

28 Stables in the East of England Region

- A Relatively few early timber-framed stables survive. This stable forms part of a courtyard group. (North West Norfolk)
 - B Some timber-framed barns of 16th and 17th century date were originally constructed as multi-functional buildings incorporating cattle housing or stables. This large barn had three bays of stables, one of which was converted to provide additional barn space in the 18th century. (South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands)
 - C A 19th-century brick stable and implement shed range. (South Suffolk and North Essex Claylands)
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28A



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- A manger and hayrack, the latter often accessed from a drop from the hayloft above. Other types of fodder, such as crushed oats and bean straw, became more general after the mid-19th century.
- Floors, cobbled and from the mid-19th century of engineering brick, sloping to a drainage channel.
- A ladder to the loft.
- The harness was usually kept in a separate room and chaff boxes were built in to the structure for storing feed. Small cubby-holes for keeping grooming brushes, medicines or lanterns were often built into the walls.

Stable exteriors are characterised by being:

- Usually two-storey, with pitching openings and ventilation to the first-floor loft and an external staircase. The upper floor sometimes provided accommodation for farm labourers or stable lads. Despite textbook advice on the tainting of the hay, the practice of housing horses below haylofts persisted, partly because of the perceived need to protect horses from chills and draughts. Single-storey stables, commonly with cast-iron ridge vents, were built from the later 19th century.
- Well lit, with windows ideally opening to the east to catch the early morning light. The door was wider and higher than that in the cow house.

As stables were usually well-lit buildings they tend to be less vulnerable to changes that affect their character externally. Carhorse stables are far less likely to retain

floor surfaces, internal stalls and fittings (such as saddle hooks) than riding-horse stables. Many stables, particularly those located within ranges that included cow houses, were converted into dairies when modern electrically powered milking and cooling machinery was introduced from the 1950s.

7.3.2 STABLES IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

(Figure 28)

The East of England Region – as in the South East – is notable for the high number of early survivals of stable buildings. Work in Suffolk has demonstrated that before 1650, the only two buildings found on a typical farm were the barn and the stable and this is likely to be true of the rest of the Region (Theobald 2000, pp.161–2). Half of the surviving pre-1800 stables in Norfolk abut or form part of barns, and in Suffolk many barns incorporated stabling in an end bay (Wade Martins 1991, p.175; Aitkens & Wade Martins 2002). Some free-standing stables of the 16th and 17th centuries survive, some of which are timber framed and jettied (Brunskill 1987, p.170) although more are to be found dating from after 1700. These distinctive buildings are usually two-storey with a hayloft above, which could be approached by either an internal or external staircase. Free-standing stable buildings were the norm after 1800.

Small single-storey detached stables dating from the 16th century are rare. On a few manor sites in Suffolk much longer examples do survive, containing several units of

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29B



29 Pigsties

Pigsties have few regionally distinct features other than their building materials (A North Yorkshire Moors and Cleveland Hills). Most have a small yard attached to the shelter (B Arden) and they may have hatches and chutes for feeding, whilst some form part of a larger range of buildings. Some pigsties are combined with poultry housing (C South East Northumberland Coastal Plain). Generally these buildings are extremely vulnerable from neglect as they offer little opportunity for other uses.

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C © English Heritage / Michael Williams

29C



stabling and with more than a hint of composite use. On many farms there was certainly an increased provision for stabling during the 17th century. For example, at Badley Hall Farm, Suffolk, there were two 16th-century barns, one of which was much larger than the other. The smaller barn was converted some time after about 1650 into stabling; whereas only one of the five bays had previously been stabling, now a loft was carried across the whole building and barn doors were reduced to a more suitable size.

In earlier agricultural stables, either the building was a single storey with no loft accommodation at all, or else there was a second storey framed carefully into the design. Because the eaves line was at least at shoulder height it was easy to walk around in the loft and a number of examples have windows. In the 18th century a new category became popular in which the eaves line was only about one metre above the loft floor. There were no tie beams across the interior of the building because they would have been in the way; instead the side walls were tied by the floor beams of the loft. By about 1770, heavy solid knees fixed by bolts were used to support these beams. Increasingly in the 19th century, stables were built without lofts.

The internal arrangement of stables evolved. Before about 1700, it was normal practice to fix a manger with a hayrack above to partition walls across the building.

The external gable wall may have been the site for harness racks in this arrangement, and the entrance door for each unit of stabling would be close to the end of one long wall with possibly a second doorway opposite in the rear wall. It appears that the principal of drops immediately above the hayrack was introduced, whereby hay or chaff stored in the loft could be dropped directly into the rack. The earliest examples of a stable with a central doorway and mangers fixed to the two gable walls of the same space appear in the 18th century. An alternative development was the provision of stalls along the rear wall of the building instead of on the cross walls. A feature peculiar to Norfolk was the lack of stalling in stables, and the practice of turning horses out into a horse yard at night was particularly a Norfolk and Suffolk practice, although it later spread to other areas where it was known as the 'midland system' (Wade Martins 1991, pp.179–80).

7.4 PIG HOUSING

7.4.1 NATIONAL OVERVIEW (Figure 29)

One or two pigs were kept on most farms, although the pigs often ran with other livestock in the fields, or roamed about the yard, rather than having their own dedicated housing. Pigs were most commonly kept in dairying areas or market-gardening areas, such as the Fens, where whey or potatoes were available for feed. The only requirements for special accommodation were

for farrowing, final fattening and accommodation of the boar. On most farms only a few pigs were kept for domestic use and here they were normally fed on kitchen scraps or whey (a by-product of dairying) and so sties were often placed near the kitchen or dairy. Sometimes they were also integrated into the planning of the farmyard, commonly on larger farms where commercial fattening was practised. Any pre-19th-century examples are of great rarity.

Characteristic features of pigsties are:

- Single-storey structures, with a gable entry to a first-floor hen house where lofts occur.
- Low entrances.
- Individual yards in some regions.
- Their construction in rows of three or more small and unlit boxes, often with a chute through the front wall into the feeding trough down which the swill could be thrown.
- A small chimneystack, marking the position of a boiler house for boiling swill for pig feed. These are most commonly found where pigs were kept on a commercial scale.

Imported feed sustained the growth of the pig industry in the inter-war period, more specialist producers taking the Danish or Scandinavian system as a model for the industrial housing of pigs. The American battery system of housing poultry was used for pigs from the late 1920s.

7.4.2 PIG HOUSING IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

Pigs were not kept on a commercial scale, except in dairying areas (primarily the claylands) or market-gardening areas such as the Fens where whey or potatoes were available for feed. Here ranges of pigsties with a steaming house beside them were built in the 1840s (Wade Martins 1991, p.189). On most farms only a few pigs were kept for domestic use and here they were normally fed on kitchen scraps and so sties were often placed near the kitchen door or beside the dairy. There was frequently a chute through the front wall into the feeding trough to allow swill to be thrown in. The need for warmth meant that they were small buildings, large enough for two pigs and too low for a man to stand up, with a low entrance and an outrun.

7.5 SHEEP HOUSING

7.5.1 NATIONAL OVERVIEW

The great importance of sheep farming to many areas of the country is not reflected in surviving farm buildings. In medieval times it was common practice to provide sheep houses, or berceries, even in the south of England. Apart from possible medieval timber-framed sheepcotes in Hampshire (Lewis et al 1988, p.113–15) there is only earthwork evidence for these buildings, but documentary

sources show that in Gloucestershire at least they ranged from between eight and eighteen bays (Dyer 1995, p.149). Barns, when empty, were sometimes used for shearing and sorting the wool.

In Cumbria and elsewhere in northern England a building similar in appearance to a field barn was provided for the hogs or yearling sheep to give them protection over their first winter. Low floor-to-ceiling heights and upper-floor haylofts are characteristic features of these buildings. The low ceiling to the ground floor below a hayloft is the characteristic feature of hogg houses. Sheep housing in other areas is associated with outfarms, such as on the southern downlands.

Before the adoption of enclosures of rough grazing in upland areas sheep were kept on both the low-lying commons and high moors to which nearly all farmers had access. The only times of year when all the sheep would be gathered together was for shearing and salving and dipping. Salving involved the boiling of Stockholm tar and tallow to make a mixture that was smeared all over the coat to protect against lice and scab as well as keep the fleece waterproof through the harsh winter. The practice of salving was carried out until the introduction of compulsory dipping as protection from scab in the early 20th century and very few of the sheds used for salving survive. As well as salving, sheep were also washed or dipped. Sheep washing was often carried out in ponds or streams where the watercourse might be artificially deepened or walled or, more unusually, sheep were dipped in specially constructed tanks. Enclosures funnelled towards the water's edge have been found. In areas where watermeadows were a feature of the landscape sheep dips are sometimes found built in to the system of leats and sluices.

7.5.2 SHEEP HOUSING IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

There are no known examples of sheep housing in the Region, although there are references to sheepcotes (for example in Suffolk: information from Steve Podd, FWAG).

As elsewhere in the country, the farmyard and the barn (when empty in spring and summer) would have been utilised for handling and clipping.

7.6 DOVES AND POULTRY

7.6.1 NATIONAL OVERVIEW (Figures 30 & 31)

The construction of a dovecote indicated the status of the owner, as in the medieval period the keeping of doves or pigeons was usually restricted as a manorial right. The birds provided fresh meat and eggs as a supplement to the already varied diets of wealthier people, while the manure was also valued (see McCann 1991). As a consequence, dovecotes were often the

30 Distribution of listed dove-cotes in England. This distribution includes both free-standing dove-cotes and dove-cotes that are incorporated into other buildings. Although dove-cotes are found in all Regions, their concentration within Roberts and Wrathmell's Central Province from Gloucestershire to Northumberland is notable. Within this area manorial control was strongest and the higher numbers of dove-cotes may reflect this
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31 Dove-cotes and buildings for poultry in England
 A The corbelled stone roof of this beehive dove-cote is a distinctive method of construction that is only found in the south-west and north-east parts of England. (Cornish Killas)
 B Medieval circular dove-cote. Note the low doorway. (Dorset Downs and Cranborne Chase)
 A © Eric Berry; B © Bob Edwards



31A



31B

object of considerable display and decoration, and commonly associated with gentrified or manorial farms.

Dove-cotes are usually square or circular towers with pyramidal or conical roofs, but a number of varying forms have been found, including tun-bellied dove-cotes (where the walls bulge outward slightly before tapering upward) and beehive dove-cotes with corbelled stone roofs. There are also lectern dove-cotes, which are square or rectangular with a mono-pitch roof, and a small number of octagonal dove-cotes that are usually of 18th- or 19th-century date. Externally, perching or sunning ledges formed either in stone, brick or timber have been found. Later dove-cotes often incorporated other functions such as granaries or stables. As the keeping of pigeons became more widespread, nesting boxes were incorporated into other farmyard buildings, for example the gable ends of barns.

Internally the walls were lined with nest boxes. In the earliest examples the nest boxes were sometimes formed in the thickness of the wall but usually they were in stone, brick or wood. Dove-cote doorways were low to discourage the birds from flying out and often a potence, a central pivoted post with arms supporting a revolving ladder, provided access to the nest boxes for

collection of the squabs and eggs. Surviving internal fittings are of great rarity, notably potences and nest boxes (especially the removable wooden types).

Studies have shown that the distribution of dove-cotes may in part be affected by the robustness of the building material. For example, a study of Gloucestershire dove-cotes suggests that the brick or timber-framed dove-cotes typical of the Vale of Gloucester have fared less well than the stone-built examples of the Cotswolds. At the time of the Gloucestershire survey the author

31C



31 Dovecotes and buildings for poultry in England (continued)

C Square stone dovecote with pitched roof. (Vale of Pickering) In the north of England a few 'lectern' dovecotes with mono-pitch roofs, more typical of Scotland, are found.

D Seventeenth-century timber-framed dovecote. Internally the nest boxes of this building are made from stone rubble, but wooden nest boxes and, in the East of England Region, clay bats forming the nest boxes are also found. (Herefordshire Lowlands)

E Octagonal brick dovecote dating from the 18th century. (Herefordshire Lowlands)

F Nest boxes incorporated into the gable end of a bastle house in Northumbria. The construction of nest boxes into the walls of other buildings, especially barns, was commonplace during the 18th and 19th centuries (Cheviot Fringe)

G Hen house built over a pigsty. Probably late 19th century. (Vale of York)

H Goose pen built against a farmyard boundary wall. (Herefordshire Plateau)

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31D



31F



31G



31E



31H



noted that the surviving dovecotes of the Vale were in noticeably poorer condition (Ariss 1992, p.14).

During the 17th and early 18th centuries the restrictions on keeping doves were lifted and small-scale accommodation for doves can be found built into other farm buildings. However, as cereal prices rose and improved methods of farming were adopted the popularity of pigeons declined. Investigation of a farmstead should include a search for small groups of nest boxes, which may be tucked away at the top of a gable or over a gateway.

Poultry keeping was usually the preserve of the farmer's wife and so the hen house was usually close to the farmhouse. This location was also chosen because poultry were often fed on kitchen scraps and looked after from the farmhouse. 'Accommodation for poultry is a modest, though necessary adjunct to all farm homesteads. The busy farmer himself pays little attention as a rule to the feathered tribe, but a thrifty wife knows too well the profit attached to them,' (Clarke 1899, p.172). Geese could be housed in free-standing pens or alcoves in farmyard walls. Hens usually ran freely about a farmyard, but were encouraged to nest safely away from predators and so that the eggs could be collected. Hen houses usually included a small pop hole for the hens as well as a full-sized door for human access for feeding and egg-collection. The walls were lined with nest boxes. As is still the case, hen houses were usually relatively short-lived buildings and there are few survivals that can be described as historic. Where historic examples do survive they usually form part of another building, such

as a pig house: it was thought the chickens would keep the pigs warm and the pigs would frighten foxes away. The combination of a hen house located above a pig house was described as a poultingery in some areas (for example in North Shropshire and Northumberland). These could be associated with a boiler house with a chimney for feed preparation.

7.6.2 DOVES AND POULTRY IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

7.6.2.1 Doves in the East of England

Dovecotes are found in all Regions of the country but their distribution is not even. Within the East of England Region the greatest concentration of listed dovecotes is in the south-west, in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and the south-western parts of Cambridgeshire and Essex. The dovecotes of the Region include medieval examples but most are of 18th or 19th century date, often included as a decorative feature in a planned range, and usually form part of another building such as a stable or granary. Due to the lack of good building stone across much of the Region, many of the free-standing dovecotes were built in flint or timber frame, which was commonly covered in plaster. Clay lump was used to a lesser extent and now few survive. The majority of free-standing dovecotes in Hertfordshire are brick-built structures.

7.6.2.2 Poultry

Historic buildings for poultry are rare. Those that survive are likely to be associated with a pigsty (often known as a 'poultingery').

8.0 Key Building Types: Other Farmstead Buildings

8.1 OUTFARMS AND FIELD BARNES

8.1.1 NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Field barns and outfarms, sometimes with a cottage beside them, can be prominent landscape features. Outfarms were usually created on larger farms or in areas where the farmsteads remained in the villages after enclosure, resulting in some fields being distant from the main farmstead. These complexes usually took the form of a yard that was often fully or partly enclosed by buildings. The outfarm saved on labour in that the harvested crop from the surrounding fields did not have to be carried back to the farmstead, and its straw turned into manure which, in turn, did not have to be carted back out to the distant fields.

Field barns were built in areas where farmsteads and fields were sited at a long distance from each other or where fields were interspersed with the land of other farms. Isolated field barns, cow houses and sheep houses are documented from the medieval period in upland areas (Le Patourel in Miller 1991, p.865). In some cases, such as the Craven Dales of Yorkshire or in the South Hams of Devon, they could be multi-functional buildings for cattle, corn and hay. The small and numerous field barns of the North Yorkshire Dales were built for a specialist dairy industry. In arable areas they were often simply threshing barns, which after 1770 were a typical part of outfarm groups.

Field barns and outfarms have always been vulnerable to dereliction once redundant. The widespread introduction of artificial fertilisers, bale silage production and the centralisation of farming activities are key factors in the

abandonment and dereliction of field barns and outfarms.

8.1.2 OUTFARMS AND FIELD BARNES IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND (Figure 32)

Outfarms, with cattle yards and sheds to the south and placed out in the fields at some distance from the main steading, were an important feature of some large farms on improved estates. They occur on the lighter soils of the Region: North West Norfolk, Breckland and the Suffolk Coast and Heath. In the claylands of Suffolk, neathouses were also frequently built at a distance from the main buildings, and for the same reasons have also been subject to demolition. Survivals are therefore also rare, and early examples are likely to be of great interest.

8.2 MINOR AND MISCELLANEOUS BUILDINGS

8.2.1 NATIONAL OVERVIEW

A range of other, smaller, buildings have also been found in a farmstead. Every farmyard would have had a water supply, either a pond, a nearby stream or a well, which could be enclosed in a well house. Fast-flowing water would also be used (see 6.0) to process grain into flour and wool into textiles, although evidence for mills or loom shops is very rare on surviving farms. Fuel for heating, in the form of timber or turf, would also be kept close to the house; specialist houses for peat, such as in Eskdale (Cumbria) are very rare. Some farmyards had recesses in the walls called bee boles to house a straw skep beehive. Occasionally a farm had its own slaughterhouse but many of these buildings do not have any characteristic external features, although internal

32 Outfarms in the East of England Region

Outfarms and field barns were an important feature on some large improved estates in the Region from the 18th century although there do not appear to be any surviving examples in Essex. Later outfarms tend to consist only of cattle yards, reflecting the decline of the barn in

the 19th century. (A South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands; B North West Norfolk)

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features often included a higher ceiling and possibly a wheel to raise carcasses. Detached structures or rooms with chimneystacks served a diversity of functions: boil houses for animal (usually pig) feed; smithies (most frequently found on large farms, and located close to cart sheds); or washhouses. Farm dogs were often accommodated beneath the flights of steps that led up to lofts. Kennels for hunting dogs are found in hunting areas and are typically low, single-storey buildings similar to pigsties, with attached individual yards enclosed by metal railings.

8.2.2 MINOR AND MISCELLANEOUS BUILDINGS IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

The backhouse was important in Suffolk, being the kitchen / dairy / brewing area; after about 1600 they were mostly added as lean-tos along the back of the farmhouse, but earlier on, there could be a separate building, adjacent to the farmhouse, mostly at right angles to it. These are often referred to in contemporary 15th- and 16th-century documents as an 'inset' house. A good number of these survive but most have probably been converted to residential use.

9.0 Glossary

- Aisled barn** A barn in which increased width was obtained through the use of aisles – narrow extensions along one or more sides or ends of the barn. A series of posts stand in the place where the walls of an unaisled building would run. The roof is carried on beyond the line of the aisle posts so the height of the walls is reduced and the visual mass of the roof increased.
- Allotment** An area of land allotted to a farmer, often at the time of enclosure. The word changes meaning in the later 19th century to mean 'land allotted to villagers for growing their own fruit and vegetables'.
- Arable** Land cultivated for the growth of crops.
- Bank barn** A combination barn of usually two storeys. Through constructing the barn against a bank, both floors can be entered from ground level. Typically bank barns have a threshing barn, sometimes with a granary and hayloft, and over housing for cattle. The ground floor may be open-fronted or enclosed. Bank barns are characteristic of the Lakeland area of the North West Region and parts of Devon, Somerset and Cornwall in the South West Region. They could be placed across the slope or along the slope, the latter having the lower floor often accessed from doors close to or in one gable end.
- Barn** A building for the storage and processing of grain crops, and for housing straw. See also Combination barn.
- Berceries (sheep houses)** Medieval name for sheep houses – shelters provided for sheep usually in areas of grazing away from the farmstead.
- Byre** (see **shippon** and **hovel**) Dialect term for cow house, commonly used in Yorkshire and the North East.
- Cart shed** A building for housing carts and farm implements. Cart sheds are usually open-fronted buildings sited close to a road or track into the farmstead. One bay of a cart shed may be portioned off and provided with doors to create a secure storage area for smaller implements. In many areas cart sheds are combined with first-floor granaries.
- Catch meadow system** Similar to watermeadows. A system of drains cut along a hillside and made to overflow on to the pasture below in winter, encouraging the early growth of grass. Also known as field gutter systems.
- Chaff box/chaff house** Storage for the chaff, or outer husks of crops, a typical by-product of threshing. Chaff was used as fodder for horses.
- Cider house** A building for the milling and pressing of cider, found in the South West and the West Midlands. It usually forms part of a combination range, and is marked by a wide doorway.
- Cob** A term used for earth-walled buildings in the south and west of England. Cob buildings are heavily concentrated in Devon and Dorset and are also found in Wiltshire.
- Combed wheat reed** A method of thatching in which all the straw is laid in the same direction with butts down. The stems of the straw are not bruised or crushed as with longstraw. The finished roof resembles reed thatch rather than longstraw.
- Combination barn** A barn that also housed cattle or horses, and sometimes other functions such as cart sheds and granaries. Combination barns can be two-storey or single-storey buildings. They include bank barns.
- Convertible husbandry** A system whereby some fields were brought into arable cultivation for a short period – usually until the soil was exhausted – and then returned to pasture for a number of years. This system was commonly found in upland areas of the country.
- Coping** Usually flat stones but sometimes bricks laid on the top of a wall to prevent water getting into the core of the wall: for example, on the top of a gable wall of a building where the roofing material abuts the gable wall rather than covers it.
- Covered yard** A cattle yard that is fully covered by a roof – the aims of which were to protect the nutrients in the manure collecting in the yard from being washed away by the rain and to provide an environment where cattle would fatten more quickly.
- Cow house** An enclosed building for cattle in which the animals are normally tethered in stalls.
- Cruck, Raised cruck, Jointed cruck** A pair of curved timbers, usually halved from the same tree trunk, that form an A-frame extending from the ground to the apex of the roof. A raised cruck has the feet of the crucks raised off the ground, usually embedded in a masonry wall. Jointed crucks are individual cruck blades formed by two timbers joined together.
- Dairy** A building, or more often a room within the farmhouse, where milk was processed to make cheese and butter.
- Daub** A mixture of clay and straw applied to wattle infill of timber-framing to make a wall.
- Demesne farm** A manorial farm managed directly as opposed to land within the manor farmed by tenants.
- Dipping** The washing of sheep by immersing them in water.
- Dispersed settlement** Settlement consisting of scattered, isolated farmsteads and small hamlets. Dispersed settlement is the predominant settlement form over much of western parts of England, and an area extending from East Anglia to the South East.
- Dovecote** A building, or part of a building, providing nest boxes for pigeons or doves.

- Downland** The higher land of the chalk areas of the country. These areas typically had a poor, thin soil and were the preserve of sheep which grazed on the extensive, unenclosed areas. This form of management suppressed the growth of scrub and allowed a rich flora to establish.
- Dutch barn** Now used to describe an iron-framed, open-fronted building for the shelter of hay or corn. They typically date from the late 19th to the mid-20th centuries.
- Enclosure Enclosed land.** Enclosure of land may have occurred at an early date – possibly medieval and in a few rare cases in the prehistoric period. In other areas open fields or common land was enclosed either by agreement or, in the 18th and 19th centuries, by act of parliament.
- Fallow land** Land left uncultivated, allowing it to rest. In a 3-field open field system one field was left fallow by rotation each year.
- Farmstead** The homestead of a farm where the farmhouse and some or all of the farm buildings are located.
- Fatstock** Farm animals reared for meat.
- Field Barn** A building set within the fields away from the main farmstead, typically in areas where farmsteads and fields were sited at a long distance from each other. Field barns are often combination buildings providing storage for hay or straw and shelter for animals.
- Flail** An implement comprising two linked wooden sticks used to beat grain from the ear (see Thrashing).
- Granary** A building for storing grain before it has been milled. Granaries are usually at first-floor level to prevent rodents and damp damaging the grain. They could be free-standing structures or be an enclosed upper floor above a cart shed or stable.
- Grange** A farmstead belonging to and run by a monastic house.
- Grazier** A person who farms grazing animals, typically for meat or wool.
- Half-hipped roof** A roof in which the gable wall rises above the height of the eaves but does not extend to the apex. The upper part of the gable has a short sloping roof with rafters lying axially (in the same line of the orientation of the building). In a fully hipped roof, axial rafters are of the same length as the rafters of the main roof slopes.
- Hay barn** A structure to shelter but ensure the adequate ventilation of hay. They are typically open-sided structures with roofs supported on high brick, stone, timber or iron piers.
- Hay loft** Storage for hay above cart shed or stables.
- Hayrack** A rack made of wood and from the later 19th century often made in iron, in which hay could be placed to be eaten by cattle, horses or sheep.
- Hemmels** Small open-fronted cattle shelters with their own yards, mostly found in the North East.
- Hipped roof** A roof with slopes at the gable ends of equal or similar length to the side slopes. The gable walls do not rise up to the apex but are of similar height to the side walls. The top ends of the rafters that do not extend to the ridge are carried on a hip rafter.
- Hit-and-miss timber boarding** (also called **Yorkshire boarding**) Usually vertical boarding forming a wall to animal housing which has gaps between the boards to provide ventilation for the animals.
- Holding** A farm.
- Hovel** A dialect term for cow house, formerly common in parts of the Midlands and central southern England.
- Hurdle work** Hurdles, usually made from hazel or another pliable wood woven to form fence panels, were arranged to form temporary enclosure for animals, especially sheep.
- Husbandry** Farming, the management of the production of crops and animals.
- Infield-outfield system** A type of agriculture practised in pastoral (usually upland) areas, where the fields closest to the farmstead or settlement were the most intensively cropped and animals were only permitted to graze after the hay or corn crop was cut. Beyond was rough grazing for sheep and cattle, which was occasionally ploughed for corn.
- Kneeler** A stone, often shaped, which supports the stone coping to the gable end.
- Laithe house** A linear range of one construction comprising a farmhouse with attached barn and usually a stable. There is no internal link between the house and the agricultural element of the range. Laithe houses are usually associated with small part-time farmers who were often involved in the textile industries of the Pennines.
- Lean-to** A building, usually a later addition, which is constructed against the side of a larger building. Lean-tos typically have a mono-pitch roof.
- Lias** A form of limestone, typically split into thin pieces.
- Linear farmstead** A farmstead where the farmhouse and agricultural buildings are ranged in a line, usually attached to each other.
- Linhay** Two-storeyed building with open-fronted cattle shelter with an open-fronted hay loft or tallet above characteristic of Devon and south Somerset. The tallet may be constructed as a conventional floor or simply created from poles. Historically the term linhay was used to refer to a wider range of buildings including field barns.
- Loosebox** An individual cubicle for housing fatstock, found in the form of lean-tos attached to barns or other buildings, or as continuous ranges with an optional central or rear feeding passage.
- Longhouse** A building that housed humans and cattle under one roof and in which there was direct access from the accommodation into the byre. The byre was always built down-slope from the accommodation.

Originally animals and humans used the same entrance but as living standards changed the animals were often provided with separate access.

Longstraw Term used to describe a thatching method where the ears and butts of the straw are mixed.

The stems of the straw are bruised and crushed and the result is a generally looser coat than combed wheat reed or water reed. The appearance of the roof is quite different from combed wheat reed and water reed, with a much thicker covering of straw.

Manger An open trough in a stable or cowshed from which horses or cattle could eat.

Mass-walled building Buildings where the walls are constructed of solid materials such as stone, earth or brick as opposed to timber-framed walling.

Meadow A field maintained for providing grass for grazing and for making hay.

Midstrey Term used in southern England and East Anglia for the projecting porch to a threshing barn.

Nucleated settlement Settlement pattern consisting mainly of villages with relatively few isolated farmsteads or hamlets.

Oast house A building in which hops are dried.

Oolite An easily worked form of limestone from the Jurassic period.

Open-field system A system in which farmland was held in common with the strips of individual farmers intermixed across several fields. Open-field systems rarely had hedges between strips or fields. Over time the strips were usually consolidated and eventually enclosed. Enclosure of open fields results in characteristic field patterns where the boundaries form an elongated reversed 'S'.

Outfarm A barn with animal accommodation either within the barn or separately, located away from the main farmstead, which avoided transporting straw and manure to and from distant fields.

Outshot See Lean-to.

Pantiles Clay roofing tiles with a wavy profile. Originated in Holland and became popular along the north-east coast. Also made in Somerset.

Pastoral farming Farming system based predominantly on the rearing or fattening of stock. Pastoral areas are usually predominantly grassland but in some areas arable cultivation was also important, providing fodder crops for the animals as well as corn crops for domestic use.

Pasture/pasturage Grazing land.

Piecemeal enclosure The enclosure of areas of land field by field, possibly through assarting, as opposed to the wholesale enclosure of large tracts of land and the creation of large field systems.

Pigsty A small building for housing pigs. Typically built as individual boxes, individually or in rows and with external feeding chutes. They were often built with their own individual yards.

Pilaster An ornamental rectangular column projecting from a wall.

Portal-framed shed Mass-produced iron-framed shed usually clad in metal sheeting.

Poultiggery A building combining a pigsty at ground level with a poultry house in a loft above.

Processing room A room in a farmstead where fodder for animals would be prepared, usually with the aid of machinery such as chaff cutters, cake breakers and root crushers.

Quoin The stones or brickwork set at the corner of a building. Where poor-quality building stone was used it was difficult to form corners to a building so the quoins would be made out of bricks or a better quality stone that could be worked square.

Rickyard A yard, usually sited close to the barn, in which the harvested corn crops could be stored in ricks to await threshing. The ricks would be built on raised platforms to protect the grain from rodents and thatched to protect from rain.

Ridge and furrow Long, parallel ridges of soil separated by linear depressions, caused by repeated ploughing using a heavy plough.

Ring-fenced A term to describe a farm in which all the fields are held in a compact block as opposed to being intermixed with the fields of other farmers.

Root and fodder stores Room often located close to or incorporated within the cattle housing.

Salving The rubbing of a tar-based mix into sheep, in order to guard against ticks, etc.

Shelter sheds Open-fronted structures for cattle facing on to cattle yards.

Shippon A dialect term for cow house, commonly used in the North West and the South West peninsula.

Silage clamp An airtight container for the storage of freshly cut grass.

Stable A building for housing horses or working oxen.

Staddle barn Threshing barn, usually timber framed and raised on staddle stones. Staddle barns date from the later 18th and early 19th centuries and may be an attempt to counter the greater predation of the brown rat.

Staddle stone Staddle stones usually comprise two stones: an upright column that is capped by a circular stone of larger diameter, typically with a rounded top, together forming a mushroom shape. Staddle stones prevented rodents climbing up into granaries, ricks and staddle barns.

Stall A standing for a cow or horse within a byre or stable. Stalls are usually divided by wooden or stone partitions to prevent animals biting and kicking each other.

Thrashing (or Threshing) The removal of grain from the ears of corn crops. Threshing by hand involved hitting the ears with a flail.

Threshing barn See barn.

Tillage The tending of land to prepare it for a crop.

Tithe A payment of a tenth of crops and produce paid to the Rector of the church for his maintenance. Payment in kind was generally changed to a cash payment in the mid-19th century although this occurred earlier in some parishes.

Topography The features of the landscape; its hills, rivers, roads, woods and settlement.

Vaccary A stock farm for cattle. Most vaccaries are of 12th- or 13th-century origin, and were built for ecclesiastical or lay lords. They are concentrated in the Pennines.

Watermeadow A valley-floor meadow that was subject to controlled flooding using a system of drains and sluices to encourage early grass growth, providing spring food for sheep. The flooding brought nutrients on to the land, improving hay crops. Watermeadows

were first developed in the West Midlands but became a characteristic feature of the chalk river valleys of Wessex.

Wattle An interwoven panel usually made from hazel used to infill timber framing. Wattle could be covered in daub or left uncovered if more ventilation was required.

Wheel house A structure which housed a horse-engine for powering threshing machinery, and typically found projecting from barns. Also known as a gin gang in northern England.

Winnowing The separation of grain from the chaff, usually achieved by throwing the grain into the air and using the wind to blow the lighter chaff away from the grain.

Yorkshire boarding See Hit-and-miss boarding.

10.0 Sources

10.1 GENERAL SOURCES

The great barns of the medieval period were the first farm buildings to attract the attention of artists and antiquarians, from the 18th century. In the early 20th century this interest broadened out to studies of other iconic building types, such as Arthur Cooke's *A Book of Dovecotes* (1920), and their inclusion in the famous regional landscape studies published by Batsford (*The Face of Britain*). A milestone in the serious academic study of the subject was the publication of a regional study by J.E.C. Peters (1969), which was followed a year later by Nigel Harvey's inspirational general history of the subject (1970, 2nd edition 1984). Peters has usefully summarised his work in a booklet (1981, 2nd edition 2003) and studies examining farm buildings in their broader national and regional contexts have been taken forward by Brunskill (1982, revised 1987), Darley (1981), Lake (1989) and Wade Martins (1991). Individual studies

have been published in the journal of *The Historic Farm Buildings Group*, founded in 1985. A major project by the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments in England, which targeted sample areas for recording, was published in 1997 (Barnwell & Giles 1997). There are a small number of county-wide studies, for example in Kent (Wade in Giles & Wade Martins 1994, pp.26–27) and Surrey (Gray 1998).

Despite an increasing level of interest in historic farm buildings, some of the smaller, less impressive building types have not been subject to the level of study and research that buildings such as barns have received. Therefore there is a limited understanding of the regional variations that may be encountered. As a consequence, the National Overview texts provided in this document for farmstead and building types are sometimes longer than their regional summaries.

There are a number of sources that provide a good overview of agricultural history and the development of farm buildings including:

The Board of Agriculture *General View of the County of...*, published from 1795 to 1814 describe the state of agriculture in individual counties at the time. They often include a map of agricultural regions and a section of farm buildings. They are inevitably biased towards the large, publicity-conscious and 'improving' farmers and estates. County *Directories* from the second half of the 19th century often include essays on different aspects of the county, such as agriculture.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science published regional studies to coincide with the venues of their annual meetings in the 1950s and '60s. Many contain useful chapters on geology and agriculture.

The various volumes of *The Agrarian History of England and Wales* (Collins, Hallam, Thirsk, Miller, Mingay, Whetham) include essays by leading scholars.

James Caird (1852) *English Agriculture in 1851–2* is a collection of county essays written for *The Times*.

Haggard R. (1902) *Rural England* describes English agriculture county by county.

Hall, A.D. (1913) *A Pilgrimage of British Farming* describes farming in various counties in 1913.

The *Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society* has prize and regional essays on farming and farm buildings, especially useful for the mid- and late 19th century.

The *Victoria County Histories* are of variable use. The more recent volumes contain chapters on agricultural history and buildings.

The *Vernacular Architecture Group* has produced, besides its journal, a comprehensive national and regional bibliography (see Hall, Michelmores and Pattison for reference).

Barnwell, P.S. & Giles, C. (1997) *English Farmsteads 1750–1914* contains a short general introduction, a general concluding chapter and regional studies from west Berkshire, south Lincolnshire, north Northumberland, east Cornwall and central Cheshire.

Brunskill, R.W. (1982) *Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain* gives a very useful farming and building overview.

Darley, G. (1981) *The National Trust Book of the Farm* contains a general introduction followed by regional studies.

The revised Pevsner's *Buildings of England*, published county by county, often have useful introductions on landscape regions and building types.

Many county archaeological and historical journals include relevant articles. National journals of particular interest include those of the following societies:

British Agricultural History Society
Historic Farm Buildings Group
Local Historian

Society for Medieval Archaeology
Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology
Rural History
Society of Architectural Historians
Society for Landscape Studies
Vernacular Architecture Group

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11.0 Joint Character Area Descriptions: URLs for PDF Documents

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