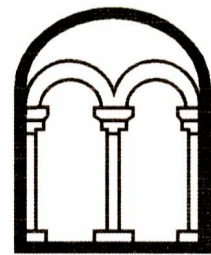
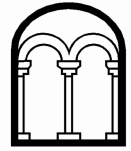


**ONION DRYING SHED
VALLEY FARM
STEPPINGLY ROAD
FLITWICK
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

Albion
archaeology





**ONION DRYING SHED
VALLEY FARM
STEPPINGLY ROAD
FLITWICK
BEDFORDSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

Document: 2013/153

Project Code: SR1278

Museum accession no: LUTNM 2011/79

OASIS ID: albionar1-159786

Issue date: 25th November 2013

Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Mark Phillips	Mike Luke	Drew Shotliff

Produced for:
Old Road Securities plc
Oakley Lodge
Westfield Road
Oakley
Bedford
MK43 7ST



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	7
1.1 Background to the Report.....	7
1.2 Site Location and Description	7
1.3 Aims and Objectives.....	7
2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 General Background Information.....	9
2.3 Historical Maps.....	9
3. BUILDING RECORDING: DESCRIPTION.....	11
3.1 Methodology.....	11
3.2 General Description	11
3.3 Plan.....	12
3.4 Structure	12
4. BUILDING ANALYSIS.....	14
4.1 Construction and Materials.....	14
4.2 Function	14
4.3 Development.....	14
5. DISCUSSION.....	16
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	18
7. APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE.....	20
7.1 Summary of Archive Contents	20
7.2 Arrangements for Long-term Deposition	20
8. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM (ID: albionar1-159786)	21



List of Figures

- Figure 1: Location plan
- Figure 2: Valley Farm superimposed on 1793 pre-enclosure map
- Figure 3: Valley Farm superimposed on 1881 first edition OS map
- Figure 4: Floor plan
- Figure 5: Internal elevation: east wall
- Figure 6: Internal elevation: west wall
- Figure 7: Internal end elevations
- Figure 8: External end elevations
- Figure 9: External elevation: east wall

List of Images

- Image 1: View of onion drying shed from the north-west
- Image 2: View of onion drying shed with other farm buildings to the south
- Image 3: North end of onion drying shed
- Image 4: South end of onion drying shed
- Image 5: East side of onion drying shed
- Image 6: View of onion drying shed from the south-west
- Image 7: Interior view showing the north end and east side walls
- Image 8: Interior view showing the south end and east side walls
- Image 9: Interior view showing the south end and west side walls
- Image 10: Interior view showing south end wall
- Image 11: Interior view showing door in east side wall
- Image 12: Interior view showing loft and roof structure
- Image 13: Interior detail of west wall showing scarf join in wall plate
- Image 14: Interior detail at the north-east corner
- Image 15: Interior detail showing upper part of west side wall
- Image 16: Contact print of black and white images (scanned)



Preface

Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a report as possible, within the terms of the commission. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.

The building recording was undertaken by Mark Phillips BA. The photographic survey was carried out by Nigel Macbeth. Mark Phillips is the author of the report and the project was managed on behalf of Albion Archaeology by Mike Luke BSc, MIFA.

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Old Road Securities plc. Albion Archaeology would like to acknowledge the assistance of Kate Sylvester-Kilroy and the staff of the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives Service.

*Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford, MK42 0AS
☎: 01234 294001
Fax: 01234 294008
e-mail: office@albion-arch.com
Website: www.albion-arch.com*

Structure of this report

Section 1 presents the background to the report. Historical background information derived from maps is presented in Section 2. A description of the building forms Section 3 with analysis of the building in Section 4. A discussion placing the building within its historical context forms Section 5. Section 6 is a bibliography. Details of the project archive form Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 is a summary form of the OASIS entry.

Figures and images are included at the end of the report.

Version History

Version	Issue date	Reason for re-issue
1.0	24th September 2013	n/a
1.1	25th November 2013	Comments from CBC Archaeologist



Non-Technical Summary

Planning permission granted for development on land at Valley Farm, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire included a condition requiring historic building recording of an onion drying shed prior to its demolition. Valley Farm comprises a red brick farmhouse on Steppingley Road with the farm buildings comprising a mixture of weatherboarded and brick buildings to the rear of the farmhouse. The onion drying shed is located towards the rear of the farm complex at NGR TL 02416, 35616. Detailed measured survey and photographic recording of the building (level 3) was carried out on 28th August 2013.

The onion drying shed is raised on brick piers and has a slatted timber floor and walls with doors in the north end and east side and a tiled roof. Internally it is 7.98m long by 2.74m wide. The building is constructed of machine sawn, softwood throughout. The walls are framed with diagonal primary bracing and closely spaced studs.

This type of building served as a store for the harvested onion crop. A photograph in the collections of the Museum of English Rural Life, originally published in 1937, shows a Bedfordshire onion drying shed with onions banked up against the slatted walls and men processing the crop to send to market. Circulation of air through the slatted floor and walls kept the onions dry and prevented them from rotting. The onion shed at Valley Farm had overhanging eaves and projecting gables to keep rainwater away from the walls.

Examination of historical maps shows that Valley Farm had not been built at the time that the 2nd edition OS map was surveyed in 1900. The architectural style of the farmhouse suggests an Edwardian construction date.

Historical surveys of market gardening in Bedfordshire show that it developed during the mid 17th century in Sandy and expanded in the Ivel valley following the construction of the railway in 1851. Expansion into parts of the Ouse valley and on the Greensand ridge around Maulden took place from 1900 onwards. The onion shed at Valley Farm, therefore, is representative of the latest stage in expansion of market gardening in Bedfordshire.

Relatively few onion drying sheds have been recorded in detail. Examination of others indicates variation in size and design. The example at Valley Farm is a small, dedicated onion shed. The one shown in the 1937 photograph referred to above appears much larger. Other types took the form of onion lofts within other agricultural buildings. One example surveyed in Old Warden consisted of stables and cart sheds with haylofts and onion lofts above. Another example in Church Street, Langford appeared from its exterior to be a small weatherboarded barn with central, double doors with no slatted or louvered walls. Inside, however, slatted floors and internal partition walls to either side of its central bay formed two onion lofts.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Background to the Report**

Planning permission (CB/13/00728/OUT) has been granted by Central Bedfordshire Council for the construction of up to 400 new homes, business and industrial development and associated infrastructure on land at Valley Farm, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire. The proposed development also includes the demolition of the majority of the buildings of Valley Farm.

A field evaluation undertaken in 2011 revealed archaeological remains including features dated to the Iron Age and Roman periods (Albion Archaeology 2006). The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologist (CBCA) also identified the existence of a well-preserved onion drying shed at Valley Farm, which is a building type exemplary of Bedfordshire's tradition of market gardening.

The CBCA advised that a condition should be attached to any planning consent, requiring the implementation of a scheme of archaeological work and building recording of the onion drying shed. This is in accordance with national planning guidelines in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*.

A brief was issued in June 2013 (CBC 2013) by the CBCA setting out the requirements for a programme of building recording and archaeological investigation. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Albion Archaeology outlining the methods and resources to be employed for the building recording and archaeological works (Albion 2013).

This report presents the results of the building recording which, with the associated archive, form a comprehensive record of the building prior to its demolition. The results of the archaeological investigation to record sub-surface archaeological remains within the development area will form the subject of a separate report.

1.2 **Site Location and Description**

The development area lies on the north-west edge of Flitwick, approximately 1.2km from the town centre (Fig. 1). The onion drying shed forms part of Valley Farm which is located in the south-east corner of the development area. Valley Farm comprises a red brick farmhouse on Steppingley Road with the farm buildings comprising a mixture of weatherboarded and brick buildings to the rear of the farmhouse. The onion drying shed is located towards the rear of the farm complex at NGR TL 02416, 35616.

1.3 **Aims and Objectives**

The study of post-medieval agricultural developments and their impact on the landscape has been identified as a research objective in Bedfordshire (Oake 2007, 16). Onion sheds form an important class of buildings linked to the development of market gardening in Bedfordshire which require further study and recording (Edgeworth 2007, 135). Research into these specialised buildings contributes



towards broader regional objectives of investigation of economically significant farm buildings (Gilman *et al.* 2000, 42 and Medlycott 2011, 70).

The principal aims of the investigation and report were to:

- provide a comprehensive written and visual record of the building prior to its demolition;
- place the findings of the recording in their local and regional historical context;
- produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to ‘preserve by record’ the building.



2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

Historical background information in the form of published resources and historical maps was examined. Relevant information has been included from a desk-based assessment of the development area (Albion Archaeology 2007).

2.2 General Background Information

The area covered by the development is situated within what was common land until the enclosure of Flitwick. On Jefferys' map of 1765 it is referred to as Flitwick Common and on the pre-enclosure map of 1793 it is called Broad Moor Common (Fig. 2). The current line of Steppingley Road was established at enclosure.

The Bedfordshire Victoria County History, compiled in the early years of the 20th century, gives a summary of the contemporary agricultural activities in the parish.

The soil is light gravel with a subsoil of sand, and an extensive vein of gravel has been worked for many years and shows no sign of exhaustion. The sand and gravel pits are scattered throughout the parish, the old workings being used for market gardening, which is a very flourishing industry, occasioning a considerable increase in population within the last thirty years. French gardening is carried on to some extent, and there are also crops of wheat, oats, barley, beans and peas (Page 1912).

This account suggests that market gardening became a significant part of the Flitwick economy in the late 19th century. French gardening is a term sometimes used today to refer to a form of intensive, raised bed cultivation, though it is not clear if that is what is intended by Page in this case.

The construction of Steppingley Isolation Hospital, which opened in 1905, marks the first major phase of development in this area. The hospital is situated 300m to the north-west of Valley Farm at the junction of the Steppingley and Froghall Roads in a rural location suited to its original function.

Relatively little development took place in the vicinity until the late 20th century; for example, the Flitwick Leisure Centre was opened in 1984.

2.3 Historical Maps

Ordnance Survey maps and historical maps held by the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives Service were examined.

2.3.1 Pre-enclosure map 1793 (Fig. 2)

This plan shows no buildings on the modern location of Valley Farm. The area at that time was common land, named Broad Moor Common. A drainage ditch aligned NE-SW across the common corresponds to the location of the eastern limit of the current development area.



Details of the suggested changes at enclosure are indicated on the plan and are obvious from the way in which they form straight lines which cut across the pre-existing features. One of the alterations is the straightening of a small track to form the Steppingley Road.

2.3.2 Enclosure map 1807 (not illustrated)

This plan confirms the changes outlined on the pre-enclosure map. The most noticeable change is the replacement of the strip furlongs shown at the north of the earlier map by enclosed fields.

2.3.3 1st Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey 1881 (Fig. 3)

No buildings are shown in the current location of Valley Farm. The most significant change from the enclosure map is the appearance of the Midland Railway line which was constructed in the 1860s. This defines the northern part of the development area. Some of the enclosure boundaries adjacent to the railway were realigned and new subdivisions created across the development area.

2.3.4 2nd Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey 1901 (not illustrated)

This plan, surveyed in 1900 still shows no buildings in the current location of Valley Farm. The other features remain largely unchanged.

This area appears not to have been covered by the third edition revision which was carried out in the 1920s. The Bedfordshire and Luton Archives Service has no copy and online searches are blank.

2.3.5 1937-48 revision (not illustrated)

This plan is the first which shows the farmhouse on the road frontage with outbuildings to the rear. The latter include a small building which corresponds to the location and alignment of the onion shed.



3. BUILDING RECORDING: DESCRIPTION

3.1 Methodology

Throughout the project the standards set in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* and English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006) have been adhered to. All work has been done in accordance with the IFA Code of Conduct.

The survey followed English Heritage recommendations for a level 3 survey, comprising a detailed examination of the building and a photographic record. On site records consist of sketch plans and elevations marked up with detailed measurements. These were used to produce the CAD drawings which are reproduced in this report. The photographic records comprise high resolution digital images and medium format monochrome photographs. The selected digital images which accompany the text have been reproduced at a lower resolution in order to ensure digital versions of the report are of a manageable size.

At the time of the survey no demolition or clearance work had started. However the nature of the construction of the onion shed, particularly the slatted walls and floors enabled the structure to be seen clearly. The eastern external elevation was partly obscured by tree growth but all of the details of the construction could be examined from inside.

The building survey and photographic survey work was undertaken on 28th August 2013.

3.2 General Description

Valley Farm occupies a rectangular plot aligned approximately NE-SW (Fig. 1). The plot is bounded to the south by Steppingley Road, to the west by modern development (the Rufus Centre), to the east by a ditched boundary and is open to the fields to the north. The farmhouse and farm buildings are ranged along the eastern side of the plot with the farmhouse on the road frontage. To the rear of the farmhouse two ranges of weatherboarded buildings form an L-shaped arrangement with an open fronted building, possibly a cart shed attached to the northern arm of the L.

The onion drying shed is a free-standing structure with its south-east corner in contact with the north-east corner of the possible cart shed. It stands on the southern side of a concrete yard area.

A series of three buildings across the northern side of the yard represent later additions to the farm. These comprise a brick building aligned NE-SW with an attached, open fronted shed and a large steel framed farm building beyond those.

The onion drying shed is aligned NE-SW but for the purposes of clarity in the following description it is assumed to be aligned with its long axis north-south.



3.3 Plan

The shed is rectangular, measuring 7.98m long by 2.74m wide to the inside of the external lath cladding. There are two doors, one in the centre of the north end and a second in the east wall located just south of the middle of the building.

3.4 Structure

3.4.1 Base

The shed is raised 0.42m above the ground on brick piers. These consist of four corner piers (0.34m sq) and smaller intermediate piers (0.22m sq) at the ends and along the sides.

The piers carry a sill beam around all four sides of the building. This is laid on its side (80mm x 180mm) and appeared to have halved joints at the corners, although this was obscured by decay and the external cladding. The sill beam continues across the north end of the building but here an additional timber (100mm x 220mm) laid edgewise along its north side forms the actual support for the wall.

3.4.2 Floor (Fig. 4)

The floor is supported by 22 transverse joists (150mm x 50mm) laid edgewise with their ends resting on the sill beam along either side of the shed.

The floor itself consists of narrow wooden lathes (c.35mm wide x 25mm deep) nailed to the joists leaving narrow spaces between the lathes c.15mm wide.

3.4.3 Walls (Figs 5-7)

The walls are framed with four corner posts (100mm x 80mm), closely spaced studs and diagonal primary braces (both 100mm x 50mm) (Images 7 -10). The studs are nailed to the braces and tenoned into the wall plate above (Image 15). The bases of the studs were obscured by the floor and external cladding and the details of their fixing could not be observed.

The door openings in the east and north walls are framed by studs identical to the other wall studs but set at a suitable spacing to contain a door. The studs framing the door in the north end have diagonal scarf joints in their lower part. This could be a later repair to replace decayed timber.

The wall plate (100mm x 80mm) continues around all four walls being tenoned at the corners (Image 14) and with side-halved scarf joints in the side walls (Image 13).

The gable ends are each formed by eight studs. These are notched at their bases to fit over the end joist and sit on the top of the wall plate. At the top they are fixed to rafters which are positioned in line with the end walls. The gables are clad with weatherboarding

3.4.4 Roof

The roof overhangs the walls along either side of the shed and projects at the gable ends. The roof sits on 13 joists (100mm x 50mm) set across the top of the side



walls. These extend beyond the wall line and support longitudinal timbers (100mm x 80mm) on either side of the building. A series of common rafters are notched at their lower ends where they sit on the longitudinal timbers; they are nailed to a ridge plank at their upper ends.

Tongue and groove boards laid across the joists form a loft floor. This floor covers the northern two thirds of the shed with a short gap left at the north end.

3.4.5 Exterior (Figs 8 and 9)

The walls are clad throughout in horizontal timber lathes of a similar size and spacing as those used for the floor. The lathe cladding is framed at the edges by narrow battens nailed to the corner posts on the end walls and around the door openings. Where sections of the lathe cladding are absent, such as on the north elevation, nails and stains left by the lathes indicate their former presence. The south elevation shows evidence of repair with some shorter lengths used to replace missing lathes.

The two doors are of ledge and brace construction with vertical lathes in place of the usual boards forming the outer face.

The upper parts of the side walls are covered in tarred roofing felt. This is fixed to a batten at its lower edge which projects slightly from the face of the wall, presumably to shed water away from the wall. The northern end wall also retains some fragments of felt showing that it was also partly covered at some time.

The projecting gable ends of the roof have plain barge boards. The upper edges of the barge boards have a batten nailed on to cover the ends of the tile roof where it abuts the rear of the barge board. Along the sides of the roof a fascia board is fixed to the ends of the joists supporting the roof.

The roof is covered with light yellow to pinkish red clay tiles. These are single lap tiles with three corrugations (triple Romans). They are 270mm wide and 370mm long with a single nib.



4. BUILDING ANALYSIS

4.1 *Construction and Materials*

The building was constructed from machine sawn soft wood throughout. Most of the frame consists of timber measuring 100mm by 50mm. This was used for the wall studs, ceiling joists and rafters. Larger sections were used for the sill beams, floor joists, corner posts and wall plates. The longest sections of timber noted were the wall plates which are up to 5.7m long. The lathes used for cladding the walls occur in lengths of up to 5.4m. Marking up of the timber during construction was done in pencil, e.g. the location of mortises in the underside of the wall plates.

The interior woodwork appears to have been left in its natural finish. On the exterior black staining and traces of a black surface finish suggest that a bitumen-based finish was used to protect the wood.

4.2 *Function*

Constructional features of the shed identify it as a specialized agricultural building used for the drying and storage of onions. It was designed to protect the crop from rain whilst allowing the free flow of air to dry the onions. Rain is kept away from the walls which have a wide eaves overhang and projecting gable ends. Free flow of air around the crop is provided at all levels. The slatted floor is raised above the ground on brick piers. The walls and doors are made from lathes and at eaves level there is a gap between the top of the wall and the roof.

The interior of the shed contains no fittings or fixtures such as racks, shelves or storage bins and contains no evidence for any former fittings.

A photograph published in *Farmers Weekly* in 1937 in the archives of the Museum of English Rural Life (Reading University) shows a Bedfordshire onion drying shed in use (Reference P FW PH2/O26/3). It shows two men preparing onions for market inside a drying shed. The crop of onions is banked up against a slatted side wall and the men are stood next to the heap, processing the onions on circular trays placed on top of barrels.

4.3 *Development*

The onion shed at Valley Farm is a single phase construction with evidence for minor alterations and repairs post-dating its original construction.

Short sections of timber joined with diagonal scarf joints to the base of both sides of the north door frame may be evidence of repair. The side walls of the shed have a covering of tarred roofing felt to their upper parts. This is presumably a later modification since it was fitted over the slatted walls. The walls were left uncovered in the lower part and a batten at the base of the roofing felt would have helped to keep water off this part of the walls. From this it appears that the building retained its original drying or storage function after the felt was added.



It is not clear whether the flooring over of part of the shed to form a loft was an original feature or was done at a later date. It is constructed with tongue and groove boards over the rafters and could have been added at any time.

A lean-to with a corrugated asbestos roof attached to the western side of the shed was a later addition to the building, evidenced by the fact that it is attached over the tarred felt covering.



5. DISCUSSION

The origins of commercial market gardening in Bedfordshire have been traced to the mid 17th century, beginning around Sandy (Beavington 1965). The stimulus for the industry is likely to have been the combination of suitable soils and the expanding London market, which was accessed by the Great North Road. The main crop appears to have carrots during the 17th century but these were overtaken by onions and cucumbers by the late 18th century.

The industry expanded during the 19th century with the construction of the Great Northern Railway in 1851 which linked Sandy and Biggleswade to London (Beavington 1963, 89). This provided a source of cheap stable manure from the capital and gave access to the market created by the capital's rapidly expanding population. The focus activity at this time remained within the Ivel valley.

Changes during the early 1900s included the expansion of market gardening to the Great Ouse terraces around Willington and Cople and also along the Greensand ridge to the west of the Ivel in the Maulden area. Expansion into the Maulden area was made possible by the advent of the lorry which provided transport for areas further from the rail network (Beavington 1963, 89).

Historical map data shows that Valley Farm did not come into existence until sometime after 1900 (Fig. 3). There are no maps available for this area from the 1920s. However, the architectural style of the farmhouse is consistent with a date in the Edwardian period with a combination bay windows and 'half-timbered' detailing in the gables. The construction date of the onion shed cannot be determined from its construction alone but it appears to be in existence by the mid 20th century. A building corresponding to the onion shed appears on the partial revision of the OS maps dating from 1937-48.

The Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record includes records for a number of onion sheds, both surviving and sites of demolished ones. The list cannot be complete but provides useful data for comparison. A search of the data focused on Biggleswade provides over 50 records but a 10km search radius of the area around Maulden produces only six records including the example at Valley Farm (HER 19614).

Onion drying sheds represent a specialised agricultural building type with a particular local significance in Bedfordshire and are a diminishing resource. They are no longer needed in modern production methods. The open construction of the buildings is liable to make them prone to decay, if not maintained, and also difficult to find alternative uses for.

Only a small number of onion sheds have been subject to detailed recording but it is apparent from this, and from the records in the HER, that they take a number of forms. The shed at Valley Farm is a small example of a dedicated onion drying shed. In addition to larger versions of this dedicated onion shed another type consisted of onion lofts incorporated into other buildings.



A building known as The Old Onion Drying Shed, off Hill Lane in Old Warden consisted of an L-shaped unit which incorporated haylofts above stables and onion lofts above the adjoining cart sheds (Clark 2000). In this example the onion lofts had slatted floors and slatted external walls. It is believed to date from shortly after 1901 as it does not appear on the 2nd edition OS map.

A barn recorded on land off Church Street in Langford included first floor onion drying lofts to either side of a central area open to the roof accessed by full height double doors (Albion Archaeology 2010). In this case the onion lofts had slatted floors and internal partitions from the central area but were weatherboarded on the exterior walls. The exterior of this building gave no indication of its specialised function as it appeared to be a small, standard barn.



6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albion Archaeology, 2007 *Land adjacent to Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire: archaeological desk-based assessment, Report No. 2007/77*
- Albion Archaeology, 2010 *Land off Church Street, Langford, Bedfordshire: building recording, Report No. 2010/5*
- Albion Archaeology, 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation and Building Recording, Report No 2013/105 V1.1*
- Beavington, F. 1963 'The change to more extensive methods of market gardening in Bedfordshire' *Institute of British Geographers* **33**
- Beavington, F. 1965 'Early Market Gardening in Bedfordshire' *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* **37**, 91-100
- Beavington, F. 1975 'The Development of Market Gardening in Bedfordshire 1799-1939', *Agricultural History Review*, **23**, 23-47
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000. *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties. 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8.
- Central Bedfordshire Council, 2013 *Brief for a Programme of Building Recording and Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of land at Valley Farm, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire (V1 3rd June MKO)*
- Clarke, J. 2000 'The Old Onion-Drying Shed, Old Warden, Bedfordshire', *Journal of the Historic Farm Buildings Group* **14**, 27-31
- Edgeworth, M. 2007 'Post-medieval, Industrial and Modern Periods' in Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P. *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph, 119-141.
- English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good recording Practice* (English Heritage)
- Gilman, P; Gould, S. and Green, S. 2000 'Post-medieval and Modern' in Brown and Glazebrook
- Medlycott, M. (ed) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.



Oake, M. 2007 'Research agenda and strategy', in Oake, M., Luke, M., Dawson, M., Edgeworth, M. and Murphy, P. *Bedfordshire Archaeology – Research and Archaeology: Resource Assessment, Research Agenda and Strategy*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9. 7-20

Page, W. 1912 *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 3*



7. APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE

7.1 Summary of Archive Contents

- Field drawings
- Report, hard copy and PDF digital copy
- CAD drawings – digital and hard copy
- Digital photographs saved on CD
- Black and white contact prints on archival quality paper
- Black and white negatives

7.2 Arrangements for Long-term Deposition

The project archive will be deposited with Luton Museum (Accession number LUTNM 2011/79).

Copies of the report will be deposited with the Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record. Details of the project and a digital copy of the report will be uploaded to the OASIS database (OASIS I.D. albionar1-159786).



8. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM (ID: albionar1-159786)

Project details

Project name	Valley Farm, Steppingley Road, Flitwick - Building Recording
Short description of the project	<p>Planning permission granted for development on land at Valley Farm, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire included a condition requiring historic building recording of an onion drying shed prior to its demolition. Valley Farm comprises a red brick farmhouse on Steppingley Road with the farm buildings comprising a mixture of weatherboarded and brick buildings to the rear of the farmhouse. The onion drying shed is located towards the rear of the farm complex. Detailed measured survey and photographic recording of the building was carried out (level 3). The onion drying shed is raised on brick piers and has a slatted timber floor and walls with doors in the north end and east side and a tiled roof. Internally it is 7.98m long by 2.74m wide. The building is constructed of machine sawn, softwood throughout. The walls are framed with diagonal primary bracing and closely spaced studs. Examination of historical maps shows that Valley Farm had not been built when the 2nd edition OS map was surveyed in 1900. The architectural style of the farmhouse suggests an Edwardian construction date. Historical surveys of market gardening in Bedfordshire show that it developed during the mid 17th century in Sandy and expanded in the level valley following the construction of the railway in 1851. Expansion into parts of the Ouse valley and on the Greensand ridge around Maulden took place from 1900 onwards. The onion shed at Valley Farm, therefore, is related to the latest stage in expansion of market gardening in Bedfordshire.</p>
Project dates	Start: 28-08-2013 End: 28-08-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	SR1278 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	LUTNM 2011/79 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Building Recording
Monument type	ONION DRYING SHED Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey", "Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"



Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England
 Site location BEDFORDSHIRE MID BEDFORDSHIRE FLITWICK Steppingley Road, Flitwick - Building Recording
 Site coordinates TL 5000 8700 52 0 52 27 35 N 000 12 28 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Albion Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Albion Archaeology
 Project director/manager Mark Phillips
 Project supervisor None

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Luton Museum
 Digital Archive ID LUTNM 2011/79
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"



Paper Archive recipient	Luton Museum
Paper Archive ID	LUTNM 2011/79
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Photograph","Report"
Paper Archive notes	To be archived with two other phases of work.. evaluation and excavation

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Onion Drying Shed, Valley Farm, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire: Archaeological Building Recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Phillips, M'
Other bibliographic details	2013/153
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford

Entered by	Helen Parslow (hl.parslow@albion-arch.com)
Entered on	23 September 2013

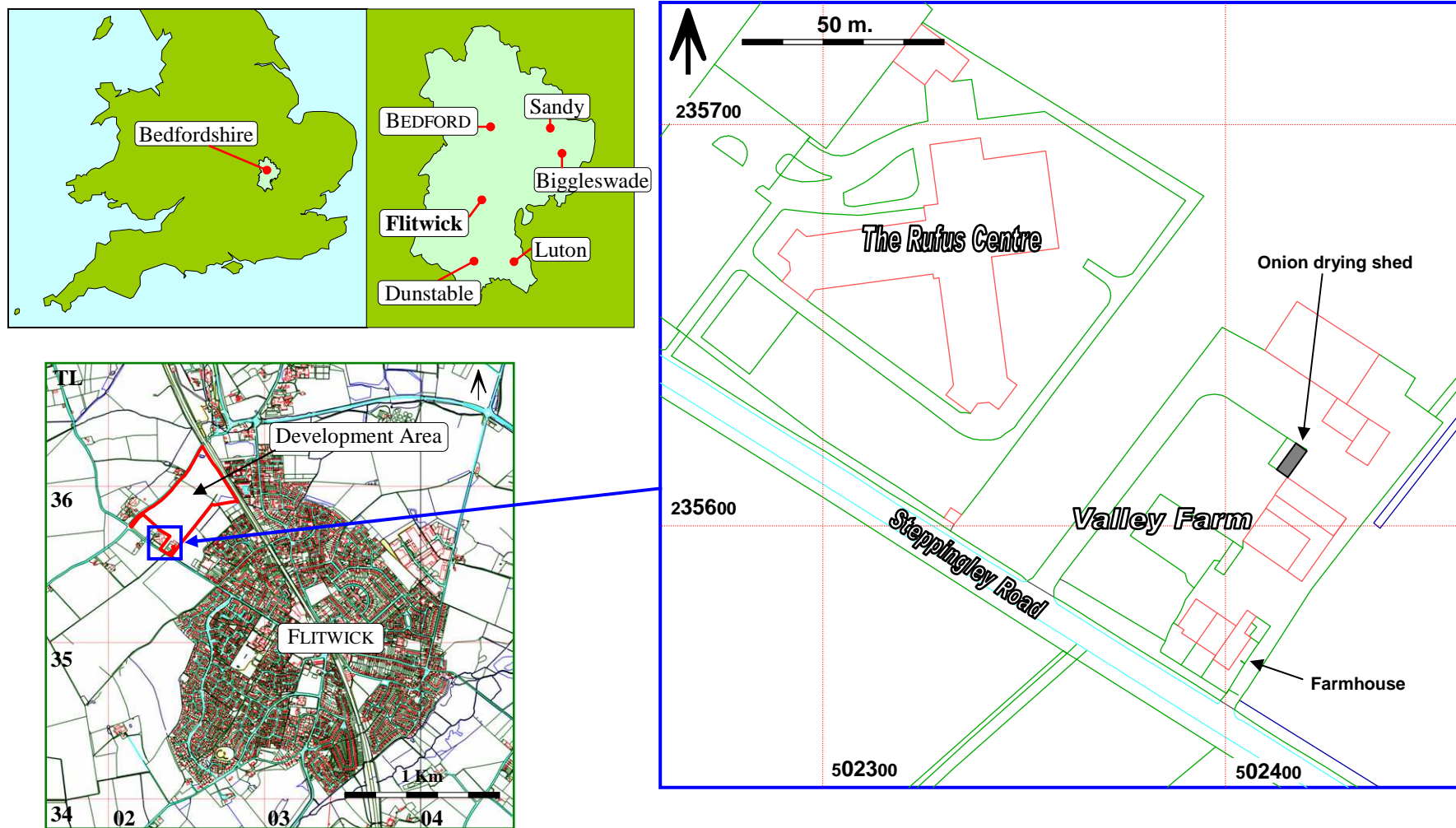


Figure 1: Location plan

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
 Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Central Bedfordshire Council. Licence No. 100049029 (2011)

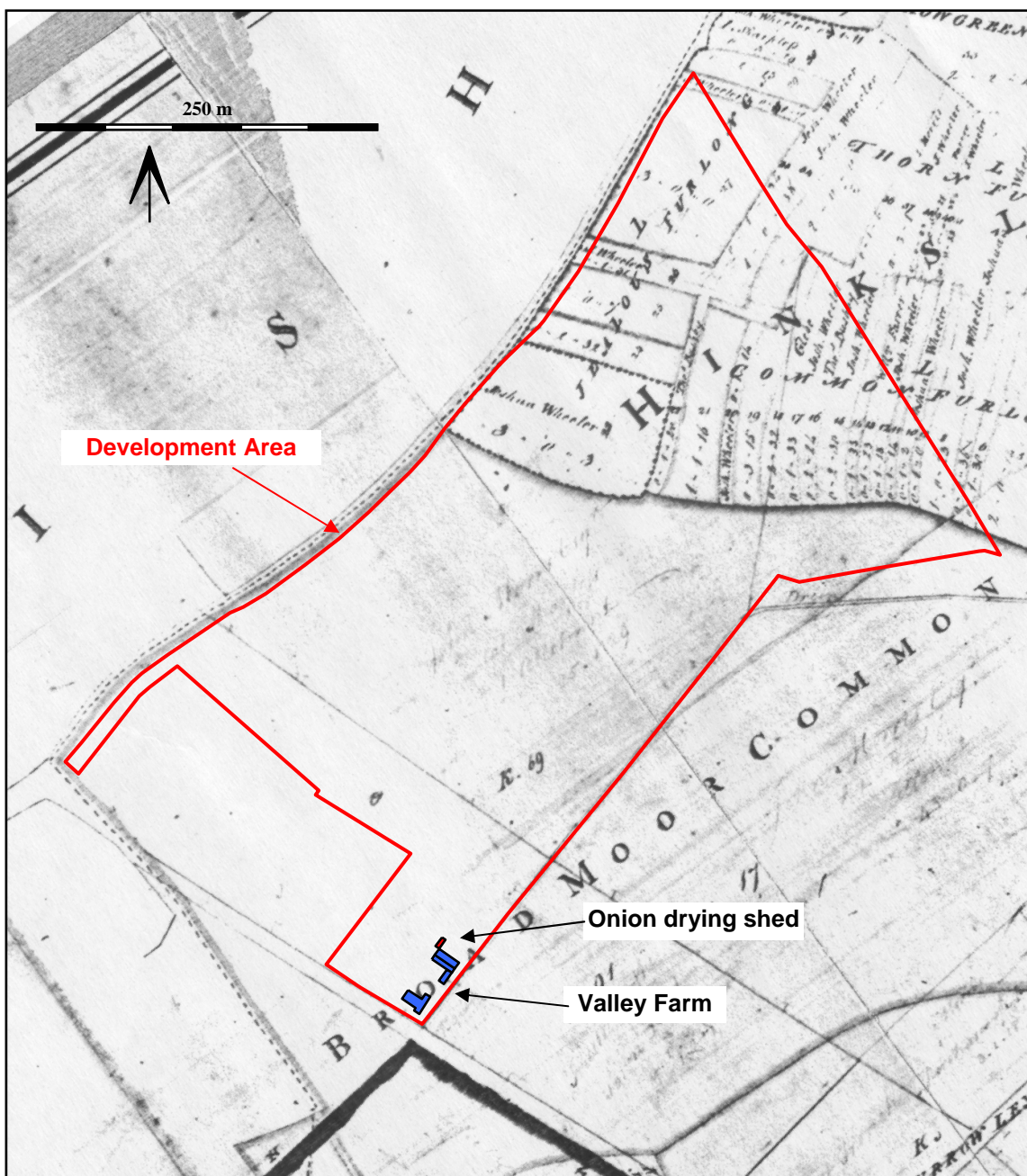


Figure 2: Valley Farm superimposed on 1793 pre-enclosure map

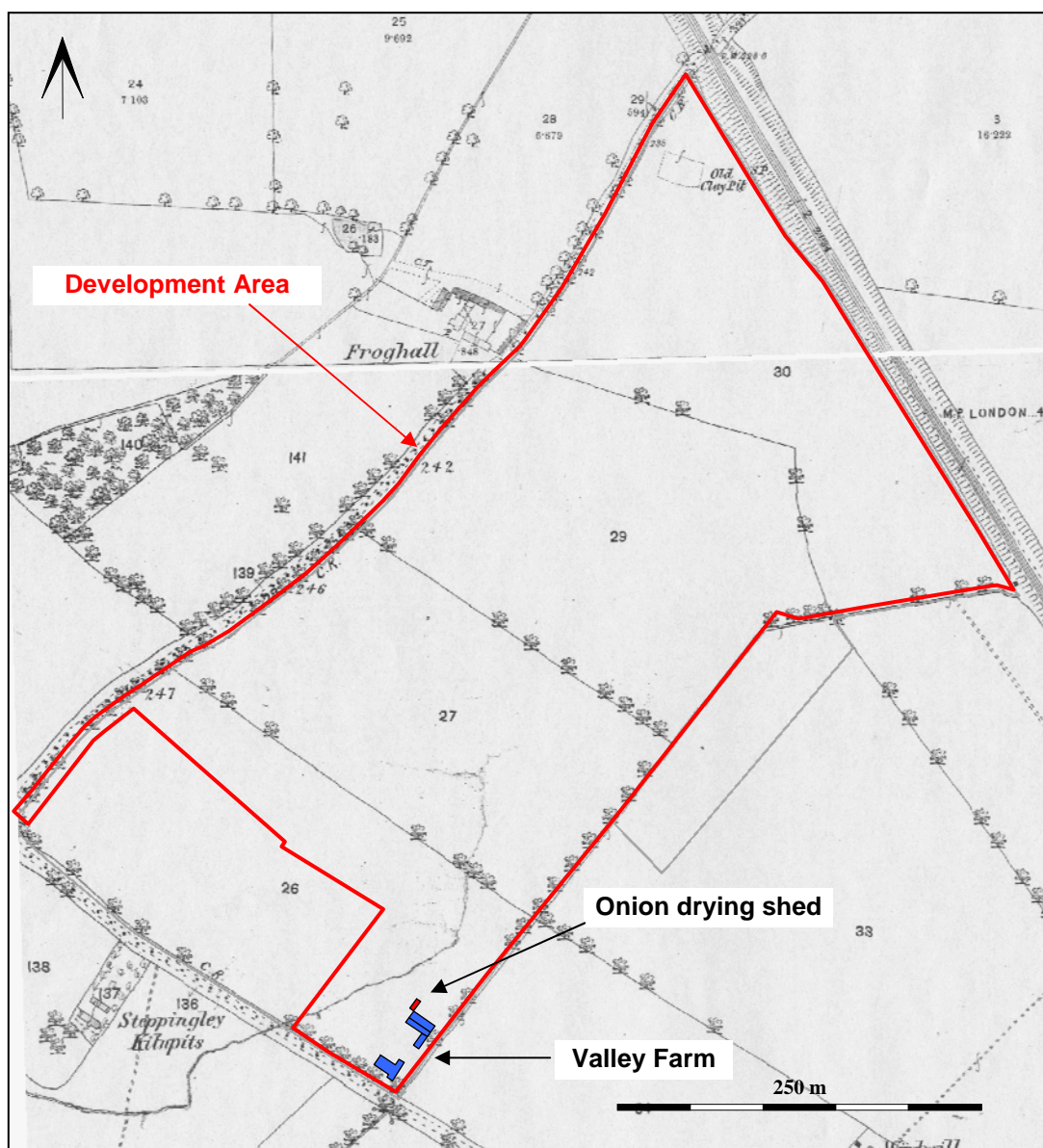


Figure 3: Valley Farm superimposed on 1881 first edition OS map

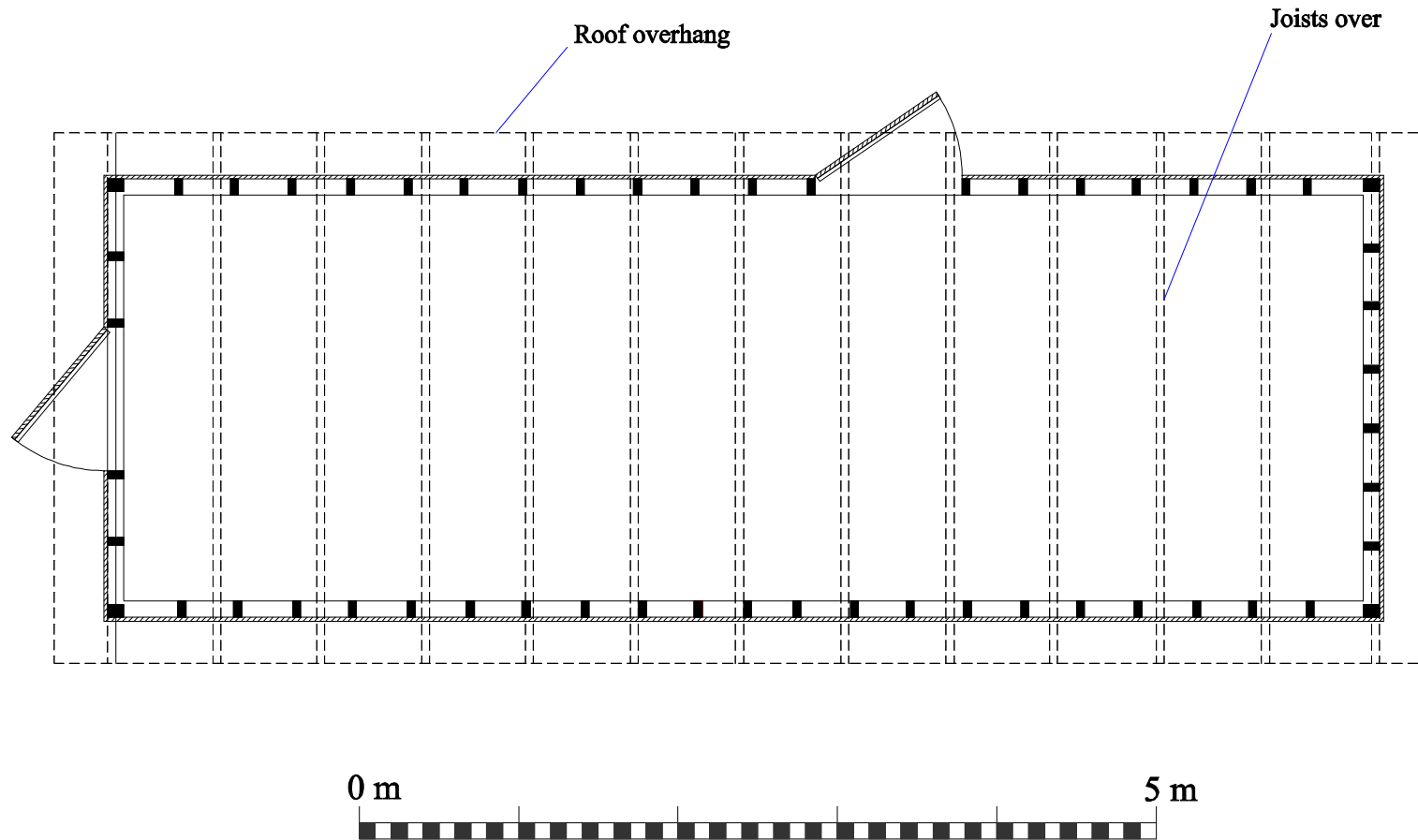


Figure 4: Floor plan

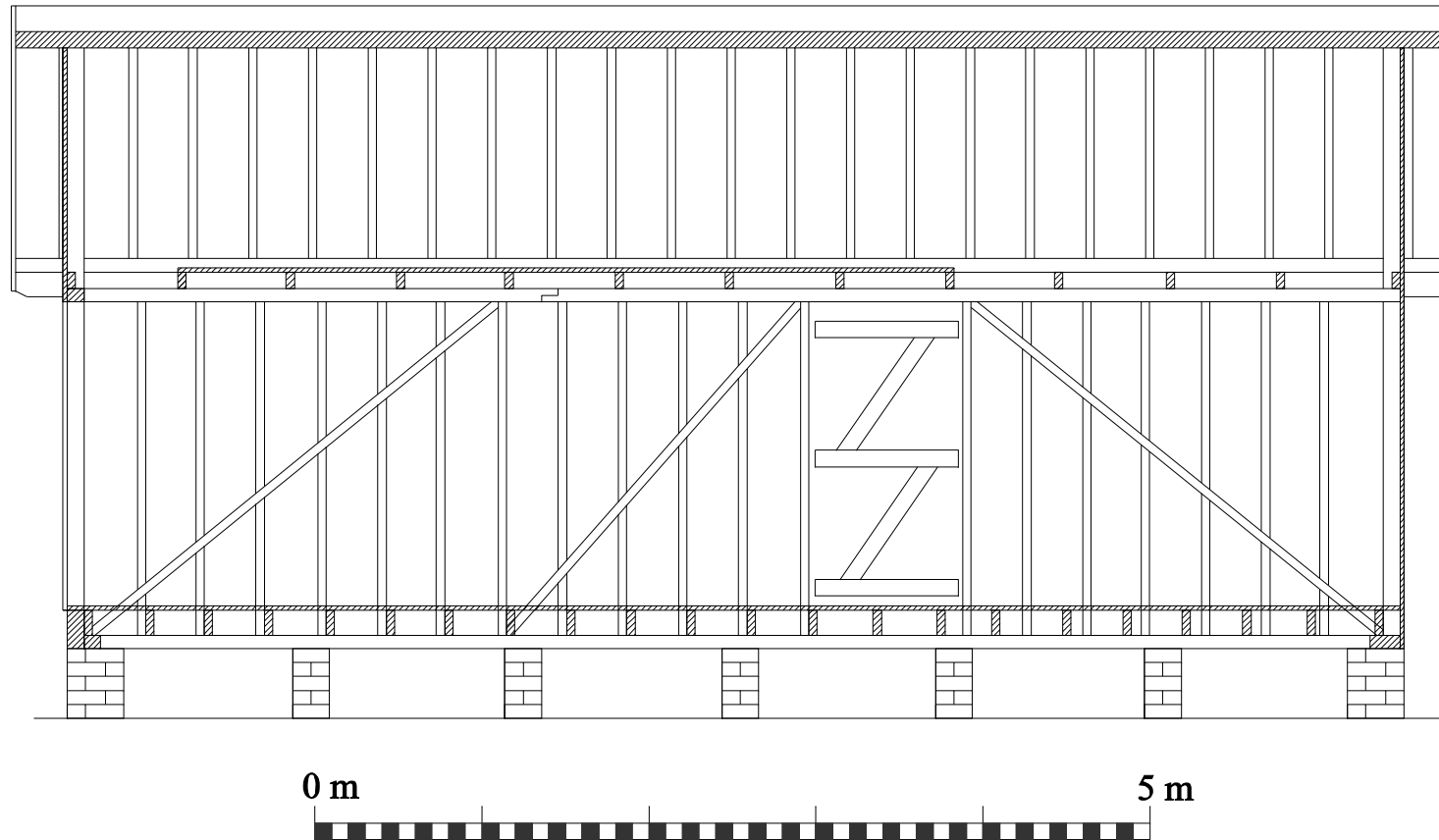


Figure 5: Internal elevation: east wall

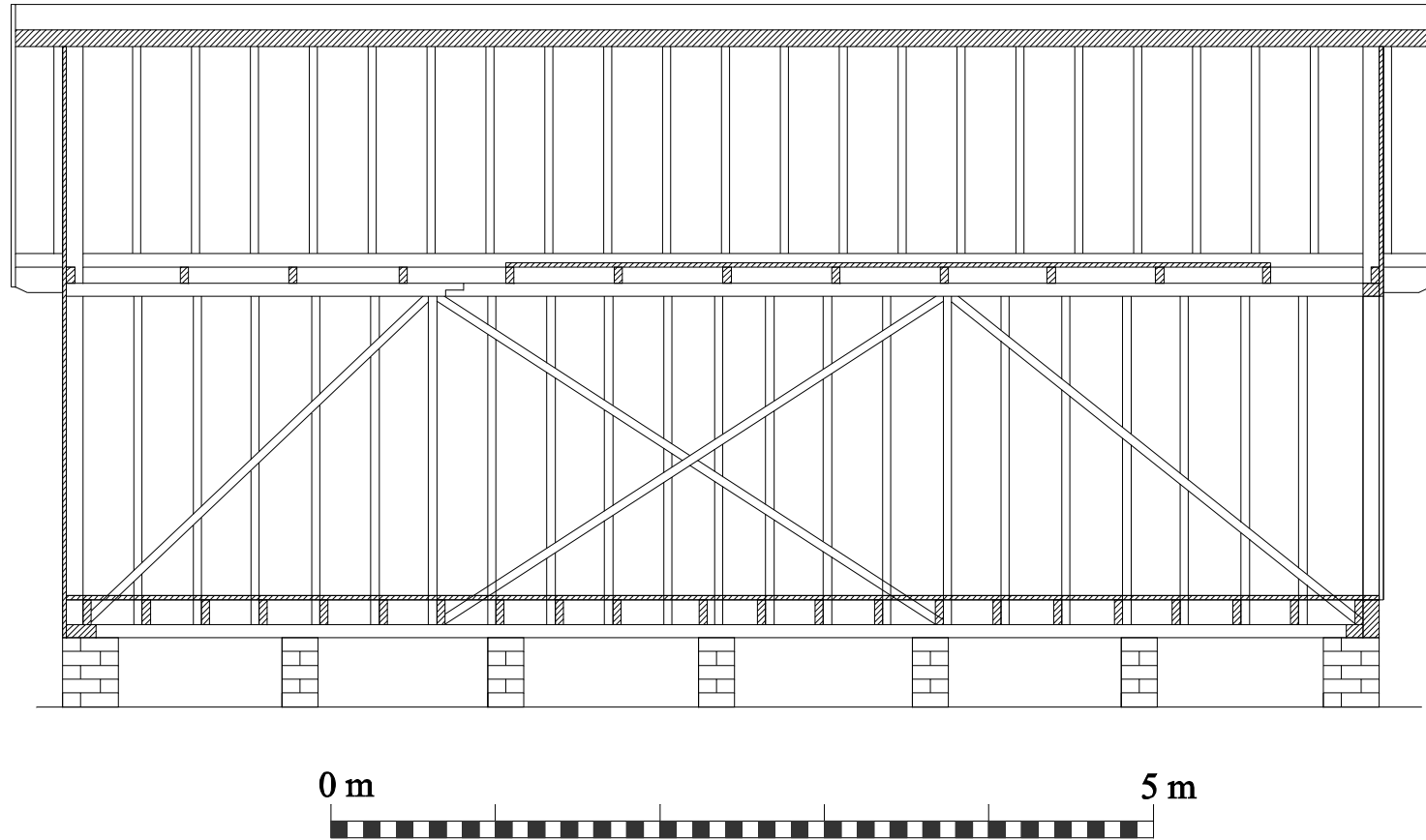
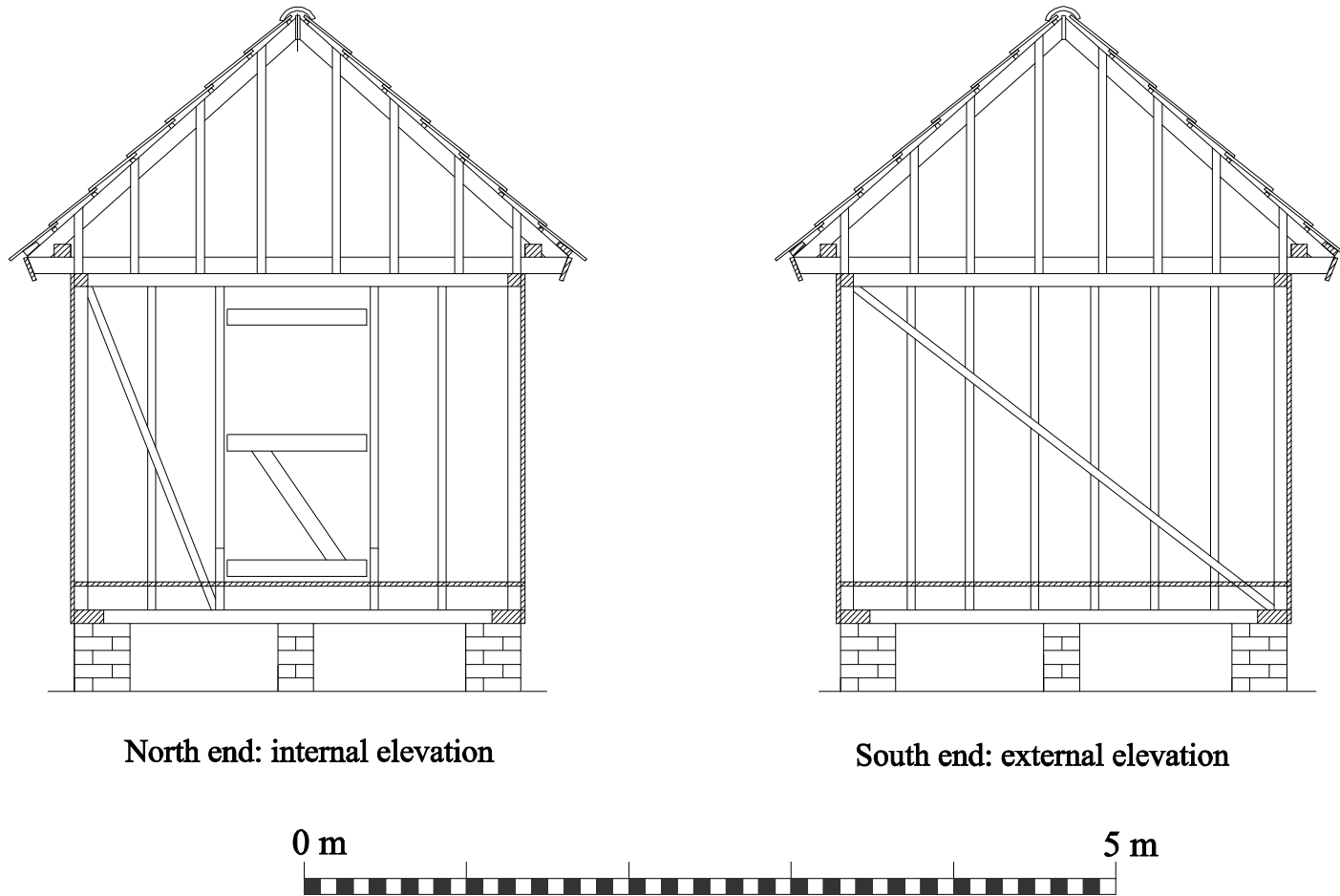


Figure 6: Internal elevation: west wall



North end: internal elevation

South end: external elevation

Figure 7: Internal end elevations

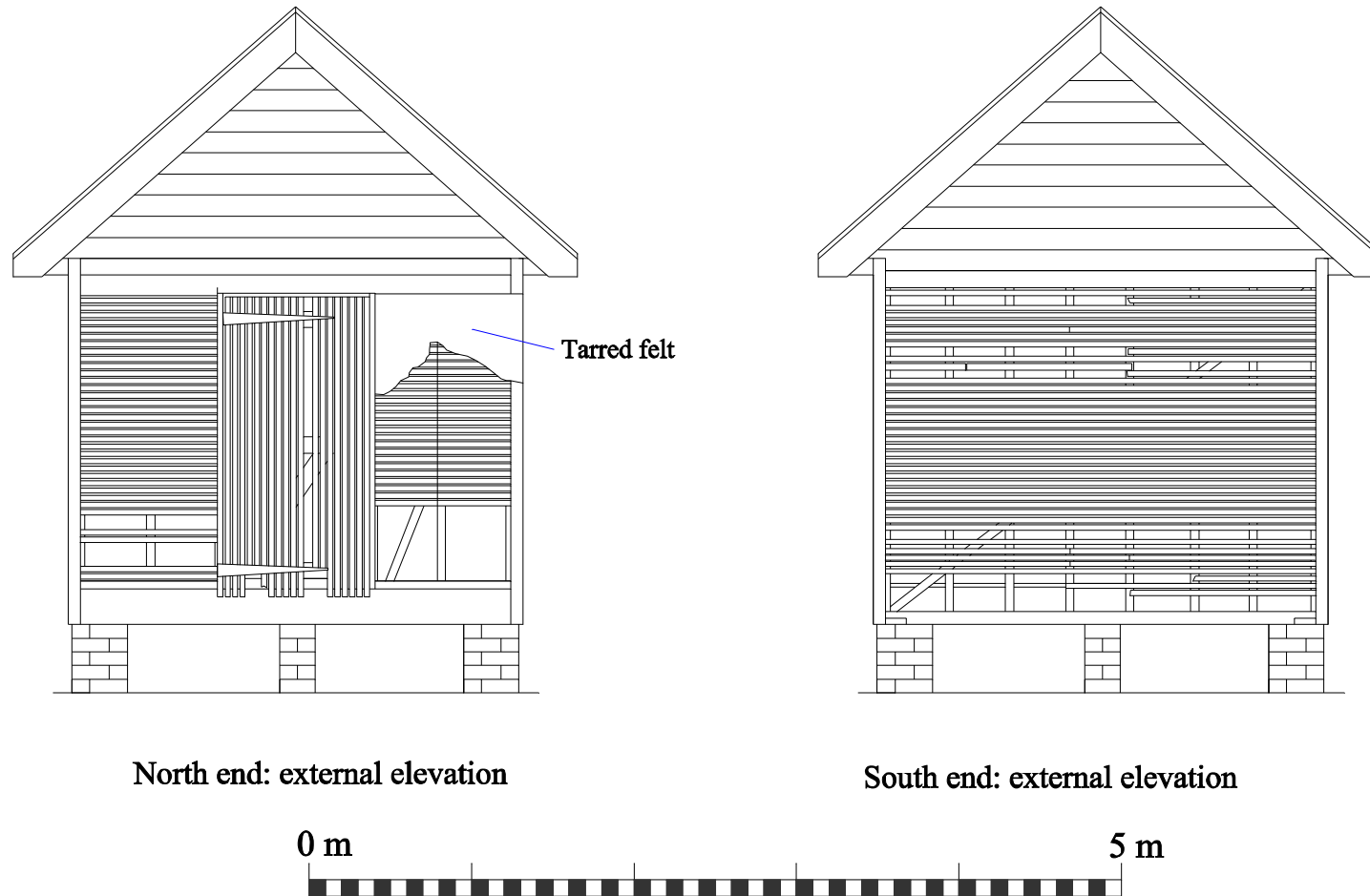


Figure 8: External end elevations

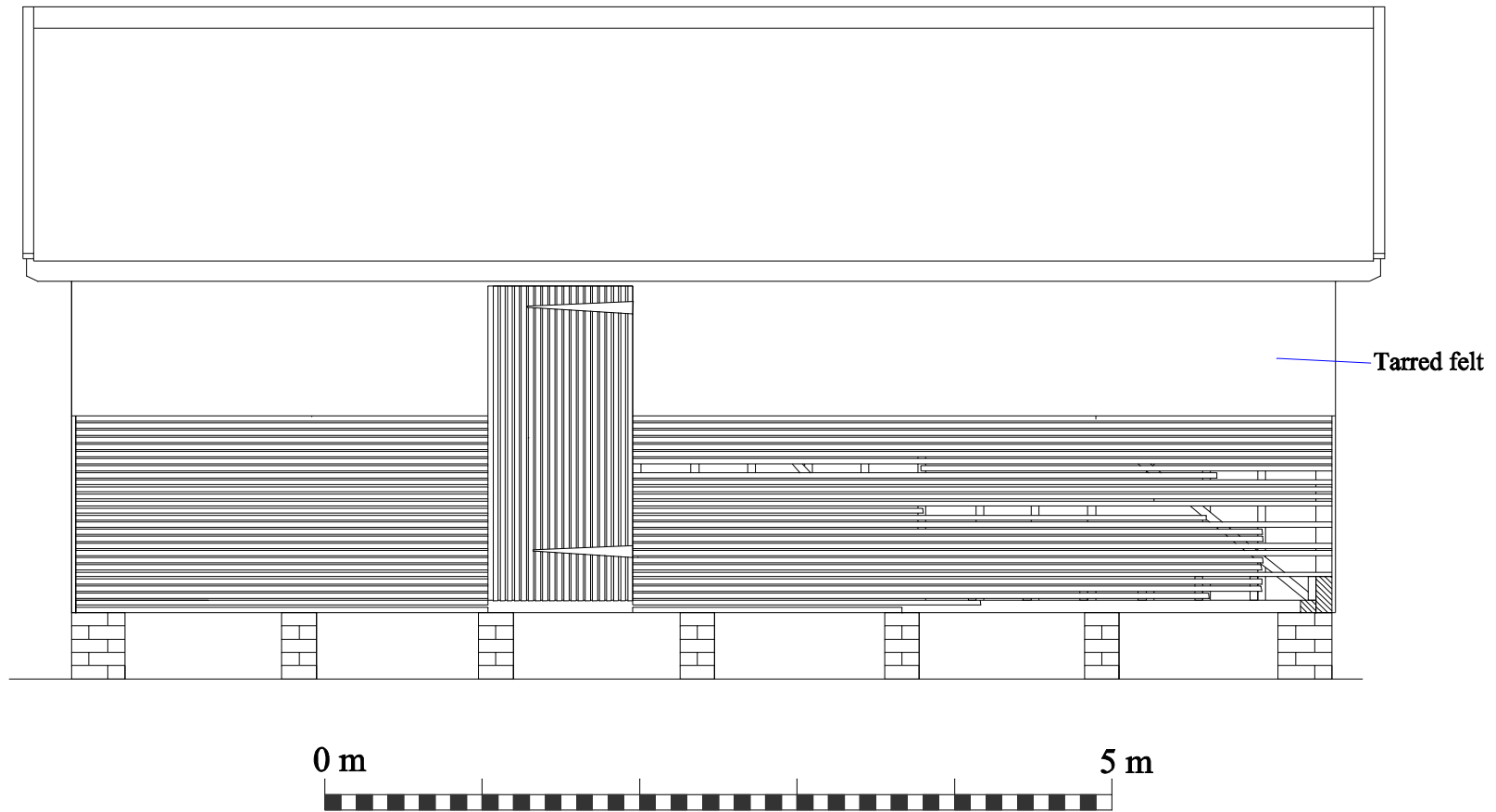


Figure 9: External elevation: east wall



Image 1: View of onion drying shed from the north-west



Image 2: View of onion drying shed with other farm buildings to the south

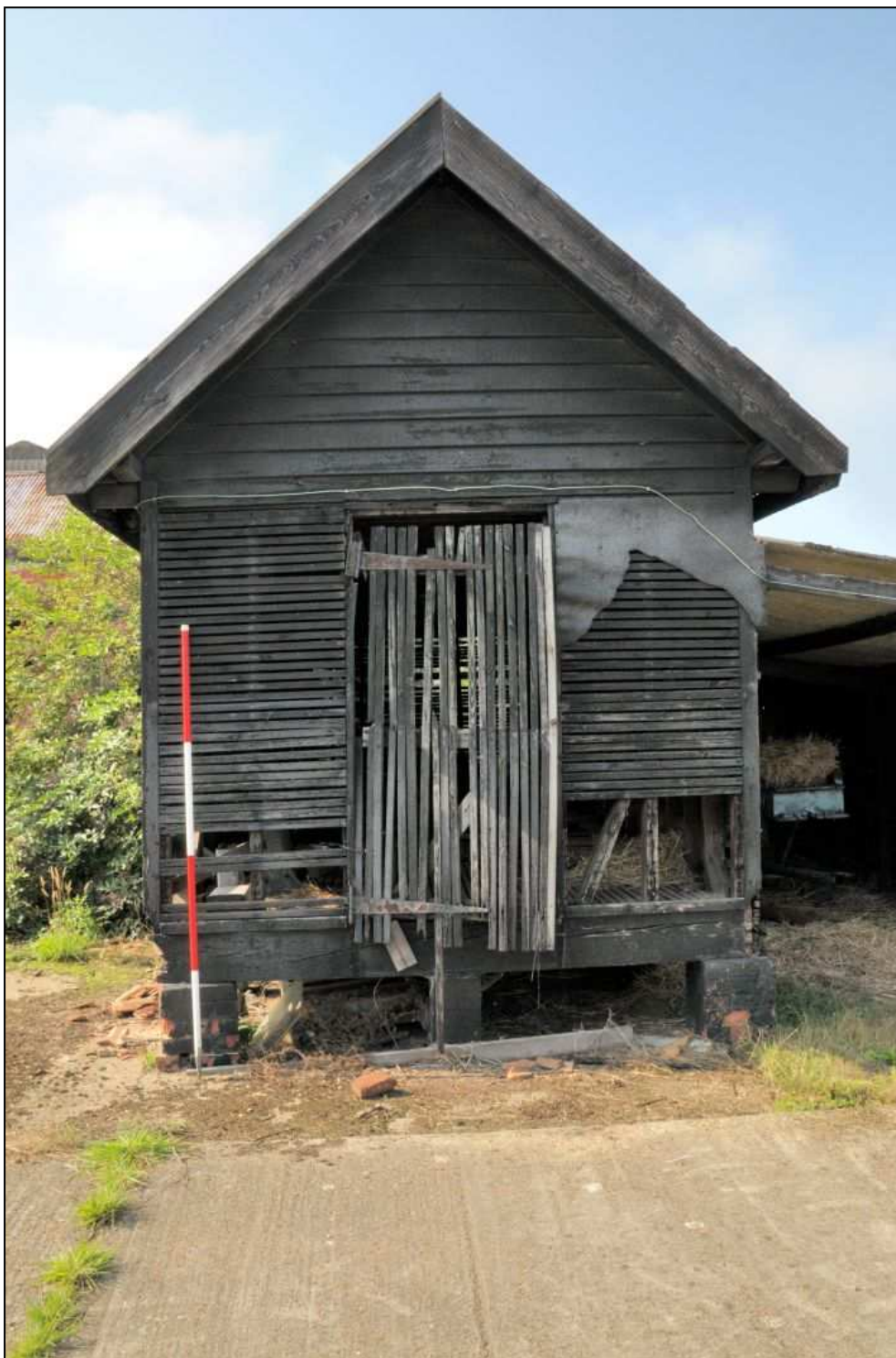


Image 3: North end of onion drying shed (scale 2m)

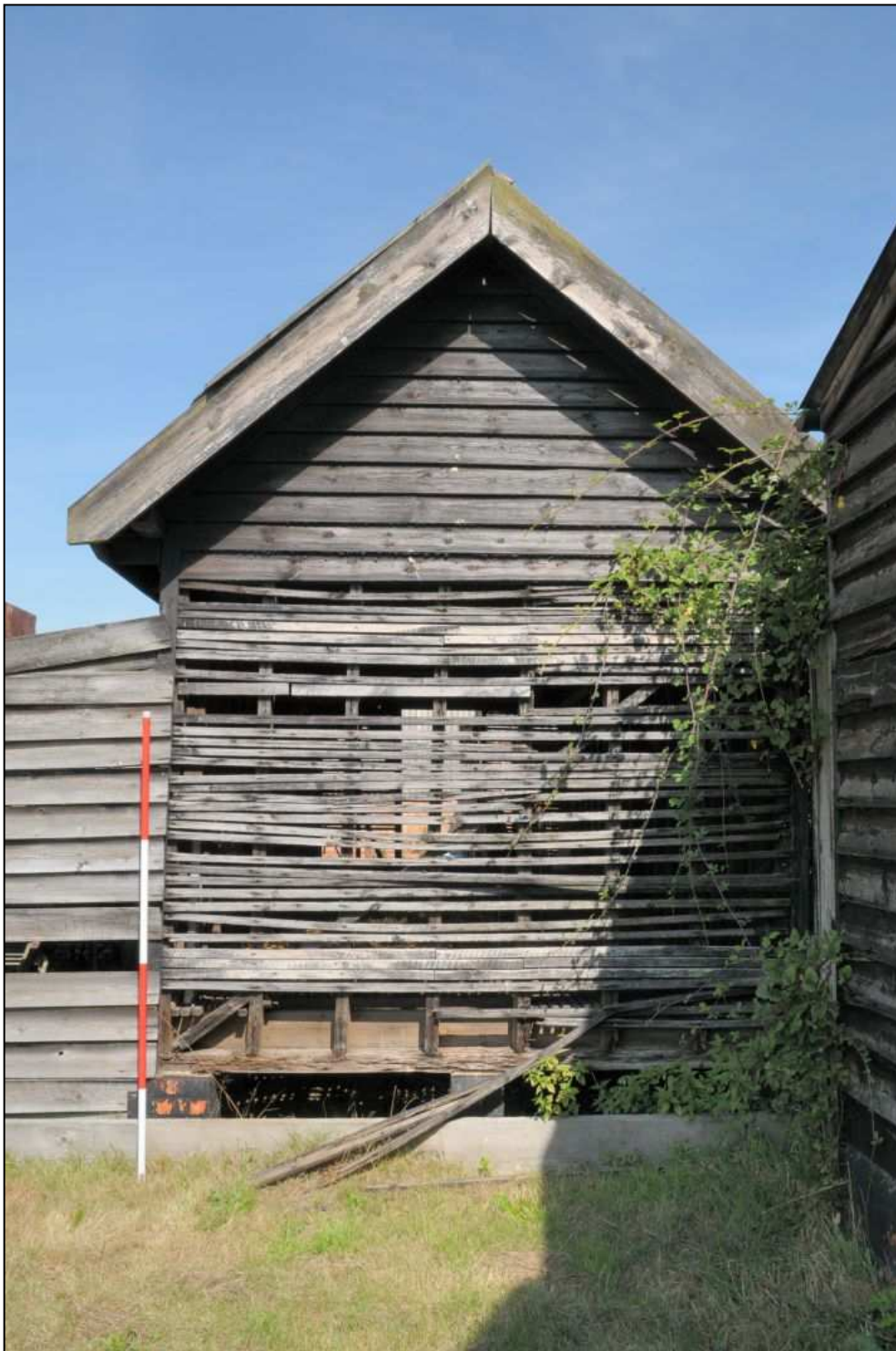


Image 4: South end of onion drying shed (scale 2m)



Image 5: East side of onion drying shed (scale 2m)



Image 6: View of onion drying shed from the south-west (scale 2m)



Image 7: Interior view showing the north end and east side walls (scale 2m)



Image 8: Interior view showing the south end and east side walls (scale 2m)



Image 9: Interior view showing the south end and west side walls (scale 2m)



Image 10: Interior view showing south end wall (scale 2m)



Image 11: Interior view showing door in east side wall (scale 2m)



Image 12: Interior view showing loft and roof structure



Image 13: Interior detail of west wall showing scarf joint in wall plate

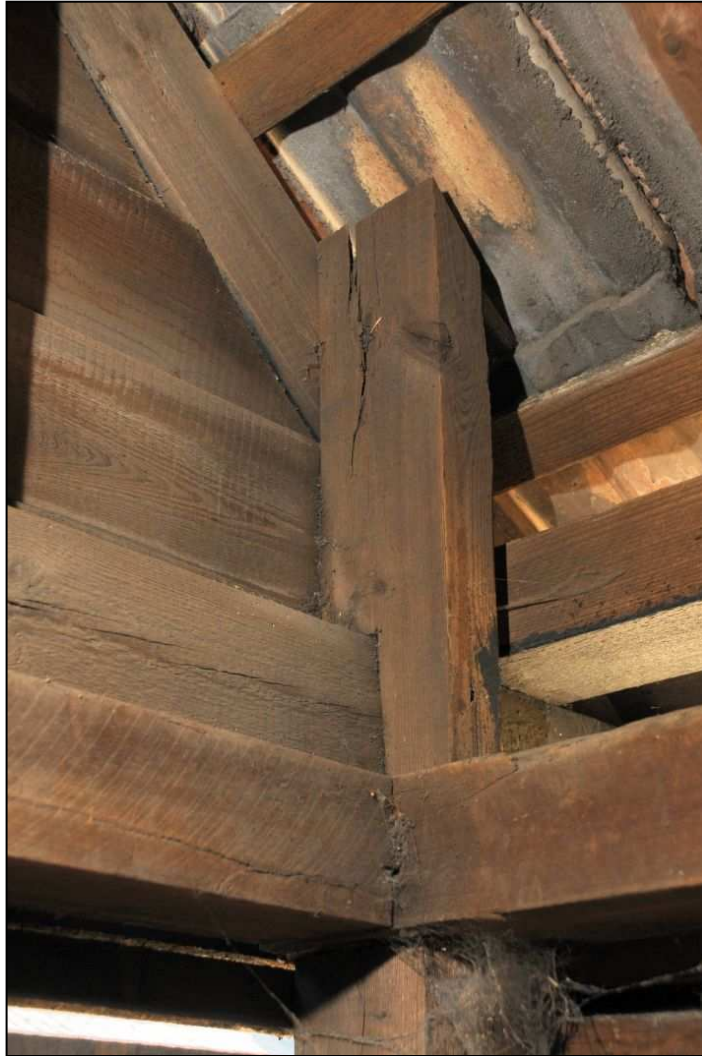


Image 14: Interior detail at the north-east corner

The image shows the junction of the corner post, the tops of the side and end walls with a short stud above forming part of the gable wall.



Image 15: Interior detail showing upper part of west side wall

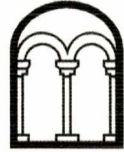
The image shows the top of a stud which is mortised into wall plate at top and nailed to a diagonal brace below



Image 16: Contact print of black and white images (scanned)

Central
Bedfordshire

Albion
archaeology



Albion Archaeology
St Mary's Church
St Mary's Street
Bedford
MK42 0AS

Telephone 01234 294000
Email office@albion-arch.com
www.albion-arch.com

