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**FARM BUILDINGS AT SIBLEYS FARM,
CHICKNEY ROAD, HENHAM, ESSEX
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

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NGR: TL 565 297	Report No. 3514
District: Essex	Site Code: SFHN10
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No. 3816
MIFA	Date: March 2010
Signed:	

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Project name	<i>Farm Buildings at Sibleys Farm, Chickney Road, Henham, Essex Historic Building Recording</i>		
<p><i>In February and March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording of a listed barn and outbuilding at Sibleys Farm, Chickney Road, Henham, Essex (NGR TL 565 297). The historic building recording was carried out to comply with a planning condition to convert buildings to residential use.</i></p> <p><i>The analysis confirmed the findings of the list description. The barn originally had three bays with a narrower central bay framing a plain loading door. This was later raised in height and a second doorway created on the opposing wall. The framing on the long elevations was originally filled with wattle and daub panels, but these were later replaced with render and weather-boarding. In the later 17th century, the barn was extended by two further bays in broadly similar style, a 'terminus ante-quem' for which is provided by an inscribed date of 1683. Almost all the original timber-work of the late 16th century survives in remarkably good condition. Later intervention has been minimal but modern external repair is evident. The eastern extension has been affected by repair and remodelling to a greater degree, having lost the lower framing on two sides, though the original form can be reconstructed with confidence. The associated outbuilding is a late 18th or early 19th century cart-shed, built in oak and elm to a highly systematic construction. The use of cement in the lower areas has compromised the structural security of the building, and benign neglect has activated decay in the timbers.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>23rd February and 12th March 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>P3816</i>	Site code	<i>SFHN10</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II Listed buildings</i>		
Current land use	<i>Farmhouse and outbuildings</i>		
Planned development	<i>Barn conversion</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Complete structural frame of later 16th century. Later 17th century extension also substantially surviving. Later 18th or early 19th century cart shed.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>N/A</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Chickney</i>
HER for area	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment and Management Team</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM22 6BH</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 565 297</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>c.120m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council Historic Environment and Management Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith, Lee Prosser</i>		
Funded by	<i>De Vere Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Farm Buildings at Sibleys Farm, Chickney Road, Henham, Essex Historic Building Recording</i>		
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Report no.	<i>3514</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2010</i>		

FARM BUILDINGS AT SIBLEYS FARM, CHICKNEY ROAD, HENHAM, ESSEX

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

SUMMARY

In February and March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording to a listed barn and outbuilding at Sibleys Farm, Chickney Road, Henham, Essex (NGR TL 565 297). The historic building recording was carried out to comply with a planning condition to convert buildings to residential use.

The analysis confirmed the findings of the list description. The barn originally had three bays with a narrower central bay framing a plain loading door. This was later raised in height and a second doorway created on the opposing wall. The framing on the long elevations was originally filled with wattle and daub panels, but these were later replaced with render and weather-boarding. In the later 17th century, the barn was extended by two further bays in broadly similar style, a terminus ante-quem for which is provided by an inscribed date of 1683.

Almost all the original timber-work of the late 16th century survives in remarkably good condition. Later intervention has been minimal but modern external repair is evident. The eastern extension has been affected by repair and remodelling to a greater degree, having lost the lower framing on two sides, though the original form can be reconstructed with confidence.

The associated outbuilding is a late 18th or early 19th century cart-shed, built in oak and elm to a highly systematic construction. The use of cement in the lower areas has compromised the structural security of the building, and benign neglect has activated decay in the timbers.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February and March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording of the listed barn and a former cart-shed at Sibleys Farm, Chickney Road, Henham, Essex (NGR: TL 565 297; Figs 1 -2). The work was commissioned by De Vere Homes Ltd. The historic building recording was carried out to comply with a planning condition to convert the existing complex to residential use (Planning Ref. UTT/0527/09, UTT0528/09/LB).

1.2 The work was conducted according to a specification and written scheme of investigation prepared by AS (dated 15th February 2010), and a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (17th February 2010). The recording was carried out to Level 3 as defined by English Heritage in '*Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice, 2006*', although a higher level of recording (Level 4) was undertaken on the earliest and most significant structural elements. The works followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists' '*Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*' (IFA, revised 2001).

1.3 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) forms the guidance framework for protection of the historic environment and heritage assets such as listed buildings, preventing unsympathetic change or uncontrolled alteration. This was issued in March 2010 and replaces earlier guidance notes PPG15 (Planning and the Historic Environment) and PPG16 (Archaeology and Planning).

1.4 The objectives of the project are set out in the brief, specification and the IFA and English Heritage guidance documents. These are:

- Archaeological recording of the existing buildings in advance of conversion and any additional recording/research necessary to place these findings in the context of the site as a whole;

The objectives of the Building Recording are:

- To compile a high quality record of the structures identified for conversion, with analysis and interpretation of those structures in conjunction with an associated documentary survey.
- To provide a review of the local and regional historical context of the structures recorded by the project. It will be adequately detailed to place the findings of the archaeological recording in context.
- To produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to 'preserve by record' the structures proposed for alteration at Sibleys Farm, prior to the alteration.

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

2.1 Sibleys Farm is located on the eastern side of Chickney Road, Henham, and comprises a complex of buildings including the farm, dovecote and associated buildings of varying dates, the earliest of which date to the 15th century. The dovecote is believed to have originated partly as a gatehouse, and with the main farm house is Grade II Listed.

2.2 The barn, which is also Grade II Listed is described as of late 16th century date, with three unusually long, aisled bays, and a two-bay extension to the north, which was added in 1683.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites, chance finds and historic landscape features in Essex is the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER database was searched for all known entries within a c. 1km radius of the assessment site (Fig 4). Where relevant, entries have been discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Cartographic and primary documentary sources

3.2.1 The principal source for maps and historic documents was Essex Record Office. All available material regarding the site was consulted and is listed in Appendix 2. Where relevant, these sources have been discussed in Sections 4.2-3 and reproduced in Figs. 5-9.

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were Essex Record Office and AS's own reference library. All sources used have been referenced in the appendices and bibliography.

3.4 Geological/ geotechnical information

3.4.1 Information was compiled from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

3.5 The building

3.5.1 The site was visited on the 23rd February and 12th March 2010 in order to undertake the technical analysis, drawing and photographic work. Lee Prosser and Lisa Smith compiled the written descriptions and carried out the photographic recording. Kathren Henry completed the drawing work. Floor plans, sections and an elevation based upon drawings provided by the client are included with annotations (Figs. 10-13).

3.5.2 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 1000D (10

megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Architectural detail was captured using 35mm black and white film. Supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Fig. 10 & 13)

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 Sibleys Farm lies to the south of Chickney Road and to the east of the road leading to Suckstead Green approximately 1m north of the village of Chickney. It lies at a height of c. 120m in an isolated, rural location.

4.1.2 The solid geology of the site consists of Thanet sand formation and Lambeth group (undifferentiated) clay, sands and silts (BGS 1978). This is overlain by soils of the Hanslope association (41/d) characterised by typically calcareous pelosols (SSEW 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 4)

4.2.1 There is little evidence of prehistoric activity in the area; only a single spot find of a shaft hole adze or perforated sandstone hammer is noted at Lovecott Farm, probably dating to the late Neolithic (HER 4704). Several prehistoric pits and sherds of Iron Age pottery were discovered during investigations for a pipeline between Cambridge and Matching Green (HER 45286, 45287) although in sparse quantities. Excavations and fieldwalking at Amberden Hall and New Amberden Hall identified ditches, pottery and bone fragments which suggest Iron Age and Roman occupation (HER 19438).

4.2.2 During the medieval and post-medieval period scattered homesteads appeared in the landscape, such as the farm at Sibleys (HER 4650, 37507, 37508, 37509). The homestead at Parsonage Yard (HER 4548) retains evidence for a rectangular moat. Extensive cropmarks of former medieval field boundaries have been noted at Staines Farm and Hand Post Cottage (HER 46402, 46406). Other farmsteads in the area include Amberden Hall built c. 1560 (HER 209), Lovecott Farmhouse, which dates to the 18th century (HER 35767) and Scots Farmhouse, a late 16th century timber-framed house (HER 35763). Together, these illustrate the gradual expansion of settlement across the region (See appendix 1 for further examples).

4.2.3 Pevsner describes the Sibleys Farm as a 15th century timber-framed house, altered on the outside but with much of interest still remaining internally. This includes a partition of 16th century date, an original doorway, original beams in several rooms, original roof construction and a late 16th century staircase (Pevsner, 2003). No mention is made of the contemporary dovecote or later barn. Neither the house nor the dovecote were examined for the present assessment.

4.3 Cartographic Sources

4.3.1 Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 (Fig. 5) is the earliest available cartographic source to depict Sibley's Farm, although it lacks detail. Three buildings of regular shape appear within a square enclosure and may represent the farmhouse, dovecote and barn although the positioning of the barn is inaccurate. An additional small square enclosure to the south may have been an orchard.

4.3.2 By 1838 the Tithe Map (Fig. 6) shows considerable evolution of the complex to a substantial farm. The farmhouse had been extended to the rear, with a 'U' shaped range of buildings surrounding a courtyard and fronting the road leading to Suckstead Green. The barn is shown in its existing position. Further outbuildings had also clearly been constructed, including a large rectangular barn to the north-east of the farmhouse and a small building also fronting onto the road to the west. The dovecote is depicted accurately.

4.3.3 The tithe award lists Reverend John Collins as the owner of Sibleys Farm and surrounding plots, with Thomas Joyce as the occupier. Deeds located at the Essex Record Office indicate that Sibleys Farm was owned by the Collins family from the 17th to the early 20th century. The 1841 census lists Thomas Joyce and family occupying the farm before his son Albert inherits the running of the farm sometime before 1891.

4.3.4 Little change is visible between the production of the tithe map and the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1876 and 1898 (Figs. 7 & 8). As late as 1946, the only discernible change was the construction of a branch line of the railway with a small station to the north of the farm (Fig. 9).

4.3.5 A few modern buildings have appeared in the post-war period. These include a large cement barn replacing the earlier U-shaped complex adjoining the historic barn, while the branch railway has disappeared, to be replaced by a covered reservoir and water tower.

5 THE BUILDINGS (Fig. 10 - 13)

The Barn

Exterior

5.1 The exterior of the barn, patched and at times cheaply and unsympathetically repaired, contrasts to the internal frame, which survives in excellent condition, retaining almost all original timbers, including sole-plates. The barn is aisled and so characterised by a steep roof of old peg tiles, half-hipped over rendered and weather-boarded walls, though modern blockwork and a garage door mar the eastern extent of the south facade. The roof is interrupted to the south by the main door, which breaks into the roof line with an eyebrow dormer. As the barn is located on a fall in the ground level, the supporting plinth wall is of varying height and has clearly been repaired in various places between the 19th and 20th centuries.

5.2 On the northern face, a doorway with double doors offset to the west pierces the elevation (Plate 1). The doors are boarded with mass-produced strap-hinges, but all in poor condition. To the west the wall is completely weather-boarded in oak with modern softwood repairs; to the east the upper portion is rendered, with modern softwood weather-boarding below. Long spurs carry the eaves beyond the wall face for added protection from the elements.

5.3 A low concrete plinth has been constructed hard against the lower portions of the western elevation. The remaining area above has been rendered and weather-boarded in modern times. The eastern elevation is completely rendered and is overgrown with vegetation.

5.4 The south elevation shows much modification and repair. A taller dwarf wall compensates for the fall in ground level and comprises different phases of repair (Plate 2). Some original 16th or 17th century brickwork remains exposed to the east of the main doors but the majority has been repaired with 19th century fabric and even 20th century pink flettons, all in turn poorly re-pointed and patched.

5.5 The main entrance comprises a pair of wide doors off-centre to the west. These are set off the ground and given access by a modern cement ramp (Plate 3). The doors are modern, vertically boarded softwood, ledged and braced to the rear but in poor condition. They are foreshortened, with the resulting lower aperture filled by modern slotted boards in the manner of a threshing leap. A flanking regular doorway to the west is of no great age. A second pair of double doors, resting on the brick plinth wall is situated towards the eastern end of the barn providing an independent access to the extension. This is also modern and of little interest.

Interior

5.6 The barn is constructed in two phases. The primary build is of three bays given access via the main doorway into a narrower central bay, with wider flanking bays (Plate 4). Two narrow bays form the later extension to the north. These are now given access by the modern external openings, and from the earlier range through a doorway formed by removing two original studs. The original roof hip of the earlier range survives at the junction of the two elements, as does the majority of the original timber.

5.7 The barn is aisled with a series of principal arcade posts with splay-cut jowls braced to the tie-beams and arcade plate at the bay divisions (Plate 5). The lower outer wall posts are also similarly jowled. The arcade plates are of heavy scantling jointed at the bay divisions with half-faced and bladed scarfs. Subsidiary bracing is also used within the aisles above and below the aisle tie. The wall panels are regular in construction with long studs and slightly curved bracing. Almost all retain wattle grooves and holes for earlier infill, which also serves to confirm the extent of survival. The principal bay divisions are not framed to the apex; instead slightly larger rafter-couples at the half-bays have collars clasping a single purlin in each pitch. Common rafters rise in two continuous flights. The central couples have delicate, curved wind-bracing to the purlin, but these are not present in the outer bays where the hips already provide sufficient support.

5.8 The northern extension is constructed in a broadly similar form, but with variation in the timber scantling and no bracing used in the roof. The arcade plates are jointed with edge-halved scarf joints with bridled abutments, a diagnostic considered characteristic of a later 17th century date.

5.9 The following detailed description begins at the western end.

Western gable end

5.10 The western gable end is complete apart from two studs and a short section of sole-plate which have been removed to make a doorway into the modern cement barn adjoining (Plate 6). Part of a brace has also been removed in the upper central register to make way for machinery. The pattern of timber is regular, with a central panel divided into upper and lower registers by a mid-rail, with nine common studs in each, pegged top and bottom. In the upper register two cranked downward braces extend from the outer principals to the centre. The principals have good splay-cut jowls.

5.11 The tie-beam is a re-used wall-plate with several redundant mortices and notches on the inner face for rafters which do not relate to this construction. The aisle panels are intact, divided by a tie extending from jowled corner wall posts to the principals. The north aisle-tie is a reused member retaining a splay-cut jowl

and redundant mortice for a downward brace, now set on its side. The braces in the upper and lower registers on each side are matching and clearly cut from the same timber. Three common studs are braced in the lower register from the principal post to the outer corner post. The upper register is also braced and properly pegged. The common studs show no evidence of wattle grooves or notches.

5.12 Modern plywood boards have been applied to the frame as back-plates for electrical switching gear.

Bay 1

5.13 The northern wall panel preserves its original sole-plate over a brick dwarf wall. Eleven original common studs are evenly spaced and of regular scantling, pegged top and bottom (Plate 7). The studs are notched over and pegged to two downward curved braces extending from the outer posts to the sole-plate. All studs have wattle notches and opposing wattle stave holes for the original infill material. Many of the original rafters survive on this pitch, but are now supported by inserted intermediate softwood members.

5.14 The south wall likewise retains original stud work and braces completely intact. Twelve original rafters in the upper and lower flights are well preserved with some assistance as before. The purlin is clasped by collars offset from the bay divisions. This and its northern counterpart have disengaged from the gable end but remain *in situ*.

Truss 2

5.15 Truss two divides the western and central bays and comprises two robust arcade posts with splay-cut jowls resting on aisle plates and dwarf walls (Plate 8). The posts support a slightly cambered tie-beam triangulated by long slender braces. Similar braces extend from the posts to the arcade plate. A lower aisle brace is missing on the south.

5.16 On the north the lower aisle frame is clad with a mixture of hand- and machine-sawn oak boards nailed on to form a crude partition. To the south three slender horizontal supporting timbers remain but the boarding has been lost.

Bay 2

5.17 The central, narrower bay accommodates the main entrance to the barn, with a second opposing double door to the north, clearly inserted at a later date (Plate 9). The wall panel on this side is much disturbed as a consequence. Eight studs were formerly present, pierced by a central aperture approximately four feet wide, but this was subsequently widened with the loss of five original studs. Three studs still survive, now partially obscured by wide oak or elm board

cladding of some age, while the doorway is framed by inserted squared jambs. The doors as noted above are modern and of no interest.

5.18 The roof is of typical form with ten original rafters rising in two flights to the apex, riding over the arcade-plate and a purlin. Secondary support is given by slender subsidiary softwood members and two rafter-couples with collars clasping the purlin which is braced by slender curved and elegant wind braces (Plate 10).

5.19 The south panel frames the main doorway, which is offset to the east to accommodate a smaller adjoining door (Plate 11). It is framed by two substantial jambs; the member to the east sits on a stump of sole-plate protruding from the adjacent bay and preserves a robust threshing leap slot (Plate 12). The western jamb extends to full height directly from the earth and retains a mortice for a locking bar. The height of the doorway has been raised and modified though both jambs have been retained, braced from the wall-plate by short, nailed-on braces of heavy scantling.

5.20 The lintel rests on top of the eastern jamb but abuts the jamb to the west where it is supported by a cleat. The rafters immediately above are set at a shallow angle and have been propped against the arcade plate by short timbers. The upper rafters remain *in situ*, where they are braced like the north pitch but are now redundant and the roof is instead carried to the apex by secondary oak rafters.

Truss 3

5.21 The division between the central and east bay mirrors truss 2 with aisle-plates, ties and braces intact. The aisle braces form a matched pair though both are reused members retaining redundant mortices. Both aisle plates are stepped out at the ends and notched, possibly to accommodate a raised threshing floor within the central bay.

5.22 Both aisles are boarded like their companions, though the northern aisle partitioning extends above the tie.

Bay 3

5.23 The north wall is well preserved with all original members from sole plate to rafter level.

5.24 The south wall is similarly well preserved, with a single exception of slight shortening at the west to accommodate changes in the main door jambs, noted above.

Truss 4

5.25 The east gable wall was retained with little alteration when the two later bays were added. Its basic form mirrors the west wall, with good splay-cut jowls to the principal posts, even studwork and bracing, most of which survives intact (Plate 13). A small central doorway was cut through to provide access to the adjoining bays with the loss of a section of sole-plate and a stud, while a second survives only as a stump. In the south aisle a brace and a stud have similarly been cut through. A central stud in the upper register has been removed and flanking braces truncated.

5.26 The eastern façade of the truss remains partially clad with a mixture of wide hand-sawn oak and elm boarding with later machine-cut additions, but these probably relate to the internal configuration of the later 17th extension. Some patches of plasterwork remain in the upper framing. The dwarf wall retains some 16th century brickwork to the south; to the north the wall has been rendered. At roof level, the original hip rafters survive with only one loss (Plate 14).

The Extension - Bay 4

5.27 The extension was constructed with great care to emulate the general form of the existing barn and carefully scarfed to the main frame. The north wall panel of bay 4 is primary-braced with evenly-spaced, waney studs. The brace has been truncated and partially replaced.

5.28 The south wall has been modified with the insertion of large double doors and modern cement blockwork (Plate 15). The wall-plate survives with two original studs retained as door jambs. Peg-holes indicate the position of three removed studs and a small doorway off-set to the west. The jowled outer post retains a redundant mortice for the lost brace.

5.29 Evenly spaced rafters with intermediate subsidiaries run over the arcade plate and purlin in each pitch, which is clasped, as before by collars in rafter-couples off-set from the principal divisions. A second, lower purlin is butted into the principals.

Truss 5

5.30 The bays are divided by waney arcade posts which have shallow, but not well expressed jowls (Plate 16). These are braced to the tie-beam and flanking arcade plates as before. The south post sits on an aisle plate over a heavily eroded brick dwarf wall but its companion to the north is set directly on the ground surface, with no evidence for a wall or aisle plate.

5.31 Good aisle ties extend to outer posts to the north and south, tied to the principals with iron strapping. Both are re-used members with redundant mortices

visible in the soffits. Slender curved braces in the upper register survive in both aisles reflecting the style of the main barn but there are no braces in the lower register.

5.32 A waney pole has been inserted laterally between the two principals at aisle tie level, morticed to the south but supported only by a nailed-on cleat to the north. An equally waney prop has been applied and notched out for additional support. These may represent residual partitions or a rudimentary upper loft.

Bay 5

5.34 As with bay 4 the northern wall panel is relatively intact with primary-braced studs now clad with modern boarding at lower level. The southern panel has been replaced by a modern cantilevered steel garage door surrounded by block work to wall-plate level. Redundant peg holes suggest an original pattern of primary braced studs consistent with the northern panels.

5.35 The roof is well preserved following the model of Bay 4.

East gable

5.36 The gable end has been heavily modified with little surviving fabric at lower level, but the mid-rail survives with eight redundant peg-holes for original studs. The arcade posts have been partially truncated and embedded in modern block work. The northern post is inscribed with the date of 1683 and initials 'M.B.' and 'I.B' (Plate 17).

5.37 The upper framing is also much altered, retaining only two cranked braces extending from the posts to the mid-rail. Many of the studs have been truncated to accommodate a fixed two-light window and lesser modern members have been added (Plate 18). Vegetation has invaded the internal framing.

5.38 The roof retains its original hip-rafters which are more waney and slender than their counterparts in the adjoining range. Secondary members have been inserted for extra support.

Timber and assembly marking

5.39 The primary timbers of both ranges are of oak and possibly some elm. Most later assistance is clearly of modern softwood. No assembly marks were noted, with the exception of a single, faintly scratched V on the principal of the eastern elevation of the 16th century range. The timber scantling for the main barn can be summarised as follows:

Arcade post	9" x 9" (229mm x 229mm)
Aisle mid-rail	8" x 7" (203mm x 178mm)

Aisle brace	8" x 5" (203mm x 127mm)
Outer principal post (lower scale)	6" x 5" (165mm x 127mm)
Common stud	5" x 3" (127mm x 76mm)
Wall brace	7" x 1" (178mm x 25mm)
Wall-plate	7" x 7" (178mm x 178mm)
Common rafter	6" x 3½" (165mm x 89mm)
Aisle-plate	9½" x 8" (241mm x 203mm)

5.40 The timber scantling for the barn extension can be summarised as follows:

Common rafter (variable)	5½" x 3½" (140mm x 89mm)
Wall-plate	7" x 7" (178mm x 178mm)
Principal wall brace	5" x 4" (127mm x 102mm)
Arcade post	8" x 8" (203mm x 203mm)

The Cart Shed

5.41 The cart shed is timber-framed and weather-boarded, standing to the south of the barn and aligned north-west and south-east. It is laid out on a simple plan of three by two bays, open-fronted to the south-west, constructed of oak and elm with a slate roof (Plate 19). The external boarding is probably original, good quality hand-sawn oak and elm boards with very little modern replacement. Internally, the frame is highly regular and systematic, having primary-braced wall panels of seven studs per bay, with even scantling extending throughout, though the lower elements have been replaced with cement or embedded in concrete, which has caused some decay (Plate 20).

5.42 Of the end-walls, the north-western elevation is the best preserved with a robust central prick-post supporting a tie-beam (Plate 21). Six unbraced studs rise to the tie-beam in the eastern register while a large double door occupies a similar position to the west framed by a jamb and corner post. The doors are vertically boarded, ledged and braced to the rear, though now in poor condition. Above the tie-beam studs notched over a collar continue to the apex.

5.43 Most of the studwork of the south-east end wall has been truncated to accommodate an aperture, since infilled with waney, nailed-on timber. To the west of the central post a large doorway framed by two robust jambs is filled by a bead-moulded, vertically-boarded ledged and braced door. The gable is filled with evenly-spaced studs carrying a rudimentary set of braced shelves and partitions for nesting boxes added at a later date (Plate 22).

5.44 The bays are expressed by two tie-beams with lap-dovetail joints to the wall-plate. The principal rafters are off-set, resting on the wall plate and more substantial than the commons, with notch-lapped collars clasping a single purlin

in each pitch. Six common rafters rise to a ridge board where yoke pieces clasp the principal rafter-couples. A single wind-brace has been nailed on at a later date.

5.45 The building was formerly divided laterally, but only a scarfed bridging joist supported by two posts on concrete plinths remains. Redundant mortices for evenly spaced studs indicate a closed partition. Much of the frame is original, but bird-mouthed struts extend from the joist to support the purlins and may be later additions.

5.46 The timber scantling for the cart shed can be summarised as follows:

Principal post	7½" x 7½" (178mm x 178mm)
Common stud	2¾" x 3½" (70mm x 89mm)
Tie-beam	5½" x 5¾" (140mm x 146mm)
Braces	2¾" x 3½" (70mm x 89mm)
Wall plate	6½" x 6" (165mm x 152mm)
Common rafter	2¾" x 3½" (70mm x 89mm)

6 DISCUSSION

The Barn

6.1 The original historic barn is remarkably well preserved and largely intact, having lost only one or two minor elements but is also free of racking and later ironwork or subsidiary support. The timber is good quality and regular; much retaining marks for side-axeing. The frame has also escaped the 20th century propensity for disfiguring preservatives so that the oak remains clean and attractive.

6.2 The building clearly served as a threshing barn. The aisle-plates are notched and the frame partitioned at this point on all sides, effectively enclosing the central bay as a threshing floor. Some modification occurred relatively early to enlarge the door, which required the repositioning of the upper members, but this was accomplished without damaging intervention.

6.3 Datable diagnostic features include the use of splay-cut jowls, slender and slightly cranked bracing and the scarf jointing, which together with a soffit groove and wattle-stave holes and notches place the barn firmly in the later 16th century. Notably, the end walls were not infilled in the same manner, but possibly plastered, or abutted earlier, lost buildings.

6.4 The barn was extended in the later 17th century. The form of the earlier building was generally copied, though tell-tale features of the later date include the scarfs, use of primary-bracing and lack of wind-bracing in the roof. An extra

lower, butted purlin was also considered necessary to carry the lighter rafters. The timber throughout is of poorer quality, though still of oak and the lower bracing remains elegantly curved. The inscribed date of 1683 on the east principal has been taken as a construction date; this may be true but strictly only provides a *terminus ante quem*. Various modifications suggest the use of partitions and possibly a hay loft in these new bays, though the evidence is now ephemeral. It might also be assumed that the original wattle-and-daub was replaced around this time with render and weather-boarding.

6.5 Modern repair has been particularly damaging to the eastern bays. Modern blockwork replaced much of the lower timber on the south and east but the overall effect has not been lost. Elsewhere, the usual repair of the dwarf wall, and new doors can be seen. As these are softwood, they are now in poor condition.

The Cart Shed

6.6 The cart shed is a modest agricultural building which has survived in relatively good condition with few alterations. The structure is well made with limited range of timbers and almost complete lack of pegging, which might suggest a 19th rather than later 18th century date. However the lack of softwood is unusual. Attempts to improve with cement have been detrimental, and decay has been activated and accelerated. The little nest boxes are clearly a later rudimentary addition.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 Efficient construction mixed with active use and conservative practices have ensured the good preservation of both barn, extension and cart-shed, which are all typical of their time. The emulation of a 16th century barn by a carpenter when building the extension over a century later is a most interesting characteristic, and shows respect for the original workmanship, and pride in construction.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with Saffron Walden Museum. The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation Guideline No.2 and other relevant reference documents. The archive will be adequately catalogued, labelled and packaged for transfer and storage in accordance with the guidelines. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank De e Homes Ltd for funding the building recording and for their kind assistacne (in particular Messrs John Couling and Barry Pestell).

Archaeological Solutions is grateful to Alison Bennett at Essex HER and the staff at Essex Record Office for their help and advice.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Richard Havis of ECC HEM.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

The main archaeological database consulted was the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER).

SMR No.	NGR	Description
Prehistoric remains (before AD 43)		
207	TL 555 306	Amberden Hall; Iron Age pottery from Amberden Hall, found when trenching for a new barn by Mr Pelby of Swaynes Hall, Widdington.
4704	TL 561 297	Lovecott Farm; Shaft hole adze (or 'perforated sandstone hammer') Probably late Neolithic in date
19438	TL 560 305	Site 9 - Cambridge -Epping gas pipeline fieldwalking 1990 Amberden Hall New Amberden Hall- Iron Age or Early Roman settlement. Ditches and pottery and bone fragments
45286	TL 562 307	Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline- Site 90; 2 prehistoric pits found
45287	TL 561 307	Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline- Site 51; 5 sherds of Iron Age pottery recovered during fieldwalking
Medieval remains (1150 - 1500)		
4548	TL 564 288	Parsonage Yard; Incomplete, rectangular moat (dry) with flat enclosure, 6m wide and 1.5m deep. Entrance to enclosure via a causeway
4650	TL 565 297	Sibleys House, Barn and Dovecote; Grade II Listed, 15 th century timber framed and plastered house. 15 th century dovecote and late 16 th century aisled timber framed barn.
37507	TL 565 297	Sibleys Farmhouse; 14 th and 16 th century timber framed house.
37509	TL 565 297	Dovecote at Sibleys Farm; C15 or earlier timber framed gatehouse, later used as dovecote.
46402	TL 571 304	Staines Farm; Extensive cropmarks of former medieval field boundaries, many of which are visible on the 1st edition OS mapping.
46406	TL 561 300	Hand Post Cottage; Cropmarks of former medieval field boundaries, visible on 1st edition OS mapping
Post-medieval remains (1500 –1900)		
209	TL 555 306	Amberden Hall and Moat; built c. 1560 but much altered
4651	TL 565 297	Sibleys House; Internal additions including staircase, upper floor added to the hall, NW wing altered and extended in 18 th /19 th century

35763	TL 568 307	Scots Farmhouse; Late 16 th century timber framed house.
35767	TL 563 298	Lovecott Farmhouse; C18 timber framed house
35768	TL 563 298	Handpost Cottage; 18 th century timber framed house
35771	TL 562 305	New Amberden Hall; Late 17 th century red brick house. Almost identical with nearby Thistley Hall (35757).
35781	TL 555 306	Amberden Hall; Mid 16 th century red brick house with 18 th /19 th century block on N front.
35782	TL 555 306	Outbuilding or chapel to E of Amberden Hall; Mid 16 th century brick building
35783	TL 555 306	Garden wall immediately to W and S of Amberden Hall; 16 th and 17 th century wall and gateway.
37508	TL 565 297	Barn W of Sibleys Farmhouse; Barn W of Sibleys Farmhouse
37510	TL 560 290	Springgate Cottage; 17 th century or earlier timber framed house
37516	TL 563 289	Chickney Green Cottage; 17 th century or earlier timber framed house.
Modern (1900- Present)		
10428	TL 562 307	Pillbox; N of New Amberden Hall
10430	TL 564 302	Pillbox (destroyed); Field No. 41, New Amberden Hall
10431	TL 562 305	Pillbox (destroyed); adj. New Amberden Hall
10433	TL 568 305	Pillbox (destroyed); W of Henham Road, Hamperden End
10434	TL 569 303	Pillbox; Staines Farm, Hamperden End
10435	TL 567 301	Pillbox; disused railway embankment, Hamperden End
10436	TL 568 296	Pillbox; E of Sibleys
10437	TL 564 294	Pillbox (destroyed); Field O.S. No. 10, Sibleys
10438	TL 566 294	Pillbox (destroyed); Field O.S. No. 11, Sibleys
40835	TL 572 292	Signpost at Cherry Green (aka Chaureth Green), junction to Boreham Hall Farm. Signpost. 1920s/1930s. Cast iron. Manufactured by Stanton of Derbyshire
46722	TL 561 300	Microwave Tower at Sibleys; Late 1960s (Cold War) microwave communications tower
Undated		
208	TL 555 306	Amberden Hall; Various finds from trenches for a new barn constructed at Amberden Hall, found by Mr Pelby of Swayne's Hall, Widdington.
18868	TL 567 292	Burns House, Chickney; Cropmarks
45288	TL 558 290	Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline- Site 52;

		Geophysical anomalies identified features and a ditch
45289	TL 558 290	Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline- Site 54; Geophysical survey picked up some small possible features and a ditch
45290	TL 560 289	Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline- Site 55; Geophysical anomalies comprised possible pits and some linear features
45570	TL 558 294	Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline- Site 53; The parish boundary between Debden and Henham is represented by a line of oaks marking a former field boundary. Excavation revealed 1 pit and 1 posthole-undated.
45593	TL 558 299	Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline- Site 110; 3 E-W undated ditches
46538	TL 555 299	Lovecotes Farm; Cropmark of possible enclosure

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Title	Scale	Location
1777	Chapman and Andre - Plate VII	2 inches : 1 mile	ERO
1838	Tithe Map	10 chains : 1 inch	ERO
1876-7	OS 1 st Edition XXIII	6"	ERO
1898	OS 2 nd Edition XIV SW	6"	ERO
1946-48	OS Edition Revision of 1916-19 with additions in 1946-48 n XXIV	6"	ERO

APPENDIX 3 TITHE APPORTIONMENT (1838)

Entry No.	Owner	Occupier(s)	Plot/field Name	Land Use	Area (a.r.p)
4	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	The Stow	P	8.2.15
5	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	Sibley's Farm Homestead	-	1.1.24
6	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	Purse Field	A	11.2.28
7	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	Barn Ley Pasture	P	6.0.0
8	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	Barn Ley Pasture	P	5.2.3
9	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	Gate Ley	P	11.2.22
10	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	The Grove	A	9.2.36
11	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	Great Stoney Field	A	18.1.33
12	Collin (Revd) J	Joyce, Thomas	Pasture by Camp	P	2.1.39

APPENDIX 4 LISTED BUILDING ENTRIES

BARN WEST OF SIBLEY'S FARMHOUSE

Grade II Listed

1. CHICKNEY Barn W of Sibley's Farmhouse TL52NE $\frac{3}{4}$ 20.2.67 GV II 2. Barn, large late C16, aisled, timber framed and weatherboarded, with plain red tile half hipped roof. 3 unusually long bays, with jowled main posts, arch braces to tie-beams and arcade plates, and arch braced side purlin roof. All high quality. 2 bay extension at north end, added in 1683, as inscribed on main post. Jowled main posts, and lodged side purlin roof. (RCHM5)

APPENDIX 5 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Sibleys Barn, Chickney Road, Henham, Saffron Walden, Essex
County: Essex	District: Uttlesford
Village/Town: Henham	Parish: Chickney
Planning application reference:	UTT/0527/09/FUL
Client name/address/tel:	De Vere Homes Ltd
Nature of application:	Conversion of agricultural buildings to residential use
Present land use:	Agricultural
Size of application area:	Size of area investigated
NGR (8 figures):	TL 565 297
Site Code:	SFHN10
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions
Type of work:	Historic building recording
Date of work:	23 rd February and 12 th March 2010
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Saffron Walden Museum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: 16 th , 17 th 18 th & 19 th centuries
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p><i>In February and March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of historic building recording to a listed barn and outbuilding at Sibleys Farm, Chickney Road, Henham, Essex (NGR TL 565 297). The historic building recording was carried out to comply with a planning condition to convert buildings to residential use.</i></p> <p><i>The analysis confirmed the findings of the list description. The barn originally had three bays with a narrower central bay framing a plain loading door. This was later raised in height and a second doorway created on the opposing wall. The framing on the long elevations was originally filled with wattle and daub panels, but these were later replaced with render and weather-boarding. In the later 17th century, the barn was extended by two further bays in broadly similar style, a 'terminus ante-quem' for which is provided by an inscribed date of 1683.</i></p> <p><i>Almost all the original timber-work of the late 16th century survives in remarkably good condition. Later intervention has been minimal but modern external repair is evident. The eastern extension has been affected by repair and remodelling to a greater degree, having lost the lower framing on two sides, though the original form can be reconstructed with confidence.</i></p> <p><i>The associated outbuilding is a late 18th or early 19th century cart-shed, built in oak and elm to a highly systematic construction. The use of cement in the lower areas has compromised the structural security of the building, and benign neglect has activated decay in the timbers.</i></p>
Author of summary: Lee Prosser	Date of Summary: 3.04.10

APPENDIX 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
Site Name: Sibleys Barn, Chickney Road, Henham, Saffron Walden, Essex					NGR: TL 565 297		
County: Essex				Museum Collecting Area: Saffron Walden			
Site Code: SFHN10				Project Number: P3816			
Date of Work: February / March 2010				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
February 2010		Yes		February 2010		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
Notes taken on site (9 pages A4)							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
n/a							
Architect's Drawings:							
Plans and elevations 8 sheets A3 – 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	
3514		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	10-15	Yes	Yes	1	7-14	Yes
2	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
3	120mm	1-3	Yes	Yes			
4	120mm	1-14	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, northern elevation, taken from the north (DP 7)



Plate 2 The barn, southern elevation, taken from the south (DP 1)



Plate 3 Barn midstrey, southern elevation, taken from the south (DP 3)



Plate 4 The barn, trusses 2 and 3, taken from the south-west (DP 37)



Plate 5 The barn, interior, Truss 2, jowled arcade post and associated members (DP 41)



Plate 6 The barn, truss 1, taken from the east (DP 26)



Plate 7 The barn, wall panel, bay 1, taken from the south (DP 32)



Plate 8 The barn, trusses 2 and 3, taken from the east (DP 31)



Plate 9 The barn, bay 2, taken from the south (DP 12)



Plate 10 The barn, bay 2, roof structure, taken from the south (DP 13)



Plate 11 The barn, main entrance, bay 2, taken from the north (DP 29)



Plate 12 The barn, threshing leap, eastern jamb of main entrance, taken from the south-west (DP 40)



Plate 13 The barn, truss 4, taken from the west (DP 25)



Plate 14 The barn, truss 4, original roof structure, taken from the west (DP 24)



Plate 15 The barn, bays 4 and 5, taken from the north-west (DP 21)



Plate 16 The barn, truss 5, taken from the south-west (DP 18)



Plate 17 The barn, graffiti carved into a post imbedded into the eastern gable end (Truss 6), 1683 M.B.I.B, taken from the south-west (DP 34)



Plate 18 The barn, interior, truss 6, upper register, taken from the west (DP 42)



Plate 19 The cart shed, western elevation, taken from the west (DP 5)



Plate 20 The cart shed, internal, eastern elevation, taken from the north-west (DP 10)



Plate 21 The cart shed, internal, northern gable end, taken from the south (DP 9)



Plate 22 The cart shed, internal, southern elevation, taken from the north-west (DP 11)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

The barn, southern elevation, taken from the south



2

Cart shed, eastern elevation, taken from the east



3

Barn midstrey, southern elevation, taken from the south



4

The cart shed, southern gable end, taken from the south-east



5

The cart shed, western elevation, taken from the west



6

Barn, eastern gable end, taken from the east



7

The barn, northern elevation, taken from the north



8

The barn, western gable end, taken from the north-east



9

The cart shed, internal, northern gable end, taken from the south



10

The cart shed, internal, eastern elevation, taken from the north-west



11

The cart shed, internal, southern elevation, taken from the north-west



12

The barn, bay 2, taken from the south



13

The barn, bay 2, roof structure, taken from the south



14

The barn, truss 2 and roof structure, taken from the east



15

The barn, truss 2, northern aisle, taken from the east



16

The barn, truss 3 and roof structure, taken from the west



17

The barn, bays 4 and 5, taken from the south-west



18

The barn, truss 5, taken from the south-west



19

The barn, trusses 4 and 5, taken from the east



20

The barn, truss 5 and bay 4, taken from the north-east



21

The barn, bays 4 and 5, taken from the north-west



22

The barn, truss 2, southern aisle, taken from the east



23

The barn, truss 3, southern aisle, taken from the west



24

The barn, truss 4, original roof structure, taken from the west



25

The barn, truss 4, taken from the west



26

The barn, truss 1, taken from the east



27

The barn, wall panel, bay 3, taken from the south



28

The barn, arcade plate and posts, bay 1, taken from the south-east



29

The barn, main entrance, bay 2, taken from the north



30

The barn, roof structure above main entrance, bay 2, taken from the north



31

The barn, trusses 2 and 3, taken from the east



32

The barn, wall panel, bay 1, taken from the south



33

The barn, truss 5 and roof structure, taken from the south-west



34

The barn, graffiti carved into a post imbedded into the eastern gable end (Truss 6), 1683 M.B.I.B., taken from the south-west



35

The barn, roof structure, bay 5, taken from the north-west



36

The barn, post imbedded into the eastern gable end with graffiti, truss 6, taken from the west



37

The barn, trusses 2 and 3, taken from the south-west



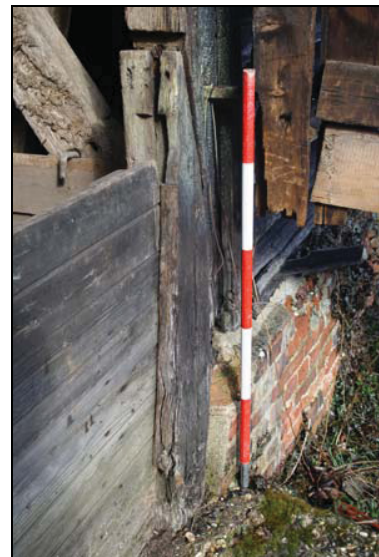
38

The barn, systematic wattle grooves along wall panel studwork, bay 3, taken from the south-west



39

The barn, systematic wattle holes along wall panel studwork, bay 1, taken from the north-east



40

The barn, threshing leap, eastern jamb of main entrance, taken from the south-west



41

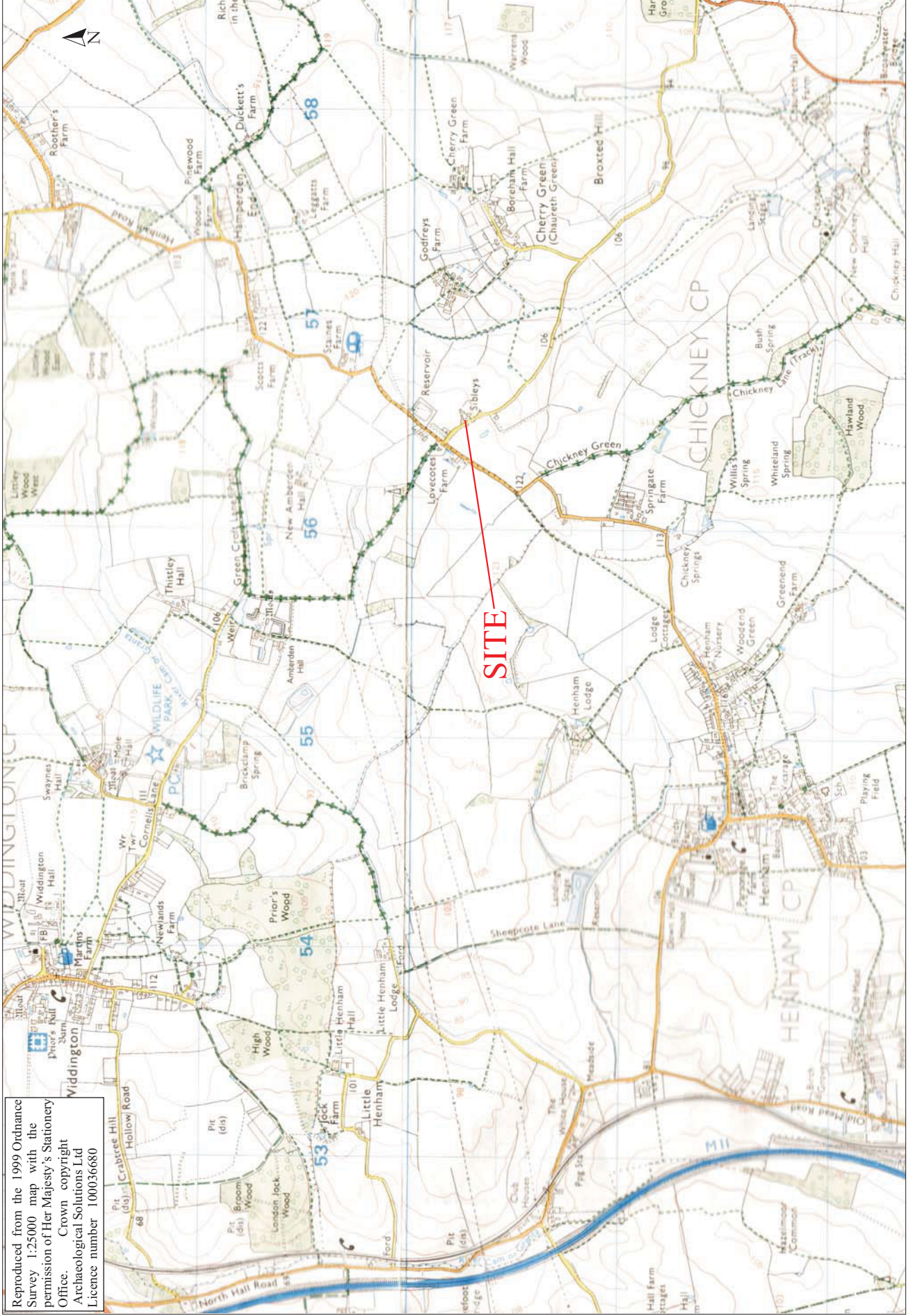
The barn, interior, truss 2, jowled arcade post and associated members, taken from the south-east



42

The barn, interior, truss 6, upper register, taken from the west

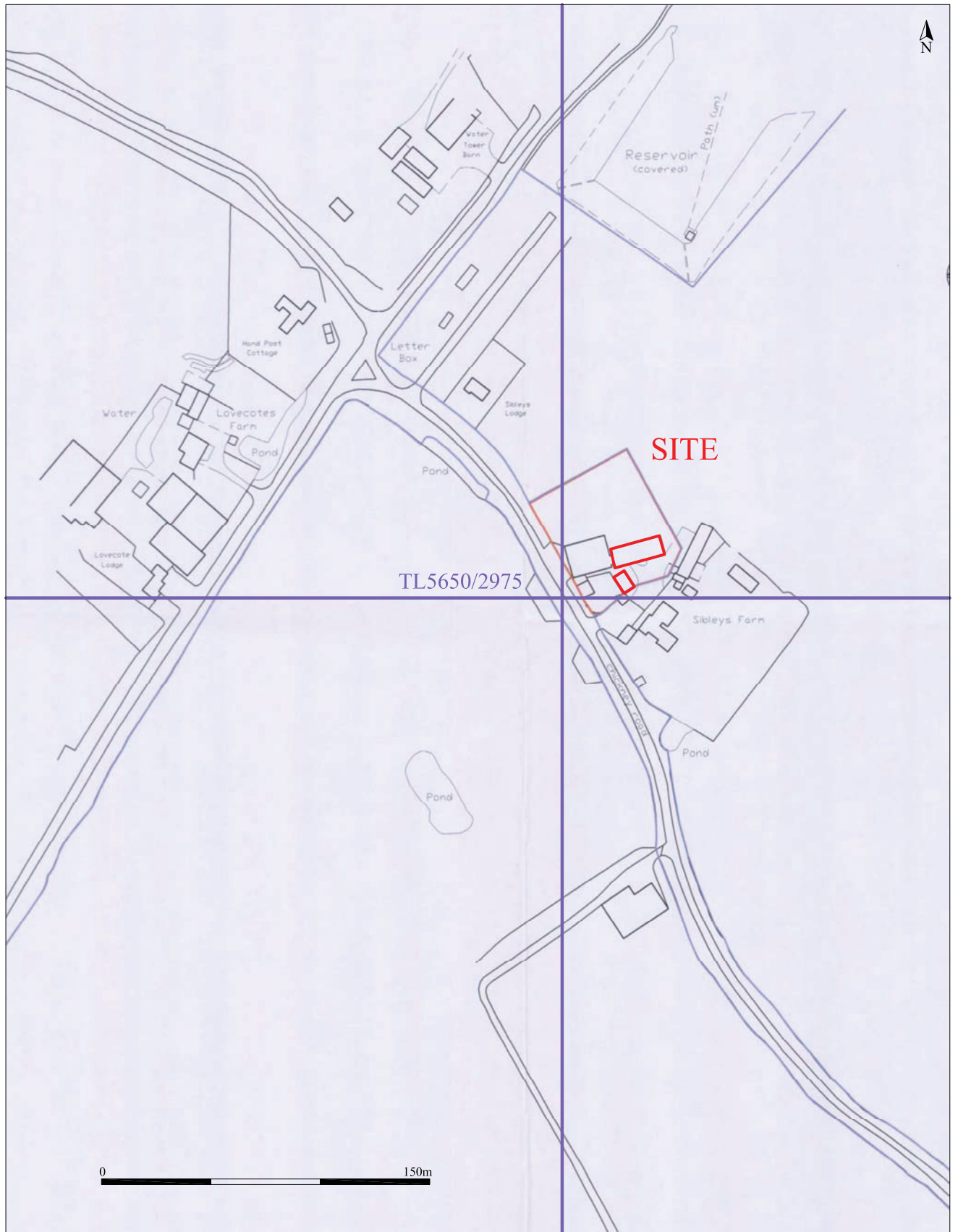
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

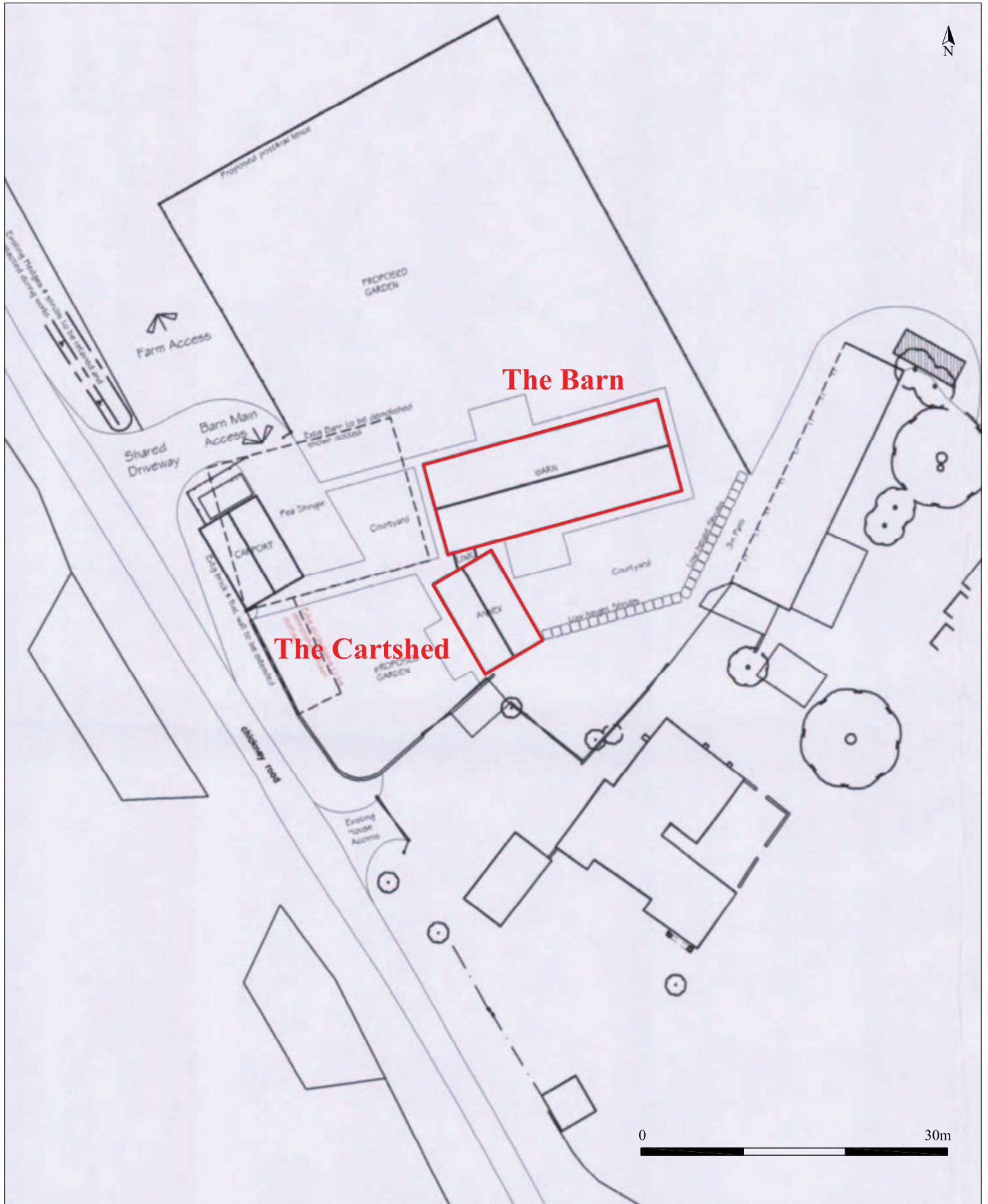
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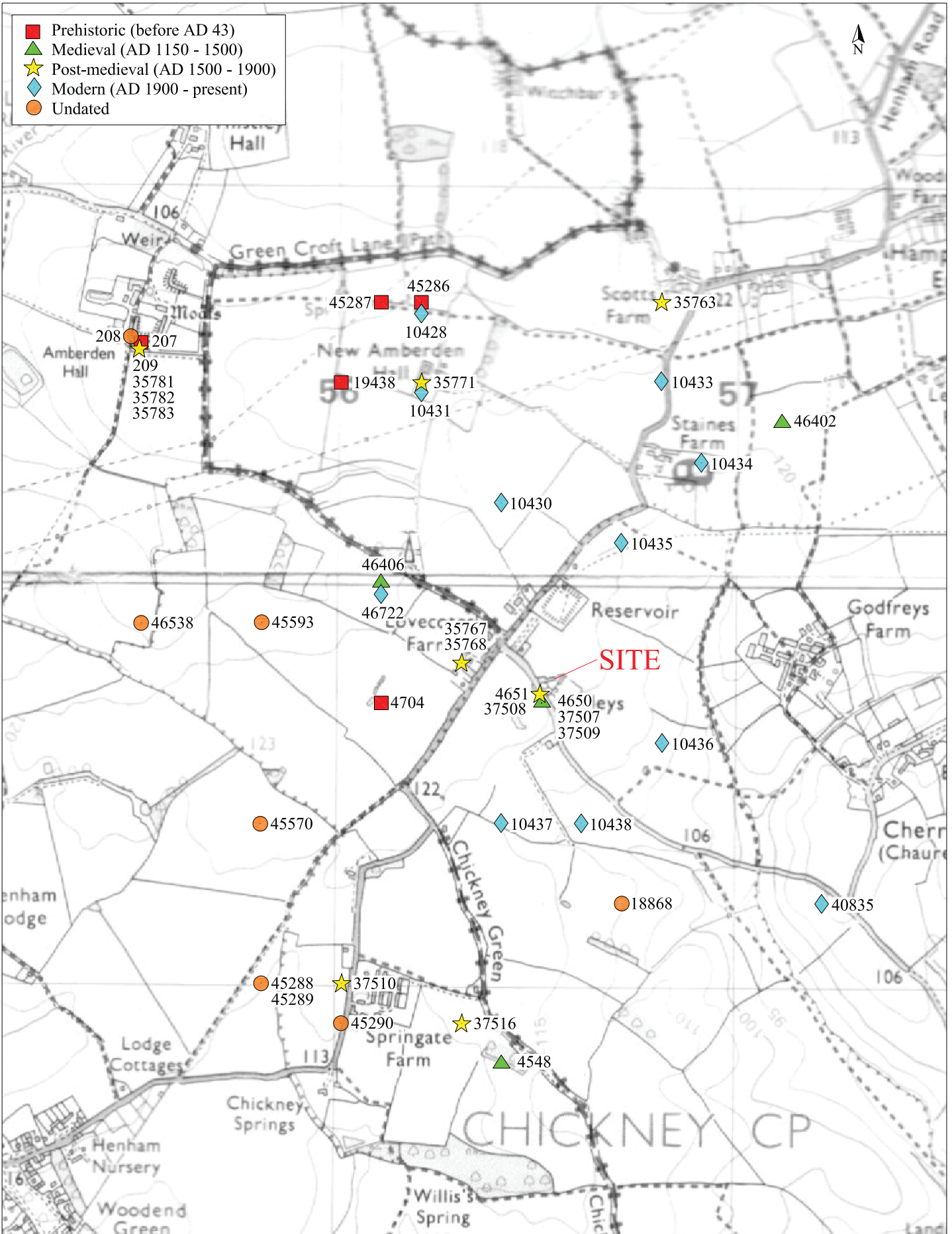
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:2500 at A4



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Fig. 3 Buildings location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



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Fig. 4 HER data

Scale 1:12,500 at A4



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Fig. 5 Chapman & Andre, 1777
Not to scale



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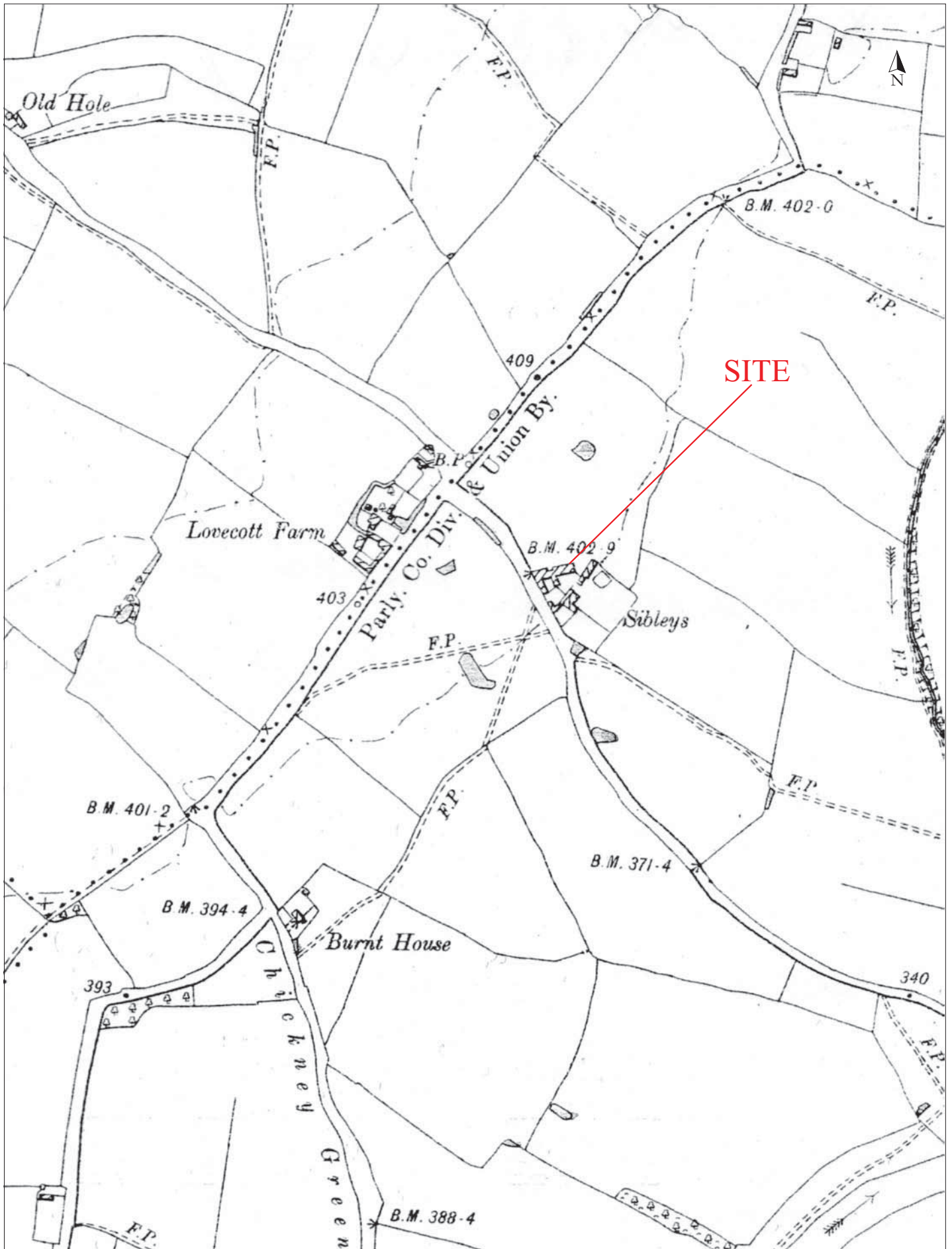
Fig. 6 Tithe map, 1838

Not to scale



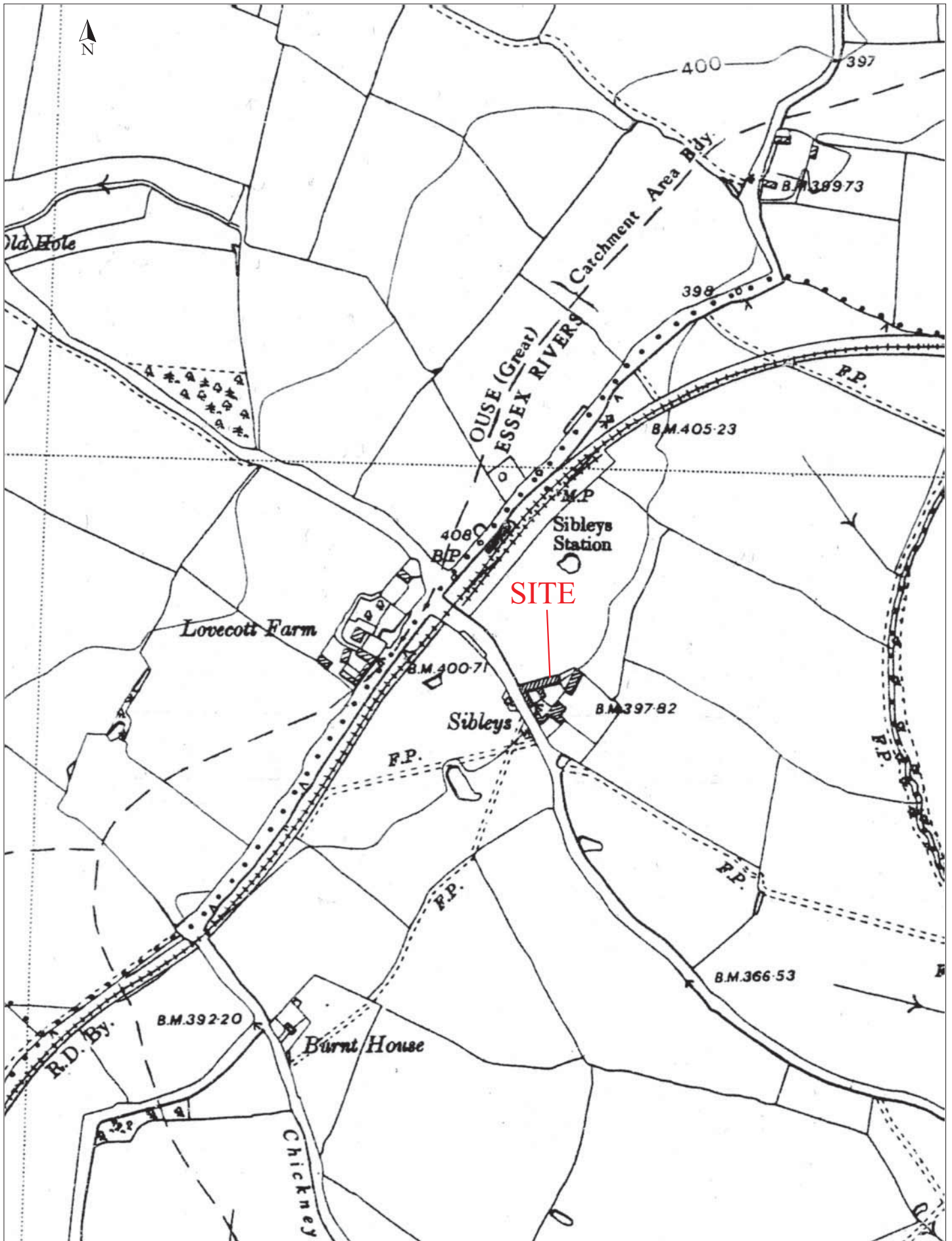
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 Fig. 7 OS map, 1876
 Scale 12 inches to 1 mile at A4



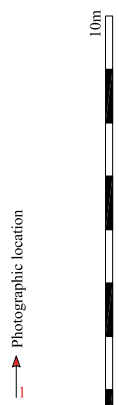
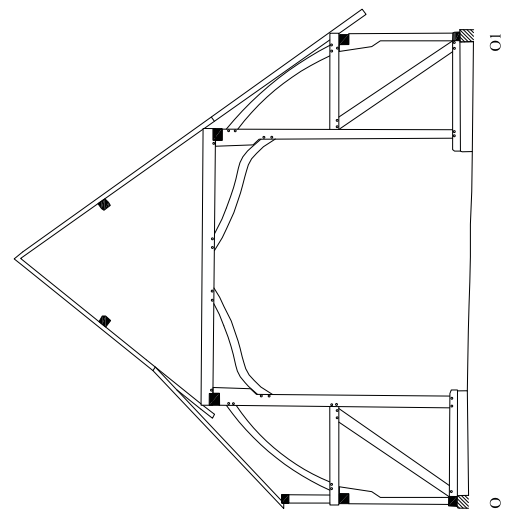
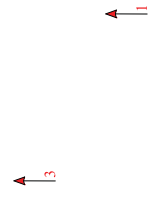
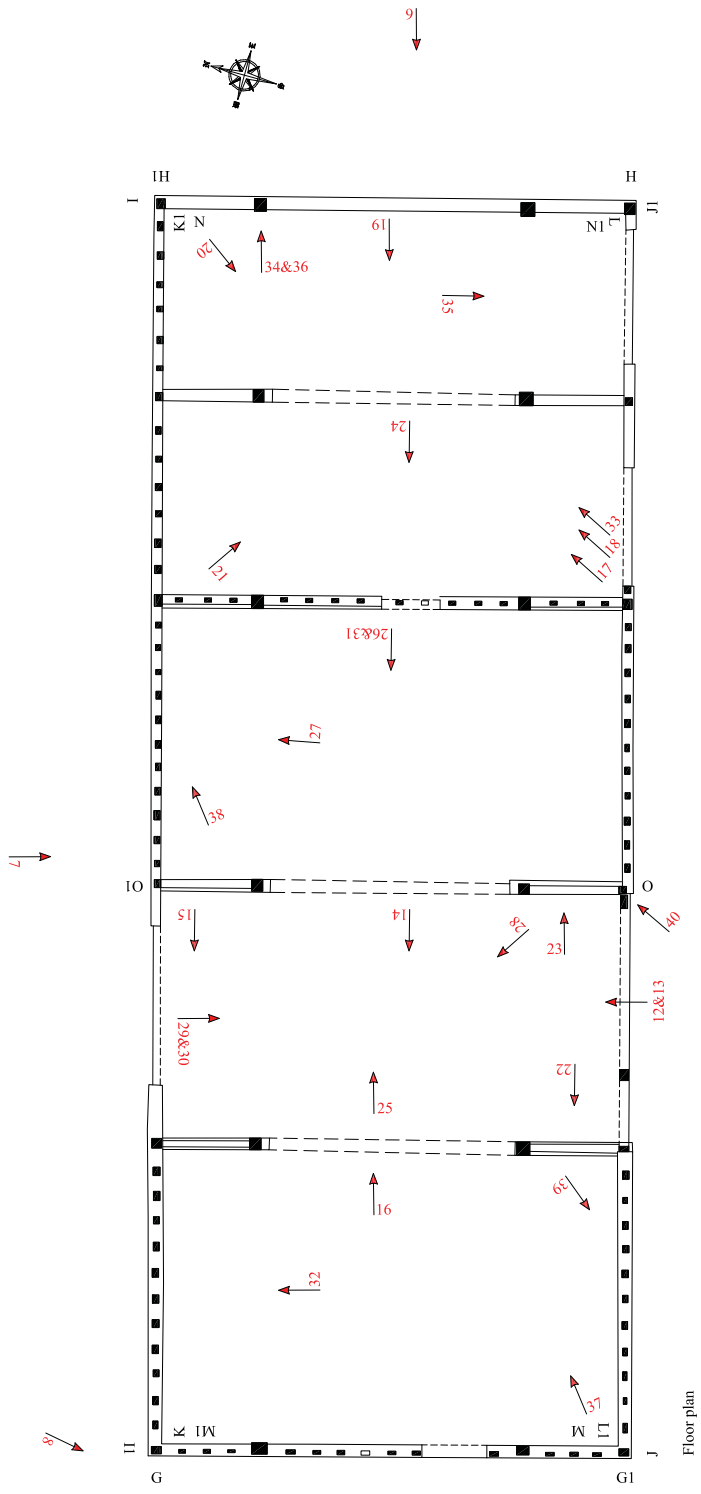
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Fig. 8 OS map, 1898
 Scale 12 inches to 1 mile at A4

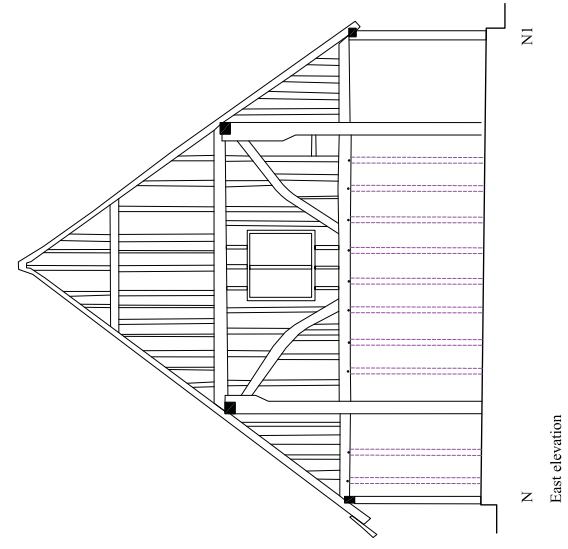
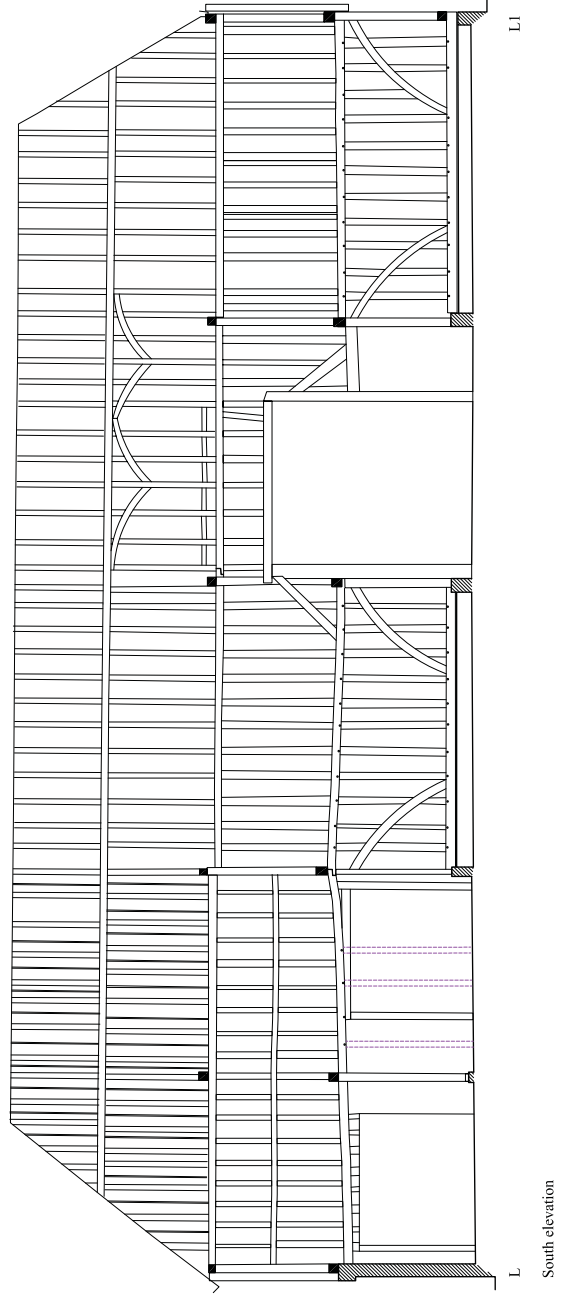
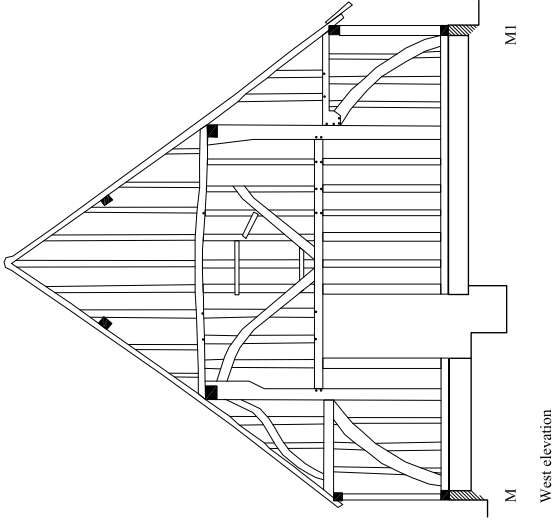
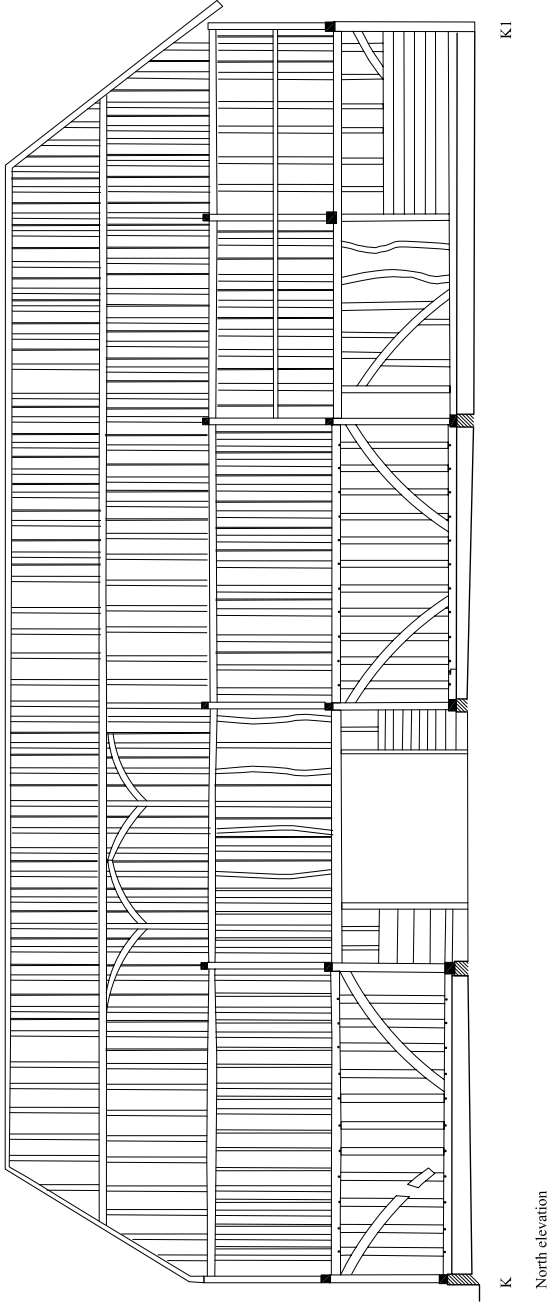


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 Fig. 9 OS map, 1946
 Scale 12 inches to 1 mile at A4

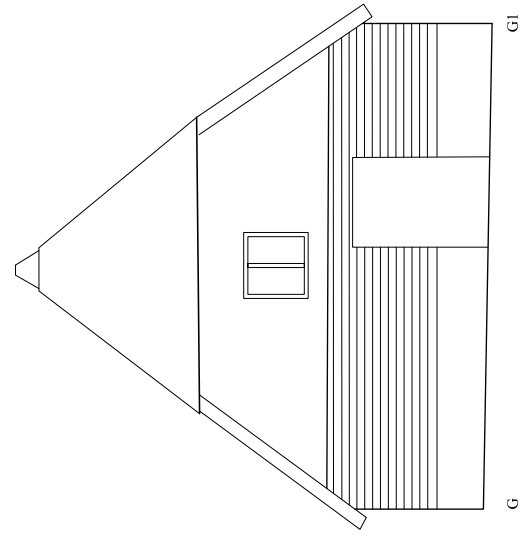


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Fig. 10 Plan & section of barn
 Scale 1:100 at A3

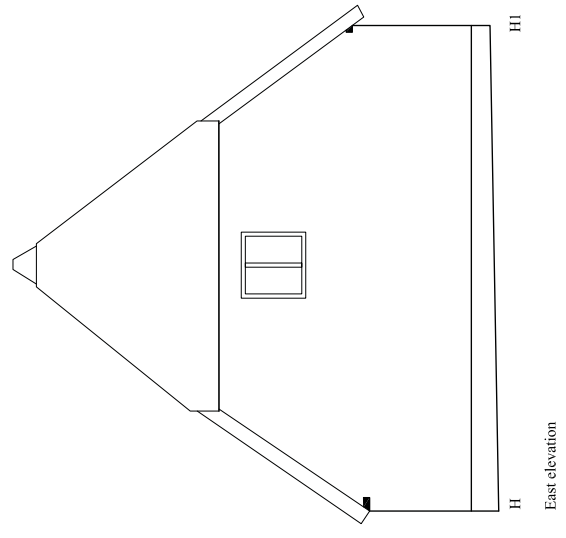


Studs removed

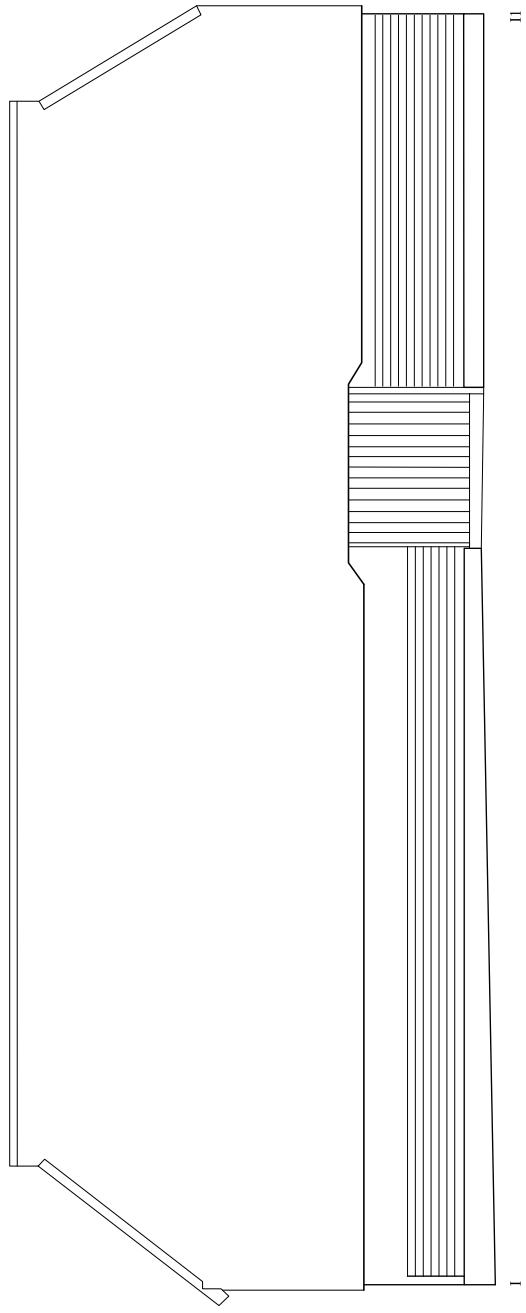




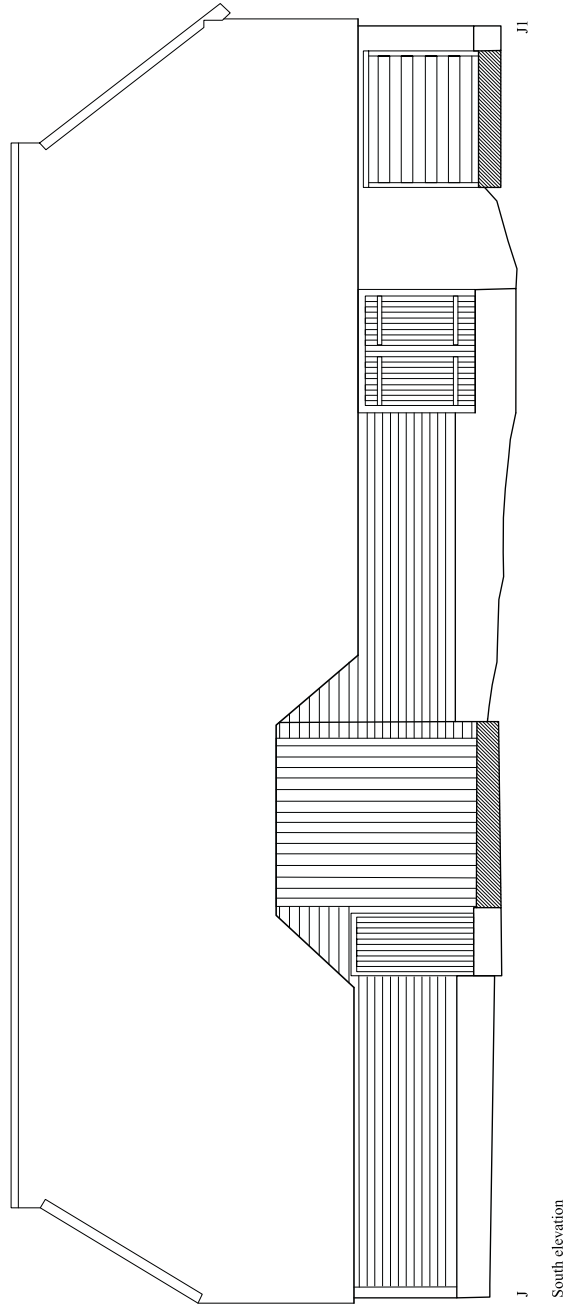
G
West elevation



H
East elevation

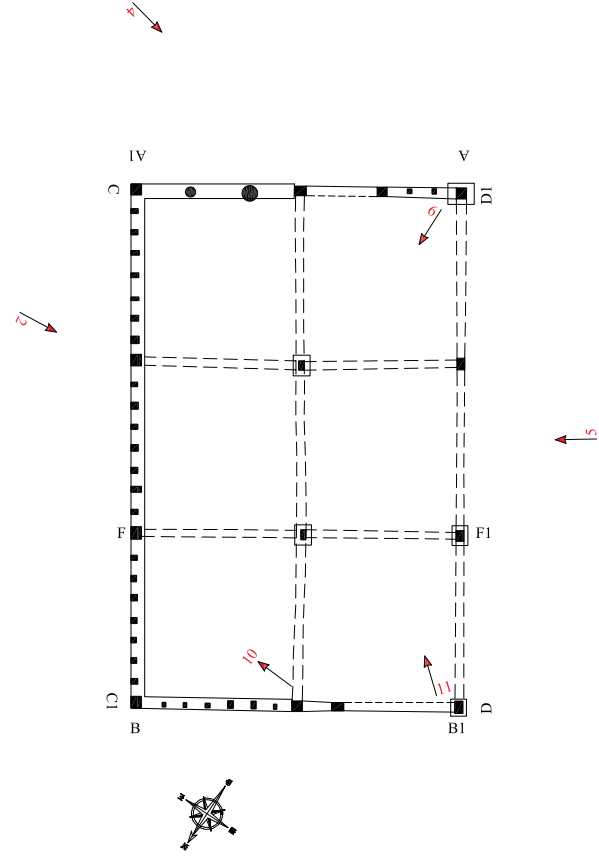
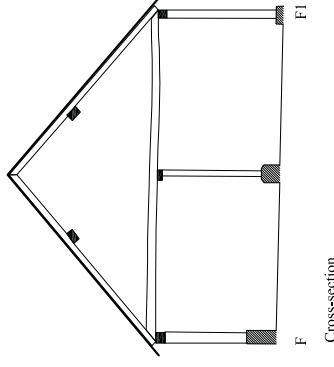
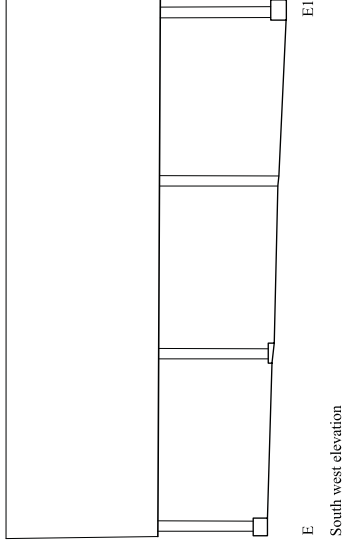
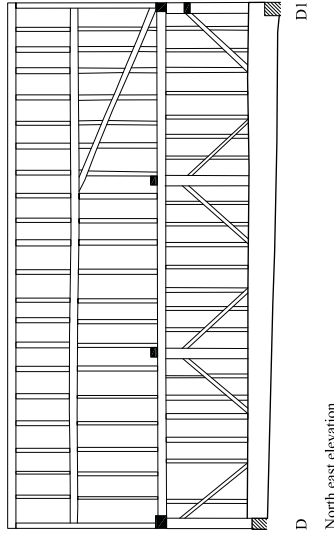
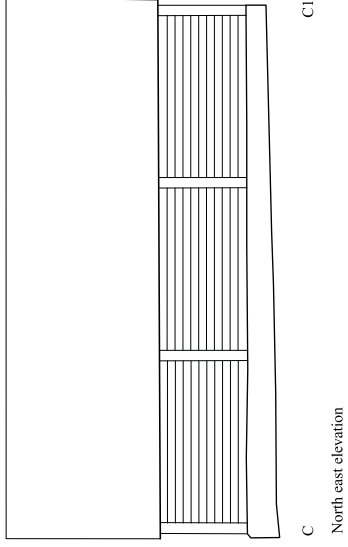
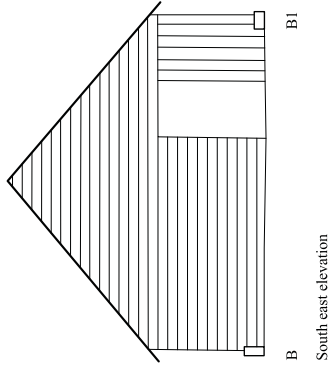
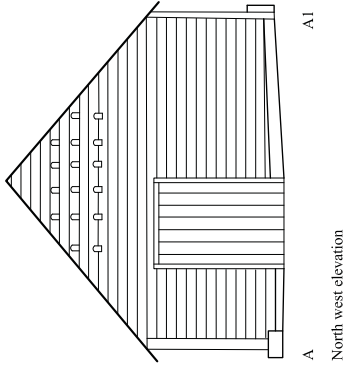


I
North elevation



J
South elevation





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Fig. 13 The cart shed
 Scale 1:100 at A3