
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**BARN AT TILE KILN FARM, A1017,
SIBLE HEDINGHAM, ESSEX**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Level 3

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NGR: TL 78624 32024	Report No. 3655
District: Braintree	Site Code: TKSH10
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MIFA	Date: October 2010
Signed:	

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Project name	<i>Barn At Tile Kiln Farm, A1017, Sible Hedingham, Essex. Historic Building Recording. Level 3.</i>		
<i>Summary</i>			
<p><i>In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted historic building recording of a Grade II listed barn at Tile Kiln Farm, Sible Hedingham, Essex (NGR TL 78624 32024). The work was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to approval to convert the barn to residential use including living/work office space (Braintree Planning Ref. 09/00186/LBC & 09/00187/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>Technical analysis suggests that the barn dates from the early 17th century, and preserves several diagnostic features which indicate a fairly narrow date range. It is typical of its time, and distinguished by the proportion of the original frame, including the lesser timbers, which survive intact. An adjoining outshut may be broadly contemporary, but is of much poorer quality and with a higher degree of replacement. An adjoining piggery, now partly ruinous, was probably constructed in the early 19th century.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>5th October 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>?</i>
P. number	<i>4067</i>	Site code	<i>TKSH10</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II Listed barn</i>		
Current land use	<i>Disused agricultural barn & former piggery</i>		
Planned development	<i>Conversion to residential and home office use</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Early to mid 17th century barn, 19th century piggery</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)			
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Braintree</i>	<i>Sible Hedingham</i>
HER for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CO9 3RL</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 0.29ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 78624 32024</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>c. 80m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>ECC HEM</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr P Sarel</i>		
Full title	<i>Barn At Tile Kiln Farm, A1017, Sible Hedingham, Essex. Historic Building Recording. Level 3.</i>		
Authors	<i>Prosser, L. Smith, L. Higgs, K, & Henry, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3655</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2010</i>		

BARN AT TILE KILN FARM, A1017, SIBLE HEDINGHAM,
ESSEX

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Level 3

SUMMARY

In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an historic building recording project on a Grade II listed barn at Tile Kiln Farm, Sible Hedingham, Essex (NGR TL 78624 32024). The work was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to approval to convert the barn to residential use including living/work office space (Braintree Planning Ref. 09/00186/LBC & 09/00187/FUL).

Technical analysis suggests that the barn dates from the early 17th century, and preserves several diagnostic features which indicate a fairly narrow date range. It is typical of its time, and distinguished by the proportion of the original frame, including the lesser timbers, which survive intact. An adjoining outshut may be broadly contemporary, but is of much poorer quality and with a higher degree of replacement. An adjoining piggery, now partly ruinous, was probably constructed in the early 19th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted programme of historic building recording of farm buildings at Tile Kiln Farm, A1017, Sible Hedingham, Essex (NGR TL 78624 32024; Figs. 1 & 2). The recording was commissioned by Mr Paul Sarel and carried out in advance of the conversion of a listed barn to form a new dwelling including living/work office space (Braintree Planning Refs. 09/00186/LBC & 09/00187/FUL). It was undertaken according to a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM; Ms. Teresa O'Connor, dated September 2010).

1.2 The recording was carried out to Level 3 as defined in the English Heritage document *Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good recording practice*, 2006 and the RCHME *Recording historic buildings: a descriptive specification 3rd edition*, 1996. It was also carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (revised 2008). The relevant sections of *Standards for field archaeology in the east of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Paper 14/ALGAO (Gurney 2003) and the IfA *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessments* (revised 2008) were also followed.

1.3 The objectives of the historic building recording were:

- to compile a high quality record of the structures proposed for conversion, in order to understand the form, function, evolution, and any remaining architectural/technological embellishment of the building/s. Existing plans will be collated and form the baseline survey, and
- 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 recording in context.

Planning Context

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

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

2.1 Tile Kiln Farm is located approximately 2 km south, south-east of Sible Hedingham, which lies within the district of Braintree, Essex (Fig. 1). The settlement of Castle Hedingham is situated 3.5km to the north while the town of Halstead is located 3km to the south-east. The site lies on the eastern side of the A1017 Gosfield Road.

2.2 The assessment buildings comprise a Grade II listed barn and a former piggery which were once part of the farm (Fig. 2). The buildings stand on a small irregular plot covering an area of c. 0.29 hectares. To the immediate west is a row of former farm cottages, which have been converted into a residential property known as Maynards, whilst Tile Kiln farmhouse and modern steel-framed agricultural buildings stand to the east. Open farmland lies to the immediate north, west and beyond the piggery buildings to the south.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds in the area is the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the EHER database was searched for all known entries within a 1km radius of the site. Entries within this approximate 1km radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1, and plotted in Fig. 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 5.

3.2 Historical & cartographic documents

3.2.1 The principal source for maps and primary documentary sources was the Essex Record Office (ERO) in Chelmsford. All available material regarding the study area and the buildings was consulted, has been listed in Appendix 1, and where relevant, reproduced as Figs. 4 - 7.

3.3 Secondary sources

3.3.1 The principal source for secondary material was the Essex Record Office (ERO) in Chelmsford, as well as the library resources at AS. Sources have been referenced appropriately in the bibliography.

3.4 The buildings

3.4.1 The site was visited on 5th October 2010 in order to compile the description of the building and undertake the drawing and photographic work. The written description and photographic recording was carried out by Lee Prosser and Lisa Smith, and the drawing work was completed by Kathren Henry. Floor plans, sections and elevations based upon drawings provided by the client are included with annotations (Figs. 8 & 9).

3.4.2 The photographic recording was conducted using medium format (4.5 x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera with 62mm lens and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 film. Finer architectural detail was captured using 35mm black and white film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000D digital camera (10 megapixels), duplicating the black and white photography. Supplementary colour photography was captured on 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency film. 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. 8).

4 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS

4.1 The site lies in the northern part of Essex (Fig. 1) which remains overwhelmingly agricultural, comprising large, irregularly-shaped arable fields, with scarce woodland coverts such as Broak's Wood and Shallowe's Wood 1km to the south-south-east. The local height is about 80m AOD with slightly sloping relief to 76m AOD on Gosfield Road 50m to the north-west. The river Colne flows some 1.3 km to the east, on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment, with small tributaries and springs in the immediate vicinity of the farm. The area lies on a solid geology of Eocene London Clay Formation (BGS 1997) overlain by glacio-fluvial drift. The site also lies on the cusp of two soil associations, with Ludford Association soils to the north, and Hornbeam 3 Association soils to the south (SSEW 1983).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Prehistoric & Romano-British

5.1.1 Relatively little is known of the prehistory of the Sible Hedingham area and very little recent archaeological work is known in the area. Prehistoric artefacts are recorded nearby, including a flint scraper found in a trench at Acacia House and in the immediate vicinity of the farm (EHER 6550 - MEX21933). Worked flints were also found during the excavation of a medieval pottery kiln at Hole Farm 350m to the west (EHER 6844 - MEX22556), whilst a single flake likely to date to the later Neolithic or Bronze Age periods was found in Broak's Wood 950m to the south-east (EHER 46316 - MEX1038858).

5.1.2 Romano-British remains are also sparse. The presence of Roman pottery sherds at Foxborough Hill Farm and Baker's Farm (EHERs 6843 - MEX22552 & 6850 - MEX22581) attest to a Roman presence in the area, while the possible course of a Roman road forming part of a route from Chelmsford to Ixworth is judged to lie 1km to the south-east (EHER 7354 - MEX23971). More concrete Romano-British evidence includes a 1st century pottery kiln at Hole Farm, a possible Roman occupation layer at Foxborough Hill Farm and a Roman ditch and pit recorded 1.5km to the north-east (EHERs 6846 - MEX22573, 6856 - MEX22607 & 45360 - MEX1036385). Local history sources also suggest that Roman brick tiles are incorporated in the construction of St Peter's Church in Sible Hedingham (Corder-Birch 1988; Sible Hedingham website).

5.2 Anglo-Saxon & medieval

5.2.1 The Anglo-Saxon history of the area remains relatively unexplored, yet it is known that Saxon settlement in Essex was predominantly concentrated along the river valleys (Darby 1971) such as the river Colne. No Anglo-Saxon remains are recorded in proximity to the site and the mention of the manor of Hedingham, which was granted to Aubrey de Vere in the Domesday Book of

1086 refers to the historically more significant settlement of Castle Hedingham located 3.5km to the north (Powell 1983).

5.2.2 Sible Hedingham appears to have been established in the medieval period as a lesser or dependent settlement of neighbouring Castle Hedingham, but probably carved from the same, large estate. Extant medieval structures include the 14th century St Peter's Church, whilst a large number of medieval finds spots are recorded in the area surrounding the site (Appendix 1 below). All of the medieval remains relate to the important mid 12th – 14th century Hedingham pottery industry, which may have been founded by the de Veres (Powell 1983; Corder-Birch 1988; Sible Hedingham website). Several production sites have been found to the south of Castle Hedingham, mostly in a roughly triangular area around Sible Hedingham, Gosfield and Halstead and include a mid 13th century kiln found in trench at Acacia House and in the immediate vicinity of Tile Kiln Farm (EHER 6549 - MEX21932).

5.3 Post-medieval & later

5.3.1 The Hedingham pottery industry had fallen into decline by the post-medieval period, although there was a single-handed attempt to revive the industry in 1837. In general, the Sible and Castle Hedingham area fell into decline in the post-medieval period, with most of the castle buildings systematically demolished in the 16th and 17th centuries. Although Sible Hedingham has remained predominantly agricultural into the 21st century, the cloth trade was a principal employer until the late 18th century, when it was succeeded by straw plaiting (Corder-Birch 1988). Only limited post-medieval remains are recorded in the area, but include the assessment building (EHER 29119 - MEX1004502).

5.3.2 In the modern period, Sible Hedingham has grown in size to eclipse Castle Hedingham. The local brickmaking and woodworking industries were improved by the arrival of the railway in 1861, although the town is the last documented place in Essex where hops were grown (Powell 1983). Early modern and later remains are known, including a dwelling at Southey Green 1km to the west-south-west (Appendix 1 below). The railway at Sible Hedingham was closed down under Dr. Beeching in the 1960s, but was partly incorporated into the Colne Valley Steam Railway tourist attraction at Castle Hedingham (Corder-Birch 1988).

5.4 The site

5.4.1 The site comprises a Grade II listed barn and an adjoining, partly ruinous, former piggery. The farmhouse, which lies nearby, has been rebuilt. The List Description (Appendix 3 below) attributes a late 16th - early 17th century date for the barn (LBO No. 114739).

5.4.2 No relevant documents concerning the site were found at the Essex Record Office (ERO) in Chelmsford and relatively little is known of the barn and its associated farm buildings. Local history sources have suggested that

Tile Kiln Farm was once part of Hole Farm, located 350m to the west, and may have acquired its name from the kilns that formed the Hedingham pottery industry (Corder-Birch 1988). It is also suggested that Tile Kiln Farm includes a field called '*Boleyns*', which has regularly revealed building rubble and is said to have contained a manor house once belonging to Anne Boleyn's father (*ibid.*). No reference could be found to Tile Kiln Farm in any relevant historical directories.

5.4.3 The parish tithe map, which dates to 1840, is the earliest known cartographic source to depict the site in any significant detail (Ref. D/CT 174B; Fig. 4). At that time, the site was occupied by an L-shaped structure with a similar footprint as the extant barn and the adjoining piggery whilst to the immediate north-west a second range probably formed the farm cottages. The site was then owned by the Ironmongers Company and occupied by David Rist, who resided at Hole Farm (Ref. D/CT 174A; Appendix 4). The site and a small section of land to the north-west were described as '*Tile Kiln Yard*' and covered an area of 1 rood and 2 perches.

5.4.4 Late 19th and early 20th century cartographic sources show very little change or development to either the site itself or the surrounding area. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876, however, does reveal that the former piggery forming the northern arm of the extant barn was built as a separate structure (Fig. 5). The subsequent 2nd and 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1897 and 1923 respectively, show no further development (Figs. 6 & 7).

5.4.5 The proposed development for the site includes the conversion of the listed barn to form a new dwelling including living/work office space (Braintree Planning Refs. 09/00186/LBC & 09/00187/FUL). The planning proposal will thus affect farm buildings of historic and architectural interest, and which is deemed to be as 'good for its type' and has survived well. Recent work (Brown & Glazebrook 2000) states that the East Anglian farmstead (1750 - 1914) is a crucial, but understudied component of the East Anglian landscape. These structures are therefore important and need to be recorded in order to preserve by record their history prior to conversion. The proposed development will comprise only minor changes to the physical structure of the barn.

6 THE BUILDING (Fig. 8 & 9)

Exterior

6.1 The barn stands in a dilapidated state on a small plot of land including a yard with modern farm buildings associated with the farm house (Plate 1). It is orientated north-west to south-east, but for ease of description, is considered to be east-west in the description below. The building has five bays with a central porch on the north and an adjoining outshut to its west, all weather-boarded (Plate 2). A large central entrance on the south now forms the principal access. The original roof has been replaced with corrugated

sheet metal and the two-leaf door on the south is modern and now in very poor condition. A second, smaller two-leaf door gives access to the porch with an additional side door to the east. A doorway leads into the outshut from the north but its door has been removed. A ruinous animal byre (the piggery) extends to the north but is structurally separate (Plate 3).

6.2 The external softwood weatherboarding has been smothered with tar preservative but has nonetheless perished in places, particularly on the northern side where the timber frame has clearly been exposed to the elements. The cladding rises from a low dwarf wall with red brickwork of probable 19th century date (measuring 8½" x 4" x 2¾").

Interior

6.3 Despite recent neglect, the timber frame is well preserved, highly regular and systematic, with most original oak members present. A few softwood replacements are noted below. The original central threshing floor remains defined by a brickwork border, but concrete has been laid over most of the barn.

6.4 The five bay division trusses are identical and comprise slightly splay-cut, jowled principal posts with long, slender braces to tie-beams and raking queen struts rising to principal rafters (Plate 4). A collar is also preserved above a series of butted side purlins which have a regular arrangement of common rafters in two flights pegged to the purlins. Slender straight wind braces are present in the end bays on the south side only.

6.5 The bay panels to the walls are standard in form with robust in-line mid-rails framing tall lower registers and shorter upper sections. The common studwork varies slightly from bay to bay, but the end panels are primary-braced.

West gable end

6.6 The western gable preserves its sole-plate, a central prick-post, splay-cut corner posts and in-line mid-rails, though the north-western corner post is obscured. The lower south panel is intact with five common studs with downward bracing from the corner post. The northern panel shows many softwood replacements with only one original surviving stud. Redundant mortices suggest that the mid-rail and many of the studs are re-used.

6.7 The upper register is obscured by modern plywood boarding while the gable is obscured by an inserted loft, though original studwork is discernable.

Bay 1

6.8 The north wall retains its original sole-plate with braced studs pegged above and below a mid-rail. Three common studs are primary-braced from the corner post though the brace itself and lower nailed-on studs are softwood replacements. The adjoining three full-height oak studs are pegged

to the mid-rail. As this panel is protected by the outshut, original oak and elm weather boarding with some lath and plaster cladding is preserved to the external face. The upper register is obscured by plywood boarding but the pattern of peg holes in the mid-rail suggests a similar bracing system.

6.9 The south wall is similar in construction with six studs, two of which have been replaced. Here all members are pegged to the mid-rail. The upper register is obscured as above.

6.10 Six common rafters below the purlin have corresponding upper flights on the north side, but the south pitch has a seventh upper rafter, creating a slight off-set to their lower counterparts. The south pitch also preserves a single wind brace with a mortice for its adjoining, lost member.

Bay 2

6.11 All members on the north side of bay 2 are original, with seven lower common studs (some re-used) and obscured upper studs, probably primary-braced and in-line as indicated by peg holes (Plate 5). The wall-plates are joined with face-halved and bladed scarfs, double-pegged and additionally strengthened by a coach bolt.

6.12 The south panel has been much modified, with the sole-plate lost or entombed in modern concrete. Six original studs survive but the mid-rail shows some signs of decay. The upper register is obscured as before though the peg holes indicate in-line members as elsewhere. The wall-plate is scarfed, as above.

6.13 There are six rafters in each flight but the upper flight on the south has an additional rafter as in Bay 1.

Bay 3

6.14 The central bay has the porch to the north. The south wall is much modified and was probably originally a low threshing aperture, though only on the eastern principal post can the redundant mid-rail mortice be seen. The tie-beam is scarfed and preserves redundant mortices for common studs. Later, secondary softwood jambs and short packing pieces were inserted for larger doors. The existing doors are in poor condition and of no historical interest.

The porch

6.15 The porch (Plate 6) is clearly original to the frame, as the tie-beams at the bay division sail over the principal posts to become wall-plates and are scarfed to short pieces completing the wall. The area preserves sole-plates and mid-rails on both sides. On the west, two studs have been removed to insert a later door to the outshut, though this is probably of late 17th or early 18th century date, with bead-moulded softwood boards, ledged to the rear and hung on an upper strap-hinge with a pintle and a lower conventional strap

hinge replacing earlier ironwork. The remaining adjoining section of wall is primary-braced and clad with lower internal planking, also preserving formerly external boarding within the outshut. The upper register is obscured but four studs are visible with a probable downward brace from the principal post.

6.16 The eastern wall is similar in construction, having an external doorway, though the door here is a modern replacement. Robust common studwork survives in the lower register and original primary-braced studwork in the upper register as on the west.

6.17 The porch gable now frames a fairly low pair of modern boarded softwood doors. These may be a later addition as they are framed by an inserted lintel of reused timber, supported by secondary internal oak jambs. The original posts rise to full height where delicate curved braces support the tie-beam. The upper register is now in-filled with nailed-on studs, some reused. The original jambs retain slots for locking bars but the later inserted jambs are associated with a threshing slot so are probably of some age.

6.18 Five rafters on the south pitch rise in-line in two flights as elsewhere. The north has six rafters, though a single example is lost. The porch roof is hipped and all appears to be intact including three little pegged collars for added strength.

Bay 4

6.19 The north wall preserves all original members. The sole-plate is slightly decayed but six original lower studs and their upper counterparts are present, with a short downward brace from the west corner post. The wall-plate is scarfed.

6.20 The south sole-plate is lost or entombed within modern concrete. Five original studs with corresponding upper studwork survive, unbraced.

6.21 The roof construction consists of six rafters in two flights to each pitch; all original.

Bay 5

6.22 The north wall preserves its sole-plate with six lower studs, primary-braced from the corner post. The upper register is primary-braced from both sides.

6.23 The south wall is similar but in poor condition with the sole-plate encased in cement like the adjoining area. This has accelerated decay to the studwork, though the western stud has been truncated to accommodate a doorway which is now blocked (Plate 7). The upper register is regular with primary-braced studwork; a single member has been replaced. The roof is as before, having all well-preserved members with pegged wind-braces on the south.

Eastern gable end

6.24 The sole-plate on the east gable is higher than its counterparts elsewhere, and has probably been raised and replaced, presumably when the existing 19th century brick dwarf wall was constructed. The central prick-post and mid-rails are original but most of the common studwork has probably been replaced. The lower studs are braced from the central post while the upper panels have downward braces from the outer corners. The gable has two collars with a regular arrangement of studs between.

The outshut

6.25 The floor of the outshut lies at a lower level to the barn. Access is given from the western wall of the porch and an external door. Structurally, the range has little merit, and appears to have been added by nailing a wooden bracket to the main body of the barn and supporting it with iron strapping. Most of the timber appears waney and of variable quality with much reuse, but constructed simply with a series of common studs of various sizes forming the external wall surface. These are now partly encased at lower level by cement.

6.26 The addition of the outshut has been beneficial in preserving some original external cladding to the main barn (Plate 8). This follows the traditional East Anglian pattern of upper plasterwork with lower weatherboarding. The existing boards are hand-sawn oak or elm but applied as butted boards and not overlapped as proper weather-proofing, suggesting that the outshut is contemporary. The upper plasterwork has mostly been removed, though the laths survive extensively.

6.27 The roof of the outshut has corrugated sheeting, as the main barn.

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

Principal post	8" x 8" (203mm x 203mm)
Sole-plate	9" x 7" (229mm x 178mm)
Mid-rail	7½" x 7" (190mm x 178mm)
Common stud	5" x 3½" (127mm x 89mm)
Tie-beam brace	8" x 3" (203mm x 76mm)
Wall-plate	7" x 7" (178mm x 178mm)
Tie-beam	9" x 8" (229mm x 203mm)
Primary brace	4" x 4" (102mm x 102mm)
Peg size	¾" (19mm)

6.29 Some assembly marking is present though is distributed fairly haphazardly. Visibility is limited by later timbers nailed over crucial areas but a chiselled 'II' can be seen on the eastern face of the principal and the brace between bays 1 and 2. The eastern wall-plate of the porch and principal also display a 'II'. The western face of the principal and brace between bays four and five have an 'XI'.

6.30 The use of pegs in jointing is also not consistent. Most of the braces are triple-pegged to the tie-beam but this is not always the case. The mid-rails are single-pegged to the principals in most cases, but occasional double-pegging can be seen.

Animal Byre

6.31 The animal byre abuts the outshut and is partly ruinous, but it remains open-fronted on the east with much modification elsewhere. Internally it retains fragments of a coherent five-bay structure, probably of 19th century date, with a fairly slender frame of oak and softwood, especial care having been taken to use the best timber for the wall-plates and principal posts (Plate 9). The rear wall panels are in poor condition. Two have partially collapsed while a third has been replaced by brick and concrete. One panel is complete, and has slender, primary-braced slender studwork. Internal stall partitions with horizontal boarding survive and are most probably original.

6.32 The roof is highly variable, with much evidence of repair. Two tie-beams are braced to the principals; the roof is of clasped side-purlin form with five rafters per bay, hipped at the northern end. The original tiles have been replaced with corrugated sheet metal as on the barn.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Like many agricultural buildings adapted in the 1950s and '60s which then suffered redundancy, the barn presents a fairly unprepossessing external appearance; decaying weather-boarding, completely lost in places, tin roof and doors hanging off their hinges create an image of decline and neglect. However, internally, the frame remains remarkably well preserved, and is distinguished by its systematic construction and completeness - a fact recognised in the list description.

7.2 The main bay divisions are so alike that they need no individual description, though one or two eccentric details are present; the bracing does not always tuck itself under the splay-cuts of the jowled principals, for example, but these are minor variables, which stand with the slightly differential number of common studs per bay and the extra upper rafter found in the end-bays of the roof. All members are of oak, of good quality and are squared to all the main elements. On the northern side many of the common studs also have a consistently even scantling, though are more slender and slightly waney on the south. The outer bays are primary-braced as are those adjacent to the porch. Some timber is re-used.

7.3 In terms of date several diagnostic features would tend to place the barn in the early 17th century rather than the late 16th century suggested by the list description. The combination of splay cut jowls, the scarf joints, and butted purlin roof form are consistent with the very end of the 16th century, but here the wind-bracing in the outer bays is fairly residual, while fully-formed primary-bracing to the wall panels is rare in Essex before the 17th century.

The outshut is of fairly indeterminate date given the high degree of reuse of timber, but the survival of original external cladding to the barn suggests that it is either contemporary, or may have been perhaps in the later 17th century, when a door was inserted from the porch.

7.4 The barn is very well built with little additional support from iron strapping. Some modification is present, but appears to be entirely of 19th and 20th century date, and is piecemeal in nature. The brick dwarf wall suggests concerted investment, and it is possible that some of the sole-plates were replaced at the same time. The original porch aperture also appears to have been partially blocked and reduced in size at an early date. Elsewhere, piecemeal softwood repairs are visible, while in more recent times the beauty of the frame has been obscured by various nailed-on sheets of cheap ply, and other ephemeral blocks and timber of no historical importance. The introduction of cement along the south wall has caused problems, while neglect of the weather-boarding on the north has activated decay, though this does not yet seriously impair the integrity of the frame.

7.5 The adjoining piggery is now in poor condition but appears from its construction form to be of 19th century date and was once fairly elegant and well-built. A limited quantity of oak has been used to maximum extent for the wall-plates and principal posts.

8 CONCLUSION

8.1 The barn at Tile Kiln Farm is not distinguished by any rare or special characteristic, but is precious because it is absolutely typical of many barns of the period in Essex, which may not necessarily survive to the same degree. It was constructed at a time of great agricultural prosperity in the decades before the English Civil War, and has served with little need for concerted repair since that time. Nineteenth century alterations, as would be expected, are careful and sensitive; more recent interventions less so, and concerned more with maximising the usefulness of the building with as little expenditure as possible.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed according to English Heritage (MAP2) and RCHME standards. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the HEM, EHER, and the Essex Record Office. A digital copy will be lodged with OASIS The archive will be lodged with Braintree Museum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Paul Sarel for commissioning and funding the historic building recording, and for his assistance.

Thanks are also due to the staff at Essex Record Office (ERO) in Chelmsford, and the staff at the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), in particular Ms. Alison Bennett and Ms. Laura Belton.

AS would also like to thank Ms. Teresa O'Connor, of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) for her advice and input.

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Historical Directories website;

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/>

Images of England (IoE) website;

<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk>

Listed Buildings Online website;

<http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>

London Libraries Online website (Guildhall library);

<http://prism.talis.com/cityoflondon/home>

Accessed: 20/10/10

Sible Heddingham website;

<http://www.sibleheddingham.com/>

Unlocking Essex's Past website;

<http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk>

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATABASE (EHER)

EHER	NGR TL	Description
Prehistoric (to AD 43)		
6550 - MEX21933	786 320	Flint scraper found in trench at Acacia House and near Tile Kiln Farm
6844 - MEX22556	7835 3222	Worked flints found during excavation of medieval pottery kiln at Hole Farm
46316 - MEX1038858	7940 3137	Worked flint flake most likely to date to the later Neolithic or Bronze Age period from Brookes Wood
Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)		
6843 - MEX22552	7942 3218	Roman pottery and tegulae found south of Foxborough Hill Farm
6846 - MEX22573	782 322	1st century pottery kiln reported from Hole Farm
6850 - MEX22581	777 329	Roman pottery said to have been found at Baker's Farm
6856 - MEX22607	7937 3216	Layer of black soil 14 to 16 inches thick and 3ft deep in the second field south of Foxborough Hill Farm originally thought to be Roman in date
7354 - MEX23971	795 311	Possible course of Roman road forming part of a route from Chelmsford to Ixworth
45360 - MEX1036385	7960 3324	A watching brief on a 4Km water pipe revealed a Roman ditch and pit at Castle Hedingham
Medieval (AD 1150 – 1500)		
6549 - MEX21932	786 320	Mid 13 th century and kiln found in trench of Acacia House and near Tile Kiln Farm
6842 - MEX22544	7874 3273	Fragmentary pottery found with base and 'firebox' of a pottery kiln at Crows Cross
6845 - MEX22558	7835 3222	Excavation of five medieval pottery kilns at Hole Farm
6847 - MEX22574	782 322	Tile kiln of three brick arches found at Hole Farm
6848 - MEX22575	785 323	Medieval pottery found in field near public house called the Wind Mill and east of Hole Farm
6849 - MEX22577	7888 3177	Early medieval pottery sherds with typical flattened rims found by north of Boaley's Farm
6857 - MEX22609	7937 3216	Layer of black soil 14 to 16 inches thick and 3ft deep in the second field south of Foxborough Hill Farm may be medieval in date
6879 - MEX22638	7814 3179	Two medieval kiln sites recorded at Starlings Hall, Southey Green
6880 - MEX22645	7827 3178	12 th – 13 th century pottery sherds recorded at Starlings Hall, Southey Green
6915 - MEX22708	7868 3285	Tile kiln cut by trench at Braintree corner
6918 - MEX22711	788 316	Medieval pottery bust found in 1910 at Boaleys Farm
6920 - MEX22714	7912 3128	13 th century pottery found during ditching at Broaks Wood
6921 - MEX22716	7907 3103	Medieval sherds found to the north-east of Whitehouse Farm

6923 - MEX22718	7956 3144	Medieval sherds found at Broaks Wood, Alphamstone
6924 - MEX22719	7953 3143	Green glazed 13 th century sherds found at Broaks Wood, Alphamstone
6932 - MEX22727	792 320	Medieval sherds found on surface to the south of Foxborough Hill Farm
6933 - MEX22728	7915 3237	13 th century pottery kiln, comprising scattered remains only, known at Foxborough Hill Farm
15357 - MEX1036501	7787 3180	Site of 16 th – 20 th century brick, tile and pottery works at Southey Green
18791 - MEX1037985	7950 3147	Medieval pottery and some kiln wasters from Broaks Wood, Southey Green
Post-medieval (AD 1500 – 1750)		
6855 - MEX22602	7858 3235	The site of a post mill, demolished in 1956, to the north of Boaley's Farm
29119 - MEX1004502	7862 3202	Late 16 th - early 17 th century timber framed barn approx 40m south-west of farm bungalow at Tile Kiln Farm Barn
Early modern & later (1750 – present)		
6817 - MEX22439	766 361	Part of the Colne Valley railway, opened in 1862, ran from Haverhill-Chappel
6905 - MEX22698	777 323	Site of Old House Farm to the east of Southeygreen Farm
6906 - MEX22699	778 324	Site of Kings Farm to the east of Southeygreen Farm
6907 - MEX22700	7862 3231	"Site of wind mill to the east of Southeygreen Farm
8893 - MEX28472	6394 1249	Second World War tank trap
15761 - MEX1004460	7841 3133	18 th century milestone on the eastern verge of road in front of Westmead Bungalow
45362 - MEX1036387	7908 3387	Memorial hall erected as a church school in 1858 and reused as a silk mill during the 1970s and latterly a village hall
Undated		
6908 - MEX22701	777 317	Spread of sherds found to the west of Southey Green's brick, tile and pottery works
6917 - MEX22710	786 317	Footings said to have been found when draining field c. 1900 Boaleys Farm
6931 - MEX22726	7904 3180	Depression or cropmark noted to the south of Foxborough Hill Farm
6940 - MEX22751	7780 3210	Two whole hand drains found in situ to the east of Southey Green
14292 - MEX39147	795 326	Drainage channels along the river
14303 - MEX39173	792 324	Cropmarks at Foxborough Hill Farm
17192 - MEX1031362	796 330	Cropmarks of pits and former field boundaries Wallace's Plantation

APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Date	Map	Scale	Fig. No.	Location
1840	Parish of Sible Hedingham tithe map	-	4	ERO
1876	Essex sheet XVI.17; 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map	25":1 mile	5	ERO
1897	Essex sheet XVI.17; 2 nd edition Ordnance Survey map	25":1 mile	6	ERO
1923	Essex sheet XXXII.11; 3 rd edition Ordnance Survey map	25":1 mile	7	ERO
1999	Ordnance Survey Explorer sheet 195; site location	1:25,000	1, 3	AS
2009	Detailed site location plan	1:1,250	2	Client

Documents consulted at the ERO;

Parish of Sible Hedingham tithe award, 1840 Ref. D/CT 174A

Parish of Sible Hedingham tithe map, 1840 Ref. D/CT 174B

APPENDIX 3 HISTORIC BUILDING LISTING



© Mr M W Keogh LRPS

LBO Number: 114739

Location: TILE KILN FARM, BARN APPROXIMATELY 40 METRES SOUTH WEST OF FARM BUNGALOW, BRAINTREE ROAD, SIBLE HEDINGHAM, BRAINTREE, ESSEX

Photographer: Mr M W Keogh LRPS

Date Photographed: 23 May 2007

Date listed: 15 October 1984

Date of last amendment: 15 October 1984

Grade II

TL 73 SESIBLE HEDINGHAMBRAINTREE ROAD5/221Tile Kiln Farm Barn approx. 40 metres south-west of farm bungalow

TL 73 SE SIBLE HEDINGHAM BRAINTREE ROAD 5/221 Tile Kiln Farm. Barn approx. 40 metres south-west of farm bungalow II Barn. Late C16, early C17. Timber framed and weatherboarded. Brick plinth. Corrugated iron roof, hipped to central midstrey. Lean-to of similar materials to right of midstrey. Double doors to midstrey and vertically boarded door to lean-to. Five bays. Queen strut roof. Jowled storey posts. Halved and bladed scarf to top plates. C20 boarding to internal walls. Good of its type.

APPENDIX 4 PARISH OF SIBLE HEDINGHAM TITHE AWARD, 1840

#	Land Owner	Occupier	Plot Name	Description	Area (a.r.p.)
1027	Ironmongers Co.	David Rist	Tile Kiln Field	Arable	10 acres 2 roods 30 perches
1028	"	"	Tile Kiln Yard	Yard	1 rood 2 perches
1029	"	John Tracy & James Alliston	Tenements & grounds	-	17 perches
1030a	"	David Rist	Broom Land	Arable	10 acres 3 roods 10 perches

APPENDIX 5 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address:	Barn At Tile Kiln Farm, A1017, Sible Hedingham, Essex.
County: Essex	District: Braintree
Village/Town: Sible Hedingham	Parish: Sible Hedingham
Planning application reference:	Braintree Planning Ref. 09/00186/LBC & 09/00187/FUL
Client name/address/tel:	Mr P Sarel
Nature of application:	Conversion to residential and home office use
Present land use:	Disused agricultural barn & former piggery
Size of application area: c. 0.29ha.	Size of area investigated
NGR (8 figures):	TL 78624 32024
Site Code:	TKSH10
Site director/Organization:	Archaeological Solutions
Type of work:	Historic building recording (Level 3)
Date of work:	October 2010
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Braintree Museum
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: Early to mid 17 th century, 19 th century
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In October 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an historic building recording on a Grade II listed barn at Tile Kiln Farm, Sible Hedingham, Essex (NGR TL 78624 32024). The work was carried out in compliance with a planning condition imposed on approval to convert the barn to residential use including live/work office space (Braintree Planning Ref. 09/00186/LBC & 09/00187/FUL).</p> <p>Technical analysis suggests that the barn dates from the early 17th century, and preserves several diagnostic features which indicate a fairly narrow date range. It is typical of its time, and distinguished by the proportion of the original frame, including the lesser timbers, which survive intact. An adjoining outshut may be broadly contemporary, but is of much poorer quality, with a higher degree of replacement. An adjoining piggery, now partly ruinous was probably constructed in the early 19th century.</p>
Author of summary: Lee Prosser	Date of Summary: October 2010

APPENDIX 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
Site Name: Barn At Tile Kiln Farm, A1017, Sible Hedingham, Essex.					NGR: TL 78624 32024		
County: Essex				Museum Collecting Area: Braintree Museum			
Site Code: TKSH10				Project Number: P4067			
Date of Work: October 2010				Related Work:			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
September 2010		Yes		September 2010		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
Notes taken on site (5 pages A4)							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
n/a							
Architect's Drawings:							
Plans and elevations 5 sheets A3 – annotated							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings in digital format on CD	
Site Photographs							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
Film No	Film Type	Negs	Negs Present	Contacts Present	Film No	Negs	Present
1	120mm	13-15	Yes	Yes	1	28-36	Yes
2	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
3	120mm	1-15	Yes	Yes			
4	120mm	1-2	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 Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, south-western elevation, taken from the south-west (DP 1)



Plate 2 Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, north-eastern elevation, taken from the east (DP 4)



Plate 3 Adjacent animal byre, taken from the south-east (DP 8)



Plate 4 Truss and roof structure, taken from the north-west (DP 21)



Plate 5 Bay 2, north-eastern panel, taken from the south-west (DP 25)



Plate 6 Porch interior, taken from the south-west (DP 13)



Plate 7 Bay 5, south-western panel, taken from the north-east (DP 24)



Plate 8 Upper laths and lower weather boarding, original external barn elevation seen in the outshut, taken from the north (DP 19)



Plate 9 Stall partition, animal byre, interior, taken from the south-west (DP 11)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, south-western elevation, taken from the south-west



2

Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, south-western elevation, taken from the west



3

Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, south-eastern elevation, taken from the south



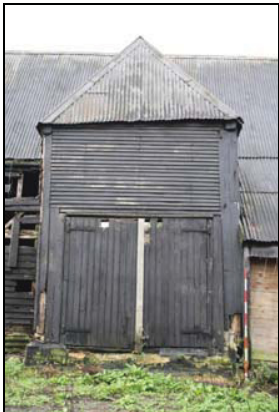
4

Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, north-eastern elevation, taken from the east



5

Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, north-western elevation and porch, taken from the east



6

Barn, Tile Kiln Farm, porch, taken from the north-east



7

Outshut, north-eastern elevation, taken from the east



8

Adjacent animal byre, taken from the south-east



9

Damage to the porch, north-western elevation taken from the north-east



10

Stall partition, animal byre, interior, taken from the east



11

Stall partition, animal byre, interior, taken from the south-west



12

Barn interior, taken from the south-east



13

Porch interior, taken from the south-west



14

Porch interior, north-west elevation taken from the south



15

Porch interior, south-west elevation taken from the north-west



16

Curved bracing, porch interior, north-eastern elevation, taken from the south-west



17

Outshut interior, taken from the north



18

Outshut interior, taken from the south-east



19

Upper laths and lower weather boarding, original external barn elevation seen in the outshut, taken from the north



20

Barn interior, taken from the north-west



21

Truss and roof structure, taken from the north-west



22

Bay 4, north-eastern panel, taken from the south-west



23

Bay 5, north-eastern panel, taken from the south-west



24

Bay 5, south-western panel, taken from the north-east



25

Bay 2, north-eastern panel, taken from the south-west



26

Trusses and roof structure, taken from the south-east



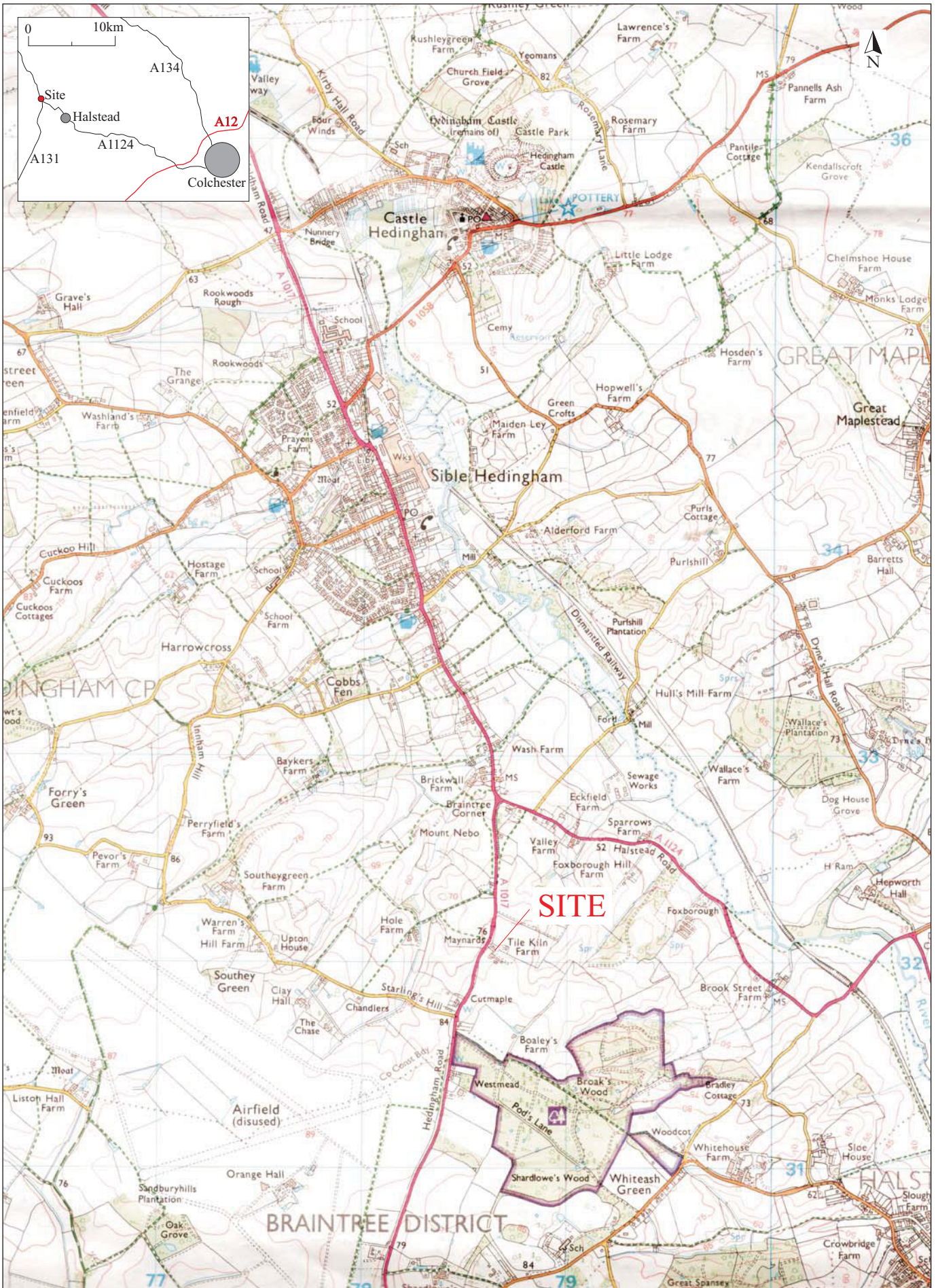
27

Bay 2, scarfed wall-plate, taken from the west



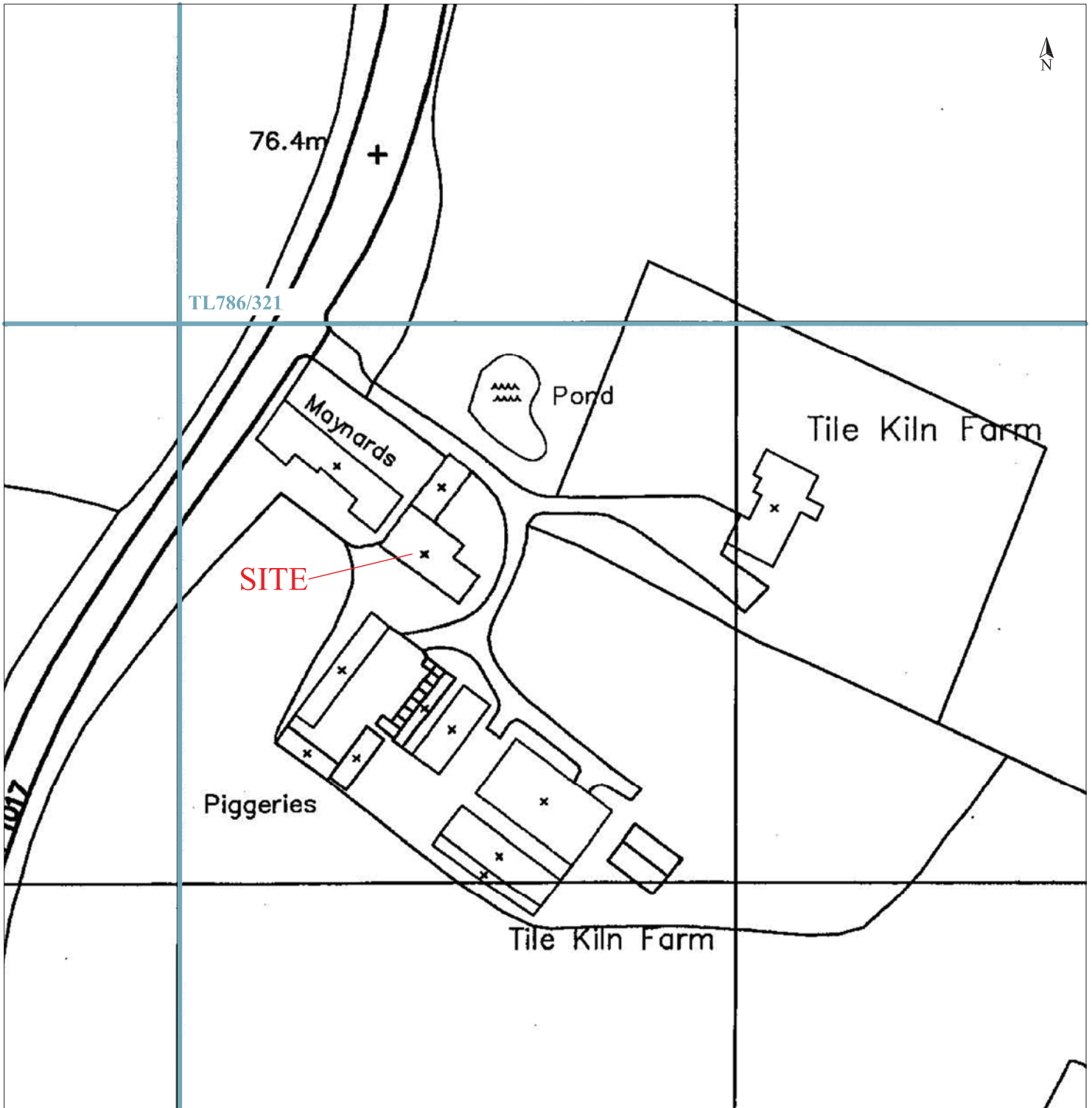
28

Principal post at the junction between bays 1 & 2 displaying lambs tongue chamfer stops, taken from the south-west



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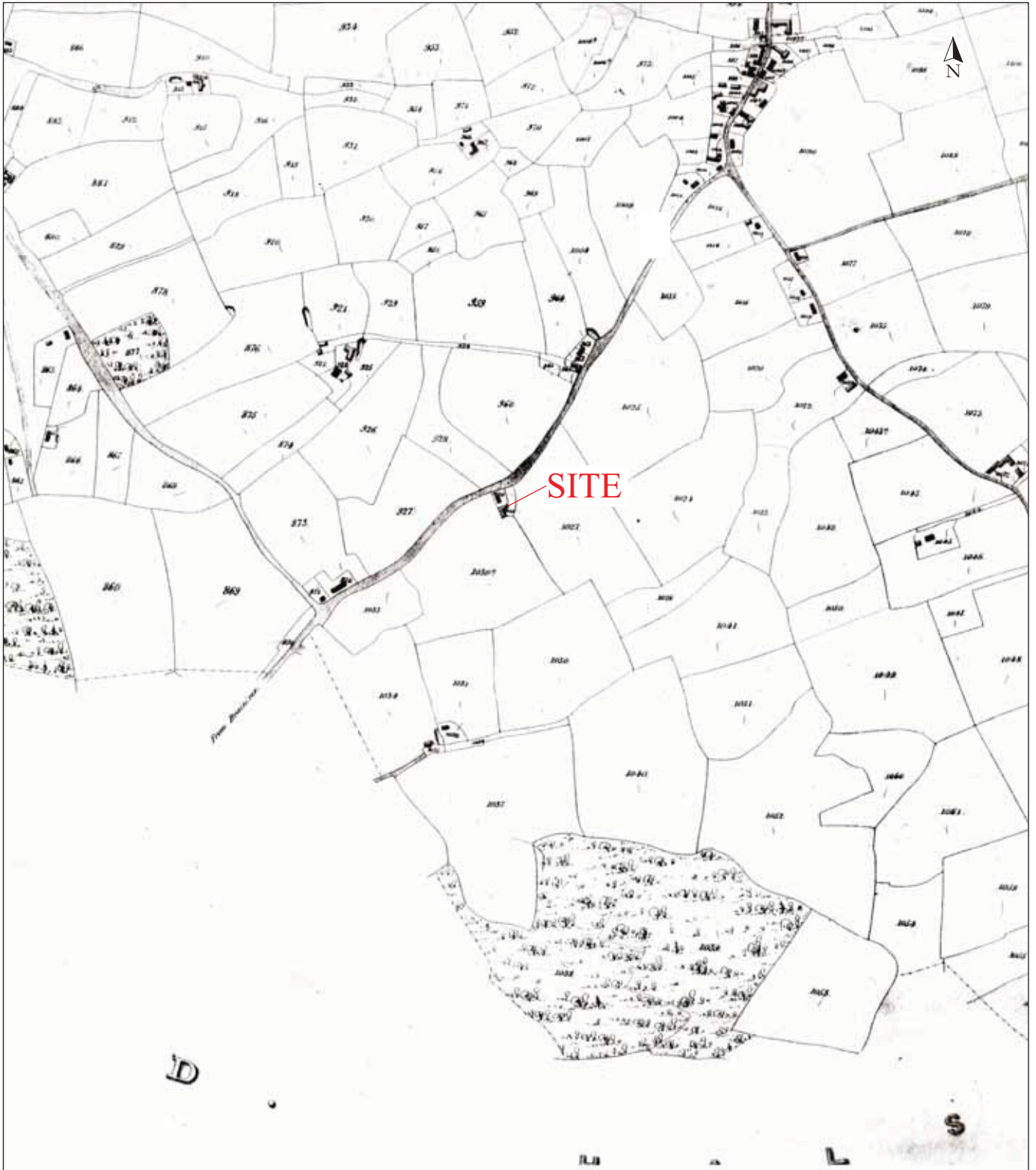
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



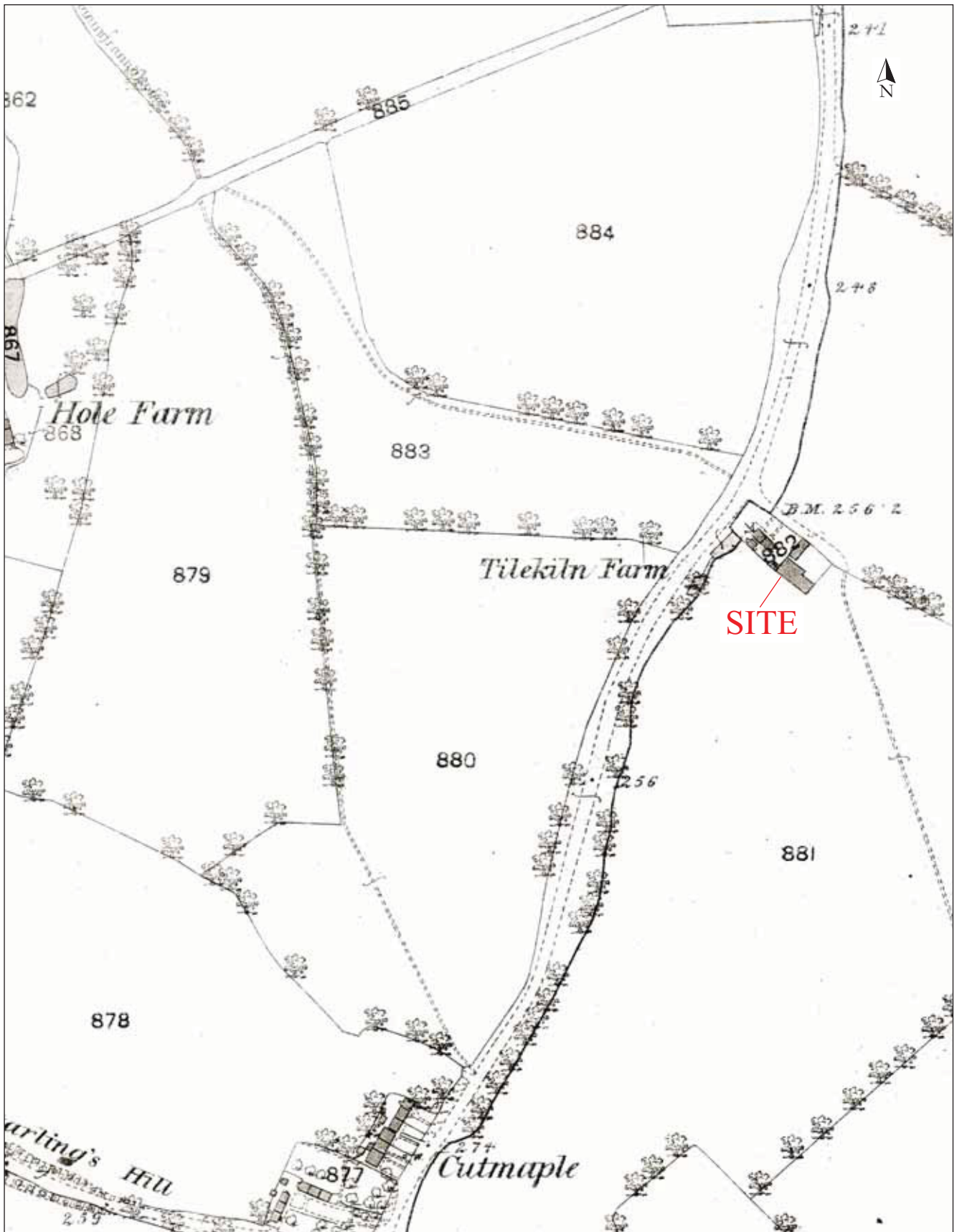
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Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4

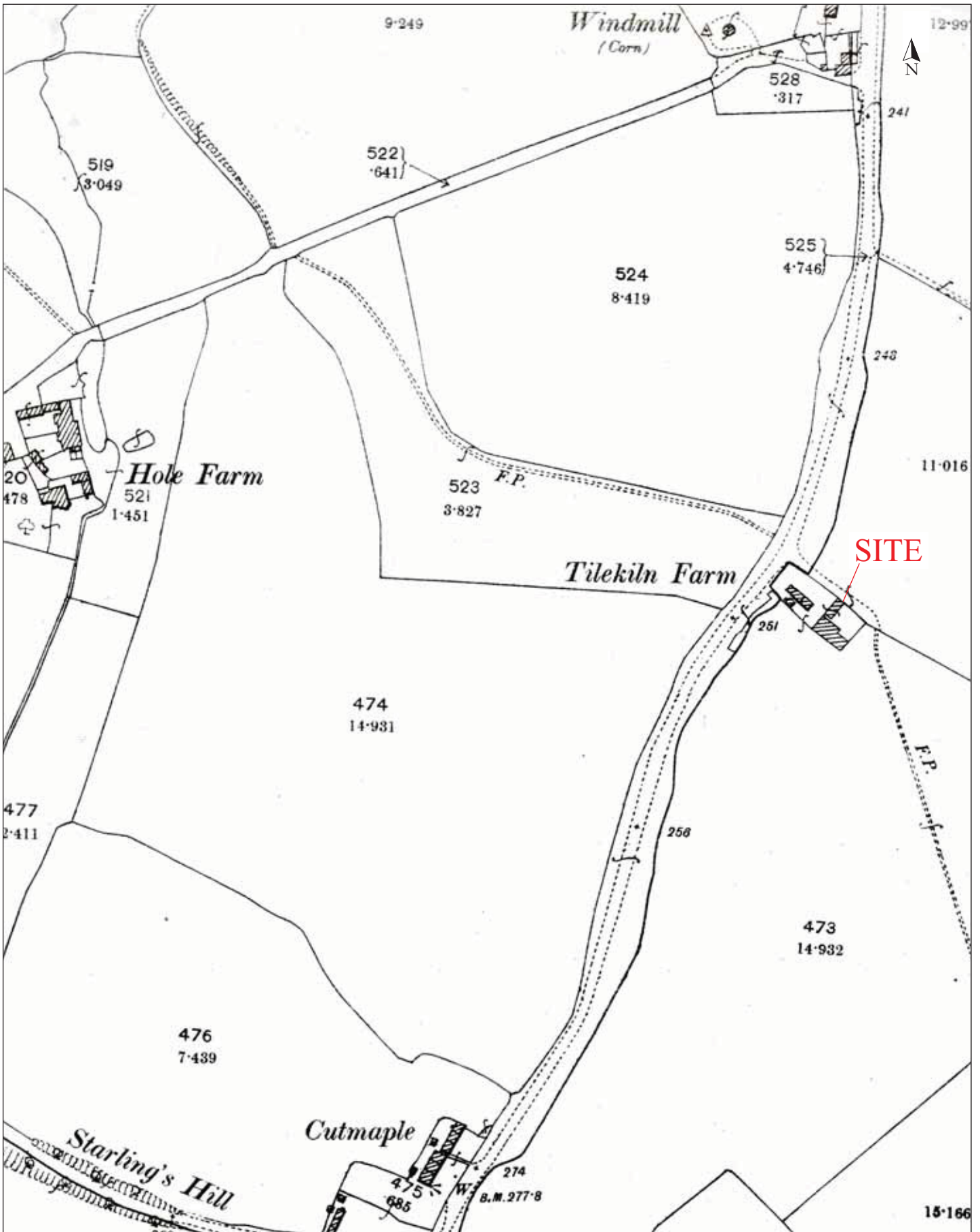


Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 4 Parish of Sible Hedingham Tithe Map 1840
Not to scale



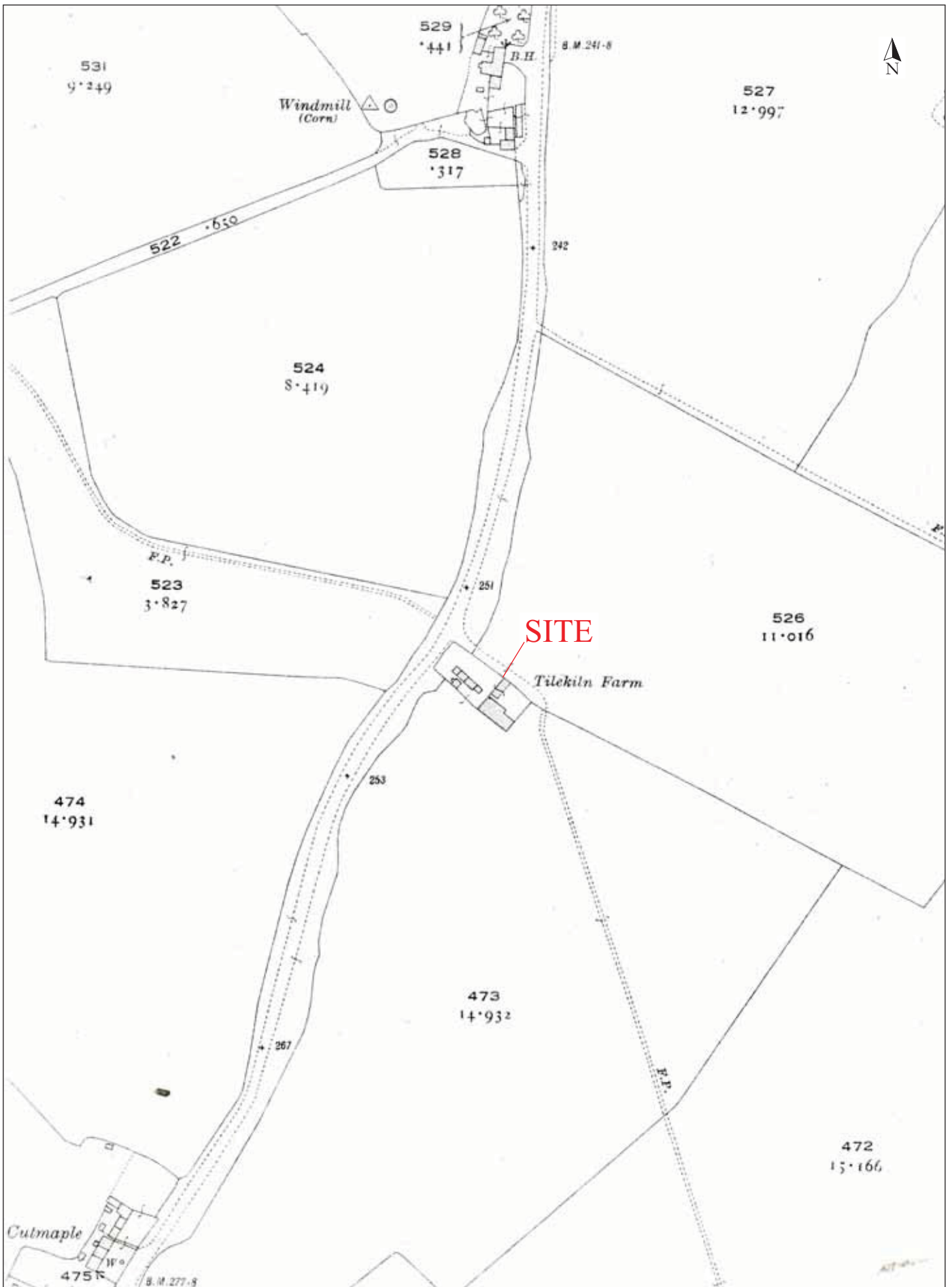
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 Fig. 5 1st edition OS map 1876
 Scale 25" to 1 mile



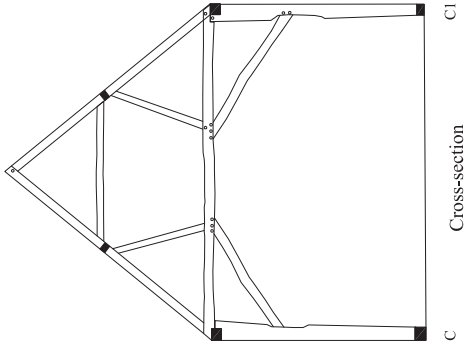
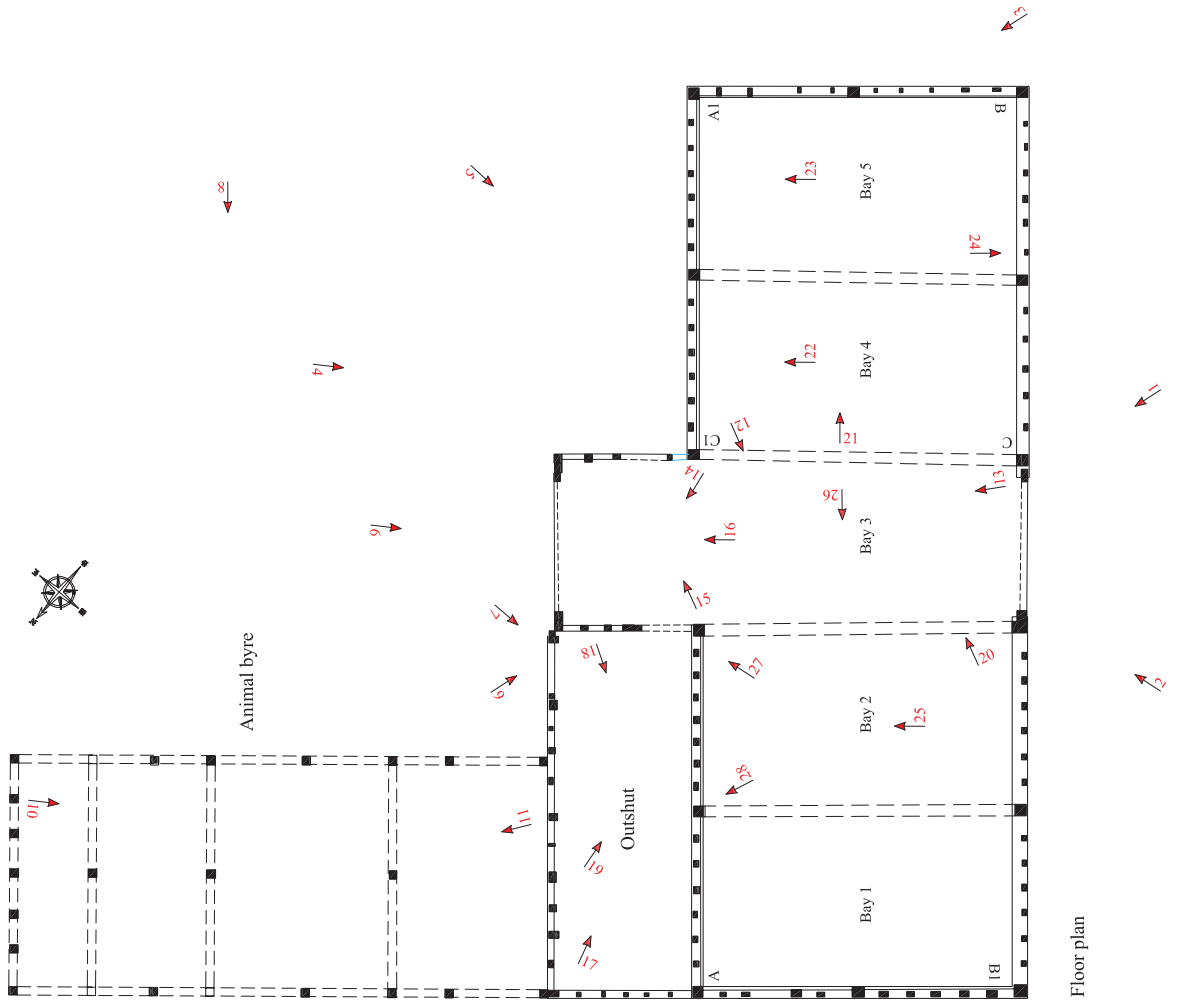
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Fig. 6 2nd edition OS map 1897
 Scale 25" to 1 mile

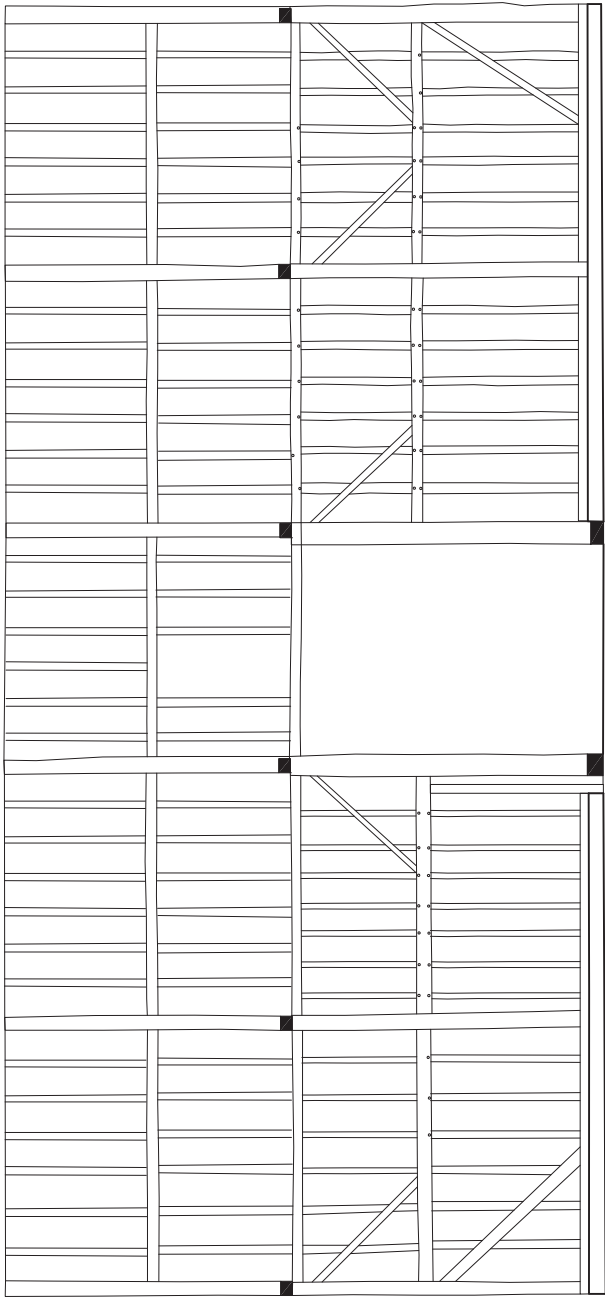


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Fig. 7 3rd edition OS map 1923
 Scale 25" to 1 mile



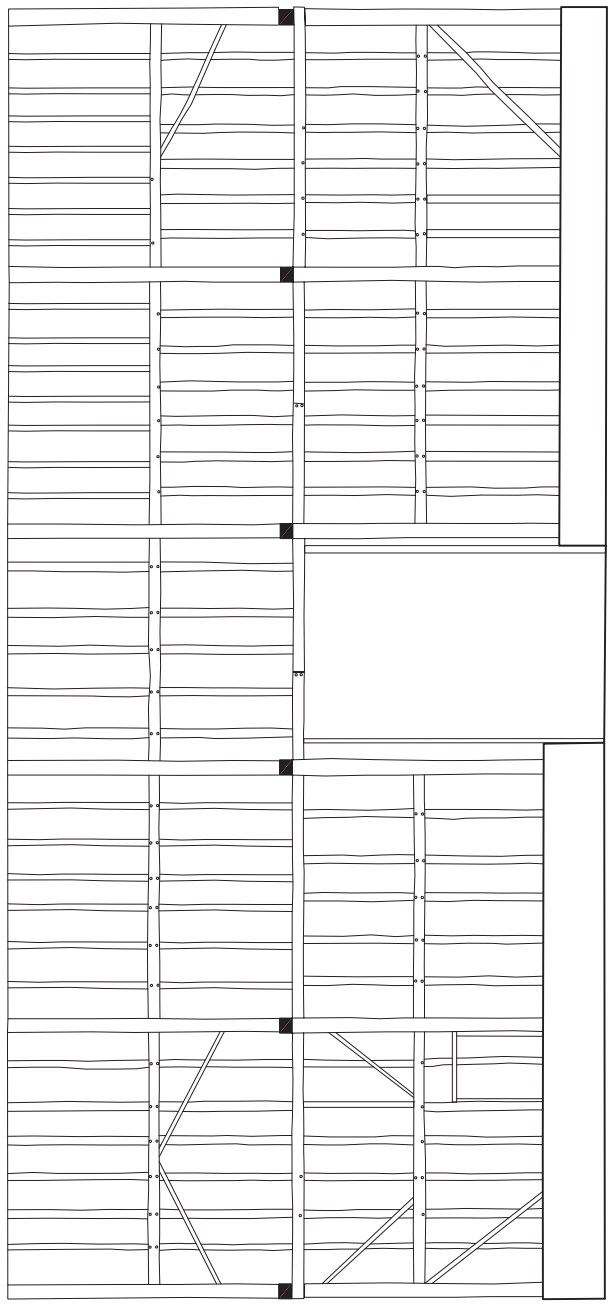
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 8 Floor plan & section
 Scale 1:100 at A3



A1

Internal elevation

A



B1

Internal elevation

B