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**THE BARN, OLD PARK FARM, PERRY GREEN, MUCH
HADHAM, HERTFORDSHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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NGR: TL 44299 16773	Report No: 3233	
District: East Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1182	
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>The Barn, Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire: historic building recording</i>		
<i>In December 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Hertfordshire as part of a planning condition imposed on approval for a proposed change of use. The programme of works comprised the historic building recording of the timber-framed barn and further outbuildings including three Nissen huts.</i>			
<i>The barn (Building 1) at Old Park Farm represents a single surviving remnant of an entire and no doubt interesting complex. Although the farm is not well documented prior to the early 19th century, the name itself suggests some form of post-medieval expansion onto former manorial parkland.</i>			
<i>The quality of timber is variable as would be expected from locally sourced oak and this, along with other confusing elements, makes ascribing an accurate date problematic. Characteristics consistent with a 17th century date are visible, although construction techniques typical of the 18th century or later were employed. Ultimately the barn is not a clear-cut case where a number of characteristics can provide us with a reasonable degree of certainty, but on balance may tentatively be given a late 17th century to mid-18th century range.</i>			
<i>Buildings 2, 3 and 4 comprise 20th century Nissen huts, which oral tradition, supported by historic map evidence, indicates were constructed in the 1960s / early 1970s. Building 5 is a simple but flimsy structure, apparently fairly modern, although utilising reused timbers from an earlier building and constructed in the location of a building seen on the historic maps.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>5th and 11th December 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>3296</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1182</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building recording</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Barn and storage</i>		
Planned development	<i>Conversion of barn for residential use, demolition of remaining structures</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Late 17th / Early 18th century barn with 20th century Nissen huts</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)			
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Much Hadham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 44299 16773</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>80m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Tansy Collins</i>		
Funded by	<i>De Vere Homes Limited</i>		
Full title	<i>The Barn, Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire: historic building recording</i>		
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Date (of report)	<i>December 2008</i>		

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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

In December 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Hertfordshire as part of a planning condition imposed on approval for a proposed change of use. The programme of works comprised the historic building recording of the timber-framed barn and further outbuildings including three Nissen huts.

The barn (Building 1) at Old Park Farm represents a single surviving remnant of an entire and no doubt interesting complex. Although the farm is not well documented prior to the early 19th century, the name itself suggests some form of post-medieval expansion onto former manorial parkland.

The quality of timber is variable as would be expected from locally sourced oak and this, along with other confusing elements, makes ascribing an accurate date problematic. Characteristics consistent with a 17th century date are visible, although construction techniques typical of the 18th century or later were employed. Ultimately the barn is not a clear-cut case where a number of characteristics can provide us with a reasonable degree of certainty, but on balance may tentatively be given a late 17th century to mid-18th century range.

Buildings 2, 3 and 4 comprise 20th century Nissen huts, which oral tradition, supported by historic map evidence, indicates were constructed in the 1960s / early 1970s. Building 5 is a simple but flimsy structure, apparently fairly modern, although utilising reused timbers from an earlier building and constructed in the location of a building seen on the historic maps.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 44299 16773; Figs. 1 & 2). The work was commissioned by De Vere Homes Limited as part of a planning condition imposed on approval for the proposed change of use of a traditional farm building to residential use, the relocation of a B8 consent and the alteration of a footpath (EHDC Planning Ref. 3/2530/07/FP). The programme of works comprised the historic building recording of the timber-framed barn (HER 13395) and further outbuildings including three Nissen huts that are to be demolished. The assessment site was also required to be subject to a programme of archaeological evaluation in the area of a new office building and garage, along with any areas of significant landscaping, the results of which have been presented as a separate report.

1.2 The historic building recording was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU)

(dated 11th November 2008), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 12th November 2008). The historic building recording followed the procedures outlined in the English Heritage document *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practise, 2006* and also conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures and Annexes* (revised 2001). The level of recording was to Level 3 as defined in the EH documents.

1.3 The objectives of the historic building recording were, as set out in the brief and the English Heritage guidance documents:

- To compile a comprehensive and high quality record of the buildings proposed for conversion, in order to understand the form, function, evolution and any remaining architectural / technological embellishment of the buildings in conjunction with an associated documentary survey.
- To produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to ‘preserve by record’ the buildings in their current form prior to alteration.

Planning Policy Context and Research Priorities

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effects of development upon cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 ‘Planning and the Historic Environment’ (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 ‘Archaeology and Planning’ (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment. This encourages protection of the character and appearance of conservation areas and protection of listed buildings from demolition and unsympathetic change, safeguarding their settings as far as possible. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 Research priorities for the region are outlined in the East Anglian regional archaeological research framework which notes that structures of the Industrial Age, dating from 1750 – 1960, face a high rate of loss due to renovation, conversion and redundancy (Brown & Glazebrook 2000). It should be noted that aspects of the buildings subject to assessment fall within this period.

2 METHOD OF WORK

2.1 Cartographic and historical sources

The principal source for cartographic and primary documentary sources was the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies centre (HALS) in Hertford. Relevant documents regarding the study area and buildings are listed in Appendix 1 and where relevant reproduced in Figures 3-11.

2.2 Secondary sources

The principal source of secondary material was HALS, as well as the library resources at AS. These sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography and referenced in the text where appropriate. The main barn and outbuildings were recorded to English Heritage Level 2 as part of the Hertfordshire Historic Farm Buildings Survey in 2002 (Wilcox 2003), and this report was also consulted.

2.3 Fieldwork

2.3.1 The site was visited on 5th and 11th December 2008 in order to compile the description and analysis of the buildings and undertake the drawing and photographic work. Tansy Collins and Lee Prosser carried out the written description and analysis. The drawing work was carried out by Kathren Henry and Charlotte Davies and included the production of floor plans and elevations as well as internal elevations and cross-sections. These are included as Figs. 12 – 16.

2.3.2 The photographic recording was conducted by Tansy Collins using medium format (4.5 x 6 cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This was carried out using a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 film. Finer architectural detail was captured with 35mm black and white film using a Minolta Dynax 40 camera. Colour photographs were taken using an Olympus Camedia E20 digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Supplementary colour photography was carried out using an Minolta Dynax 40 camera and 35 mm Kodak elite slide film. External lighting 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 (Figs. 12, 14 and 16).

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)

3.1 South-end is one of a number of small settlements located to the south-east of Much Hadham in the parish of the same name, situated in the district of East Hertfordshire. It is set within a predominantly agricultural landscape bounded by watercourses (*The Bourne* and *Fiddler's Brook*) to the north-west and south-east.

3.2 Old Park Farm lies approximately 0.5km to the east of South-end, and the buildings subject to assessment lie within this farm complex. Little remains of the historic farm layout and what is present now comprises a single-storey farmhouse dwelling to the north-east, with a number of buildings arrayed to the south and south-west for storage and similar. Large modern agricultural buildings also lie to the south-east.

3.3 The buildings subject to recording included a barn (Building 1) on the south-west limit of the property with three structures (Buildings 2 – 4), all of similar form, to the east along with a further flimsy structure comprising Building 5 to the south.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Historical background

4.1.1 The Manor of Much Hadham was noted in Domesday Book of 1086 as being part of the estates of the Bishop of London (Williams & Martin p. 371). Old Park farm falls within the curtilage of the manor and a set of deeds concerning the farm dated 27th April 1810 shows that this was still the case over 700 years later. The introduction to the document states that it was written at a session of "...the General Court Baron of the Right Honorable and Revered Father in God John by Divine permission Lord Bishop of London Lord of the said manor [of Much Hadham] held at the Red Lion in Much Hadham..." The deeds concern the lease of the farm to William Yeates on the death of his father James Yeates. They state that he was to be the tenant of "...All that Barn Farm yard and buildings and divers closes and parcels of land containing together by estimation seventeen acres three Roods and Ten perches be the same more or less being part of a Farm called Old Park Farm..."

4.1.2 Various further documents survive which give some information about the inhabitants of Old Park Farm in the 19th century. The Much Hadham Tithe Award of 1838, written to accompany the map of the same date (see below), records the occupier as a Robert Elliott and describes the farm itself as a "Farmhouse Homestead Garden Orchard and Pigstie". Just over a decade later the returns of the 1851 Census for Hertfordshire tell us that the head of the household at Old Park was George Eves, a farmer aged 79 and originally from London having been born in the parish St Margarets, Westminster. He lived with his wife Sarah, aged 68 and born in the same parish; their unmarried children Elizabeth, 33, and James, 29; and their only married child Frances Eden, aged 24, all of whom were born across the Thames in the parish of Lambeth. The Census also noted Frances' son Charles, aged two, and a servant named Sarah Hassell, aged 28.

4.1.3 Commercial entries in the 1859 edition of the Kelly's directory of Hertfordshire states a James Eves as farmer at Old Park Farm, presumably the son of George Eves noted in the tithe award. This reference appears in editions of the directory up to and including that for 1870 but then disappears in the 1874 edition. Kelly's directory of 1882 refers to a William Byass farming at Old Park, who appears to have remained there until at least 1902. In 1906 William Byass is not recorded, now replaced by James Tucker who remained there until at least 1914, whilst the 1917 – 1922 directories make no mention of the farm. From 1926 until at least 1929 the farm was run by the Clark Brothers, whilst the directory of 1933 again makes no reference to the property. The final directory in the series produced in 1937 names the farmer as a Captain Samuel Wingfield.

4.2 Cartographic sources (Figs. 3-11)

Bryant's Map 1822 (Fig. 3)

4.2.1 This is the earliest map to show the site clearly and to name it as Old Park Farm. The map shows a group of five buildings, however the small scale supplies little information beyond the fact that the farm itself existed.

Much Hadham Tithe Map, 1838 (Fig. 4)

4.2.2 This map, produced alongside the tithe award discussed above, provides a great deal more information than Bryant's map. In particular it gives a clear depiction of the plan form of the buildings on the site. The farmhouse, the only inhabited structure on the site, is depicted as T-shaped in plan set at the north-west corner while the farm buildings frame an open area to the east. The structures depicted here are unfamiliar and the majority are no longer extant. The barn structure comprising Building 1 is present on the south-east, although apparently adjoined by further structures which are no longer present. Three large ponds can be seen in the wider vicinity within a number of relatively small land divisions, beyond which is open countryside. The south-east pond is still extant today.

Plan of an Estate belonging to Richard Hunt Esquire 1871 (Fig. 5)

4.2.3 This map shows little change since the production of the tithe map. Slight alterations in the layout comprise the subdivision of the courtyard area along with the addition of a number of small extensions and buildings.

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1879 (Fig. 6)

4.2.4 This map provides a substantial amount of information, although the basic outline of the buildings appears essentially unchanged since 1871. The greater accuracy of the map does, however, reveal further detail to the buildings, where a number of outshuts can be seen adjoining the north-east side of Building 1 and its adjacent (now absent) structure. There is no evidence that Buildings 2-4 are in existence, although a building is present corresponding to Building 5.

4.2.5 The farmhouse is present along with an area of landscaping and a possible orchard to the rear. Numerous other trees are also visible arrayed around the three ponds noted above.

Second Edition OS Map, 1897 (Fig. 7)

4.2.6 This map depicts little change from the previous document although individual trees are no longer shown. One of the outlying ponds appears to have been filled in and further outshuts have been added to some of the agricultural buildings.

OS Maps 1921 & 1960 (Figs. 8 & 9)

4.2.7 No changes are visible on these maps except in the wider area on the 1921 edition where the St Elizabeth's Home for Epileptics has been built a short distance to the west.

OS Map 1975 (Fig. 10)

4.2.8 Substantial alteration has occurred to the farm layout since the production of the previous map and a number of structures and outshuts have been demolished, particularly sections of the north-east ranges. A number of new structures are visible within the courtyard area, silos have been erected to the north of the barn and further

buildings lie to the east of the farm complex. The buildings within the courtyard area correspond well to assessment Buildings 2 – 4, which supports oral tradition that suggests these structures were constructed in the 1960s.

OS Map 1981 (Fig. 11)

4.2.9 This map reveals that the majority of the buildings original to the farm complex have been demolished, although a structure is still present in the location of the farmhouse. The only historic farm structure to survive appears to comprise Building 1, subject of this assessment. The new buildings seen in the previous source, in the area of the former courtyard (likely comprising Buildings 2 – 4) do not appear of the same layout, although this is perhaps due to the smaller scale of this map.

5 THE BUILDINGS

5.1 The buildings subject to recording at Old Park Farm included a barn (Building 1), which now represents the last survivor of an historic group, most of which (including the farmhouse) was demolished some years ago. It is aligned north – south, with a number of other structures to the east. These comprise a large Nissen hut (Building 2) to the north-east with two smaller building (Buildings 3 and 4) to the south. South-east of the barn a flimsy structure (Building 5) has little historic value although is commented on as part of the group.

5.2 Building 1 – The Barn

Exterior

5.2.1 The barn is timber-framed and weatherboarded, with an aisle on the west side, all resting on a red brick dwarf wall. The roof is covered in corrugated metal sheeting. The east elevation (Plate 1), facing Buildings 2-5, is entered by a central bay-width opening which formerly had double doors, though these are no longer *in situ*. The flanking walls are clad in a mixture of old and replacement weatherboarding; the older being predominantly 8" (203mm) oak and elm boards with some replacement in softwood. Latterly, all has been given a coat of thick bitumen preservative, carelessly applied, which now covers much of the brickwork also. A second doorway has been inserted into this elevation towards the south end. Surviving boarding on the west appears to be all of oak and elm and of some age, while the two gable ends are substantially replaced in softwood. There is some later piecemeal cladding in metal sheeting on the west, and in places the dwarf wall has been rendered in cement. The only notable features are the terminals of the arcade and wall plate at the north end, which are finished with a large quarter-round moulding. The corresponding members to the south are simply sawn, by contrast. This may be due to the earlier presence of a building which formerly abutted the barn, now demolished. The brick, where visible, is of a fairly sandy, soft red fabric averaging 9" x 4" x 2" (229mm x 102mm x 51mm) in size, all of variable quality and much degraded. Many display diagonal skintles and appear 18th century in date.

Interior – general description

5.2.2 The interior is of five bays with the aisle to the west (Plate 2). There is no visible evidence either for an eastern aisle, nor a porch. A hard concrete slab floor has markings indicating the location of former storage silos, mentioned in the previous report, but now removed. The frame is apparently entirely of oak where this can be ascertained, and uses middling quality timber, including quarter-sawn timbers for the principal posts. Many of the smaller members retain bark. Much of the lower frame has been treated with a preservative, but the upper timbers still appear relatively fresh and unoxidised. The earlier report suggested that the roof has been replaced, but this appears to be an impression imparted by the contrast in appearance of the untreated timber. In fact, all the structural members follow the general construction system and jointing, and are clearly contemporary, apart from the replacement of occasional timbers in softwood. This is discussed in greater detail below. A small proportion of the timber is reused, many of which are substantially weathered and display redundant mortices including notched-lap joints and occasional grooves for wattle pieces.

5.2.3 As noted in the background section above, an adjoining building was destroyed in a fire, necessitating the renewal of fabric in the south gable wall. Some charring and smoke-blackening is visible at the south end, showing that the fire had clearly begun to spread along the roof apex to the centre of the barn, before being halted.

5.2.4 The main trusses (Plate 3) have squared but slender and slightly waney principals forming wall posts and arcade posts. The arcade posts rest on aisle-sills with low supporting dwarf walls. Curved braces rise on three sides to the arcade plates and tie-beam: on the east to the tie-beam only. Aisle ties are also present on the west, but these are simply cogged over and nailed to the arcade posts and corresponding wall posts. Some lateral racking has occurred, so that we now see slightly disengaged lap-dovetail joints on the tie-beams on the west. This necessitated reinforcement with iron strapping, coach-bolts and nuts in places, and possibly also the application of the aisle ties.

5.2.5 The outer walls are fairly consistent in form, though some modification is present. The low aisle wall is primary-braced with nine studs per bay; the central stud being slightly more robust than its companions, and the brace cutting the three outer studs (Plate 4). The east has joggled mid-rails, with simple studwork to the lower register, and primary-bracing above.

5.2.6 The roof is a simple triangulation of tie-beam and rafters, strengthened only by a collar. There is no evidence for queen-posts or any other support from tie-beam level. Instead each bay has intermediate rafters supporting short, joggled butt-purlins, over which the common rafters rise in simple bladed scarfed sections and are cogged over the purlins. The aisled side has two flights of purlins, where the rafters are continuous from wall-plate to arcade plate, and are subsequently bladed over the backs of the upper rafters to take the roof line up in on an even plane. The principal and half-bay rafters appear continuous. Collars are also present at half-bay intervals. There is no ridgeboard.

5.2.7 The jointing throughout the barn is clear, well-made and systematic. The sill-beams display very stubby, bladed scarf joints, while at the junction of each bay over the principal posts, both the arcade and wall plates preserve excellently-made face-halved and bladed scarf joints (Plate 5). These have, in general two pegs to the blades, with an occasional central peg, except on the west side of Truss 4 where we see a single large peg to the blades and a smaller central peg over the principal post. The lower purlins are slightly eccentric in protruding through the rafters (much in the manner of a tusk-tenon, but without the necessary peg) and are not properly pegged, while the upper purlins are better conceived and consistently pegged. Racking allows us to see that the rafters are also pegged to the arcade plate.

5.2.8 Timber scantling can be summarised as follows:

Principal post	9" x 8 ½" (229mm x 216mm)
West wall-post	6" x 5" (152mm x 127mm)
Tie-beam	7" x 7" (178mm x 178mm)
Arcade plate	8" x 5" (203mm x 127mm)
West wall-plate	5" x 7" (127mm x 178mm)
Aisle-tie	6" x 5" (152mm x 127mm)
Post / arcade plate brace	8" x 2" (203mm x 51mm)
Cranked brace	7" x 3" (178mm x 76mm)
Average common stud	3" x 4" (76mm x 102mm)
Average mid-rail	6" x 6" (152mm x 152mm)
Sill-beam	5" x 7" (127mm x 178mm)
Aisle-sill	3" x 4" (76mm x 102mm)
Average rafter	3"-5" x 3"-4" (76-127mm x 76-102mm)
Average purlin	3" x 5" (76mm x 127mm)
Peg diameter	¾" (19mm)

5.2.9 There are many other nailed-on modern supports which have no particular importance but should be noted. At high level two boxed-in chain conveyors are particularly conspicuous. One is attached by a galvanised steel armature to the tie-beams, the other suspended from the collars. Neither is of any importance.

Interior – detailed description and inventory

5.2.10 Small, chiselled assembly marks seen on the west side of the barn show that the bays are numbered from north to south (shown on Fig. 12). These appear in a coherent sequence on the west tie-beam brace and arcade post. The east side also displays numerals with tags, but with less frequency and not in any comprehensible sequence as on the west. Additionally each lateral arcade-plate brace on the west is sequentially numbered 1 – 10 from north to south. Assembly marks are noted below for each truss. The roof is not described in greater detail, as its construction is almost completely uniform, and covered by the general description, above.

North gable wall

5.2.11 The north gable comprises a well-preserved squared oak sill-beam, resting on a dwarf wall, scarfed centrally with a short bladed scarf. There is a good corner post on the east and a waney arcade post to the west, while the central post is reused, with

redundant mortices, supporting joggled mid-rails with single pegs. A third, short mid-rail extends across the aisle to the wall-plate on the west. A redundant notched-lap mortice is visible on one of the mid-rails. The upper registers are primary-braced but the studs are all comfortably morticed into the wall-plate therefore probably original. At lower level simple slender studs vary in size although all are of oak and are similarly fixed as the upper registers. Above the tie-beam slender studs lie above and below a collar. The aisle wall is primary-braced in the lower register.

Bay 1

5.2.12 The east wall comprises a brick plinth now encased in cement render and a poorly preserved sill-beam. The central post on this side is of similar scantling to the principal posts and joggled mid-rails divide the half bays with primary-braced studwork in the upper register and four studs in the lower registers. The north mid-rail has redundant mortices in the soffit, although the mid-rail to the south does not suggesting that the north member is reused, and has not had its studs replaced.

5.2.13 The dwarf wall on the west is poorly preserved. Water ingress has probably washed out much of the mortar, leading to partial collapse. The sill-beam is in variable condition but the wall-plate is well preserved. All nine studs are preserved, with a slightly larger central stud and primary-bracing at either end.

Truss 1

5.2.14 This truss represents a complete example, comprising good principal posts, with its arcade post sitting on a well-preserved aisle-sill over a brick plinth. The west wall post is also in good condition, and frames a nailed-on and cogged over aisle-tie.

5.2.15 The west brace to the tie-beam has disengaged but retains a chiselled assembly mark I with a tag at the juncture with the principal post. A similar mark is seen on the corresponding east brace. There are good lateral braces to the arcade-plates, each with a chiselled II and III on the appropriate brace (west face) as well as such markings on the arcade post.

Bay 2

5.2.16 Bay 2 follows the general system seen in Bay 1, of joggled mid-rails, upper primary-bracing on the east and primary-bracing on the west. The east side preserves a waney central post and the west side a waney wall-plate, but all else is as described above.

Truss 2

5.2.17 Truss 2 retains good principal posts and nailed-on aisle tie. The aisle sill reuses a member displaying a redundant mortice for a notched brace on the upper face. The south face of the east principal post retains a number of mortices, although these are mostly obscured by a second adjoining post that forms the door jamb of the entrance. The tie-beam is fairly waney.

5.2.18 The west brace to the tie-beam is cranked and is numbered II with a tag at the base and head. The east brace is lost but a mortice in the tie-beam displays two pegs and a chiselled II with a tag, while the east post retains a lower mortice again with the chiselled II with a tag. There are good lateral braces to the arcade-plates, with a chiselled III and V on the appropriate brace (west face).

Bay 3

5.2.19 The entrance to the barn occupies the east side of this bay, and the absence of redundant mortices in the soffit of the lintel / wall plate indicates that this was always so. The door jambs are secondary members lying adjacent to the principals of Truss 3 and 4. Both jambs retain pintles for removed double doors, while the south timber has a mortice for a locking bar mechanism and a nailed-on slotted piece for a threshing leap. The north jamb retains a series of mortices on the external face to accommodate earlier door ledges.

5.2.20 The west wall is mostly obscured by sheet metal but what is visible has been much modified by the insertion of a doorway. Two original studs survive to the north but the mortices for others are visible. Due to this modification most of the sill-beam and dwarf wall has been replaced in cement and only a stump of the original sill-beam survives.

Truss 3

5.2.21 This truss retains good principals, with a secondary piece forming the south door jamb, as noted above. The aisle-sill survives and comprises a reused timber with a redundant notched lap joint. The aisle-tie preserves a similar redundant mortice. The tie-beam is waney but fairly good.

5.2.22 There are good, curved lateral braces to the arcade-plate on the west, while the assembly marks respect the sequence with both braces and principal posts displaying chiselled marks on the west face, a VI on the north and a VII on the south. The west tie-beam brace is very slender and waney at the head and no assembly marks are visible, although on the east, the north face preserves a III with a tag on both the brace and the post.

Bay 4

5.2.23 The sill-beam of the east wall survives in good condition, although the feet of the studs have been encased in cement. The system of joggled mid-rails with primary-bracing in the upper registers is seen, as elsewhere.

5.2.24 The sill-beam and much of the dwarf wall on the west has been replaced in cement, as in Bay 3. The wall-plate survives as does the central stud, although the remainder of the wall panel is bolstered with modern softwood and galvanised sheeting to the rear.

Truss 4

5.2.25 Truss 4 retains good principal posts, although the aisle-sill has been truncated and survives only as a stump supporting the arcade post. The aisle-tie has been lost although its former position can be ascertained where the timber was screened from the later preservative. Good lateral braces survive preserving a VIII on the north brace and a Z (indicating the number nine) to the south (Plate 6). The brace to the tie-beam on the west is disengaged at the head with no assembly marks visible, while the principal post on the east has a IIII with a tag on the north face, although the brace is obscured and no markings can be discerned. The tie-beam is waney as before.

Bay 5

5.2.26 The north half of the east wall panel is now occupied by a doorway utilising the mid-rail as a lintel, but mortices for four lost studs remain visible. In the south half bay the sill-beam and dwarf wall survives and the studwork pattern is as seen elsewhere in the upper and lower registers. The stud feet are encased in cement.

5.2.27 The sill-beam of the west wall survives with a reused timber forming the wall-plate. The studwork has been modified and preserves only the south primary brace and three studs, now sitting in cement. The remainder of this panel comprises softwood with galvanised sheeting to the rear.

South gable wall

5.2.28 The south gable retains good principals and wall-post to the west where we also see an aisle-tie, though at this point the lower area of the sill-beam is encased in cement. The lateral brace from the principal post to the arcade-plate retains an X assembly mark on the west face, completing the sequence from 1 to 10. The east brace from post to tie-beam has a V marking, as does the post. The entire end wall comprises studs and nogging of slender scantling, except in the upper area of the aisle where three waney studs are visible. This extensive replacement in modern materials is clearly a result of the fire in the adjoining demolished building.

5.3 Buildings 2-4 – the Nissen huts

5.3.1 All three huts are constructed along the same principles, although here Building 2 is substantially larger than Buildings 3 and 4 (Plate 7). Nissen huts were originally used as housing for soldiers in World War 1 and comprised a wholly pre-fabricated structure designed to be easily portable, rapid to construct, and essentially strong and durable. Production of the Nissen hut decreased in the inter-war period although was revived during the Second World War. Following World War 2 many such huts were sold typically for use as storage structures or similar, as appears to be the case at Old Park Farm. Oral tradition in the area suggests that the smaller two huts (Buildings 2 and 3) were obtained from an auction in Nottingham, probably in the 1960s, and the larger Building 2 from elsewhere although at a similar time.

Building 2

5.3.2 Building 2 is the largest of the three huts and is set on a concrete pad aligned north-east to south-west. Pre-cast concrete dwarf walls extend the length of the building to which eleven cast-iron trusses are bolted, these trusses of curved profile to create the sub-circular cross-section to the building. Each truss is made up from lengths of cast, T-shaped ribs, bolted together and augmented with eight slender timber purlins, which are in turn fixed to the iron ribs with the use of hook bolts (Plate 8). These are particularly characteristic of Nissen huts. The purlins are little more than short pieces of timber, presumably designed for ease of storage and transportation, which are jointed together at bay intervals with a simple scarf. The resulting skeleton is clad in corrugated iron sheeting.

5.3.3 The north-east wall frames a large entrance. Both jambs and lintels here display redundant mortices for studwork and thus reuse. Elsewhere we see boarding pierced by a timber ventilation louvre in the centre, all of which are likely part of the original structure. The south-west elevation is modern, pierced by two large double doors all comprising tongue-and-groove boarding resting on a modern cement breeze block plinth.

5.3.4 Casement windows occupy the entire length of the north-west elevation. Additional sheets of corrugated iron extends from the roof to accommodate these as dormers. The ten windows each lie between trusses, and comprise three lights of three panes each. The flanking lower panes form side-hung casements and the central upper pane a top-hung casement. The glazing of the windows comprise both standard patent glazing and safety glass of containing twisted 'chicken' wire.

5.3.5 Internally little else is evident apart from a modern studwork partition dividing the interior. On the north-west the windows are given additional support with boarded panels infilling the area between each truss and the window frame. Also visible here are simple catches and stays to the casements.

Building 3 and 4

5.3.6 Building 3 and 4 are of identical form and follow the same basic construction technique as Building 2, with only slight differences. Both buildings rest on concrete pads, although here do not have the pre-cast concrete dwarf wall to each side. As with Building 2 sections of T-shaped cast-iron ribbing are bolted together to form the basic structure, secured in this case to timber sill-beams set upon the cement, and all covered externally with corrugated iron sheeting. Building 3 comprises a single open-ended space. Building 4 is similar in form although with a number of differences. At the north-east end the exterior wall appears to be original and comprises simple studwork pierced by a central ledged, braced and boarded door, flanked by two four-pane window apertures without glass. A ventilation aperture sits above the door. Similarly at the south-west end, remnants of the original boarding and ventilation aperture survive although an independent breeze block unit has been inserted at this end, presumably to house livestock.

5.4 Building 5

5.4.1 This building is clearly of little historic merit and is worthy of comment only in that it utilises some timbers from an earlier timber-framed structure (Plate 9). It is simply constructed of timber posts to form a 3-bay frame with predominantly softwood joists, supporting a single pitch roof. Both the walls and roof to the exterior are clad in corrugated sheeting. A single studwork partition divides the interior to form a two-bay area to the east with a single bay to the west.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The barn at Old Park Farm represents a single surviving remnant of an entire and no doubt interesting complex which was demolished and ‘modernised’ within living memory. The farm is not well-documented, with the first historic records only surviving from the early 19th century. The name itself suggests some form of post-medieval expansion onto former manorial parkland, however.

6.2 The barn has been subject to analysis in the past (Wilcox 2003), but this investigation was brief, and more detailed examination has revealed greater complexity than could be observed before and allows us to refine its dating from the conservative estimates of this earlier report.

6.3 The quality of the timber is variable, as we would expect from locally-sourced oak, with the finest members reserved for the principals of the frame. This is invariably hand-sawn or side-axed. Elsewhere, the carpenter has made do with more slender timbers, and has compensated for this lack, particularly in the roof, with a strong construction of joggled half-bay purlins and relatively closely-spaced common rafters. Oral tradition asserts that the barn was once thatched, and the use of these lateral members would support this. Reused timbers were also employed, and at least a few with notched lap joints show that they came from a building of great age.

6.4 Giving an accurate date is more problematic, not least of which is that the variable quality of the timber lends the barn a more ramshackle appearance than would be the case if everything were evenly sawn. There are also several confusing elements which might be legacies of a more conservative tradition. Most notably, the building is systematic and logical in construction with little variation. This allows us to see that most of the barn retains its original fabric, but also provides a number of distinctive characteristics. It is unlikely to be much earlier than the mid-17th century at the earliest for the simple reason that it was always meant to be weatherboarded and not nogged with wattle-and-daub. To support this, we see the complementary use of primary bracing, which is conventionally understood to appear at this time but is confidently accomplished and well-developed. The principal posts are not jowled, as we would expect in the 17th century, while the assembly marks are chiselled and not scribed in the earlier manner. Likewise the use of joggled butt-purlins may be long-lived and have here acquired greater complexity with their use in half-bays.

6.5 Several characteristics continue into the 19th century, such as face-halved and bladed scarf joints, though as with the simple scarfing on the sills, the blades have become progressively shorter with time, bringing the date further forward. Other

elements are confusing. The aisled barn form is old-fashioned and the supporting braces are conspicuously elegant and curved, in the 16th or early 17th century manner. We would instead expect to see such timbers become more cranked and straight as time wore on, before being reintroduced in their full early elegance in some 19th century barns. But this alone is not enough to provide a firm date as the idea of conservative carpentry, and innovative developments play their part. What particularly mitigates against the latter period in this case is the extensive use of oak, at a time when softwood was cheaper and more readily available, together with hand-sawing and side-axing in preference to mechanical cuts. We would also expect to see the rafters clasping a ridgeboard at the apex. Finally is the notable absence of ironwork, of the strapping and bolting which would normally accompany a later 18th or 19th century barn as a matter of course. There are one or two examples scattered around, but clearly only to provide later, secondary support.

6.6 Ultimately the barn is not a clear-cut case where a number of characteristics can provide us with a reasonable degree of certainty in terms of date. In that sense it is unusual, but on balance it may tentatively be given a late 17th to mid-18th century range.

6.7 The building is surprisingly unchanged by extensive structural modification. The liberal application of bitumen, cement and galvanised sheets represent typical short-term attempts to stave off decay with as little cost and maintenance as possible, and has all happened in the recent past. The fire seems to have come close to destroying the barn, but the principal timbers of the south gable survive, and only badly burned timber seems to have been replaced.

6.8 Local oral tradition suggests that the barn may have once extended for a number of bays to the south, truncated by the 1970s fire, but the evidence suggests that this was a structurally separate, if contemporary building. We see no peg holes for additional braces, and a five-bay barn with a central door is perfectly logical and complements the sense we gain from the mathematical precision used at a more detailed level. The building was evidently utilised as a threshing barn, as the housing for a threshing leap survives, although there was no door on the west, but perhaps a ventilation aperture to allow sufficient draught. The building remains a testimony to the carpenter's skill, of using the timber to its maximum extent, and to a standard which has helped the barn survive many episodes of misfortune and mistreatment.

6.9 Buildings 2, 3 and 4 comprise 20th century Nissen huts, which oral tradition, supported by historic map evidence, indicates were constructed in the 1960s / early 1970s. Building 5 is a simple but flimsy structure, apparently fairly modern, although utilising reused timbers from an earlier building and constructed in the location of a building seen on the historic maps.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the client, the local planning authority, Hertfordshire HER, HALS and the National Monuments Record, Swindon. The archive will be lodged with HALS.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank De Vere Homes Limited for commissioning and funding the historic building recording (in particular Messrs Barry Pestell and John Couling for their kind assistance).

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies Library (HALS).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC SOURCES

Documentary

Date	Name	Location	Reference
1810	Commission of William Yeates Esq.	HALS	11803 A-E
1838	Much Hadham Tithe Award	HALS	DSA4/45/1
1851	Hertfordshire Census Returns	HALS	Hertfordshire Online Reference Library
1859-1937	Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire	HALS	942.58
2003	Historic Building Survey: Old Park Farm, South-End, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire. Salliane Willcox	AS	HFB01/12

Cartographic

Date	Name	Scale	Location	Reference
1822	Bryant's Map of Hertfordshire	-	HALS	912.425'8
1838	Much Hadham Tithe Map	-	HALS	DSA4/45/2
1871	Plan of an Estate Belonging to Richard Hunt Esquire in the Parishes of Ware, Widford, Much Hadham, and Little Hadham in the County of Herts. C.F. Green, Surveyor, of Hertford	-	HALS	D/EH/P9
1879	First Edition Ordnance Survey Map	25": 1 mile	HALS	Herts. XXX.4
1897	Second Edition OS Map	25": 1 mile	HALS	Herts. XXX.4
1921	OS Map	25": 1 mile	HALS	Herts. XXX.4
1960	OS Map	1: 10,560	HALS	TL 41 NW
1975	OS Map	1: 2,500	HALS	TL 4416-4516
1981	OS Map	1: 10,000	HALS	TL 41 NW

APPENDIX 2

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	The Barn, Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Much Hadham,
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: South-end	Parish: Much Hadham
Planning application reference:	3/2530/07/FP
Client name/address/tel:	De Vere Homes Limited
Nature of application:	Conversion of barn for residential use, demolition of remaining structures
Present land use:	Former agricultural and storage
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated: Barn and outbuildings
NGR (8 figures):	TL 44299 16773
Site Code:	AS 1182
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Historic building recording
Date of work:	December 2008
Location of finds/Curating museum:	HALS
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: 17 th / 18 th century to 20 th century
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	Wilcox, S, 2003, <i>Historic Building Survey: Old Park Farm, South-End, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council and the Countryside Agency</i> , ASAC Ltd, HFB01/12
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In December 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording at Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Hertfordshire as part of a planning condition imposed on approval for a proposed change of use. The programme of works comprised the historic building recording of the timber-framed barn and further outbuildings including three Nissen huts.</p> <p>The barn (Building 1) at Old Park Farm represents a single surviving remnant of an entire and no doubt interesting complex. Although the farm is not well documented prior to the early 19th century, the name itself suggests some form of post-medieval expansion onto former manorial parkland.</p> <p>The quality of timber is variable as would be expected from locally sourced oak and this, along with other confusing elements, makes ascribing an accurate date problematic. Characteristics consistent with a 17th century date are visible, although construction techniques typical of the 18th century or later were employed. Ultimately the barn is not a clear-cut case where a number of characteristics can provide us with a reasonable degree of certainty, but on balance may tentatively be given a late 17th century to mid-18th century range.</p> <p>Buildings 2, 3 and 4 comprise 20th century Nissen huts, which oral tradition, supported by historic map evidence, indicates were constructed in the 1960s / early 1970s. Building 5 is a simple but flimsy structure, apparently fairly modern, although utilising reused timbers from an earlier building and constructed in the location of a building seen on the historic maps.</p>
Author of summary: Tansy Collins	Date of Summary: December 2008

APPENDIX 3**HBR ARCHIVE CONTENTS FORM**

Site Details							
Site Name: The Barn, Old Park Farm, Perry Green, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire					NGR: TL 44299 16773		
County: Hertfordshire				Museum Collecting Area: HALS			
Site Code: AS 1183				Project Number: 3296			
Date of Work: December 2008				Related Work: Archaeological evaluation			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date	Present			Date	Present		
11/11/2008	Yes			12/11/08	Yes		
Site Records (Description)							
11 pages A4 notes							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
Drawn Plans & Sections: 4 sheets A3 drawing film 1 sheet A1 drawing film							
Architect's Drawings:							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
						Digital photographs and drawings in digital format on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
3233		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	28-36	Yes
2	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes	2	1-37	Yes
3	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
4	120mm	1-3	Yes	Yes			
5	120mm	25-33	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printouts in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography duplicates black and white photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of contact prints included in archive folder and digitally on CD							

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1 East elevation of Building 1, taken from the south-east (34)



Plate 2 Interior of Building 1, view towards the north end, taken from the north-west (44)



Plate 3 West side of Bays 1 and 2 (Building 1) showing truss configuration, taken from the north-east (51)



Plate 4 West wall of Bay 2 (Building 1), taken from the east (49)



Plate 5 Detail of face-halved and bladed scarf joint in the arcade plate (west side of Truss 4, Building 1), taken from the south-east (62)



Plate 6 Assembly marks (emphasised) on west side of Truss 4, (Building 1), taken from the north-west (56)



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North-east area of Building 2, taken from the south-west



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Interior of Building 3, taken from the north-east



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Interior of Building 2, taken from the south-west



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Interior of Building 3, taken from the north-east



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North-east of Building 3, taken from the south-west



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South-west area of Building 3, taken from the south-west



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East side of Building 5, taken from the west



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East side of Building 5, taken from the east



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West side of Building 5, taken from the north



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Detail of casement in Building 2, taken from the south-east



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Detail of casement in Building 2, taken from the south



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Construction detail of Building 2 at base of a truss, taken from the west



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Construction detail of Building 2 at base of a truss, taken from the west



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Detail of markings on metal trusses in Building 2, taken from the north



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Detail of trusses within Building 2, taken from the north



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South and east elevation of Building 1, taken from the south-east



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South elevation of Building 1, taken from the south



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West elevation of Building 1, taken from the west



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North elevation of Building 1, taken from the north



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North elevation of Building 1, taken from the north



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Interior of Building 1, view towards the south end, taken from the north-west



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West side of Bays 3-5 (Building 1), taken from the north-east



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Interior of Building 1, view towards the north end, taken from the north-west



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Detail of decorative ovolo moulding on the north end of the east wall plate (Building 1), taken from the north-east



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Surviving stump of truncated aisle-sill of Truss 4 (Building 1), taken from the south-east



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Short bladed scarf joint in the sill-beam of the north gable wall, taken from the south



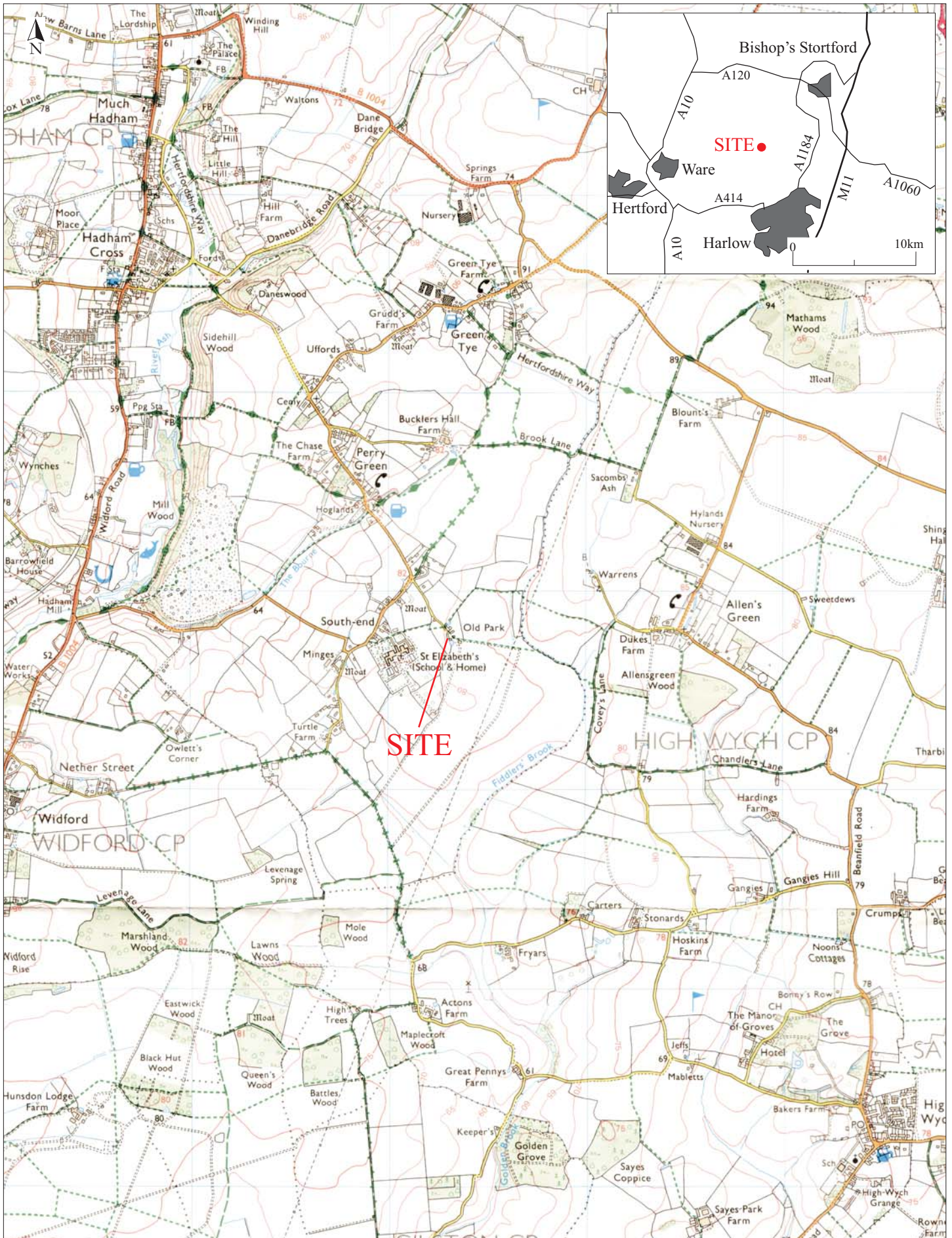
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South and east elevation of Building 1, taken from the south-east



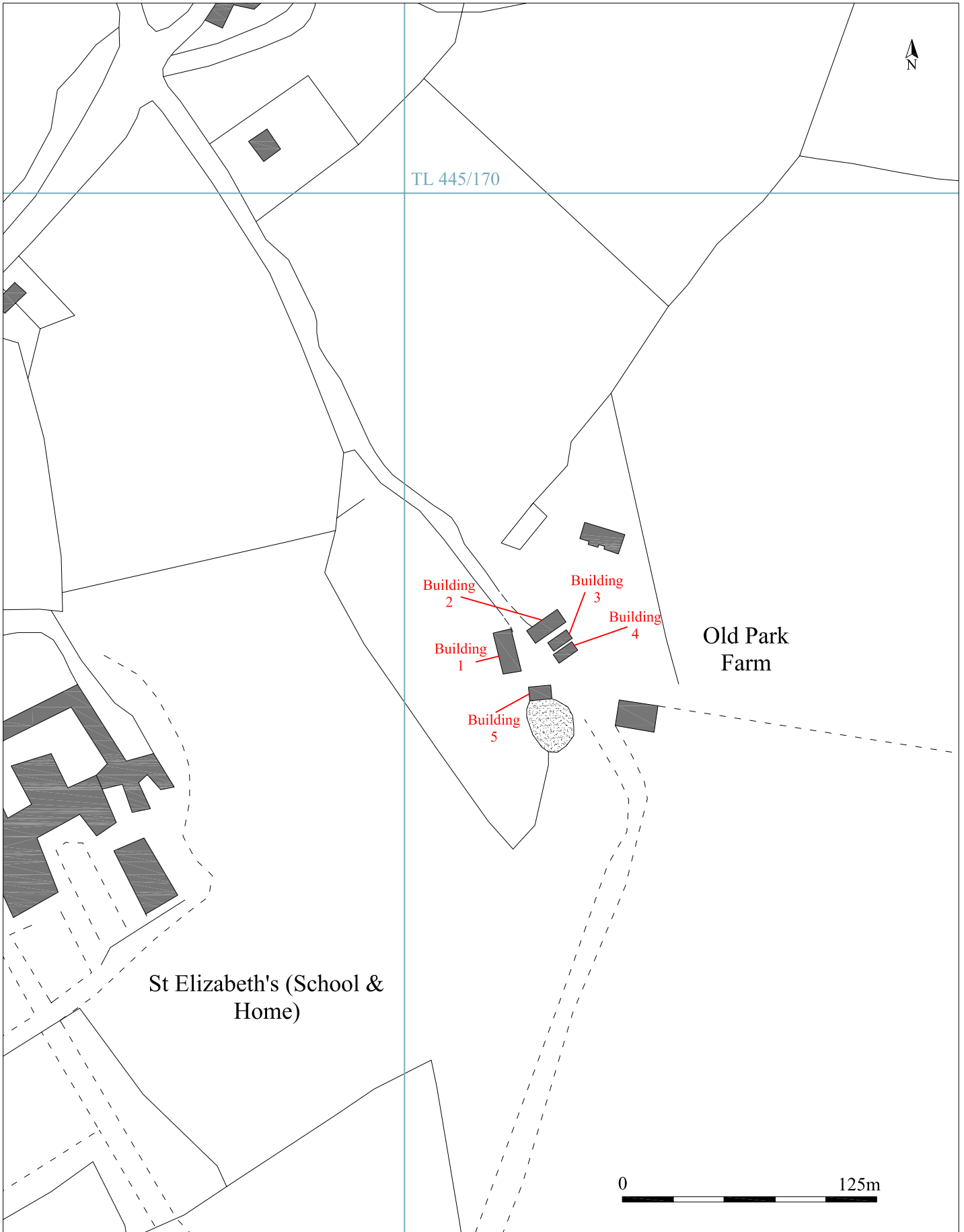
65

Detail of aisle-sill on the west side of Truss 2, taken from the south-east



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



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



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Fig. 3 Bryant's map, 1822

Not to scale



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Fig. 4 Much Hadham tithe map, 1838

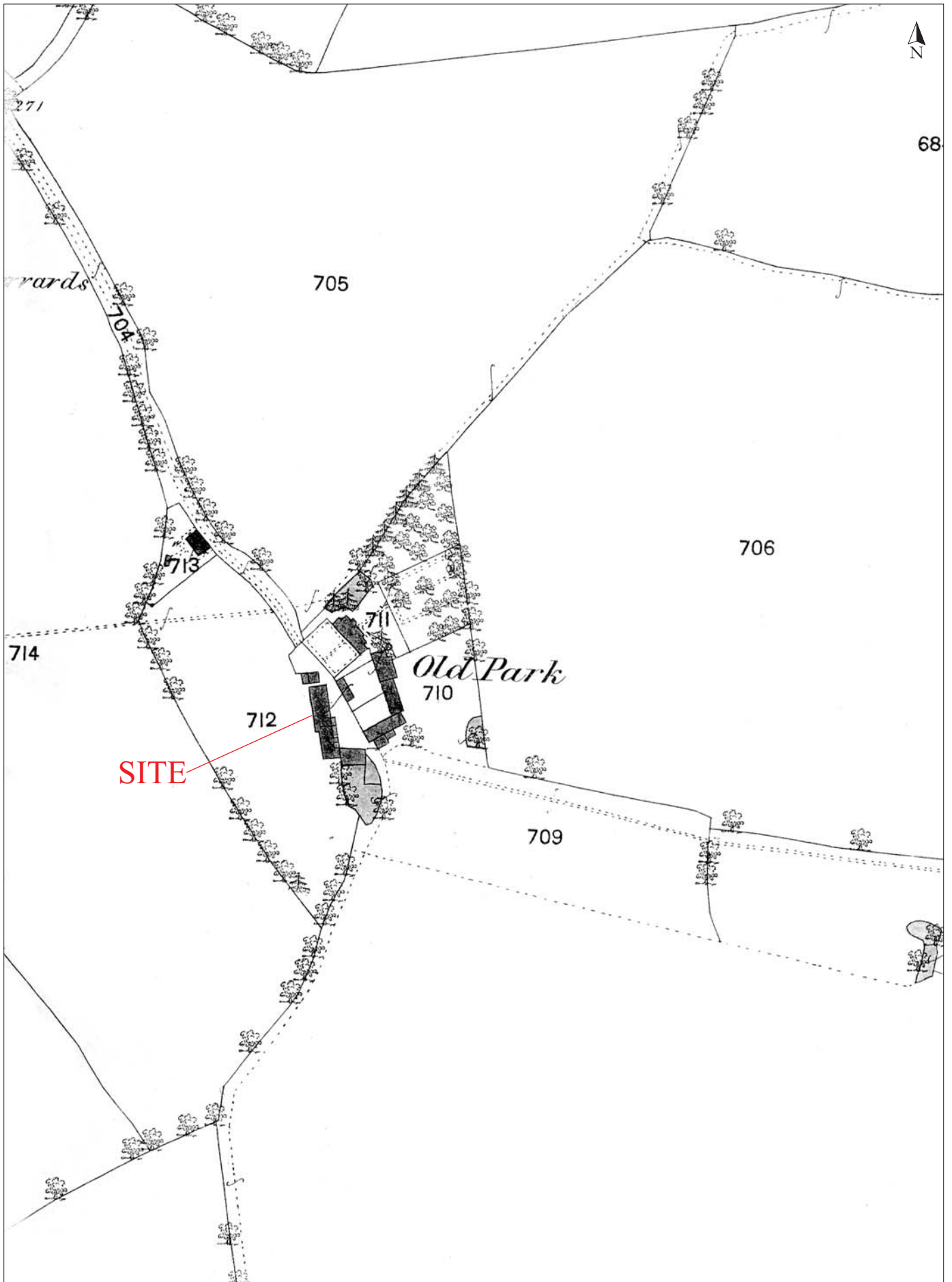
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Fig. 5 Estate belonging to Richard Hunt Esquire, 1871

Not to scale

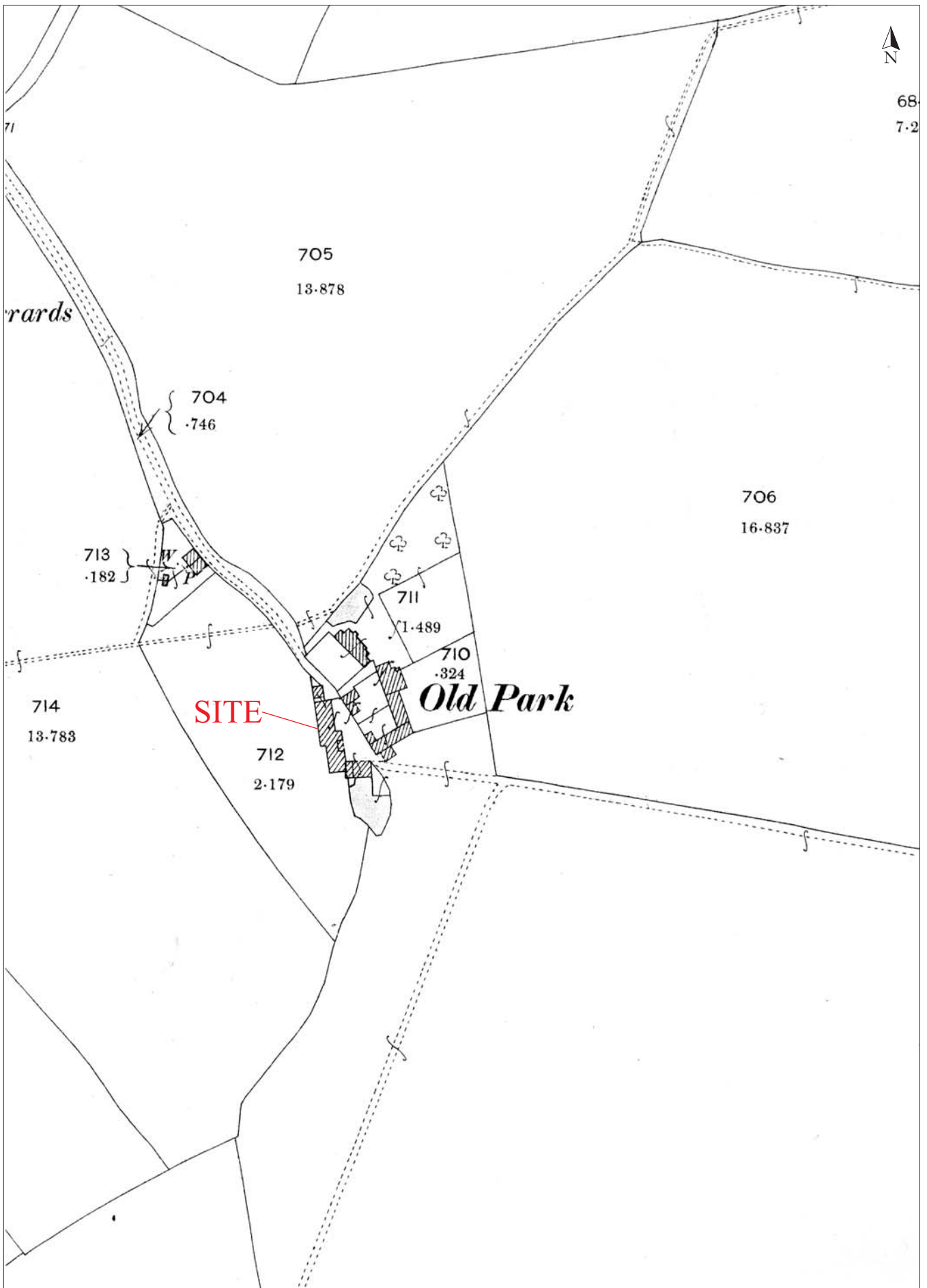


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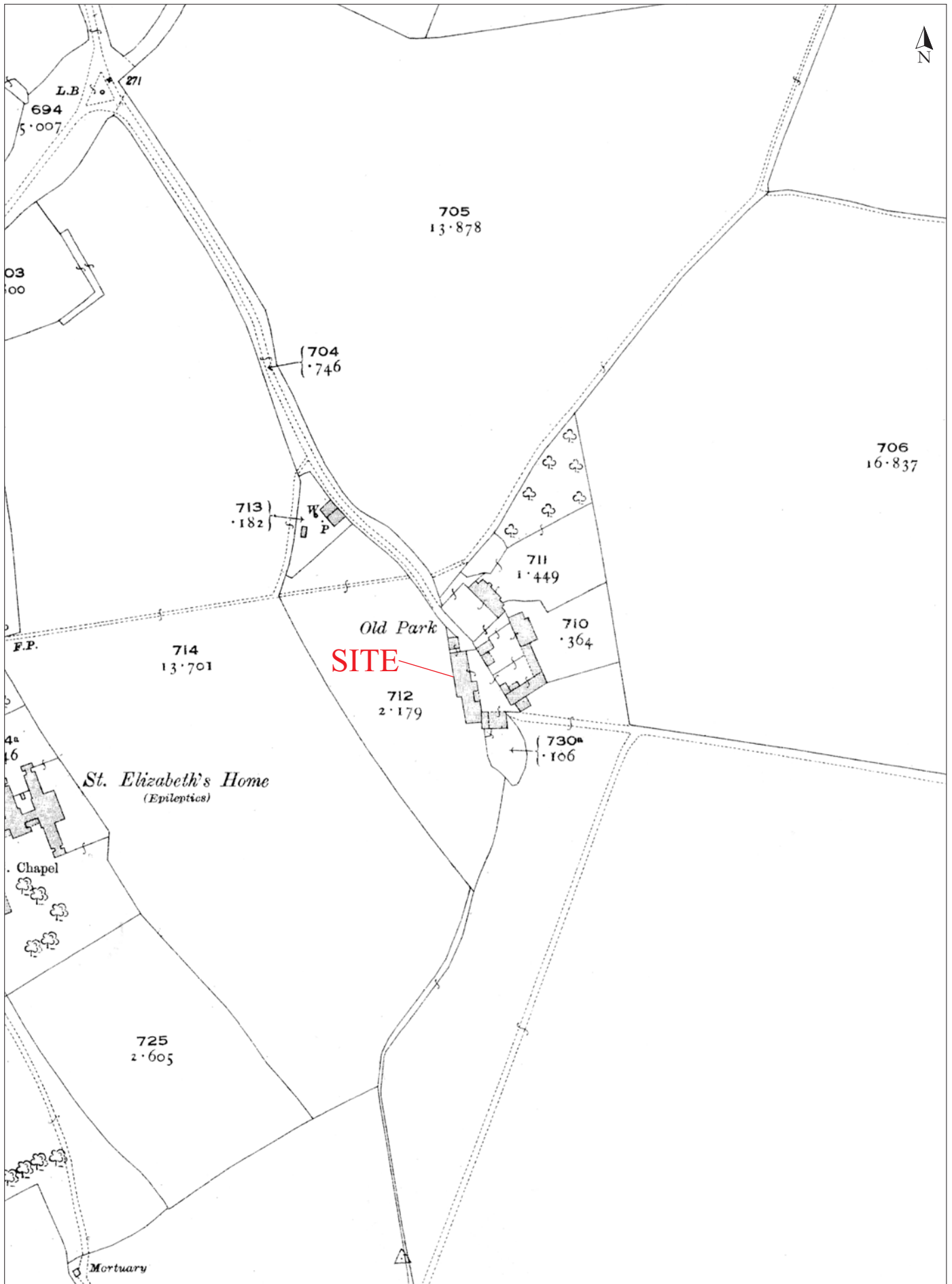
Fig. 6 First edition OS map, 1879

Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4



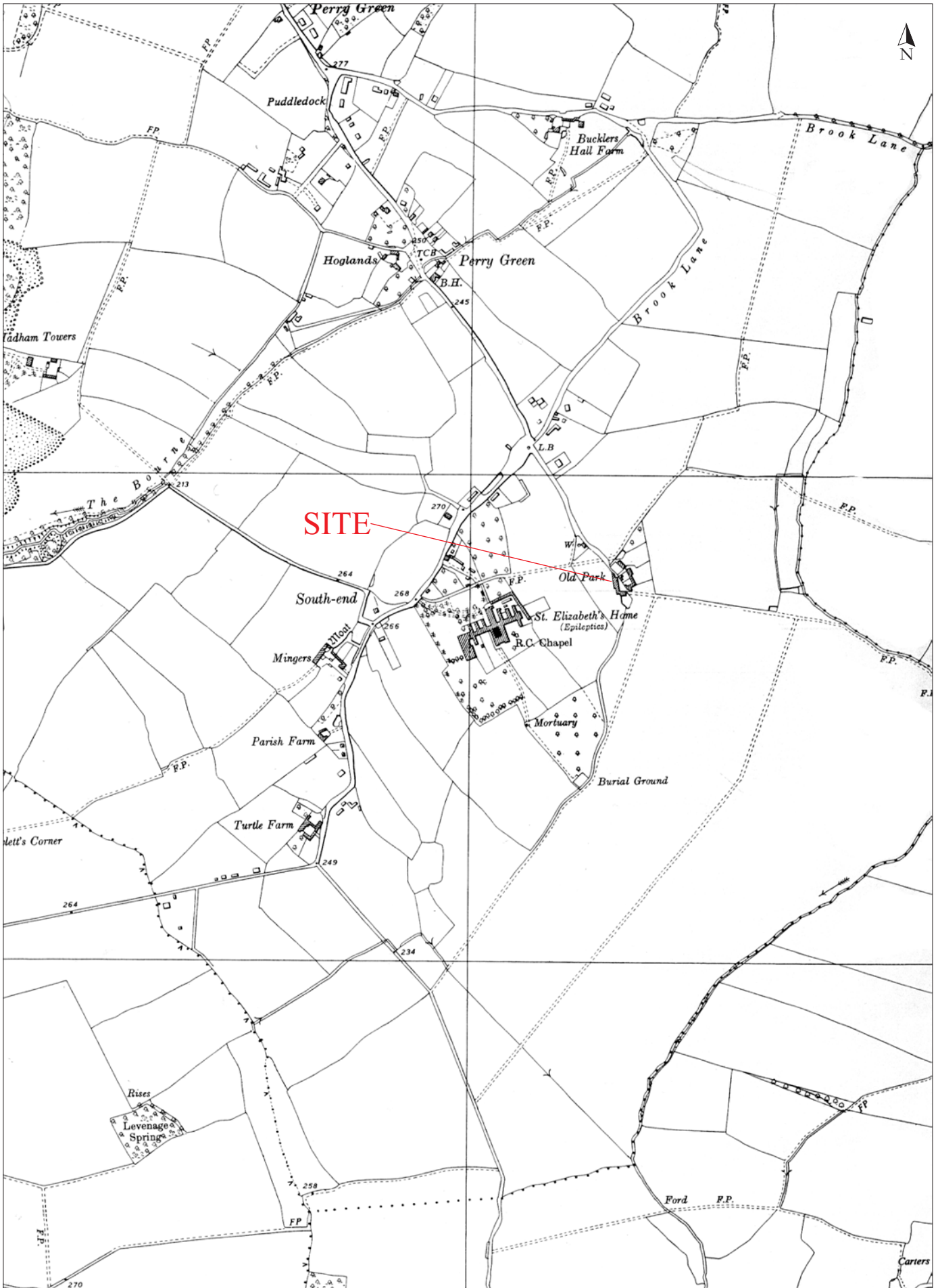
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Fig. 7 Second edition OS map, 1897
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4



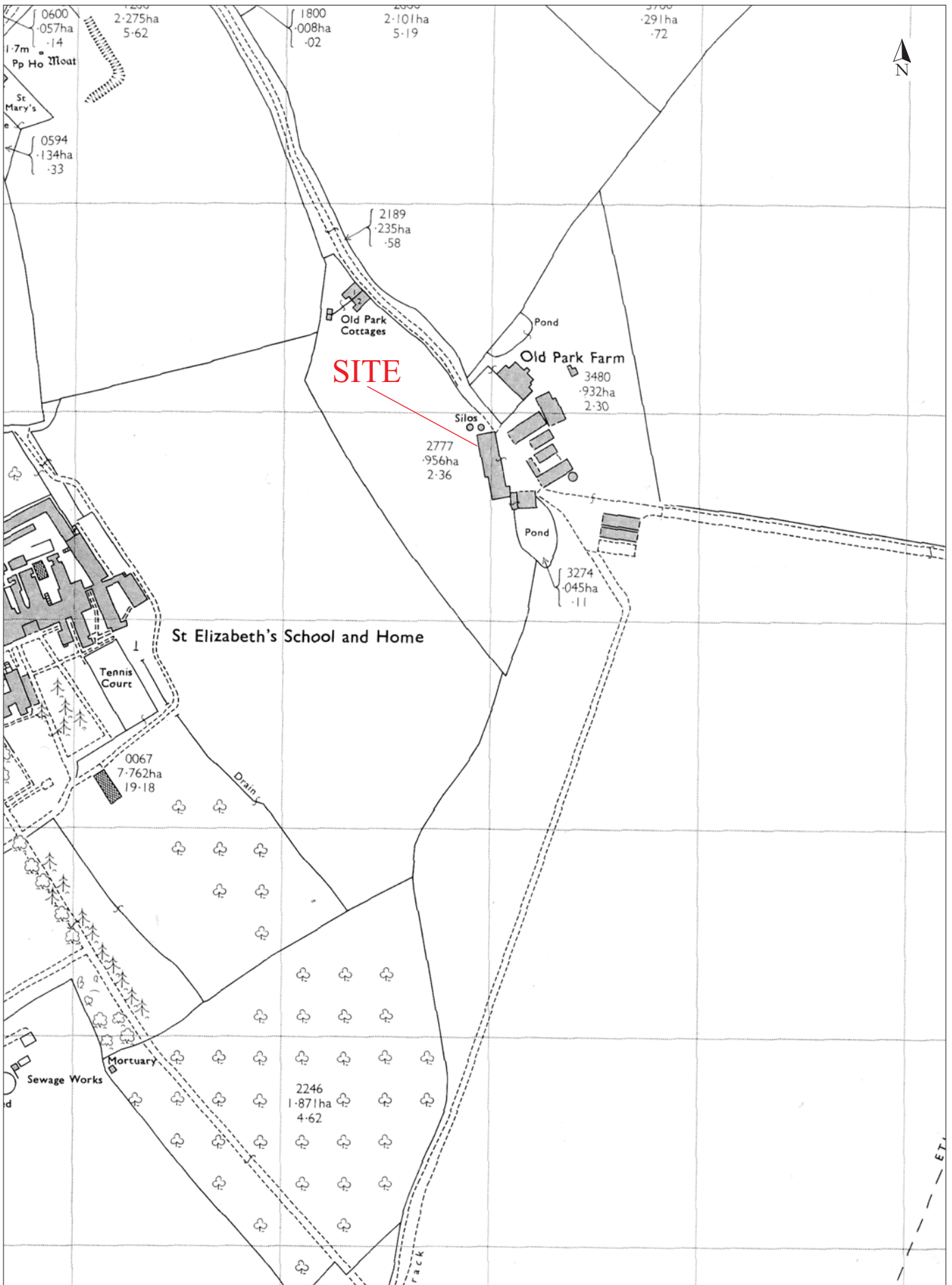
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Fig. 8 OS map, 1921
 Scale: 25" to 1 mile at A4



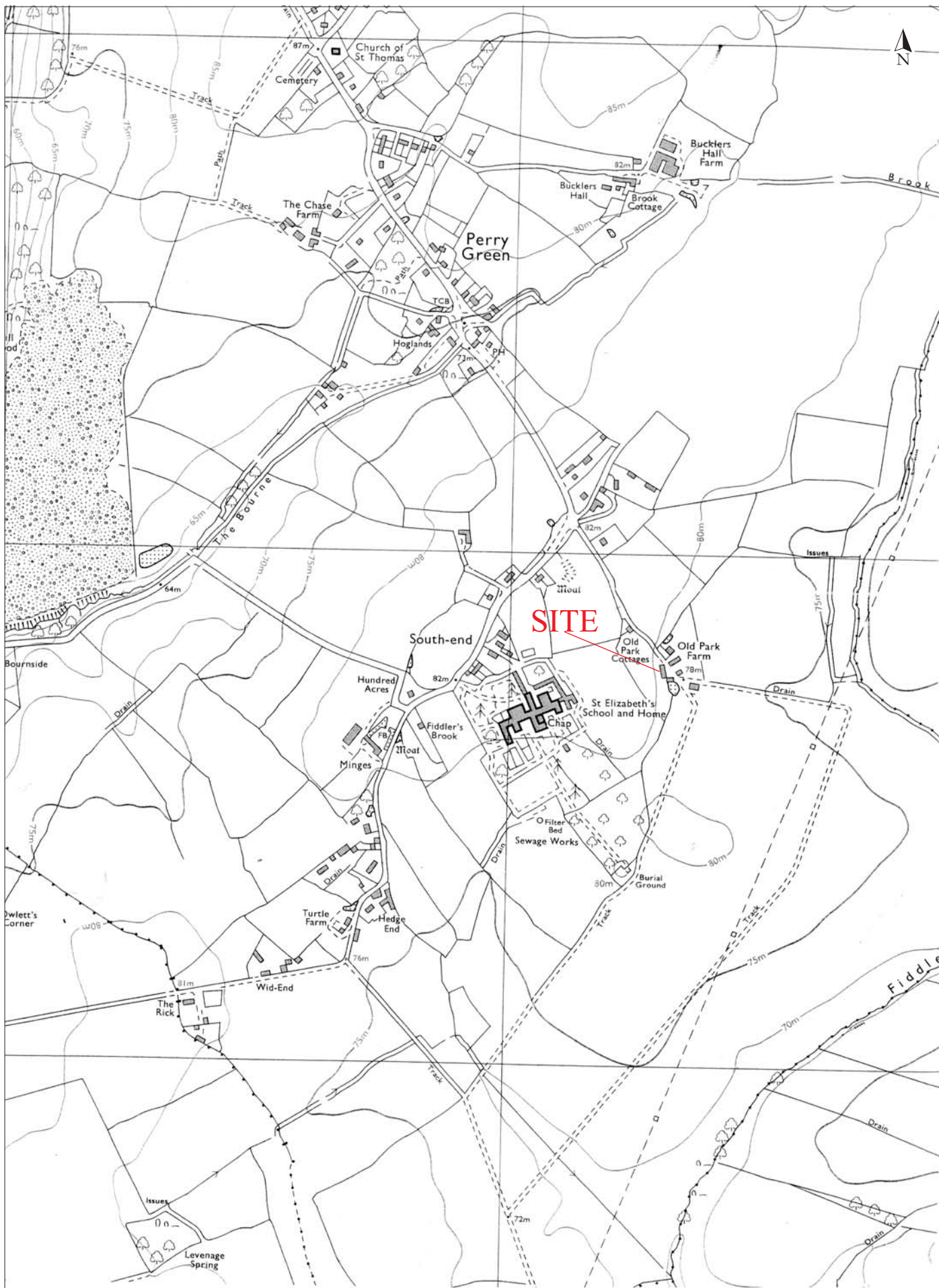
Reproduced from the 1960 Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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Fig. 9 OS map, 1960
 Scale: 6" to 1 mile at A4



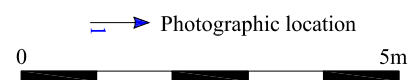
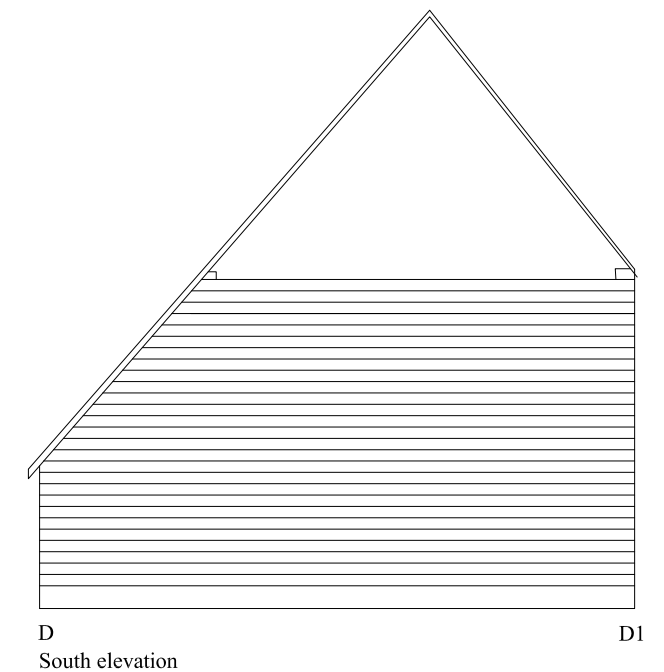
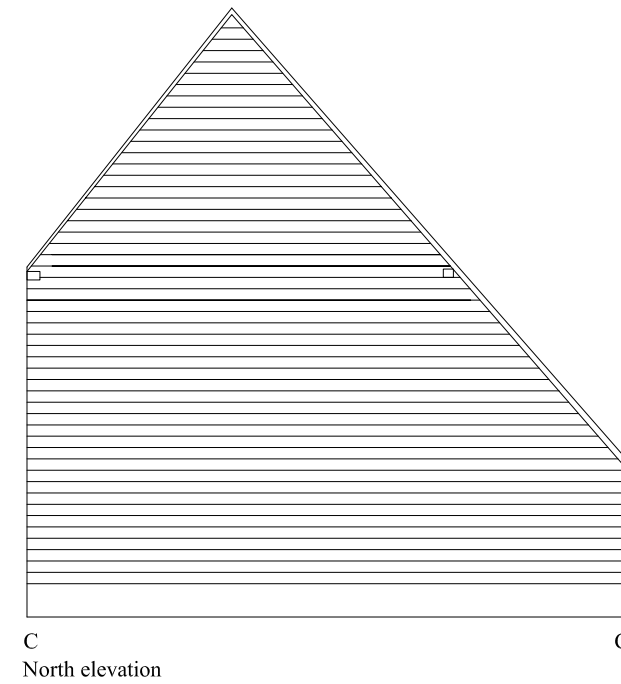
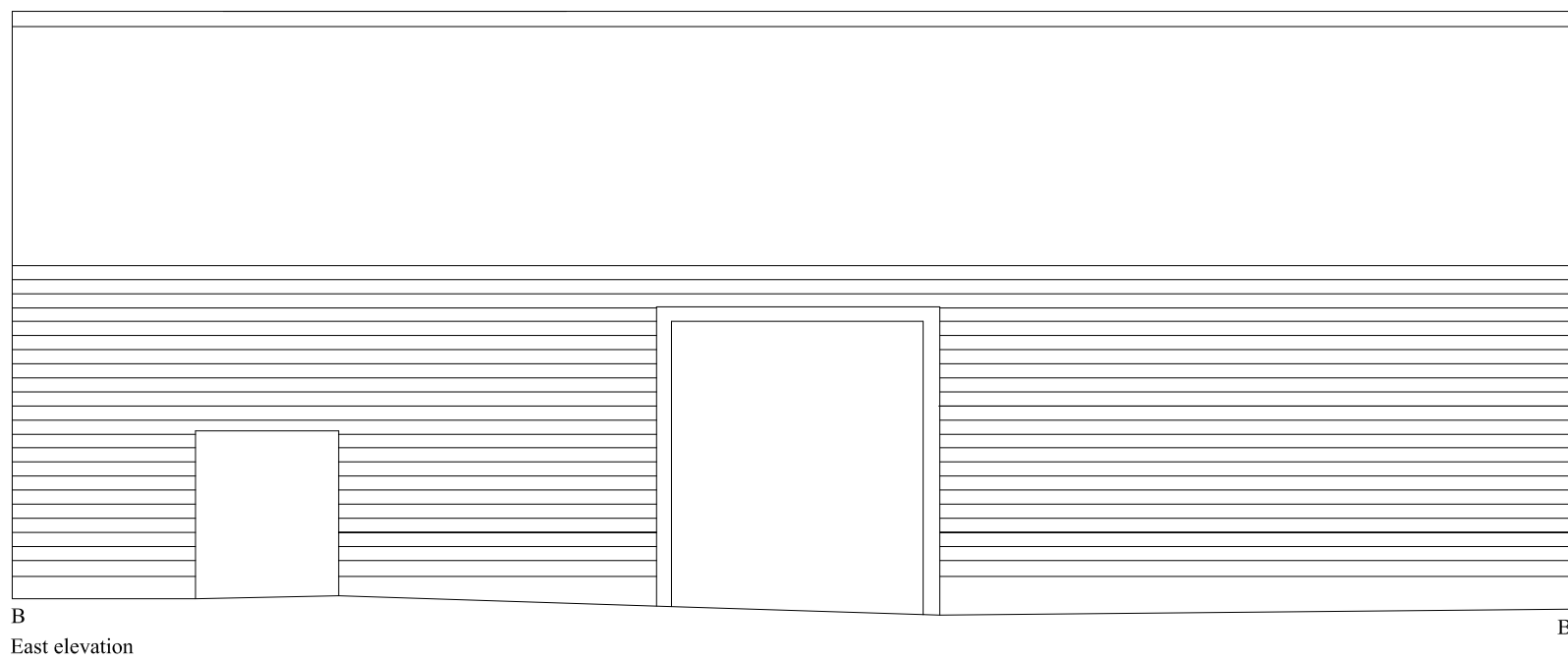
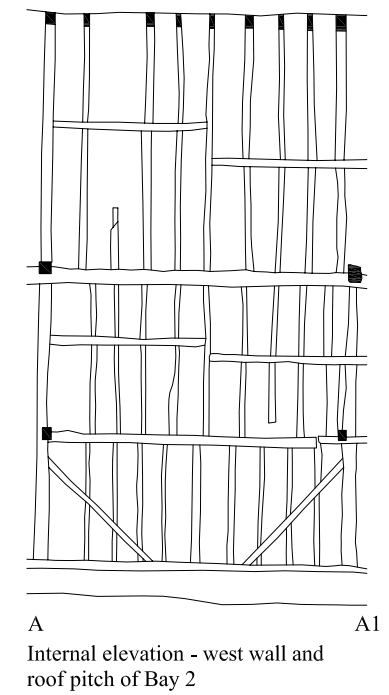
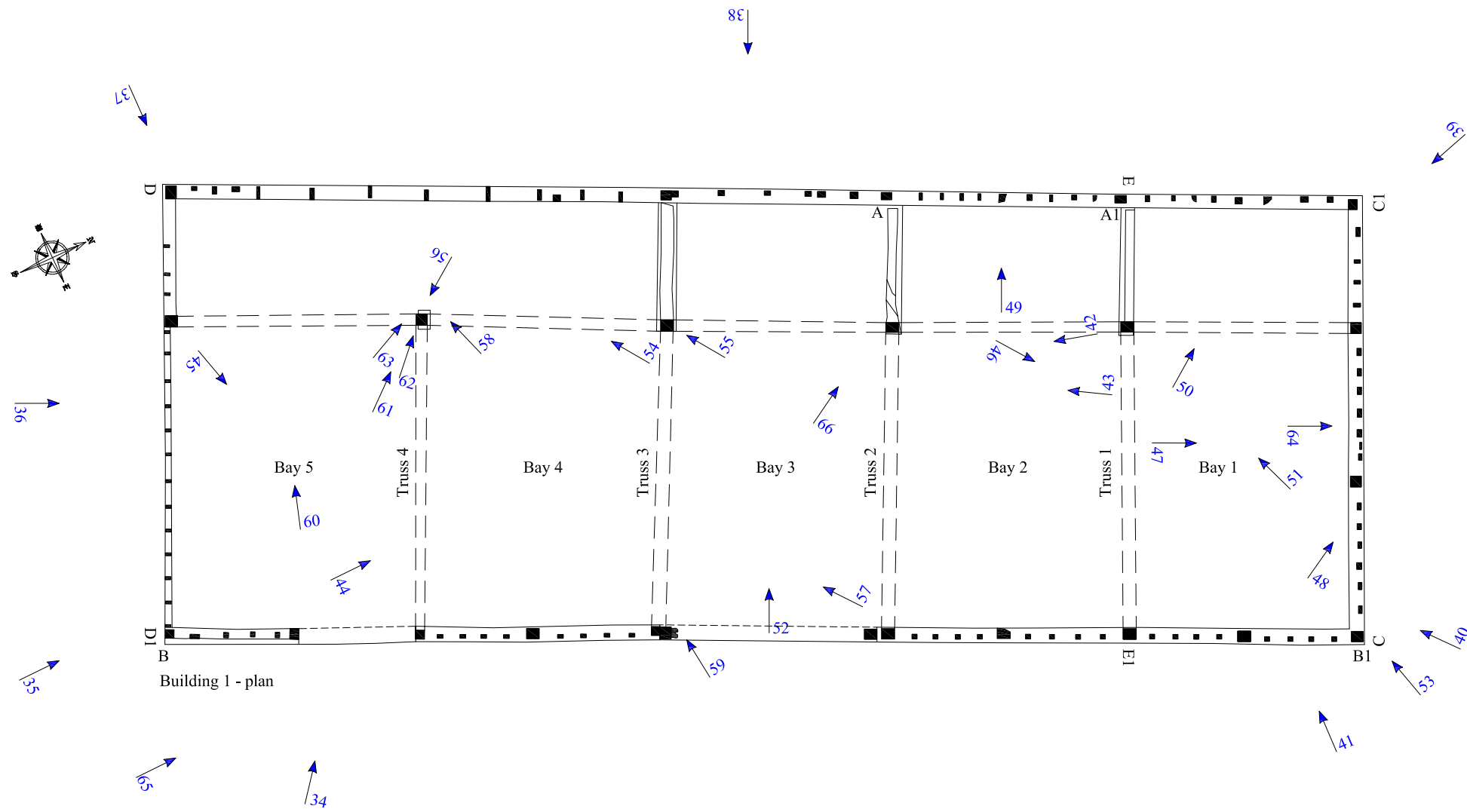
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Fig. 10 OS map 1975
 Scale: 1:2500 at A4

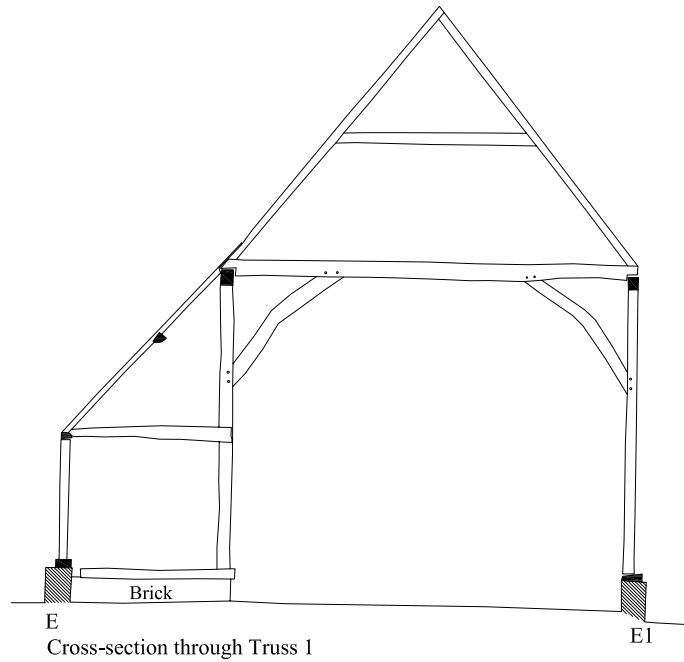


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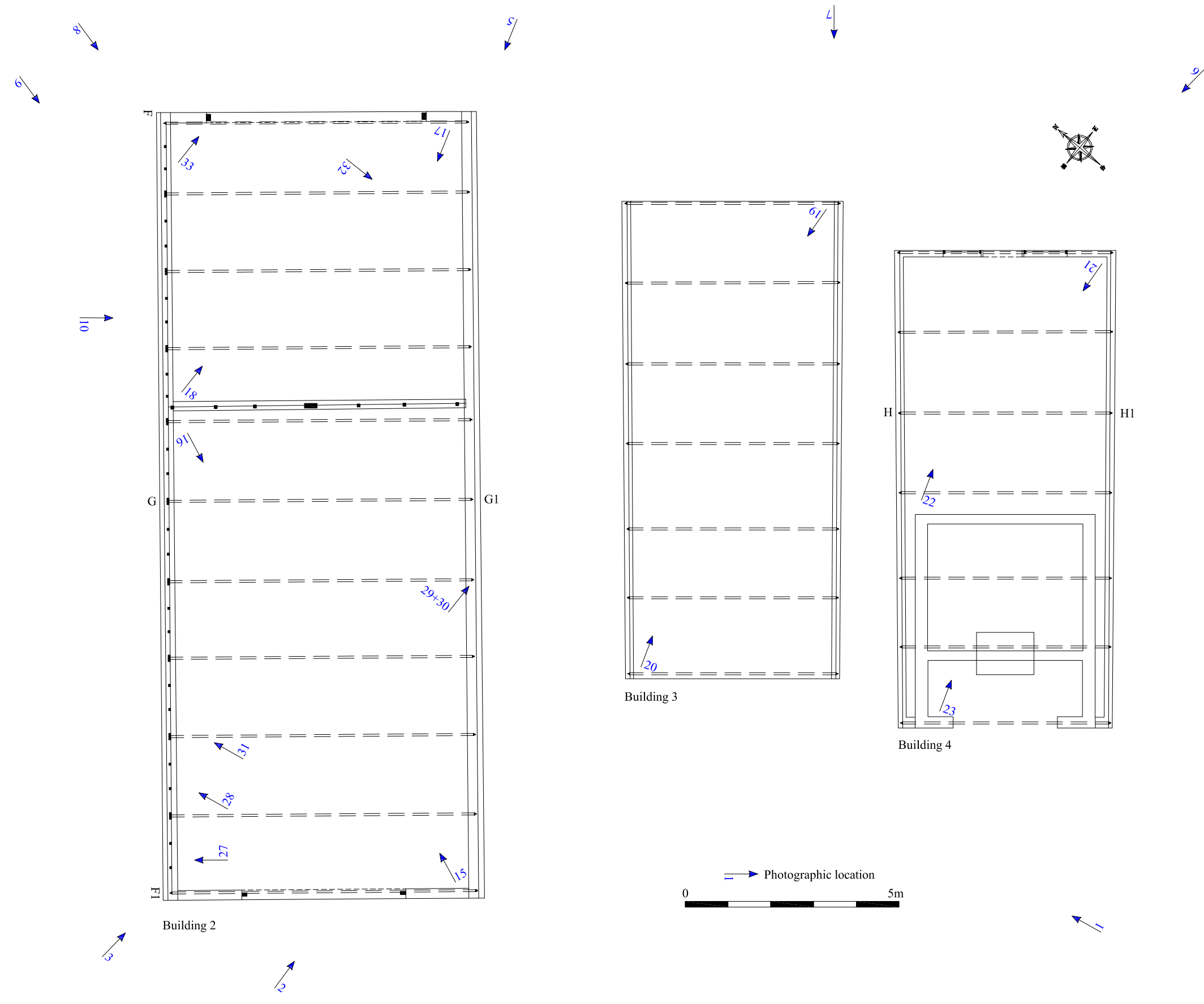
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Fig. 11 OS map 1981
 Scale: 1:10,000 at A4



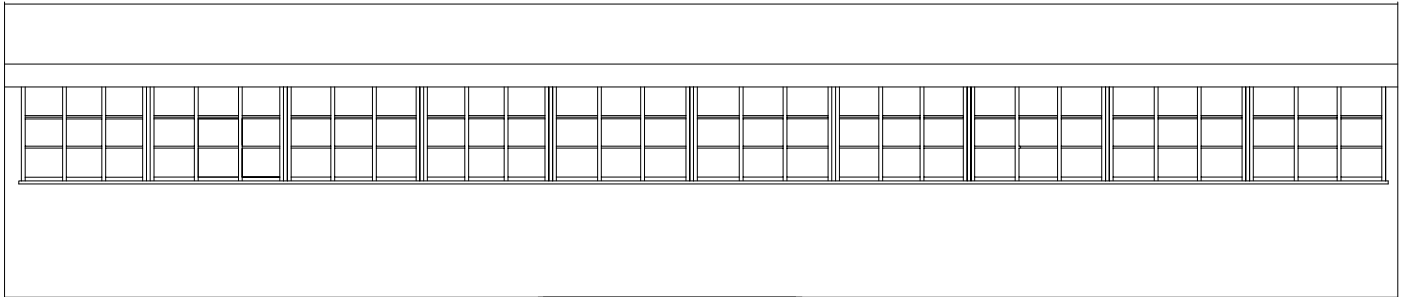
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Fig. 12 Building 1 - plans and elevations
 Scale 1:100 at A3



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Fig. 13 Cross-section through Building 1
Scale 1:100 at A4

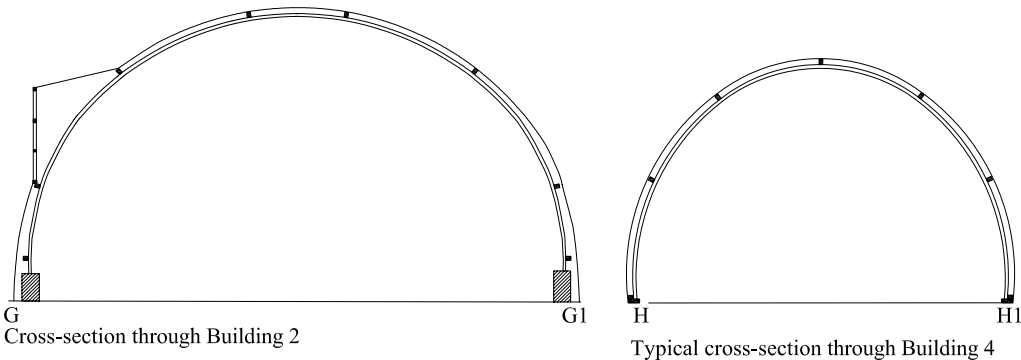


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Fig. 14 Buildings 2, 3 and 4 - plans
 Scale 1:100 at A3

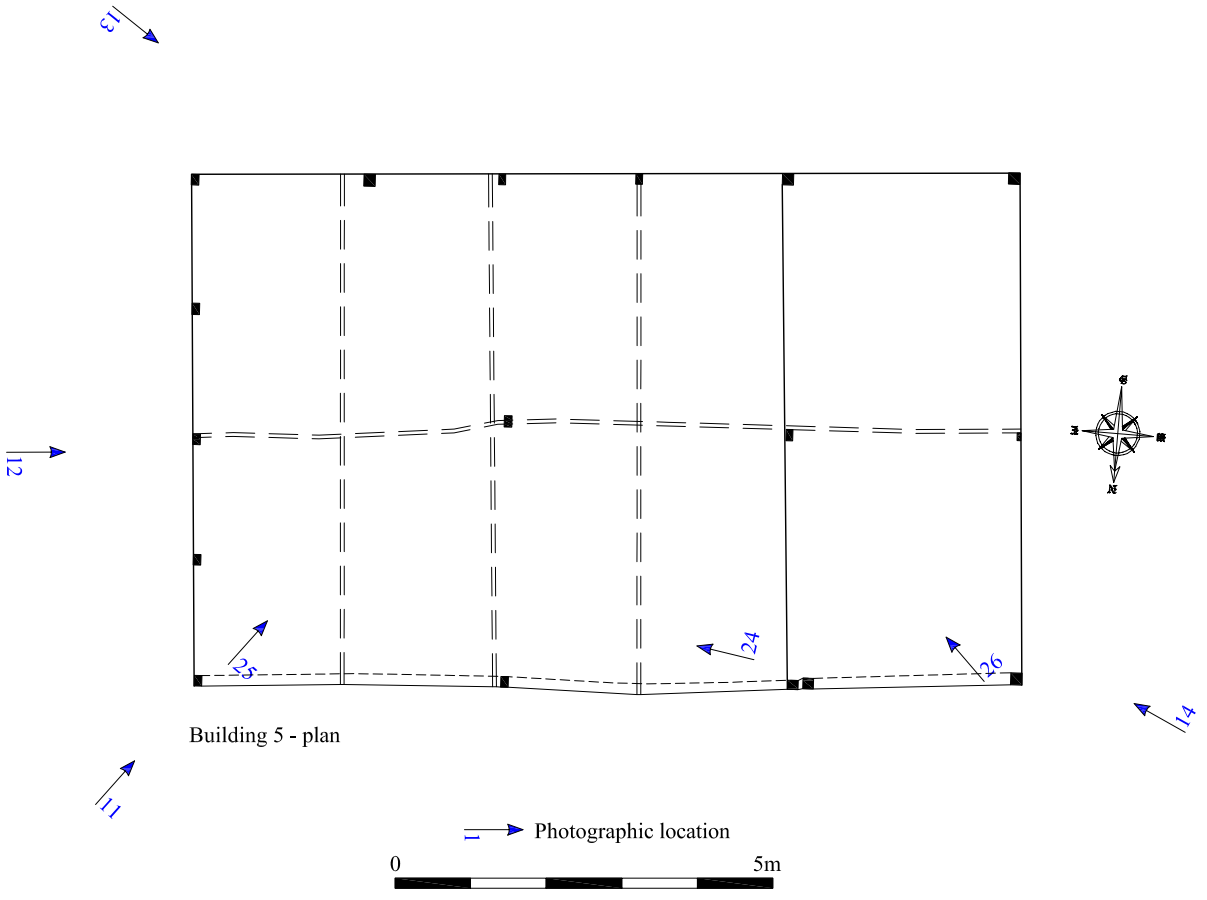


F
North-west elevation - Building 2

F1



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Fig. 15 Buildings 2 and 4 - elevation and sections
Scale 1:100 at A4



Building 5 - plan

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Fig. 16 Building 5 - plan
Scale 1:100 at A4