
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**THE BARN AT ACTONS FARM
HIGH WYCH
HERTFORDSHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Level 3

HER request No. 181/13

Authors: Dr Lee Prosser BA PhD Lisa Smith BA Kate Higgs MA Kathren Henry	
NGR: TL 4417 1490	Report No. 4464
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1645
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 5476
Signed:	Date: 22 November 2013

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210**

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483**

**e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 METHODOLOGY**
- 4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 THE BUILDING**
- 6 DISCUSSION**

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

- 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA**
- 2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET**
- 3 ARCHIVE CONTENTS FORM**

PLATES

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

FIGURES

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>The Barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording</i>		
<p><i>Summary</i></p> <p><i>In November 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an historic building recording at the barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 44224 14876). The recording was undertaken as part of a planning condition in advance of the conversion of the redundant barn to a single residential unit and the demolition of a modern lean-to to the rear.</i></p> <p><i>Technical analysis reveals that, despite superficial external decay to the weather-board cladding and a proliferation of vegetation, the timber-frame is well-preserved. The latter is of five bays, dating to the latter part of the 19th century, and constructed in a highly consistent and systematic style common to the period, when timber was often delivered ready-cut from the saw-mill. The principal material is softwood. There is little use of pegging or subsidiary ironwork, and no assembly marks, suggesting an industrial, kit-form building which could be erected without further modification. The adjoining open-fronted cart-shed is constructed in similar style, and appears to be broadly contemporary, or constructed a little after. A rear lean-to is of modern date, and built of ephemeral materials.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	11 th November 2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	Y
P. number	5476	Site code	AS1645
Type of project	Historic building recording		
Site status			
Current land use	Used for storage		
Planned development	Conversion to residential use and demolition of modern lean-to		
Main features (+dates)	19 th century barn		
Significant finds (+dates)	n/a		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	East Hertfordshire	High Wych
HER for area	Hertfordshire HER (request No. 181/13)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 4,900m ²		
NGR	TL 44224 14876		
Height AOD (max)	C.70m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	HCC HEU		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Lisa Smith		
Funded by	Mr Nick Mynott		
Full title	The Barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, Hertfordshire. Historic Building Recording		
Authors	Prosser, L. Smith, L. Higgs, K.		
Report no.	4464		
Date (of report)	November 2013		

THE BARN AT ACTONS FARM
HIGH WYCH
HERTFORDSHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

In November 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an historic building recording at the barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 44224 14876). The recording was undertaken as part of a planning condition in advance of the conversion of the redundant barn to a single residential unit and the demolition of a modern lean-to to the rear.

Technical analysis reveals that, despite superficial external decay to the weather-board cladding and a proliferation of vegetation, the timber-frame is well-preserved. The latter is of five bays, dating to the latter part of the 19th century, and constructed in a highly consistent and systematic style common to the period, when timber was often delivered ready-cut from the saw-mill. The principal material is softwood. There is little use of pegging or subsidiary ironwork, and no assembly marks, suggesting an industrial, kit-form building which could be erected without further modification. The adjoining open-fronted cart-shed is constructed in similar style, and appears to be broadly contemporary, or constructed a little after. A rear lean-to is of modern date, and built of ephemeral materials.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an historic building recording at the barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 44224 14876; Figs.1-2). The recording was commissioned by Mr Lawrie Howard on behalf of the client Mr Nick Mynott and undertaken as part of a planning condition in advance of the conversion of the redundant barn to a single residential unit and the demolition of a modern lean-to to the rear. (East Herts Planning Ref. 3/10/1386/FN).

1.2 The historic building recording was undertaken according to advice given by Alison Tinniswood (HCC HEU) and a specification issued by AS (11th September 2013), approved by HCC HEU. The assessment was followed the procedures set out in English Heritage's '*Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice*' (2006), and also conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*' (IFA 2008). The recording was conducted to **Level 3** as defined in the EH document.

1.3 The aims of the project were to:

- Record the standing structure/s in their present form, before any development commences, with the resultant archive to be deposited in order to form a long-term record.

1.4 Further work including archaeological monitoring of all groundworks and fabric alterations associated with the scheme is to be undertaken during the proposed works.

Planning policy

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings and scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

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

2.1 Actons Farm is located in the parish of High Wych, which lies in the district of East Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The village of High Wych lies some 2.4km to the south-east, whilst the village of Widford is located 2.3km to the north-west. The current parish of High Wych was formerly part of Sawbridgeworth. The site lies along the northern side of Actons Lane, which meanders north-westwards from the village of High Wych.

2.2 The site covers a portion of the original farm, comprising a large plot of land of approximately 4,900m² (Fig. 2), incorporating several farm buildings. It is defined on the south and west by Actons Lane and to the east by Actons Farm with agricultural land to the north. A pond also lies to the south, whilst a number of existing driveways and tracks criss-cross the yard. The site is occupied by three standing buildings, including a modern concrete Dutch barn. It is proposed to demolish two of the structures and convert the surviving historic building.

2.3 The main farmhouse and adjoining property, High Trees, are both Grade II listed, the farmhouse described as 16th century in date, and possibly built for the Leventhorpe family. High Trees is listed as 17th or early 18th century in date (LB No. 1220427 & 1220404).

3 METHODOLOGY

Information was sought from a variety of available sources, and reference was made to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (1994, revised 2012). The following material was consulted as part of the assessment;

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and find spots within East Hertfordshire district comes from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; request No. 181/13). Significant entries within a 750m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Fig. 3. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

The principal source for this type of evidence was the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Figs. 4 - 10.

3.3 Secondary sources

The principal sources of secondary material were the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford, and AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 The building

3.4.1 The site was visited on 11th November 2013 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 Lee Prosser and Lisa Smith while the drawing work was completed by Kathren

Henry. Floor plans, sections and elevations based upon drawings provided by the client are included with annotations (Figs. 11-13).

3.4.2 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 60D (18 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. 11).

4 HISTORIC BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)

4.1 The prehistory of the High Wych area is relatively unknown and there is little to suggest that it was occupied to any degree in the prehistoric, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon periods, with the focus of activity centred along the River Stort to the south. No prehistoric remains are recorded in the area surrounding the site, whilst a single find of a late Roman bronze coin found nearby by Antiquarians attests to the site's location in an area traversed by a number of Roman roads (HER 23582). No Anglo-Saxon finds are known from the area, and there is no mention of either High Wych or Gilston, which lies to the south, in Domesday Book; it is presumed that they were probably part of the vill of Sawbridgeworth held by Geoffrey de Mandeville (Page 1912).

4.2 The church of St James, which stands in High Wych 2.4km to the east-south-east of the site, is known to date to the 13th century (Page 1912) and the High Wych area is still characterised by isolated dwellings and farmsteads, many of which have medieval origins. Whilst one leg of a cast copper-alloy cooking vessel, probably of the period AD 1400-1600, was found at High Wych (HER 22205), the majority of medieval finds comprise cropmarks. Medieval ridge and furrow fields are recorded to the south at Gilston and between Great Pennys Farm and Golden Brook (HERs 16839 & 16841). Within the complex of Actons Farm, former medieval ridge and furrow fields previously lay in the field to the north of the site (HER 16860), whilst a possible moat has been identified to the immediate south-east of the site (HER 6386).

4.3 The High Wych area is still dominated by its surviving post-medieval and early modern farmsteads, and did not become a separate ecclesiastical district until 1862 (Page 1912). Remains dating from the period include the post-medieval timber-framed High Trees (HER 30176), the late 19th century Fryars Farm to the north-east (HER 12782) and Victorian Great Pennys Farm to the south (HER 13283). Two house plots also formerly stood to the south-

east of the site and near Battles Wood, but were removed for road straightening in the mid 19th century (HER 30175).

4.4 The *Victoria County History* reveals that in the parish of Sawbridgeworth there was a reputed manor known as Actons, which was held by the Leventhorpe family in the 16th century (Page 1912). This was held in the possession of John Leventhorpe and passed to his descendants until 1570, when it was granted to Oliver Lord St. John and others, probably trustees in a sale. By 1636, '*the manor or farm of Actons*' was held by the late Sir John Fowle (*ibid.*). The HER database confirms Actons Farm as a post-medieval farmstead with 16th century timber-framed farmhouse and possible medieval origins (HER 30177), which refers to the possible moat to the immediate south-east of the site. The assessment area does not incorporate either the 16th century timber-framed farmhouse or possible medieval moat.

4.5 Dury and Andrews' map of 1766 does not appear to show Actons farm (Fig. 4) however by 1822, Bryant's map of Hertfordshire reveals that the complex consisted of at least five structures, three of which may have stood within the site (Fig. 5). The larger scale Sawbridgeworth tithe map, which dates to 1839, clearly depicts Actons Farm comprising a farmhouse and surrounding outbuildings, a number of which once stood within the current site footprint, yet none of the existing buildings are depicted at that date (Fig. 6; Ref. DSA4/93/2). The accompanying tithe award reveals that Actons was part of the estate of Coles Farm, which was owned by Rowland Alston Esq. (Ref. DSA4/93/1). In 1838, Actons was occupied by Joseph Acres and much of the site formed part of the homestead (#975), whilst its northern section (#974) comprised an orchard. A third plot of land (#976) formed the southern section of the site, yet it was not listed in the tithe award.

4.6 Later 19th century cartographic sources suggest that the farm was extensively redeveloped after 1839, possibly in accordance with ideas of the Victorian 'model farm', with attendant rationalisation of the layout. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1880, is the earliest cartographic source to depict the extant barn (Fig. 7). However, in 1880 the barn originally formed part of a larger range of outbuildings extending eastwards to form a central farm yard. Two small outbuildings also stood to the south beside a pond.

4.7 By 1898, the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map shows that the barn had been enlarged by the addition of a two-bay cart-shed (Fig. 8). By this time the two small outbuildings depicted on the earlier map had been demolished. The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1921, shows the addition of the lean-to to the rear of the barn.

4.8 A document held by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) reveals that planning permission was granted in March 1937 for a barn at Actons Farm (Ref. RDC/3/42/99). It indicates that Actons Farm formed part of the Gilston Estate, which was owned by F. E. S. Bowlby Esq, who resided at Gilston Park, and was occupied by Mr. W. Mynott. The 1937 planning application was for a 6-bay Dutch barn consisting of iron stanchions on

concrete, with a corrugated iron roof, to the west of Actons Farm (Fig. 10). However, a letter from Hertfordshire County Council requested that the building was '*set back a minimum distance of 45 feet from the centre of the existing road*'. This may be the existing Dutch barn which lies adjacent to the building.

5 THE BUILDINGS (Fig. 11-13)

The Barn

Exterior

5.1 The barn forms part of a wider assemblage of buildings associated with the adjoining farm. It is currently used for storage of old furniture and several carts. The attendant open-fronted, two-bay cart shed lies to the north, while further storage is provided by a flimsy lean-to on the rear, east side (Plates 1 & 2).

5.2 The building is a fairly typical 19th century structure with weather-boarding over a tall brick dwarf-wall, all now covered in pitch or similar preservative, as is found on many similar structures. Both elements are roofed with grey slate. Much of the original weather-boarding survives on three-sides, but there appears to have been substantial replacement on the south gable-end. Overall, several boards have been lost, leaving sections of the frame exposed to the elements, while vegetation has also taken hold in the north-west corner. There is also some evidence of racking to the roof, which has been shored internally by means of inserted bracing. The elevations are blank, apart from central opposing threshing doors, which are set over leap-boards, though only the eastern board survives. The doors, set on metal rollers, appear to be original.

5.3 The modern lean-to extends along the eastern elevation and is of an ephemeral flimsy construction with posts standing on concrete bases, supporting a simple roof of rafters and horizontal ribs, all attached to the original barn on a single batten, slotted into u-shaped metal cleats. Secondary external timbers carry the corrugated roof. A manger attached to the rear face for livestock must be a later addition, as its presence impedes the functioning of the main doors on this side.

Interior

5.4 The barn is divided into five bays, with a central, wider bay to accommodate the doors. The frame is very well preserved and is highly regular in form, comprising even, machine-sawn softwood of regular scantling, in primary-braced panels with slender studwork. The truss-form is of tie-beams carried by principal posts and triangulated by solid, shaped oak brackets. Independent collars support a single purlin in each pitch. Common-rafters ride over the back to a ridge-board at the apex (Plate 3). In the lower

parts of the roof pitch, long straight wind-braces have been applied and nailed on for additional stiffening. The majority of the timber is of softwood with the exception of the principals on the west and the brackets which are mostly of oak. The southernmost bay is partitioned and floored below the tie-beam level with similar, even studwork to create a storage loft or granary. The more detailed analysis which follows describes the barn from north to south.

The north gable end

5.5 The northern gable end is entirely regular and original, with a central prick-post rising to the tie-beam (Plate 4). Downward primary bracing from the central post supports eight studs in each panel above and below in-line mid-rails. Similar studwork extends to the upper gable above the tie-beam. The weather-boarding, which has been protected by the adjoining cart shed is all of softwood with some replacement at high level.

Bay 1

5.6 Bay 1 is substantially complete, with eight primary braced common-studs above and below a mid-rail with corresponding rafter-couples above. A modern storage tank rests on a brick plinth in the north-east corner while modern planks have been applied to the upper register of the roof to forestall the effects of racking.

Truss 1

5.7 Truss 1 is standard in form as described above. Here as elsewhere in the barn the eastern post is of softwood, while its companion on the west is of oak. The collar is notch-lapped to the principal-rafters, which clasps the purlins. A small yoke piece joins the principals at the roof apex.

Bay 2

5.8 As within Bay 1 the walls are primary braced from the principal-posts in the upper and lower register. The western wall is pierced by a small boarded door, ledged and braced to the rear. This is possibly original but may have been inserted at a later date, perhaps giving access to buildings once situated to the rear of the barn.

Truss 2

5.9 The second truss is almost identical in form to its counterpart on the north and similarly has a principal-post of oak on the west.

Bay 3

5.10 Bay 3 is slightly wider than its counterparts to accommodate the threshing doors. On the both sides, secondary portals with oak jambs and a softwood lintel have been inserted to support the doors (Plate 5). Short studs span the remaining distance between lintel and wall-plate, reinforced with tiny braces and a threaded iron tension rod. Some, but not all are pegged to the wall-plate.

5.11 The doors are boarded with ledges to the rear. They rest on external iron rails, and retain metal rollers to allow them to slide open. They may be later replacements, but the absence of evidence for earlier hinges suggests that they are original. The threshing board and brackets survive on the east but only one bracket remains on its counterpart, on the northern jamb.

Truss 3

5.12 Truss 3 is complete and well preserved as before, though both principal posts are of softwood.

Bay 4

5.13 Bay 4 is as elsewhere, complete and well preserved.

Truss 4

5.14 Truss 4 is constructed in the same manner as before, but has been enclosed below tie-beam level by a storage loft (Plate 6). A robust binding joist supports a floor; this has been notched into the principal posts at mid-rail level and fixed by curved, cast-iron brackets, which appear contemporary with the barn (Plate 7). A centrally placed cast iron stanchion and timber bolster also provide substantial support to the binding joist.

5.15 Above, the internal partition is primary-braced from a central post, mirroring the pattern of the barn construction. The lower area was probably open originally, but has been infilled with flimsy boarding, and glazed on the western side to create a small corridor, or allow access to the loft.

Bay 5

5.16 The southern gable end wall is complete as elsewhere, though the end bay, as described above is enclosed with a workshop at lower level and an open loft above. The floor ends at a large trimmer on the west, allowing a ladder or stair to rise in the south-west corner. An external door gives access from the south at this point. Any original ladder has been removed, and replaced by a vertical ladder of iron. The joisting to the loft is robust and evenly-spaced, with typical Victorian cross-laced bracing as might be expected in an industrial structure. The heaviness of the joisting and these additional strengthening measures suggests its use as a granary. It was not easily accessible and so was not inspected further.

5.17 The timber scantling can be summarised as follows:

Principal post	6½" x 5½" (165mm x 140mm)
Primary brace	3" x 4½" (76mm x 114mm)
Common stud	3" x 4½", 13½" gap (76mm x 114mm; 343mm gap)
Mid-rail	6" x 6½" (152mm x 165mm)
Internal joist	9" x 6½" (229mm x 165mm)
Common joist	7" x 2¾", 11½" gap (178mm x 70mm; 292mm gap)
Floor boards	5½" (140mm)

Cart shed

5.18 The cart-shed appears in structure and scale to be contemporary with the barn, though has a slightly different truss form (Plate 8). It comprises two bays defined by outer oak posts. The central truss at the bay divisions is open, though its eastern post has been badly affected by water ingress. However, this has yet to cause substantial decay and appears salvageable. On the west, the wall-plates to the open bays and the tie-beams are supported three ways by short, slightly curved braces. The softwood tie-beam has raking queen struts which are slightly notched to clasp the purlins. A central iron king-rod adds extra tension. The roof has flat, nailed-on wind-braces to the purlin.

5.19 The wall on the east is primary-braced from the central post in both registers with nine common-studs in each panel. There is a slight use of iron strapping to the tie-beam and wall-plate particularly where the cart shed is tied to the main body of the barn. The northern wall is standard in construction, having a central softwood prick-post with common-studs above and below the mid-rail. The north-west post is decayed at the base.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The barn is typically late Victorian in style and construction; this is confirmed by the cartographic evidence, which shows that the building had been erected by 1880, and structurally it can be placed with some confidence in the 1870s by virtue of innovative elements such as the sliding external doors, the universal use of fairly knotty softwood, the lack of pegging or assembly marking and the absence of ironwork. It now stands in a fairly dilapidated state, but decay is restricted to the exterior, while the frame itself remains in a fairly good state of preservation. There is some evidence of slight racking which has been stabilised with modern materials.

6.2 Overall the building gives the impression of a typical 'kit-form' building of the period, delivered from the saw-mill as a collection of ready-cut parts with a set of instructions, and erected with ease. Pegs are used only at the junction of the principal posts and mid-rails, and not seen at the junction between the primary braces and the supporting studs which would be expected in earlier 19th century examples. Most of the principals on the west

side are of oak, together with the little solid brackets, which are bolted to the principal members to triangulate the tie-beams. Oak may have been employed on one side only because the eastern face was supported and protected by a lean-to or ancillary building. Timber therefore appears to have been used with great economy. The granary or loft may have been added at a slightly later date.

6.3 The two-bay cart shed, built between 1880 and 1898 and attached to the north gable of the barn, is constructed in broadly similar form. Decay is most evident to the north-west corner, but this has not yet compromised the structural integrity of the building. The lean-to is an early 20th century addition, most probably largely rebuilt in recent times and retains little historic interest.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed according to English Heritage (MAP2) standards. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the Hertfordshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and OASIS. The project archive will be lodged with Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Lawrie Howard for commissioning the project, and Mr Nick Mynott for funding the work.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Alison Tinniswood at Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU).

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, in particular Mrs. Isobel Thompson. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 8

English Heritage (EH) 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practise*. EH, Swindon

Glazebrook, J (ed.), 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties. 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing buildings, structures and annexes*.

Medlycott, M & Brown, N, 2008 *Revised East Anglian Archaeological Research Frameworks*. www.eaareports/algaoee

Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, ALGAO East of England Region. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24

Page, W (ed.) 1912 (rep. 1971) *The Victoria History of the Counties of England; Hertfordshire*, Vol. III. Institute of Historical Research at the University of London

Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

Web resources

www.british-history.ac.uk

www.english-heritage.org.uk

<http://www.stortfordhistory.co.uk>

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 750m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

HER	NGR TL	Description
<i>Romano-British</i>		
23582	43 14	Late Roman bronze coin of House of Constantine nummus, AD 330-35 found at High Wych
<i>Medieval</i>		
6386	4420 1486	Watercourse of uncertain date at 16th century farmstead of Actons Farm, possibly a moat
16839	43933 14360	Cropmarks show buried ditched features and eroded medieval fields at Gilston
16841	44727 14668	Cropmarks of ploughed-out medieval ridge and furrow, between Great Pennys Farm and Golden Brook
16860	44315 15037	Medieval ridge and furrow fields, now ploughed out at Actons Farm
22205	43 15	One leg of a cast copper-alloy cooking vessel, probably of the period AD 1400-1600, found at High Wych
<i>Post-medieval & later</i>		
12782	4460 1517	Fryars Farm is a planned farmstead, built between 1860 and 1879, but succeeding a much older farm on a different site
13283	44633 14589	Great Pennys Farm is a good example of largely unaltered post-medieval farmstead, not much affected by Victorian high farming
30175	43864 14495	Two house plots beside a lane to the south-east of Battles Wood, removed for road straightening in the mid 19th century
30176	43832 14888	High Trees is a small post-medieval timber-framed house built in the 17th or early 18th century
30177	4420 1490	Actons Farm is a post-medieval farmstead with 16th century farmhouse and possible medieval origins
<i>Undated</i>		
7515	43762 14968	Cropmarks of three sides of rectangular enclosure to the west of Actons Farm
9022	43930 14253	Cropmarks of a curving double ditched feature observable for about 300m, which probably represents the remains of a trackway at Gilston

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	The Barn at Acton's Farm, High Wych, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Herts
Village/Town: High Wych	Parish:
Planning application reference:	East Herts Planning Ref. 3/10/1386/FN
Client name/address/tel:	Mr Nick Mynott
Nature of application:	Conversion to a single residential unit and demolition of lean-to
Present land use:	Barn and cart shed used for storage
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated
NGR (8 figures):	TL 44224 14876
Site Code:	AS1645
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions
Type of work:	Historic Building Recording
Date of work:	11 th November 2013
Location of finds/Curating museum:	HALS
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: 19 th century
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In November 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an historic building recording at the Barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 44224 14876). The work was undertaken as part of a planning condition in advance of the conversion of the redundant barn to a single residential unit and the demolition of a modern lean-to to the rear.</p> <p>Technical analysis of the building reveals a well preserved late 19th century five-bay barn built in the industrial style of the time. The frame is constructed in North American softwood in the primary braced system supported by regular trusses with tie-beams carried on closed brackets, bolted on. Some neglect has resulted in the intrusion of vegetation along the western elevation and the loss of some weatherboarding to the gable. The cart-shed is slightly later in date while the lean-to is an early 20th century addition.</p>
Author of summary: Lee Prosser	Date of Summary: November 2013

APPENDIX 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
Site Name: The Barn at Acton's Farm, High Wych					NGR: TL 44224 14876		
County: Hertfordshire				Museum Collecting Area: HALS			
Site Code: AS1645				Project Number: 5476			
Date of Work: November 2013				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
Advice letter		3 rd September 2010		11 th September 2013		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
Notes taken on site (3 pages A4)							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
1 x A3 sheet of draft film							
Architect's Drawings: Plans and elevations 3 sheets A3 – annotated Plans and elevations 3 sheets A4 – annotated							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings in digital format on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
4464		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	1-15	Yes	Yes	1	8 -16	Yes
2	120mm	1-12	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printouts in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD							

PLATES



Plate 1 The barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, taken from the north-west (DP 1)



Plate 2 Lean-to to the rear of the barn (east elevation), taken from the south (DP 4)



Plate 3 Roof structure above the barn, taken from the south-west (DP 19)



Plate 4 North gable end, interior, taken from the south-west (DP 13)



Plate 5 Doors to the eastern panel, Bay 3, taken from the north-west (DP 20)



Plate 6 Dwarf wall, tiles and sill on the south east taken from the E (DP 6)



Plate 7 *Decorative iron brace to tie-beam, Bay 4, taken from the south (DP 10)*



Plate 8 Roof structure above the cart shed, taken from the east (DP 11)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

The barn at Actons Farm, High Wych, taken from the north-west



2

Main sliding doors to west elevation, taken from the north-west



3

South elevation, taken from the west



4

Lean-to to the rear of the barn (east elevation), taken from the south



5

Lean-to to the rear of the barn, taken from the south-east



6

Within the lean-to, taken from north-east



7

Sliding doors to the east elevation within the lean-to, taken from the south-east



8

The cart shed, rear elevation, taken from the east



9

The cart shed, north elevation, taken from the east



10

Open-fronted card shed, west elevation, taken from the north



11

Roof structure above the cart shed, taken from the east



12

Rear wall panel to the cart shed, taken from the north-west



13

North gable end, interior, taken from the south-west



14

North gable end, interior, taken from the south-west



15

East panels to Bays 1 & 2, taken from the west



16

East panels to Bays 1 & 2, taken from the west



17

Door to the east panel, Bay 2, taken from the north



18

West panels to Bays 1 & 2, taken from the south



19

Roof structure above the barn, taken from the south-west



20

Doors to the eastern panel, Bay 3, taken from the north-west



21

Eastern panels to Bays 3 & 4, taken from the north-west



22

Threshing leap to the eastern doors, Bay 3, taken from the north



23

Roof structure (Truss 3), taken from the north-east



24

Roof structure, taken from the north-east



25

Partition to Truss 4 with enclosed store at lower level and hay loft above (Bay 5), taken from the north-east



26

Enclosed store occupying Bay 5, taken from the south-east



27

Steel stanchion and bolster supporting the tie-beam, Bay 5, taken from the south-east



28

Fenestration to the east side of the store, Bay 5, taken from the east



29

Laced bracing to the common-joists forming the ceiling above the store, Bay 5, taken from the north-east



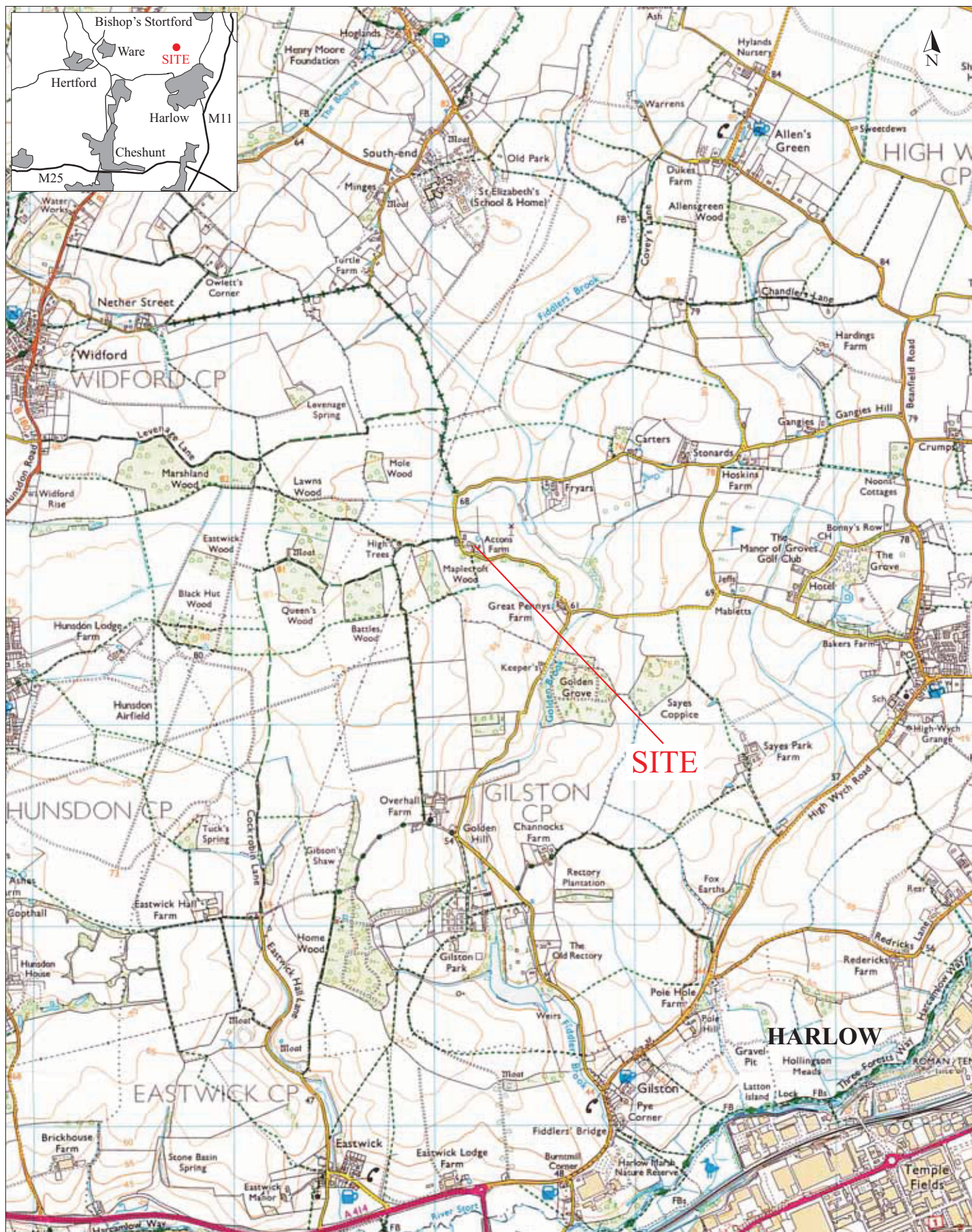
30

Western panel top Bay 4, taken from the east



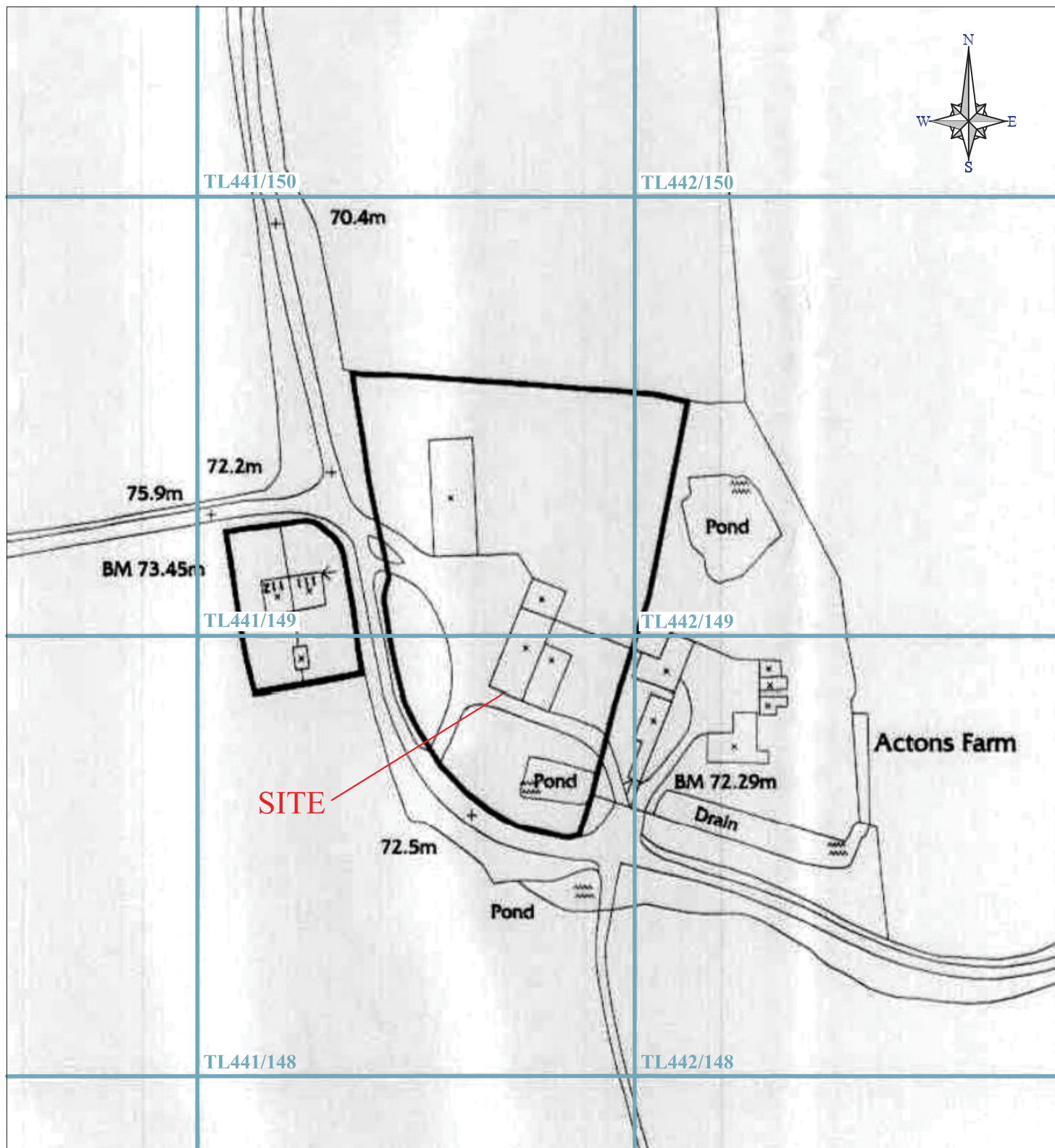
31

*Decorative iron brace to tie-beam, Bay 4, taken
from the south*



Reproduced from the 2012 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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



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

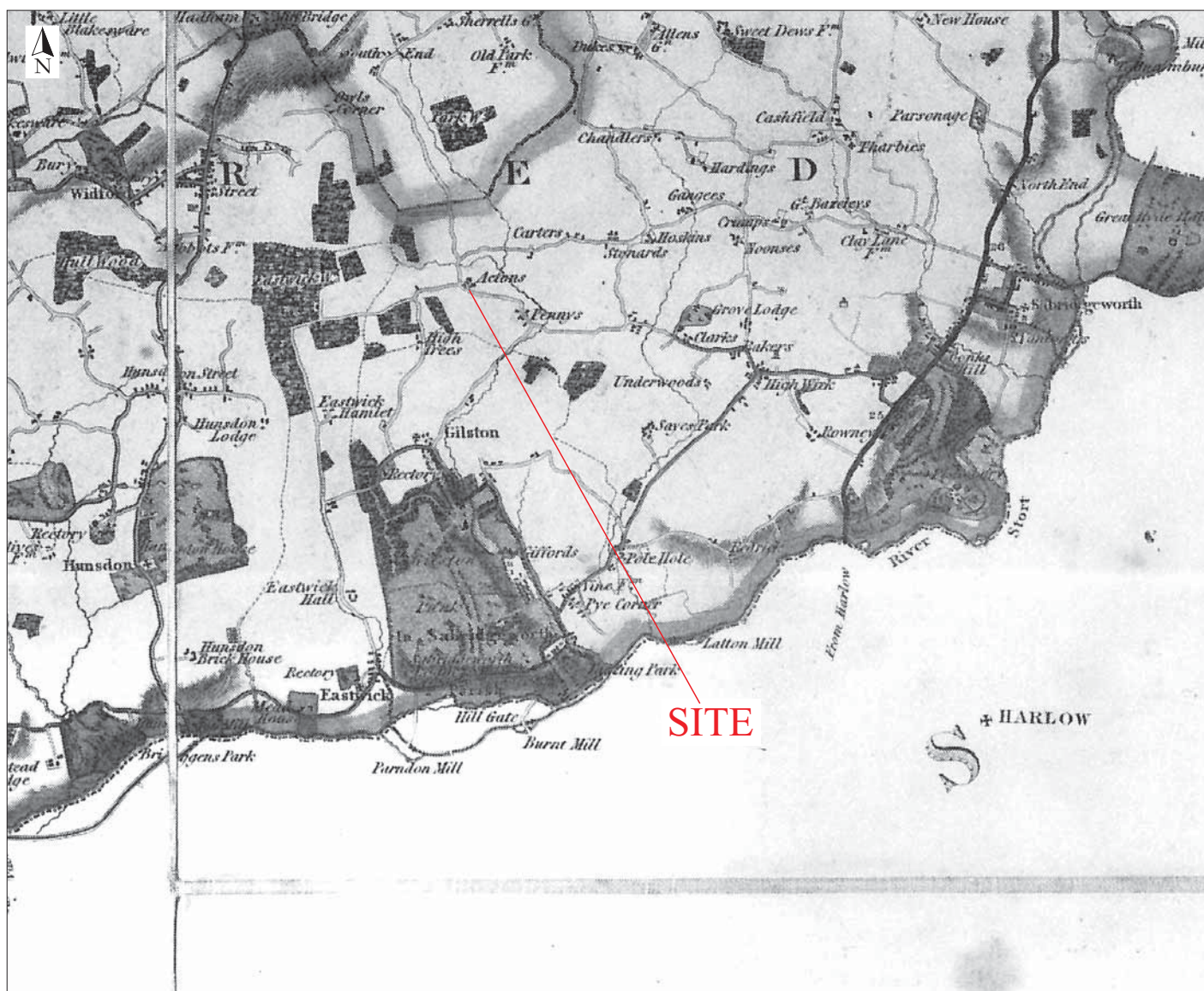


Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd. Licence No. 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:12500 at A4



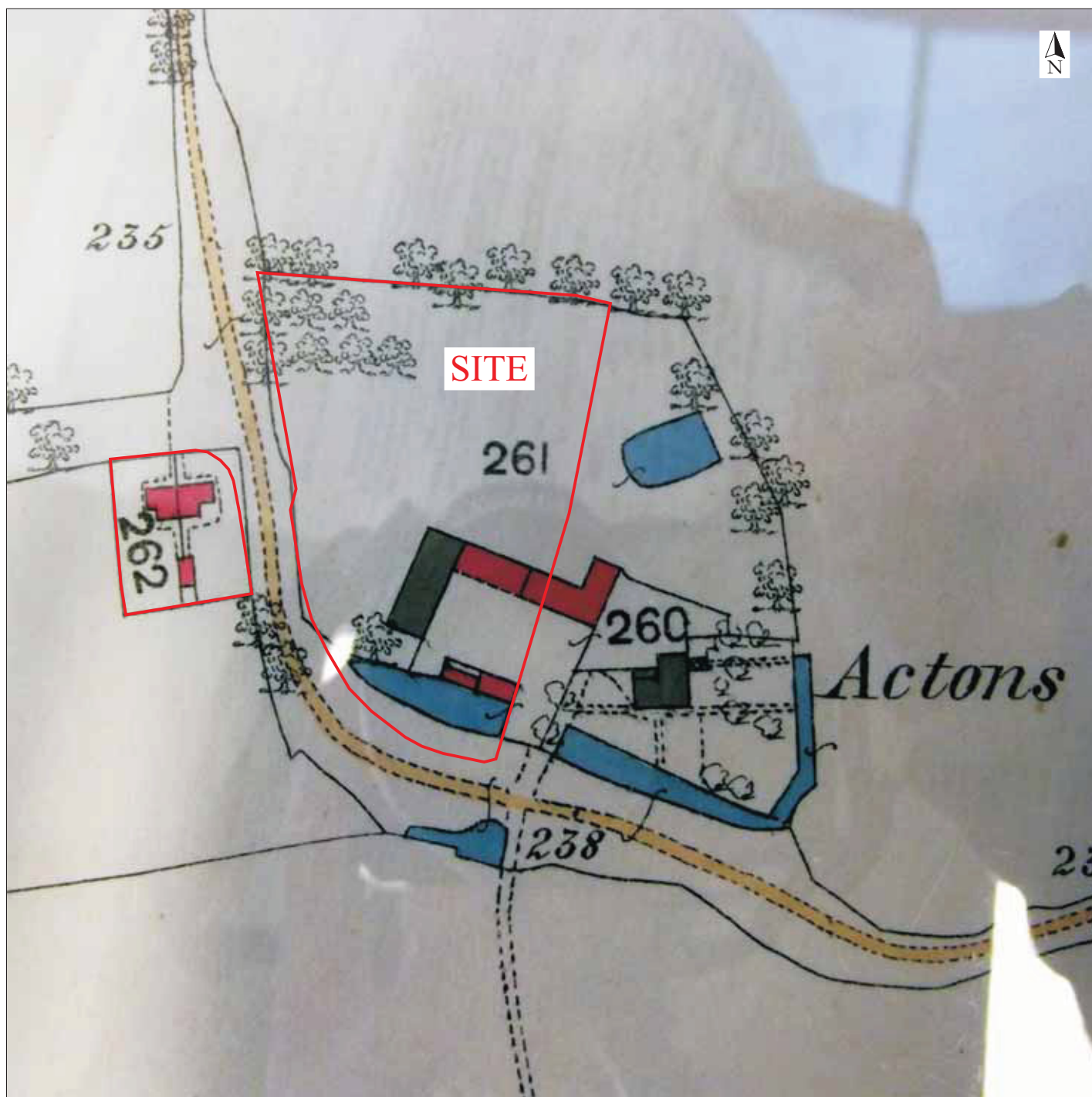
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Dury & Andrews' map, 1766
Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 5 Bryant's map, 1822
Not to scale

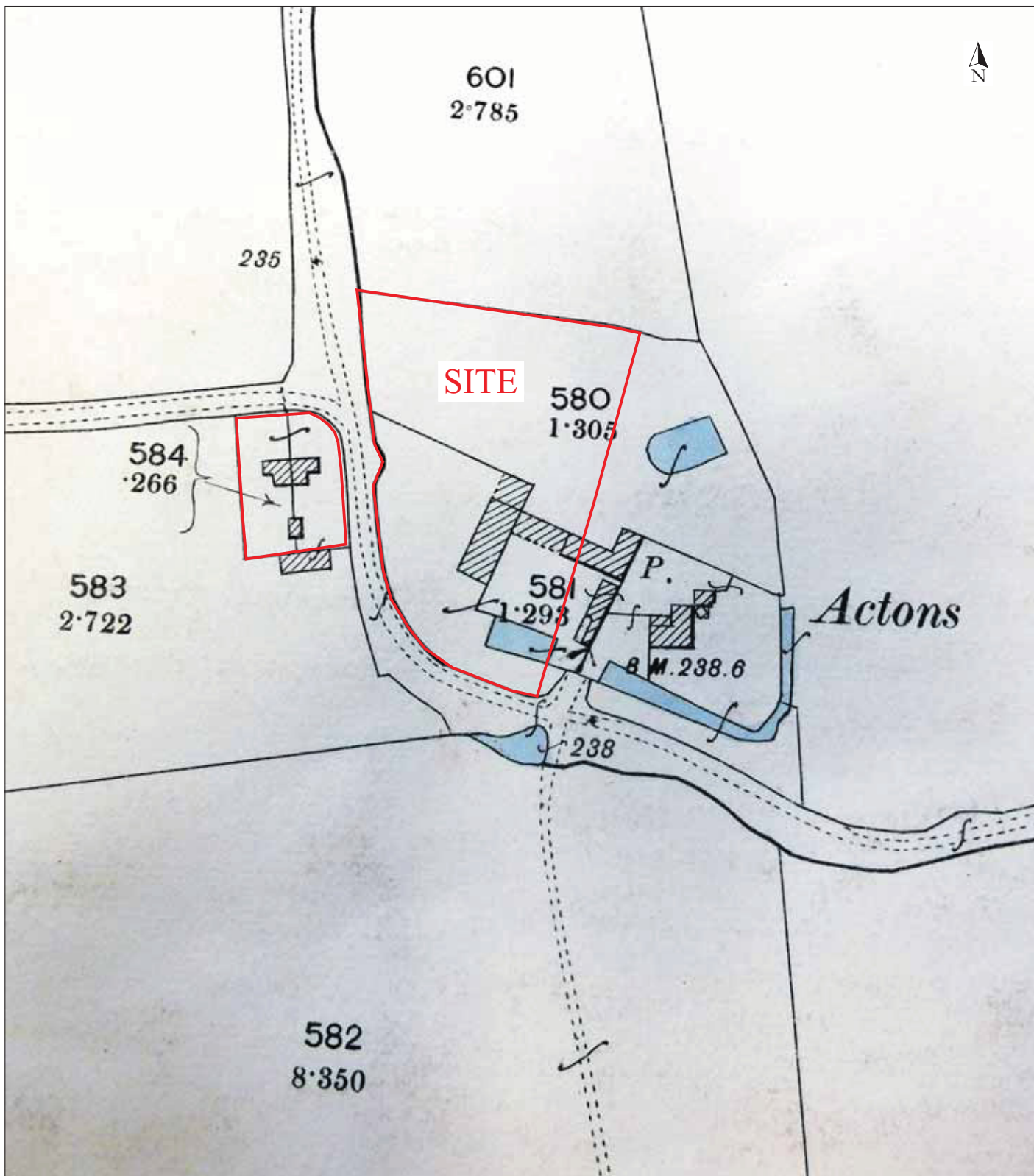


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 6 Tithe map, 1839
Not to scale



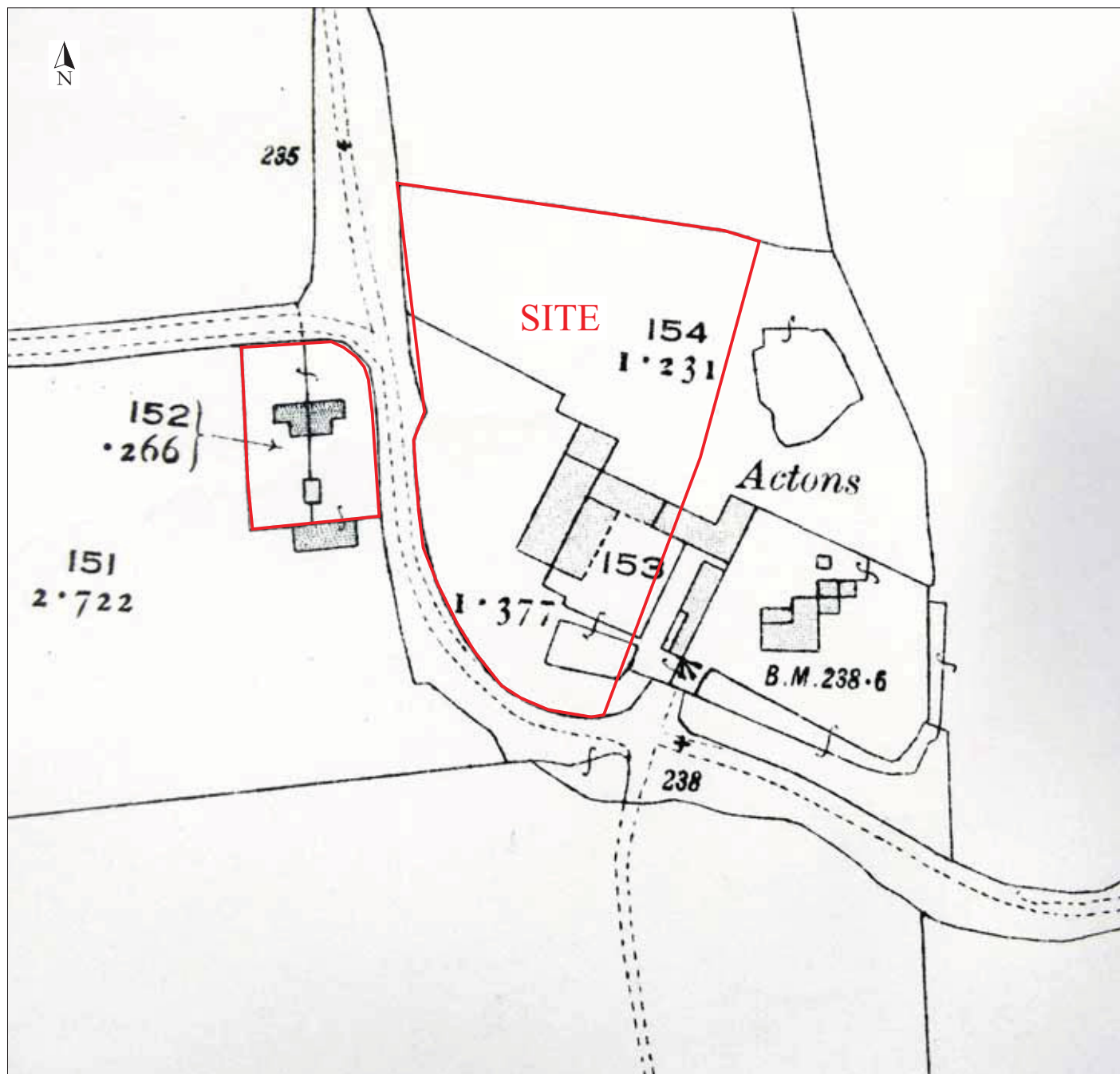
Reproduced from the 1880 Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 7 OS map, 1880
 Not to scale



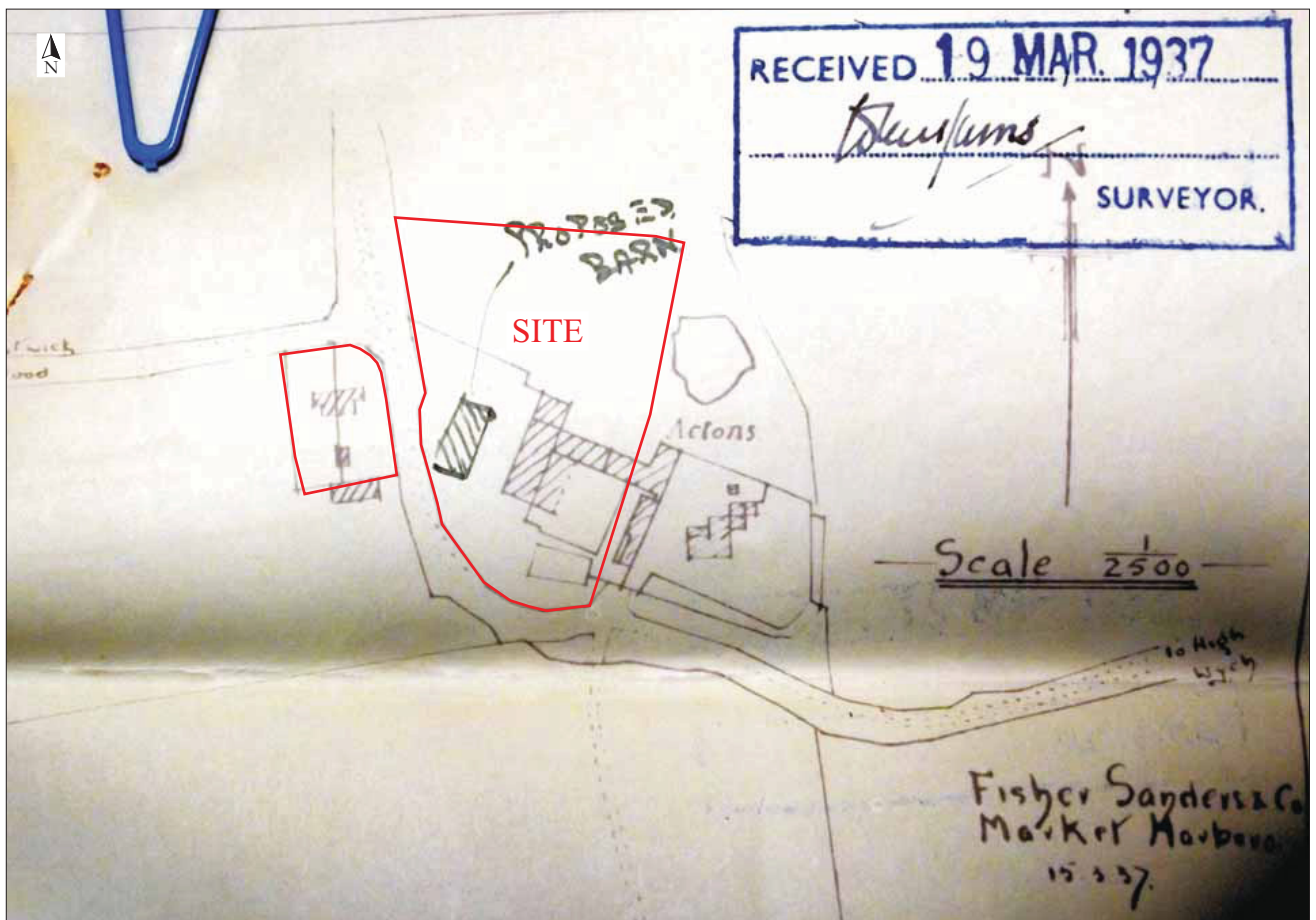
Reproduced from the 1898 Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 8 OS map, 1898
 Not to scale

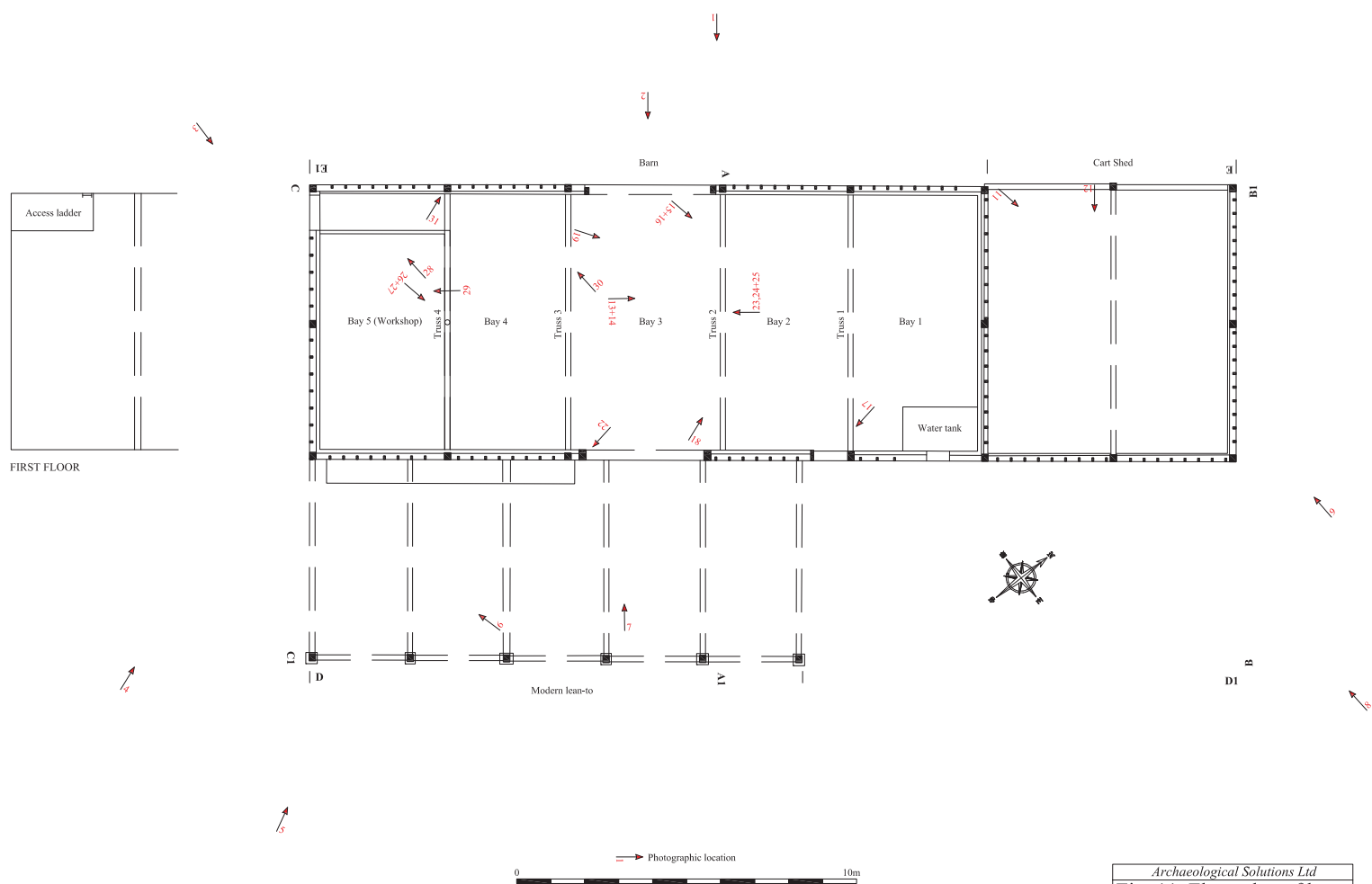


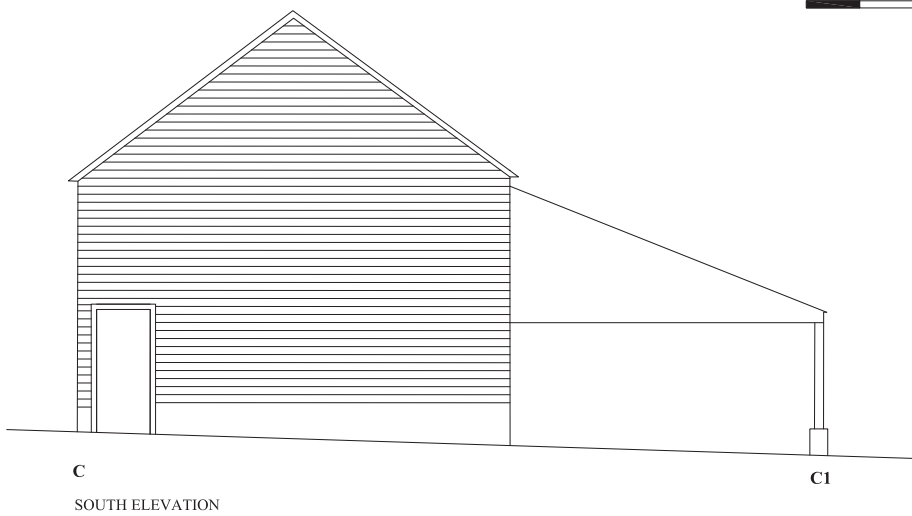
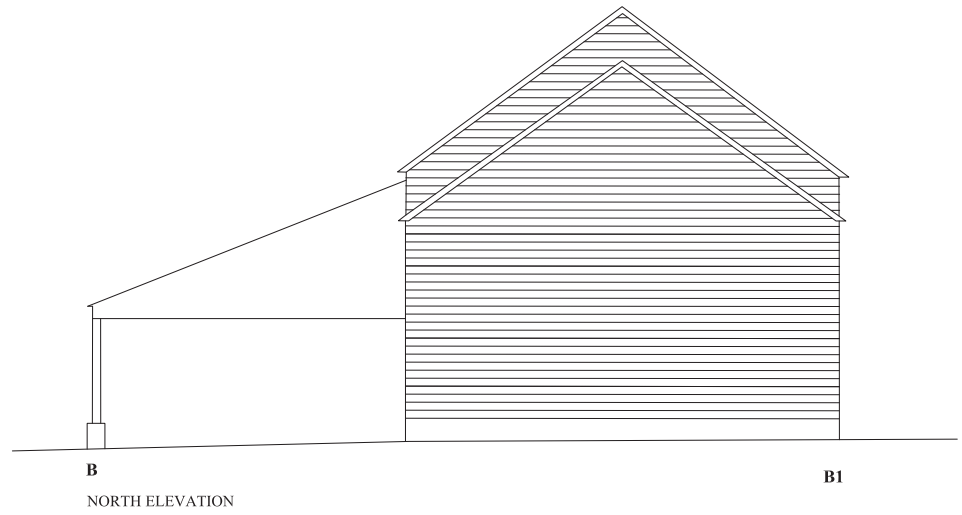
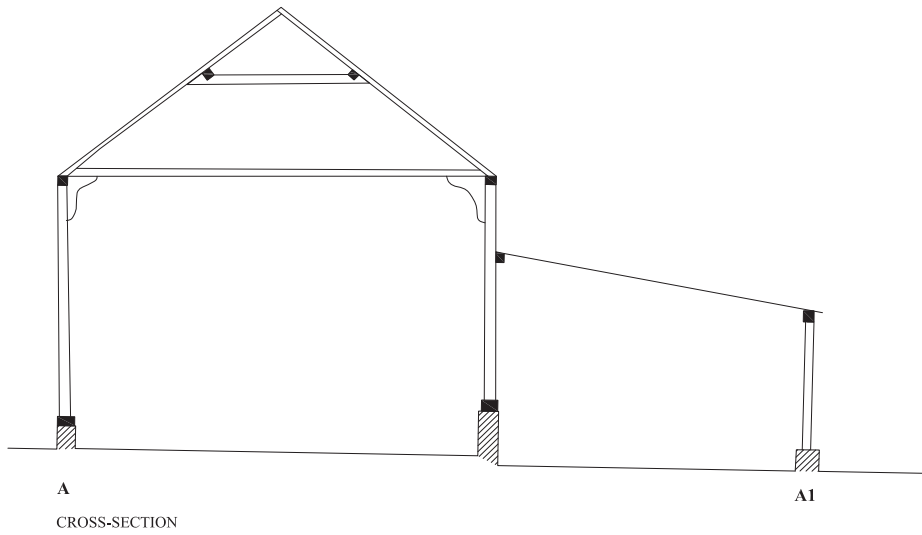
Reproduced from the 1921 Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

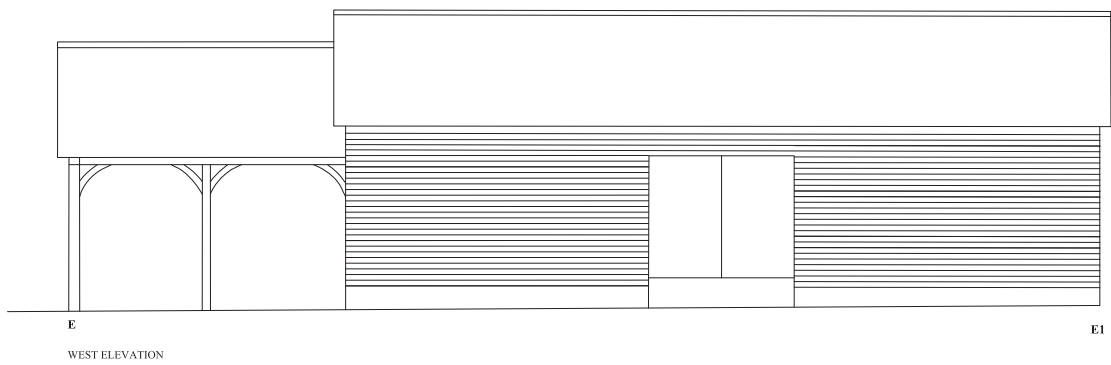
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 9 OS map, 1921
 Not to scale



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 10 1937 site plan
Not to scale







Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 13 External elevations
 Scale 1:100 at A3