Detail of window on the west side of Bays 5 and 6 at upper level, taken from the west



DP 76

Detail of window on the west side of Bays 3 and 4 at upper level, taken from the east



DP 77

Detail of the partition between Bays 2 and 3 at upper level, taken from the south



DP 78

View of the removed floor of Bay 2, taken from the south-west



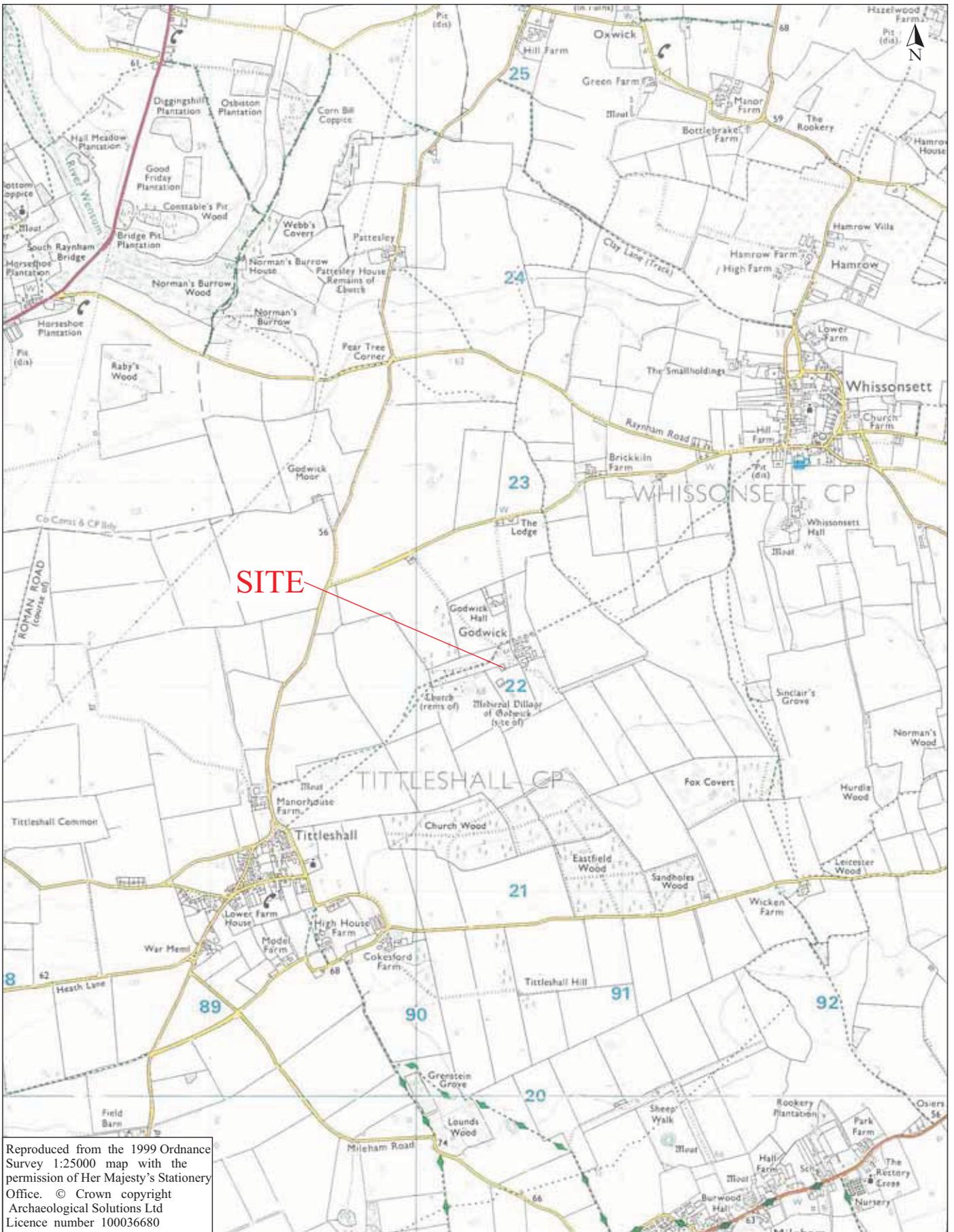
DP 79

Detail of the blocked window on the west side of Bay 2 at first floor level, taken from the east



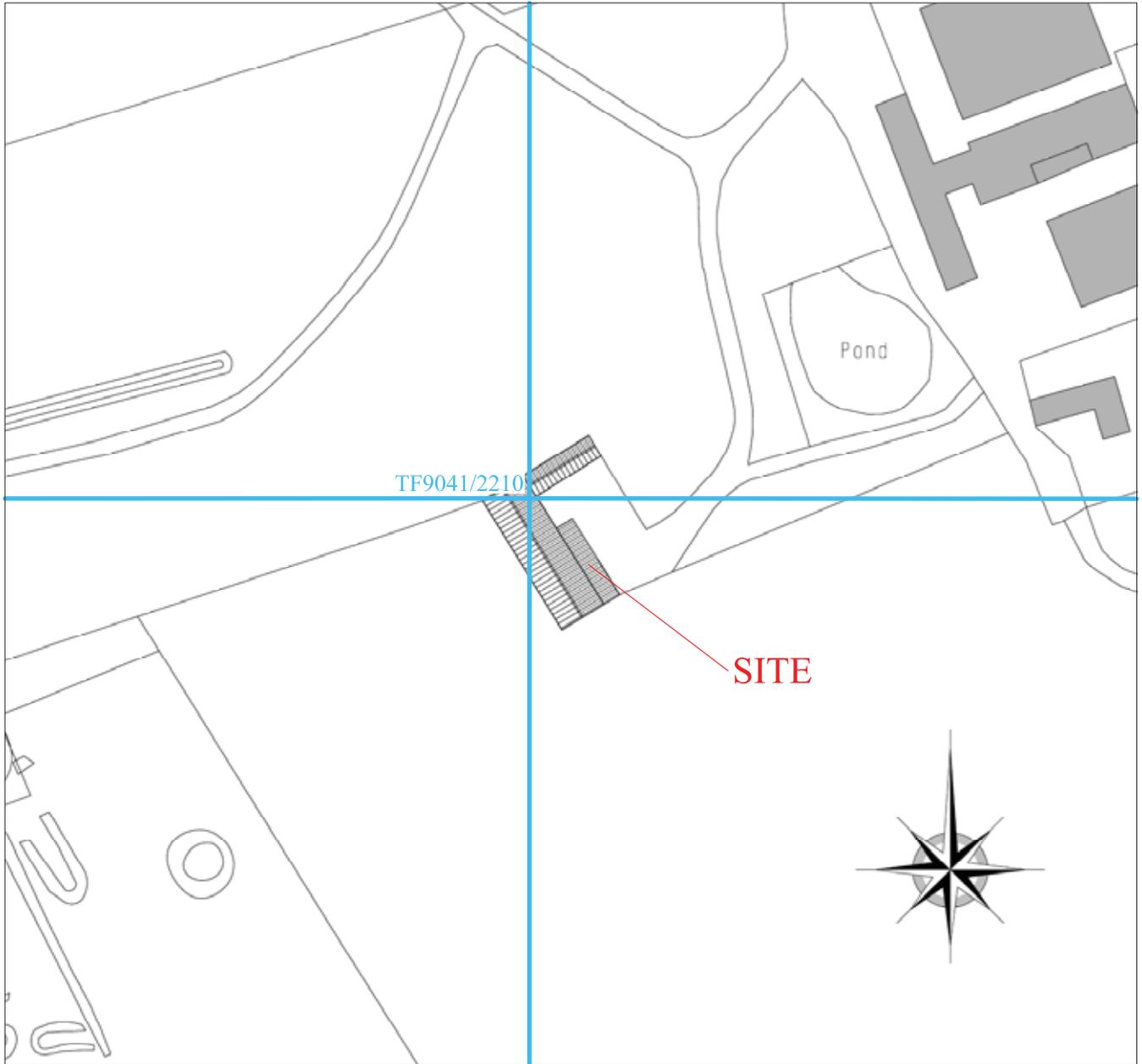
DP 80

Blocked ventilation aperture on the east side of Bay 3, taken from the west



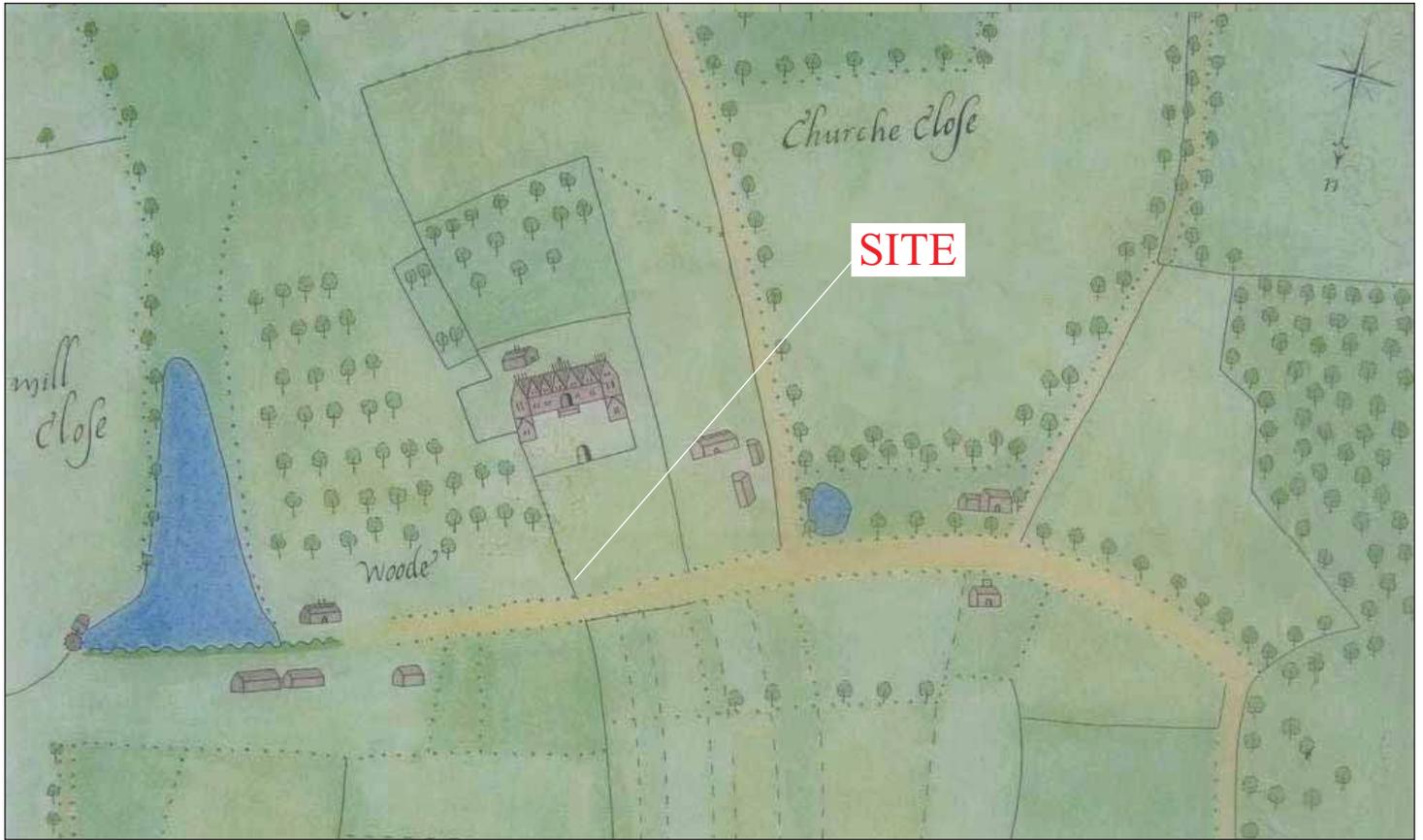
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 75m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Estate map of Godwick, 1596

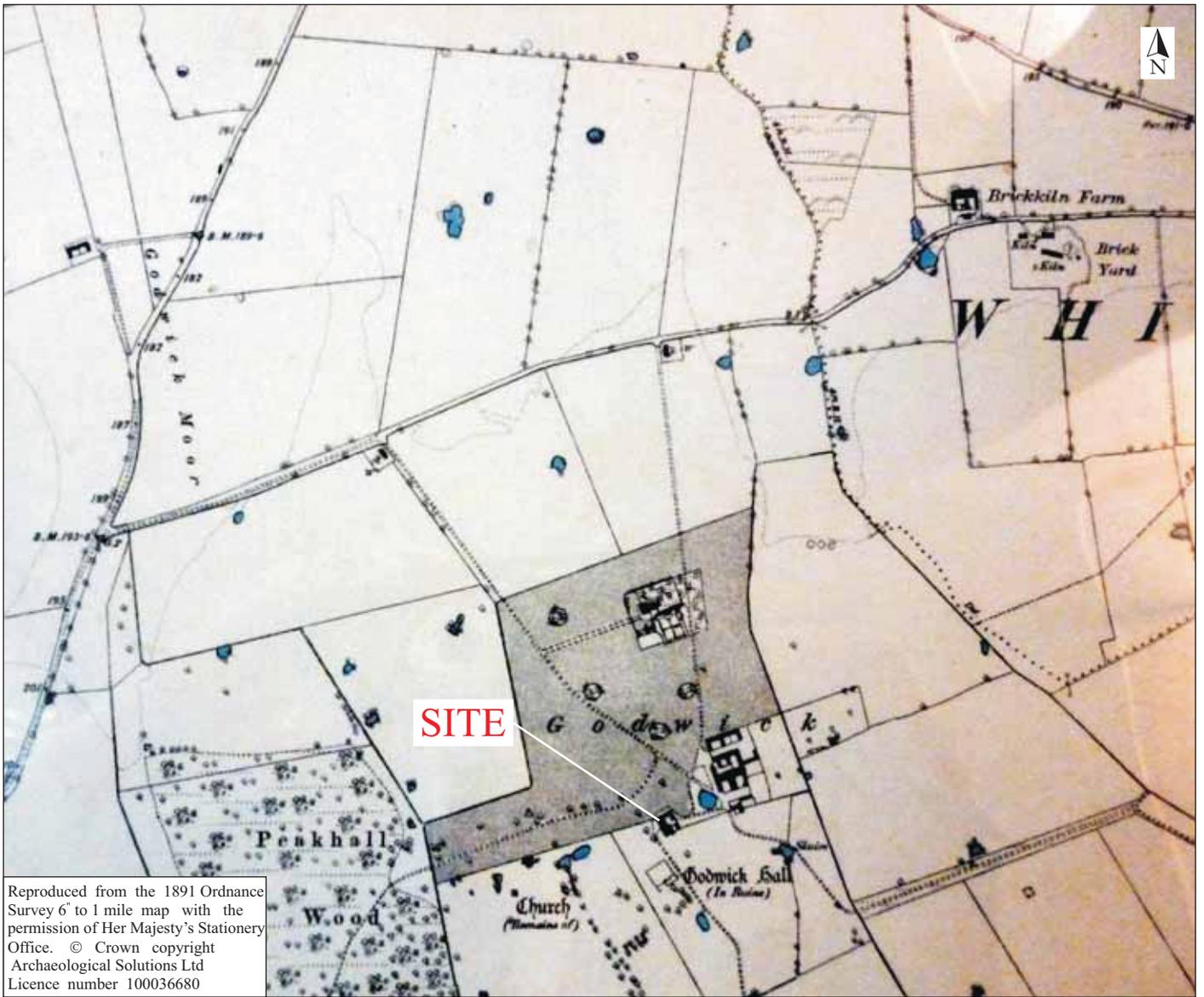
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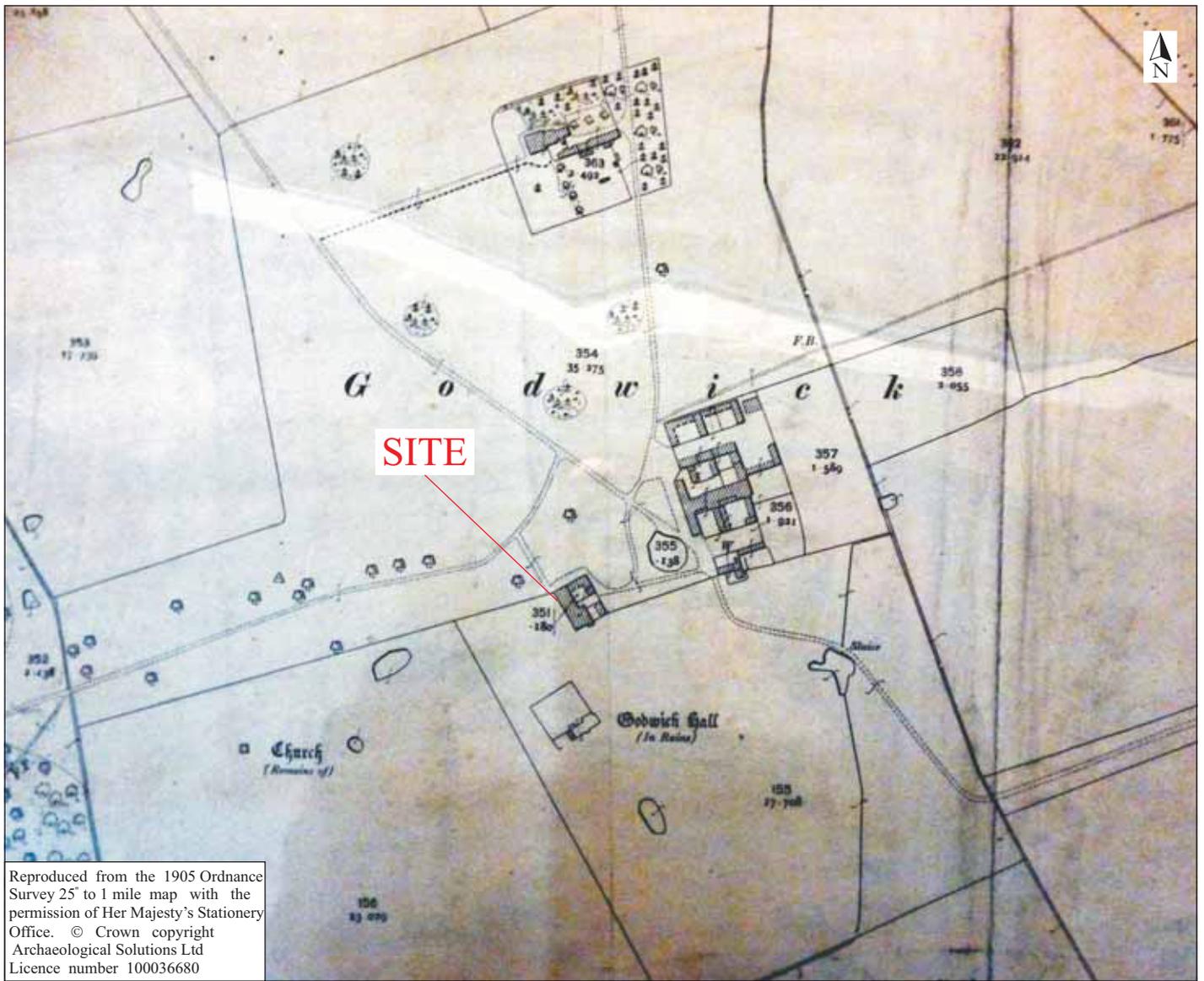
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Estate map of Godwick, 1725
Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Tithe map, 1840
Not to scale



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 6 1st edition OS map, 1891
Not to scale

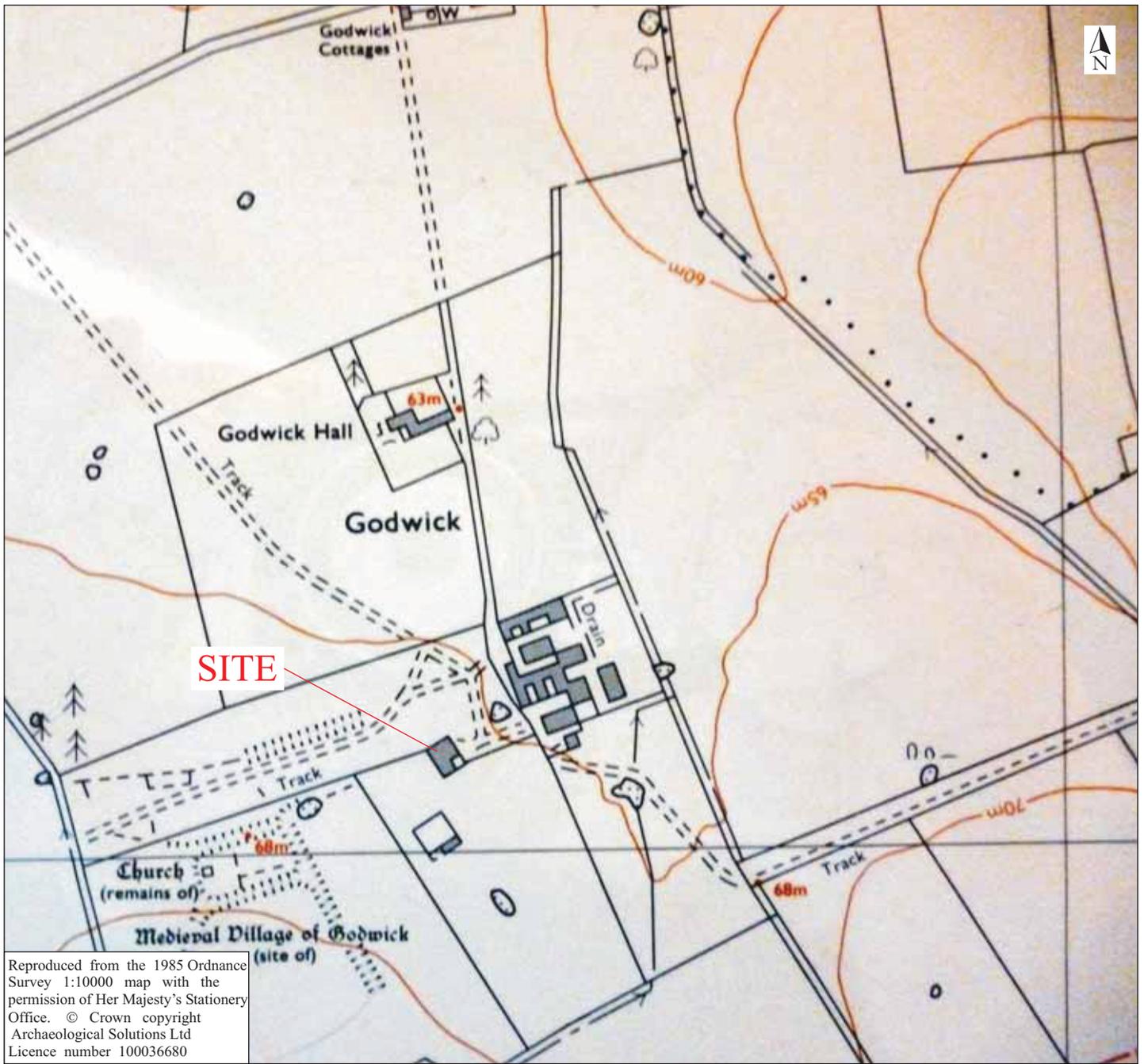


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Fig. 7 2nd Edition OS map, 1905
Not to scale



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Fig. 8 OS map, 1958
Not to scale



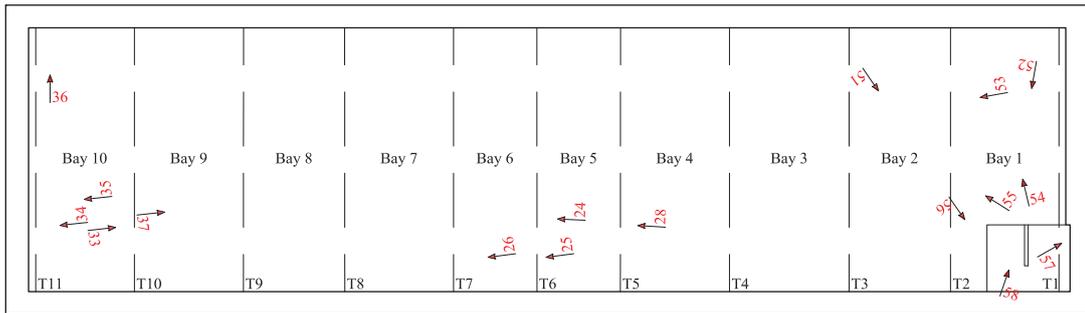
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Fig. 9 OS map, 1985

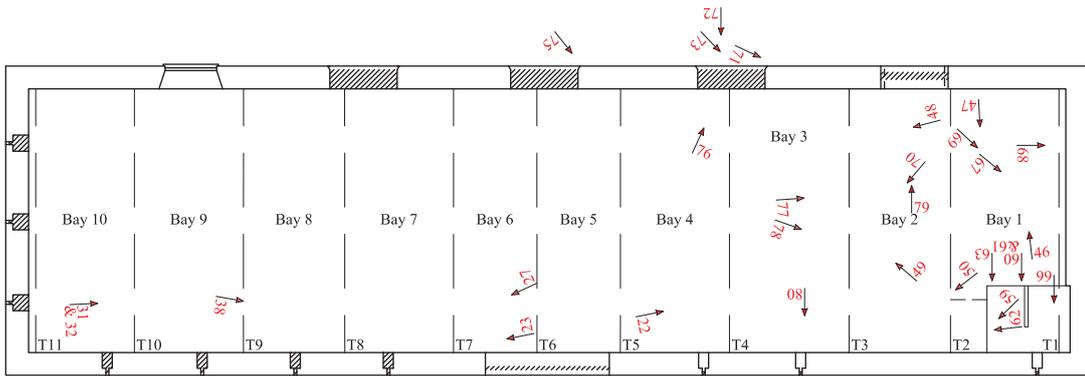
Not to scale



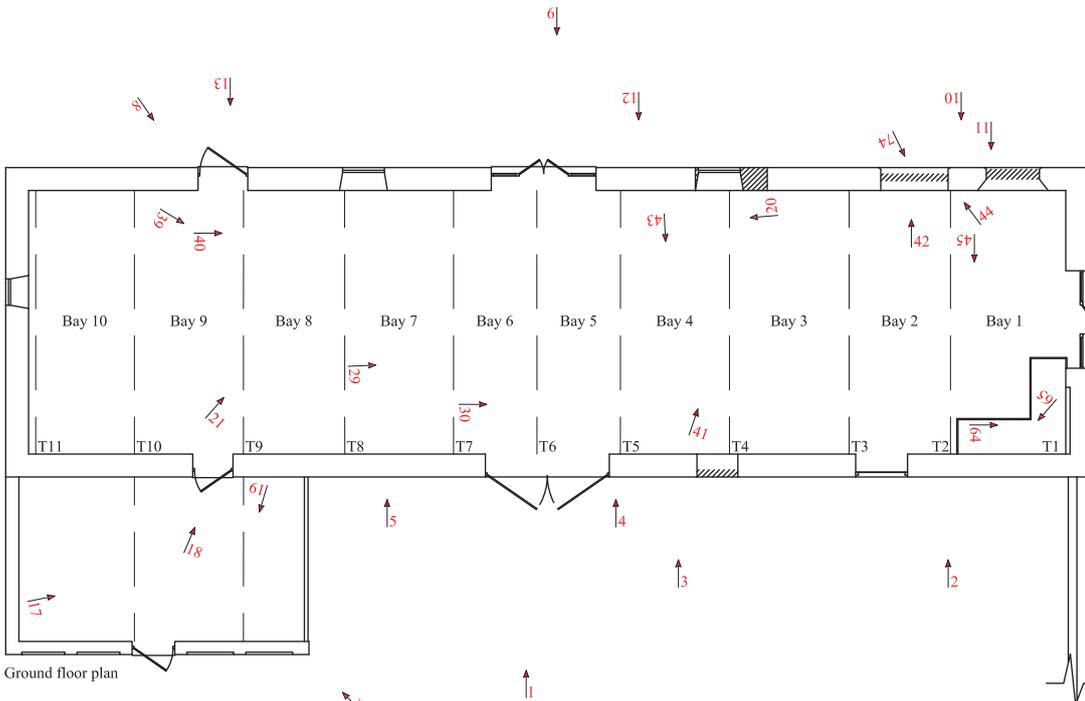
West elevation



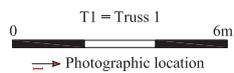
Roof level plan



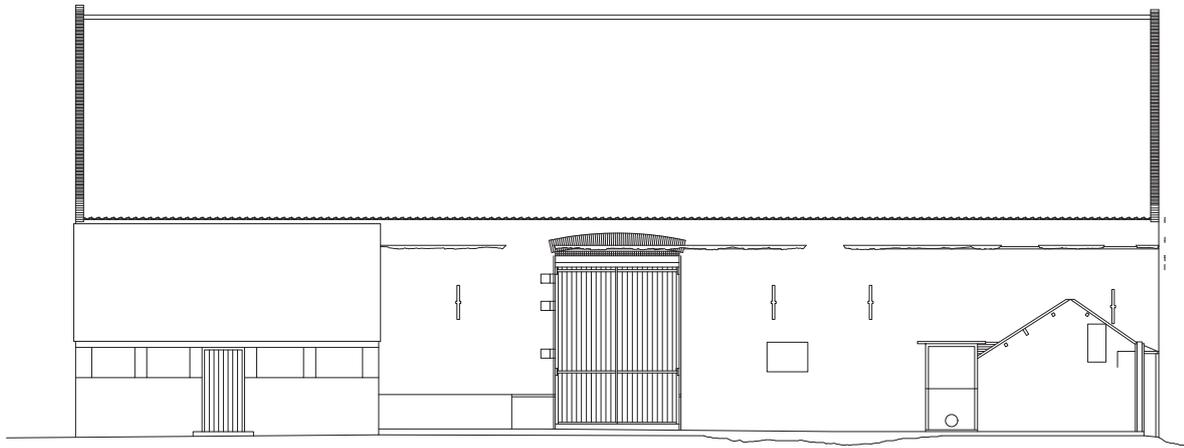
First floor plan



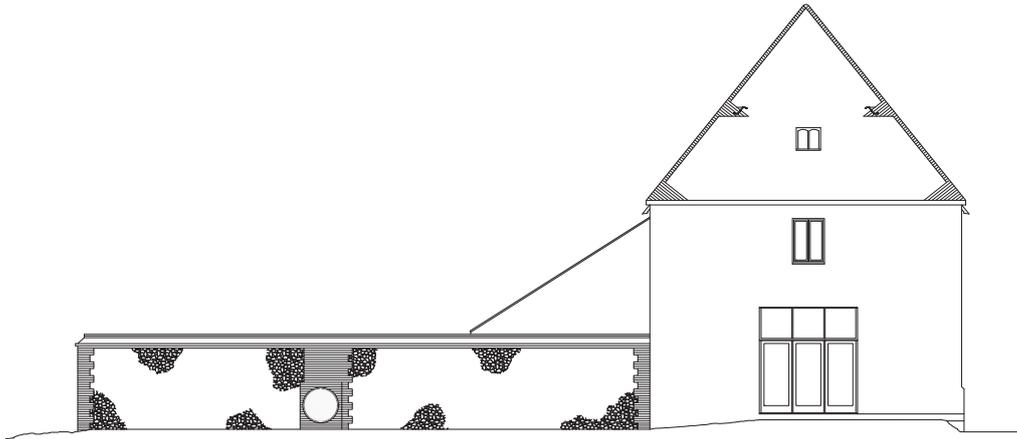
Ground floor plan



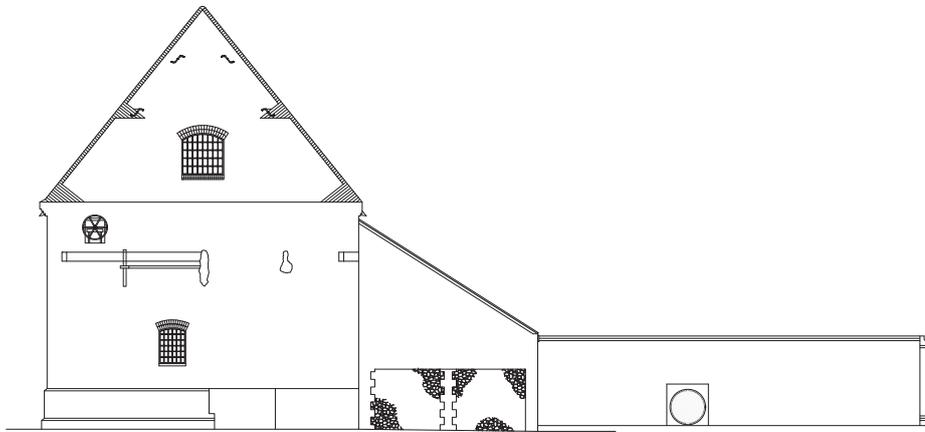
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Fig. 10 Photo locations plans and elevations
 Scale 1:150 at A3



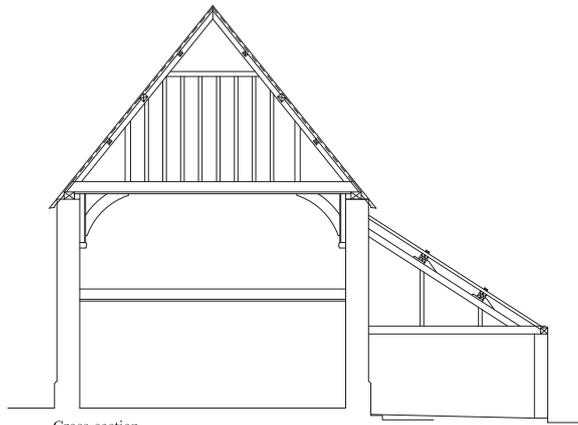
East elevation



North elevation



South elevation



Cross-section





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Fig. 12 Suggested reconstruction