VILLAGE FARM HIGH STREET SUTTON BEDFORDSHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING







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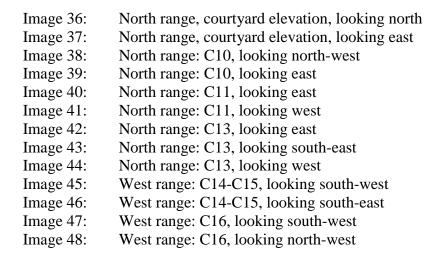
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Preface

All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and was prepared solely for the benefit of the client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and should not be relied upon by any third party. This document should not be used for any other purpose without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and the prior written authority of Albion Archaeology (a trading unit of Central Bedfordshire Council). Any person/party relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Albion Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Albion Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the persons/party by whom it was commissioned. This document is limited by the state of knowledge at the time it was written.

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Version History

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1.0	05/12/2019	n/a

Key Terms

Throughout this project design the following terms or abbreviations are used:

AlbionAlbion ArchaeologyBARSBedfordshire Archives and Record ServiceCBCCentral Bedfordshire CouncilCIfAChartered Institute for ArchaeologistsWSIWritten Scheme of Investigation

Non-Technical Summary

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) granted planning permission (CB/17/02622/REG3) and listed building consent (CB/17/02625/LB) for residential conversion of existing curtilage-listed agricultural buildings to three dwellings at Village Farm, High Street, Sutton, in Bedfordshire. The site is centred on NGR TL 2241/4741.

A condition requiring the implementation of a written scheme of heritage asset resource management (SHARM) was attached to the planning permission. The CBC Archaeologist confirmed that the following stages of work were required to address the condition:

- A programme of building recording of the farm buildings that are being converted, conforming to Level 2 of the Historic England guidance on building recording (Historic England 2016).
- Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on groundworks associated with the development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to produce a SHARM (Albion 2019) and to carry out the works. The building recording was carried out on 17th April 2019.

Construction date

The farm buildings are the product of a single construction phase with evidence for only minor later modifications and repairs. No documentary evidence has been found for the precise date of construction date and there are no date stones or inscriptions. The construction materials and design of the buildings are consistent with a construction date in the second half of the 19th century, probably in the 1860s or later. Historical OS maps show that the buildings were completed before 1881.

Plan and function

The buildings take the form of a planned farmstead with a regular courtyard plan, partially open on its west side where it faces the farmhouse. All of the functions of the farm were integrated into a single continuous range of buildings. Historical plans show that the courtyard was subdivided with walls or fences to form a series of stockyards. In common with many later-19th-century planned farmsteads it was built to a relatively utilitarian design, without any unnecessary architectural embellishment.

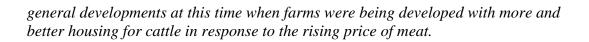
The functions of the various farm buildings suggest the farm was designed for a mixed agricultural economy. They include cart/implement sheds, storage barns and stables associated with arable farming, as well as shelter sheds and stockyards for cattle rearing.

Later history

Archive records show that the farm was leased as a smallholding from the 1920s onwards. Rating valuation records from the mid-1920s show that it was let by Bedfordshire County Council, with the farmhouse and farm buildings divided into two separate smallholdings.

Historical context

The farm buildings were probably built during the 1860s or 1870s, during the period of Victorian 'High Farming' between the 1840s and 1870s. The plan suggests a mixed farm economy but with the emphasis possibly on animal husbandry. This reflects





1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Report

Central Bedfordshire Council granted planning permission (CB/17/02622/REG3) and listed building consent (CB/17/02625/LB) for residential conversion of existing curtilage-listed agricultural buildings to three dwellings, at Village Farm, High Street, Sutton, Bedfordshire.

The following condition (no.8), covering heritage-related issues, was attached to the planning permission:

No development shall commence until a written scheme of heritage asset resource management; that includes the provision for archaeological investigation, post excavation analysis, building recording and publication, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development hereby approved shall only be implemented in full accordance with the approved heritage asset resource management scheme.

Reason: This condition is pre-commencement as a failure to secure an appropriate archaeological investigation and building recording in advance of development would be contrary to paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that requires developers to record and advance of understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) as a consequence of the development.)

This is a pre-commencement condition as it is important to ensure that a written scheme for archaeological investigation is agreed before the development begins.

The CBC Archaeologist (CBCA) confirmed that the following stages of work were required to address condition no. 8:

- A programme of building recording of the farm buildings subject to conversion, conforming to Level 2 of the Historic England guidance on building recording (Historic England 2016).
- Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on groundworks associated with the development.

Albion Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a written scheme of heritage asset resource management (SHARM), which was submitted to and approved by the LPA (Albion Archaeology 2019a) and to carry out the archaeological investigation and historic building recording. The results of the historic building recording form the subject of the present report.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The village of Sutton is located in the east of Bedfordshire, within the area covered by the unitary authority of Central Bedfordshire Council, *c*.5km east of



the town of Sandy. Village Farm is located approximately mid-way along the High Street, on the north side of the road (Figure 1).

Along its south side the site is bordered by the High Street. Modern housing extends up to the east side of the site. On the west side is the former farmhouse and the land to the north is open land or farmland. The former farmhouse is grade II listed (Village Farmhouse, NHLE1114087) and the site is located in the eastern part of the Sutton Conservation Area. It is centred on OS grid reference TL 2241/4741.

The buildings within the site consist of 19th-century farm buildings in yellow gault brick. They are arranged in a regular courtyard arrangement, partly open on its west side where it faces the farmhouse.

1.3 Project Objectives

The development site is located within the historic core of the village, the extent of which is indicated by historical maps and the location of historic buildings. A possible focus for medieval settlement is indicated at the west end of the village by John O'Gaunt's Hill, the packhorse bridge and the parish church. The extent and density of the medieval settlement and whether or not it extended into the present site are uncertain.

The relevant research frameworks for the area are set out in Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Oake *et al.* 2007 and Medlycott 2011.

The SHARM identified a number of research objectives relating to the origins, development, settlement hierarchy and the pattern of medieval rural settlement (Oake 2007, 14), (Medlycott 2011, 70).

Bedfordshire was at the forefront of the development of planned farmsteads under the active promotion of the Dukes of Bedford. This type of farmstead has been identified as worthy of study in itself and for its impact on evolving trends in agriculture (Oake, 2007, 16).

In general terms the purpose of the building recording was to:

- Gather, analyse and interpret data about the historic buildings to enhance understanding of them;
- Provide an accessible and accurate record of the historic buildings prior to their conversion;

The present report presents the results of the historic building recording works. The archaeological investigations undertaken during the building conversion works form the subject of a separate report (Albion Archaeology 2019b).

1.4 Methodology

The report forms a record of the buildings in accordance with the requirements of the planning condition and the detailed method statements set out in the SHARM.



The building was recorded by means of a photographic survey accompanied by a written and drawn record in accordance with the requirements of relevant elements of a Level 2 survey as defined by Historic England (2016). The fieldwork was carried out on 17th April 2019.



2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Cartographic Evidence

2.1.1 1835 Old Series Ordnance Survey (not illustrated)

The first published Ordnance Survey map for Sutton is sheet LII in the 'Old Series', published in 1835. This is a small-scale map at one inch to the mile. Buildings are represented quite schematically on the map. Comparison with later OS maps suggests that there were some buildings on or about the approximate location of the present Village Farm; however due to the small scale and level of accuracy it is impossible to correlate the details on this map with those shown on later maps.

2.1.2 1883 25-inch Ordnance Survey (Figures 2 and 3)

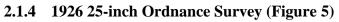
This map was surveyed in 1881 and published in 1882 (Bedfordshire sheet VIII-7). It is the earliest large-scale, topographically accurate map of the area. The first edition 25-inch maps were colour-coded to indicate the building materials (carmine for brick and stone and grey for timber and iron). Dashed lines were used to indicate open-fronted sections of a building.

The plan shows the adjacent farmhouse with a substantial garden which included coniferous trees along the boundary with the working farm area. The farm buildings are accurately mapped, including the internal subdivisions with only one internal division in the south range not shown (compare with existing plan Figure 6). The east range has one open-fronted compartment facing the courtyard and at both ends of the north range are open-fronted compartments facing outwards. In the north side of the yard is a narrow open-sided section corresponding to the lean-to on this side. The yard area is shown subdivided into a number of compartments. A rectangular section aligned east-west presumably formed the access into the yard and the access to the separate stock pens. The open-sided compartment and lean-to at the north would have been used as shelter sheds for animals in the pens around the north and east sides of the yard.

2.1.3 1901 25-inch Ordnance Survey (Figure 4)

The second edition 25-inch OS map was revised in 1900 and published in 1901 (Bedfordshire sheet VIII-7). The later editions of the 25-inch map omit details of the internal subdivisions but still distinguish between the enclosed and open-sided sections of the buildings.

Some changes are visible on the 1901 edition. On the north range an enclosure was built, attached to the open-fronted section on the east end the range, with another open-fronted building at the north end of this enclosure, presumably forming a stockyard with two shelter sheds. In the east range, the open-fronted section at the south was reduced in length by enclosing the northern part of the compartment. A detached open-fronted building was constructed in the stockyard in the south-west corner of the courtyard and this enclosure was further subdivided to form a small triangular enclosure.



The third edition 25-inch OS map was revised in 1924 and published in 1926 (Bedfordshire sheet VIII-7). The 1926 edition of the map is very similar to the preceding edition with a few changes to the buildings at the north-east corner. The easternmost compartment in the north range was subdivided to form two sections; the one on the north-east corner was enclosed while the other half appears to have remained open-fronted. The small enclosure at the north-east was replaced by a single boundary and the associated building to the north of the farmyard was partly enclosed.

2.2 Historical Documentary Evidence

Bedfordshire Archives and Records Service (BARS) holds a number of records relating to Village Farm. Those of direct relevance to the buildings were examined (see below). Other records are mainly correspondence files from the County Farms

Estate archives. These mostly concern farm management issues. The papers show that the farm was leased as a smallholding from the 1920s onwards. One record (ref. AO/C8/2), dating from 1939, mentions the proposed purchase of Village Farm by Bedfordshire County Council.

2.2.1 1925 Rating and Valuation Act records

The 1925 Valuation Act required a survey of all property for rating purposes. Locations of the properties were marked on a map and cross-referenced to a field book containing the notes made by the valuer. The records for Village Farm in the BARS are DV2/016 (map) and DV1/H10 (field book). The valuation records are not dated but would be from shortly after 1925.

The field book records that Village Farm was owned by Bedfordshire County Council and was leased as two smallholdings. The tenant occupying the front part of the farmhouse and the western half of the farm buildings was A. Brown, and the rear of the farmhouse and the east half of the buildings were occupied by T. Compton. Rooms in the farmhouse and the farm buildings are listed in the field book under the separate headings of 'house' and 'homestead'. It provides basic details of construction materials and a functional description of the room or outbuilding, e.g. parlour or barn.

Information in the field book about the two smallholdings and the associated farm buildings is presented below. It is possible to identify most of the buildings listed in the records with the present compartments, particular as the valuer appears to have followed a logical route as they moved around the buildings. In the tables below the third column gives the numbers used to identify compartments in the present historic building report.

Occupier: A. Brown (west half of farm buildings) Present acreage: 54-1-19 Rent: £128.11.8, fixed in 1925

The house for this smallholding occupied the front half of the farmhouse, and consisted of parlour, scullery, kitchen, dairy and four bedrooms.

Construction	Name	Number in present report
Brick & slate	Tool house	Probably compartment C14
Brick & slate	Trap house	C15
Brick & slate	Barn	Probably compartment C16
Brick & slate	4 Bay cart shed open	C13
Brick & slate	Barn (large)	C12
Brick & slate	6 Bay open shed	Western half of lean-to shelter along
		north side of yard
Wood & slate	3 Bay open shed	Presumably open-fronted shed in the
		farmyard shown on 1901 and 1926
		OS map
Brick & tile	Chaff house	Probably C3
Brick & tile	Stable 7 horses	C2
Brick & tile	Loose box	Probably C1

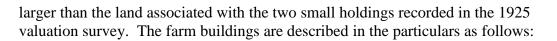
Occupier: T. Compton (east half of farm buildings) Present acreage: 57-2-25 Rent £133.9.8, fixed in 1918

The house for this smallholding occupied the rear half of the farmhouse and consisted of parlour, kitchen, scullery and 3 bedrooms.

Construction	Name	Number in present report
Brick & slate	Barn (large)	C11
Brick & slate	4 Bay cart shed	C10
Brick & slate	6 Bay open shed	Eastern half of the lean-to shelter
		along the north side of yard
Brick & slate	Boiler house	C9
Brick & slate	Loose box	C8
Brick & slate	3 Pig Stys	C7
Brick & slate	6 Bay open shed (2	C6
	bays boarded up)	
Brick & slate	Stable 6 horses (used to	C5
	be cow house)	
Brick & slate	Mixing barn	Probably C4
Brick & slate	Chaff house	Problematic. Is it possible that this is
		C3, accidentally included from the
		other smallholding?

2.2.2 Sales particulars 1939

Sales particulars for the sale by auction of the Sutton Park Estate in October 1939 include Village Farm as part of this estate (BARS ref. PK2/2/530). The sales particulars state that "The farm is at present let to the Bedfordshire County Council on a lease expiring 29th September, 1939 at £326 per annum, and renewed for further 7 years at £300 per annum". The particulars describe it as an excellent market garden farm. The overall area is given as 168a 3r 35p, which is



THE SUBSTANTIAL FARM BUILIDNGS

enclosing the Feeding Yards, include: - Brick and slated range comprising Stabling, Chaffhouse, 6-bay open Feeding Shed, Piggeries and Boiling House, two timber and corrugated iron 6-bay open Sheds, timber and slate 3-bay open shed. Timber and tiled 4-bay open Shed. Range of brick and slate buildings, including Coal House, two Store Rooms and Boiling House. Two timber and corrugated iron 4-bay Implement Sheds. Brick and slate range comprising two Barns.



3. BUILDING DESCRIPTION

3.1 Introduction

Throughout the project the standards set in the CIfA Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures (2014) and English Heritage's Understanding Historic Buildings (2016) have been adhered to. All work has been done in accordance with the CIfA Code of conduct (2014).

The following text should be read in conjunction with floor plans (Figure 6), elevations and sections (Figures 7 and 8) and images (1 to 48), all of which are bound at the back of the report. The internal spaces within the building have been numbered as compartments C1, C2, etc. beginning at the west end of the south range.

The archived records from the Rating and Valuation Act 1925 (BARS ref. DV1/H10) indicate the function of the compartments during the survey carried out in the mid-1920s. To avoid needless repetition in the following descriptions of the compartments, these records are referred to simply as DV1/H10.

3.2 Plan And General Construction Details

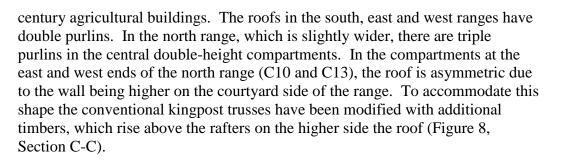
3.2.1 Plan

The buildings form a regular courtyard plan. A square courtyard is enclosed by continuous ranges on the north, east and south sides and is partly open on the west side where it faces the farmhouse. The buildings include enclosed and open-fronted compartments, mainly single-storied with two double-height compartments in the middle part of the north range. A lean-to shelter supported by timber posts extends along the entire north of the yard.

3.2.2 Construction details

The walls are of brick, in monk bond (two stretchers between headers). Yellow gault bricks have been used for all of the exterior brickwork. White wash partly obscures the interior surfaces. Internal partition walls and the internal face of the outer walls are mostly in red brick. The exceptions to this are the inner ends of the yellow gault headers and occasional random patches of yellow gault bricks used for the inner face. The bricks measure 220mm, by 105–111mm, by 65–70mm, with an average course height (including mortar) of 80.5mm. The majority of the walls are a single brick thickness (220mm) with one-and-a-half brick walls (350mm) used in the lower part of the double-height compartments in the north range. The corners of the buildings and openings, including the arches above doors and windows, are formed from bullnosed bricks. Plain chamfered bricks have been used to form a plinth on the external walls and also to form an internal chamfer at the top of the lower (thicker) part of the walls in the double-height compartments in the north range.

The roof trusses are in softwood. These are kingpost trusses with raking braces and a metal rod in place of the kingpost, a form commonly used in late-19th-



Apart from the north slopes of compartments C10 and C13 the roof is closeboarded below the slate or corrugated asbestos concrete covering. At the time of the survey the original slates remained on the south range and small sections of the east and west ranges; elsewhere they have been replaced with corrugated sheets. The original construction of the roof in the south, east and west ranges incorporates a continuous ventilation slot built into the ridge (Figure 7, Section A-A, inset detail). On the interior this vent is formed by a pair of parallel ridge planks, which support the upper end of the close-boarding, leaving a gap between. The exterior arrangement of the vent was visible on the south range, where the slate roof survived. Here, pieces of plain roof tile have been used to support a row of slates, with more tiles used to support the ceramic ridge tiles above, forming two narrow ventilation slots on either side of the ridge.

The buildings contain a small number of external window openings, three in the south range courtyard elevation and one in the east range external elevation. These are all unglazed openings fitted with close-spaced iron bars, which have been fixed into the brickwork (Image 26). There are also two internal 'window' openings in the south range in two of the cross-walls between compartments. All of these external and internal windows were fitted with wooden sliding shutters. These were of relatively simple construction, with a battened plank shutter sliding on a wooden rail (Image 12). In addition to the above-mentioned windows there are two small unglazed circular openings, one in the south gable of the west range and another in the west gable of the south range.

Ventilation holes in the walls comprise eleven honeycomb vents in the south side of the south range, three more in the east range in compartment C7, and two in the north side of the north range. There is also a row of six small rectangular vents with cast iron grills located closed to floor level in the courtyard elevation of the south range, serving compartments C3 and C4.

Surface finishes consist of whitewashed interior walls through most of the buildings with the woodwork in the roof also whitewashed in some of the compartments. The woodwork of the doors and door frames is either in a dull red or black. The doors are ledged-and-braced plank doors with plain strap hinges.

3.2.3 Construction phases and alterations

The buildings are the result of a single construction phase with some minor later alterations and repairs. Structural alterations comprise the insertion of a cut-in door and high-level opening in the north side of compartment C12; and the

merging of compartments C14 and C15 by knocking through an internal crosswall. The roof would have probably been in slate throughout but a large proportion has been replaced in corrugated asbestos concrete and corrugated iron. A pole barn type shelter has been constructed in the south side of the yard.

3.3 South Range

The south range is a continuous, enclosed range with overall external dimensions of 44m long, 5.7m wide, with an internal width of 5.23m. It contains three square compartments and two longer compartments, which contain feeding troughs.

3.3.1 South range: exterior

The exterior elevation, on the High Street, is a blind wall with no openings other than a row of honeycomb vents in the upper part of the wall (Figure 7, Images 3 and 4). The roof of the south range is in slate with ceramic ridge tiles. The ridge incorporated a vent formed where the uppermost course of slates and the ridge tiles were separated with spacers consisting of pieces of plain clay roof tile. The roof is hipped at the east end and has a plain gable at the west end.

The courtyard elevation on the south range was partially obscured by the growth of ivy and by a 20th-century pole-barn type shelter erected in front of this range (Figure 7, Images 5 and 6).

3.3.2 South range: compartment C1

This is an approximately square compartment, measuring 4.9m east-west (Images 7 and 8). It is accessed by a stable door in the west end of the range. There is also a hatch with a plank-and-batten door set close to floor level at the west end of the north wall, in an opening 1.08m wide by 0.93m high. The floor is made of gault bricks aligned east-west; it is heavily worn and repaired with concrete. The only internal fittings are two tether rings set in the east wall c.1.8m above the floor. A band of brickwork on the east wall not covered by whitewash could indicate the former location of a feed trough (Image 8).

This compartment appears to correspond to a loose box listed in DV1/H10. This is probably consistent with its original use, having tether rings on the east wall and a low-level hatch, which was most likely used for mucking out.

3.3.3 South range: compartment C2

This compartment is 13.73m long and is accessed by two stable doors, located at either end of the north wall (Images 9 to 12). There is a single external window in the middle of the north wall (Image 12). In the east wall is an internal 'window' to compartment C3. Its dimensions are 1.07m wide, 1.15m high with a sill 0.92m above floor level with a wooden sliding shutter (Image 10).

The floor is made from large rounded pebbles with one area (6.5m long x 0.9m wide) in brick along the central section of the north wall. A wooden feed trough runs along the length of the rear wall. The westernmost bay of the compartment contains a roughly built stall-divider, consisting of a plank-and-batten panel supported by posts fixed to the tiebeam above (Image 11).



This compartment is listed as a stable for 7 horses in DV1/H10, and would have been suitable for housing horses or cattle.

3.3.4 South range: compartment C3

This is an approximately square compartment, measuring 4.97m east-west (Image 13). It is accessed by a door in the west end of the north wall. The floor is in gault brick, aligned north-south. An internal 'window' to C2 has been noted above. Three ventilation holes in the lower part of the north wall in this compartment have been blocked with bricks. In the east wall is a roughly rectangular hole, in-filled with brick. The irregular edges of the hole indicate that it was cut into the wall rather than part of the original construction (Image 13).

This compartment appears to correspond to one described as a chaff house in DV1/H10. Ventilation holes in the north wall suggest a storage function for this space. It would have been suitable as a chaff house (feed store) with the internal 'window' opening used as a pitching opening to transfer feed into C2.

3.3.5 South range: compartment C4

This compartment is very similar to C3, approximately square in plan, measuring 4.97m east-west (Images 14 to 16). It has a door at the right-hand side of the north wall. The floor is in gault bricks aligned north-south. As in C3, an internal 'window' opens onto the adjacent compartment (C5). A row of three vents at the base of the north wall have been partly blocked.

Graffiti has been scratched into the whitewash, in the area to the west of the door. It consists of initials, some with dates in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

This compartment appears to correspond to one described as a mixing house in DV1/H10. An original use for feed storage and preparation would be consistent with the arrangement, with an internal 'window' opening onto the adjacent cow house or stable C5.

3.3.6 South range: compartment C5

This compartment is 14.29m long (Images 17 to 20). The north wall contains a central stable door and two unglazed, barred windows with internal sliding shutters. An internal 'window' at the west end of the compartment (Image 19), matches the internal opening in C2.

The floor is in gault brick, aligned north-south sloping down towards an eastwest aligned strip of three courses of brick which form a drain running along the north side of the compartment.

Stall-dividers form two stalls in the west end of the compartment. The westernmost divider is a weatherboard partition extending up to tiebeam level, supported by posts and studs on its west face. The other divider is supported by posts at either end with a flush-boarded west side with studs on the east face (Image 20). This stall contains a wooden feed trough. Holes for timbers in the



south wall and the floor show that the feed trough formerly extended the whole way along the rear wall of the compartment.

This compartment is listed in DV1/H10 as a stable for 6 horses that used to be a cow house.

3.4 East Range

This is a continuous range, with an open-fronted southern section and three enclosed compartments making up the northern half. It measures 33.36m long, 5.3m wide, with an internal width in the enclosed section of 4.85m.

3.4.1 East range: exterior

The external (east) elevation of this range, apart from a section at the north, was bounded by an adjacent property and was not accessed as part of the survey. In the courtyard elevation the right-hand half is a six-bay open-fronted shelter (C6), in which the two northern bays have been partially enclosed at some time, while the left-hand part of the elevation consists of a three-bay stable (C7) and two approximately square compartments (C8 and C9), (Figure 7, Images 21 to 23). This range has a corrugated asbestos concrete roof, apart from a section at the north on the east slope where the hipped part of the roof retains a slate covering with ceramic ridge tiles. The construction of the roof in this range incorporated a built-in ridge line ventilation slot, as seen in the south range; however, this was blocked when the roof covering was replaced.

3.4.2 East range: compartment C6

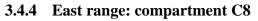
This compartment is 16.57m long (Images 23 to 26). It consists of a six-bay open-fronted shelter shed, with the two northern bays partially enclosed by an inserted timber partition. The open-fronted part has an earth floor and the enclosed section at the north has a concrete floor. A wooden feed trough extends along the east wall of the compartment.

Historical plans show that the two bays at the north end had been enclosed by 1900 (Figure 4). The compartment would have been a shelter shed for cattle. Ordnance Survey maps from 1881 onwards show the farmyard subdivided with an enclosed fold yard in front of this shed (Figure 2).

3.4.3 East range: compartments C7a to C7c

This is a single compartment 7.65m long with internal brick partition walls dividing it three stables, with separate doors in the courtyard elevation (Image C7). The stable doors are narrower than most of the other doors in the complex, at 1.05m wide between the brick jambs compared to c.1.2m for the doors in the south range. The southern internal partition wall had been demolished at the time of the survey. The remaining partition wall was 1.56m high with a semi-circular brick coping. The floor is in gault bricks, aligned east-west. Three honeycomb vents provide ventilation in the east wall.

This compartment corresponds to one described as 3 pig stys in DV1/H10, indicating its function during the mid-1920s. It would have also been suitable for use as stables.



This compartment is approximately square and measures 4.23m north-south (Image 28). There are external doors in the east and west walls and an internal door with a step up into the compartment to the north (C9). The door in the west wall has been modified to make it into a stable door, by attaching additional hinges and sawing it in half (Image 32). The floor is in gault bricks, aligned north-south. There are no internal fittings in this compartment.

This compartment corresponds to one described as a loose box in DV1/H10.

3.4.5 East range: compartment C9

This compartment is approximately square and measures 4.23m north-south (Images 29 to 32). There is one external door in the east wall and a window opening fitted with iron bars. The window is fitted with a wooden rail to take a sliding internal shutter. The external door has been modified, like the west door in C8, to make it into a stable door. Internal doors link this compartment with C8 to the south and C10 to the north. The door to C10 was evidently cut-in at a later date; it has a plain timber lintel and lacks the bullnose jambs seen in the original openings, instead having cement-rendered jambs. No door was fitted and this probably indicates that the opening was formed after the adjoining compartment (C10) was enclosed (see below).

The floor is in gault bricks, aligned east-west. Built into the north-west corner of the compartment is a copper for preparing feed. It is made from gault bricks and abuts the adjoining compartment walls rather than being an integral construction. The grate is in the east side, the 'copper' is in cast iron and the flue is made from short sections of cast-iron pipe. This is listed in DV1/H10 as a boiler house and it would have been suitable for boiling swill for the pigsties in C7.

3.5 North Range

This is a continuous range along the north side of the courtyard, which includes two enclosed double-height barn compartments (C11 and C12) and two north-facing open-fronted compartments (C10 and C13). Overall the range has external dimensions of 44.2m long and 6.75m wide, with an internal width in the enclosed central section of 6.07m.

3.5.1 North range: exterior

The exterior (north) elevation consists of a central double-height barn (C11 and C12) with single-storey four-bay compartments (C10 and C13) to either side, both of which would have originally been open-fronted but C10 at the left of the elevation has been enclosed with weatherboard (Images 33 to 35). The roofs consist of corrugated iron on the lower, end sections with corrugated asbestos cement on the central part.

In the courtyard (south) elevation there is a narrow lean-to shelter attached to the continuous range on this side (Images 36 and 37). There are two doors accessing compartments C11 and C12. These are wide (1.54m between the brick jambs) stable-type doors with stone sills raised c.0.5m above the existing ground level in



the courtyard (Image 37). The lean-to shelter is in 12 bays, supported by timber posts, but has partly collapsed at its east end.

3.5.2 North range: compartment C10

This compartment is 10.69m long with brick walls on three sides and a weatherboard north side (Images 38 and 39). It is accessed by an internal door from compartment C9, a later modification that was cut-in. The compartment has an earth floor.

The weatherboard wall along the north side is a later modification to the formerly open-fronted compartment. This weatherboard wall is built on a low brick sill with lightweight primary braced framing inserted between the posts that supported the original open-front. A large opening in this wall is fitted with a sliding door constructed from a timber frame clad in corrugated iron. At the west end of the north wall is a large window, probably reused in this location, with six-pane casements in the lower part and four-pane windows in the upper part. The window lights a workbench situated in the north-west corner of the compartment.

The roof is in four bays and is asymmetric in profile due to the rear wall of the compartment being higher than the north side. The kingpost trusses in this compartment and C13 have additional timbers attached to accommodate the raised rear section.

A whitewash finish has been applied in the western two bays only. On the north wall the whitewash ends in line with the central roof truss (Image 39), suggesting that this compartment was previously subdivided into two equal sections. A series of notches cut into the eastern face of the central tiebeam probably indicate the location of a former timber partition dividing this compartment.

The function of this compartment appears to have changed through time. The OS map surveyed in 1881 shows an open-fronted compartment facing onto an unenclosed area, suggesting that the original use was as a cart or implement shed (Figure 2). The OS map surveyed in 1900 shows the area in front of the shed had been enclosed and another open-fronted shed at the north of this enclosure, suggest it was used as a shelter shed for animal housing at this time (Figure 4). A later OS map, surveyed in 1924 shows compartment C10 subdivided with the eastern half enclosed (Figure 5). Shortly after this, in DV1/H10 it is simply referred to as a 4-bay cart shed.

3.5.3 North range: compartments C11 and C12

The two central compartments in the north range consist of a pair of doubleheight barns, each 10.58m long (Images 40 to 42). The lower parts of the walls in these compartments are expanded to a thickness of 0.35m on the inner face of the walls to just below the level of the ground-floor door heads. The thickened section is finished with two courses of moulded bricks with a plain chamfer. Compartment C11 contains original external doors in the north and south sides, while C12 has one original door in the south wall only and a later door cut-in to the north wall. The original doors are stable-type doors in openings 1.54m to



1.56m wide. The door cut-in to C12 is a narrower, single-leaf door (Image 35). An original internal door connects the two compartments.

High-level openings in the north wall consist of two original openings towards the centre of the elevation and a later, smaller opening cut-in towards the western end of C12. The two original openings are fitted with wooden internal sliding shutters hung on metal rollers. There is also a single honeycomb vent in the north wall of each compartment.

The roofs in C11 and C12 are in three bays with kingpost trusses. There is no vent built into the ridge of this roof like that seen in the other ranges.

These compartments have modern concrete floors. At the time of the survey most of the interior in C11 and C12 was occupied by grain silos constructed from flexible sheets in a composite (hardboard type) material, reinforced with metal strapping.

3.5.4 North range: compartment C13

This is a four-bay open-fronted compartment, 10.84m long (Images 43 and 44). The roof structure is of the same type as in C10 with timbers added to the kingpost trusses to accommodate the asymmetric roof in these two compartments (Figure 8, Section C-C). The floor is concrete. Historical maps show no obvious changes to this compartment and it appears that it has always been a cart shed.

3.6 West Range

This is a short range, originally containing three compartments. The entrance into the yard was on this side and a low wall enclosing the south-west part of the yard would have allowed a view into the yard from the adjacent farmhouse. Overall the range measures 13.62m long, 5.41m wide externally with an internal width of 4.96m. The roof structure in this range is of the same type as in the south and east ranges with kingpost trusses and a ventilation slot built into the ridge line; however, the range has been reroofed in asbestos concrete sheet removing any evidence of former external ridge vents.

3.6.1 West range: exterior

The doors accessing the compartments in this range are all on the exterior (west) elevation, facing the farmhouse.

3.6.2 West range: compartments C14 and C15

Compartments C14 and C15 have been merged by knocking-through the crosswall and inserting an RSJ to support the roof (Images 45 and 46).

Prior to merging of the compartments, C14 would have been a narrow space, only 2.51m wide from north to south. It was accessed by a door in the west wall, in an opening measuring 1.03m wide. There is a small hatch towards base of the rear (east) wall.

Compartment C15 is 4.34m wide from north to south. It has double doors in the west wall in an original bullnose edged opening, 2.27m wide. The double doors



have been replaced with modern plywood doors. On the interior, the arch above the doorway has been rebuilt in modern brickwork, which contrasts with the original shallow segmental arch in the exterior elevation. The floor in C14 and C15 is concrete.

Compartment C14 probably corresponds to one described in DV1/H10 as a tool house. Compartment C15, with its double-door opening, corresponds to the trap house in DV1/H10. The presence of the small, low-level hatch in C14 suggests it was not originally built as a tool shed.

3.6.3 West range: compartment C16

This compartment at the south end of the west range measures 6.10m long north to south. It has a concrete floor. At the time of the survey it contained two wooden stall-dividers, an L-shaped one stood upright but not attached to the wall and another was leaning against the south end wall. A hole in the wall close to the end of the top rail of the standing stall divider suggests it could be close to its original position. Two similar-sized holes in the east wall suggest that there could have been three stalls along this side of the compartment.

This compartment probably corresponds to one in DV1/H10 described as a barn, suggesting a storage function in the mid-1920s. However, the stall dividers, although not fixed in place at the time of the present survey, suggest that it was used for stabling. This would be consistent with the former use of the adjacent compartment as a trap house.



4.1 Construction Date

The farm buildings are the product of a single construction phase with evidence for relatively minor later modifications and repairs.

No documentary evidence has been found for the date of construction and there are no date stones or inscriptions on the structure. Historical map evidence shows that the building was completed before the survey for the first edition 25-inch OS map in 1881.

The construction materials and design of the buildings are consistent with a construction date in the second half of the 19th century. The yellow gault bricks are a characteristic building material in the east of Bedfordshire in this period (Cox, 1979, 33). The roofs have trusses with an iron tie rod in place of a wooden kingpost. This type of roof truss was described as a recent introduction in 1850 and modern surveys of farm buildings in Norfolk and Staffordshire have noted its use in buildings dating from after 1865 (Peters 1988, 29–30). The available evidence suggests a construction date during the 1860s or 1870s.

The adjacent farmhouse, which is in separate ownership and not included in the present survey, is an earlier building. In the listing description it is dated to the 17th century or earlier, reworked and extended during the 19th century.

4.2 Later History

The buildings shows relatively few later changes. The original door openings remained intact, with no evidence of later enlargement. There was no evidence for dairying use in the 20th century such as concrete-floored cattle stalls or cubicle arrangements.

An internal door opening was cut through the wall separating the east and north ranges and a small, taking-in hatch was formed in one of the barns in the north range. Two compartments in the west range were merged by knocking through a wall. Repairs include the replacement of some slate roofs with corrugated iron or asbestos cement sheet. A pole barn was also erected in the yard.

Rating and Valuation Act records from the mid-1920s name Bedfordshire County Council as the owners with the farmhouse and farm being divided into two smallholdings at this time. However, sales particulars dating from 1939 show that the farm formed part of the Sutton Park Estate and was leased to the County Council at this time. It appears that the farm was leased and let out as a smallholding from the 1920s onwards. It is possible that the farm was purchased by the Council in the 1939 sale but the details from the available records are unclear. In terms of the use of the farm, the 1939 sales particulars describe it as an 'excellent market garden farm'.



4.3 Plan and Function

The buildings take the form of a planned farmstead with a regular courtyard plan, partially open on its west side where it faces the farmhouse. All of the functions of the farm were integrated into a single continuous range of buildings. Historic plans show that the courtyard was subdivided with walls or fences to form a series of stockyards. In common with many later-19th-century planned farmsteads it was built to a relatively utilitarian design, without any unnecessary architectural embellishment.

The functions of the various farm buildings suggest it was designed for a mixed agricultural economy. It includes cart/implement sheds, storage barns and stables associated with arable farming, as well as shelter sheds and stockyards for cattle rearing.

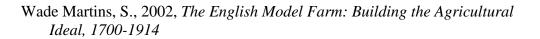
4.4 Historical Context

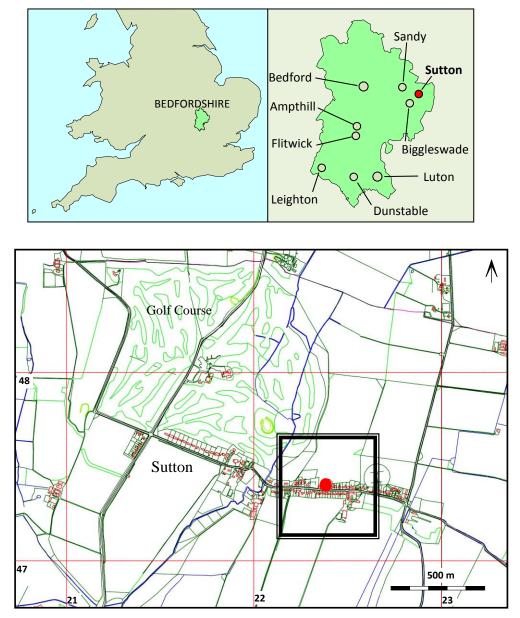
A study of planned and model farmsteads shows two peaks in construction (Wade Martins 2002, 22–3). The first of these, between c.1790 and 1820, corresponds to a period of prosperity caused by high grain prices during the Napoleonic wars. It was followed by an agricultural depression related to a fall in the price of grain at the end of the war. A second much higher peak in construction of planned farms occurred between c.1840 and the 1870s. This period of 'High Farming' saw steady grain prices and increasing demand for meat and dairy products. It came to an end with another agricultural depression due to effects of globalisation with cheaper imports, initially of grain and later of meat.

The available evidence suggests that the farm buildings at Village Farm were rebuilt in a single construction phase, probably during the 1860s or 1870s. The plan suggests a mixed farming economy but with the emphasis possibly on animal husbandry. This reflects general developments at this time when farms were being developed with more and better housing for cattle in response to the rising price of meat (Harvey 1984, 131–4).



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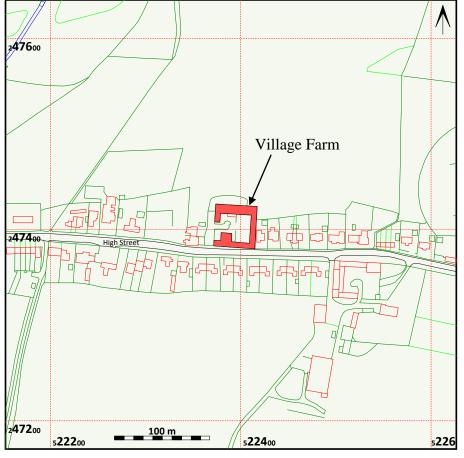


Figure 1: Site location plan

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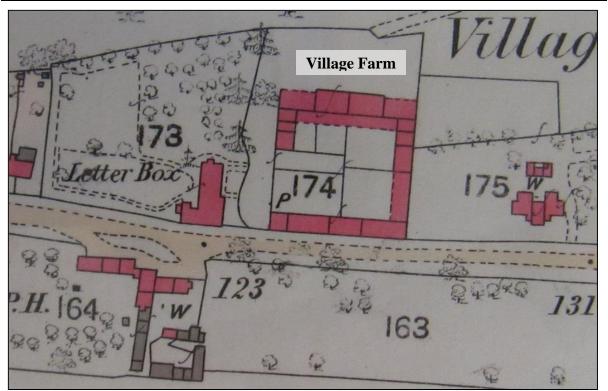


Figure 2: 1883 25-inch Ordnance Survey map (Surveyed 1881, published 1883)

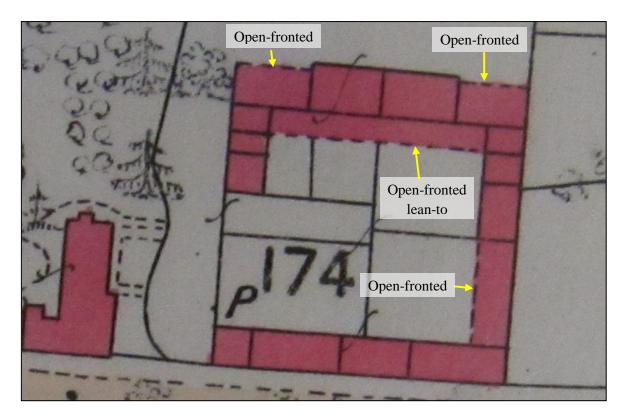


Figure 3: 1883 25-inch Ordnance Survey map — detail (Annotated with construction details)

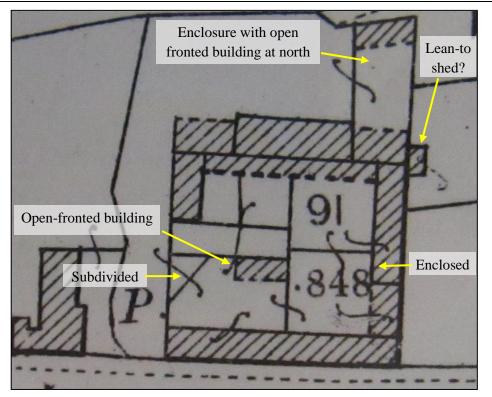
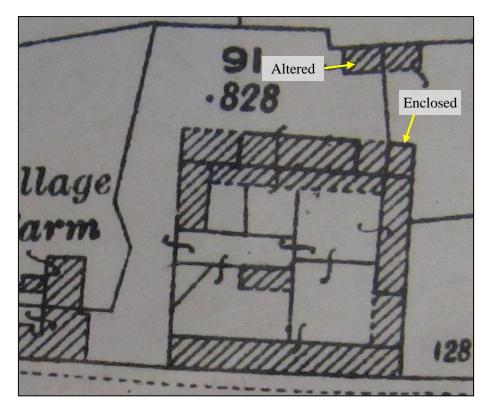


Figure 4: 1901 25-inch Ordnance Survey map

(Surveyed 1900, published 1901) (Annotated to show changes from previous edition)





(Surveyed 1924, published 1926) (Annotated to show changes from previous edition)





Figure 6: Plan of buildings

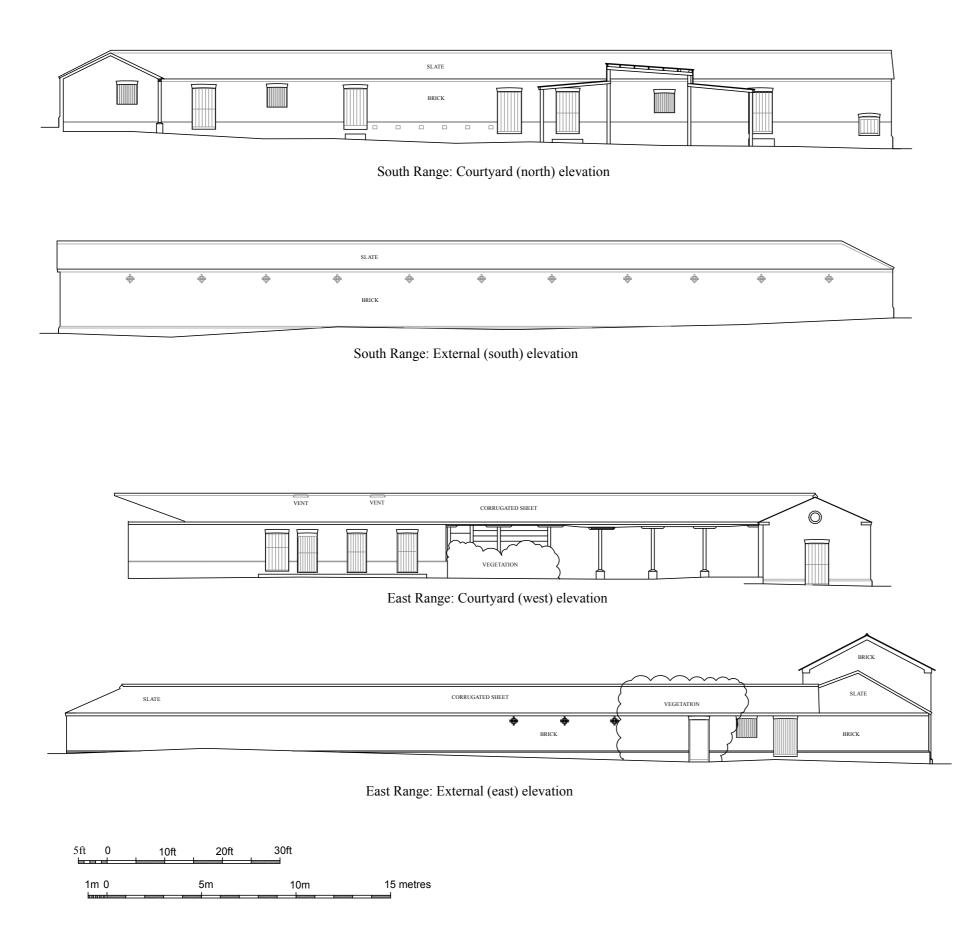
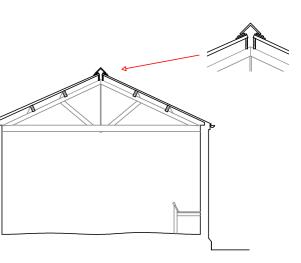


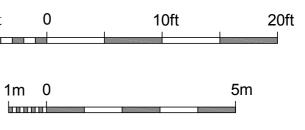
Figure 7: Elevations and sections





Section A - A

5ft



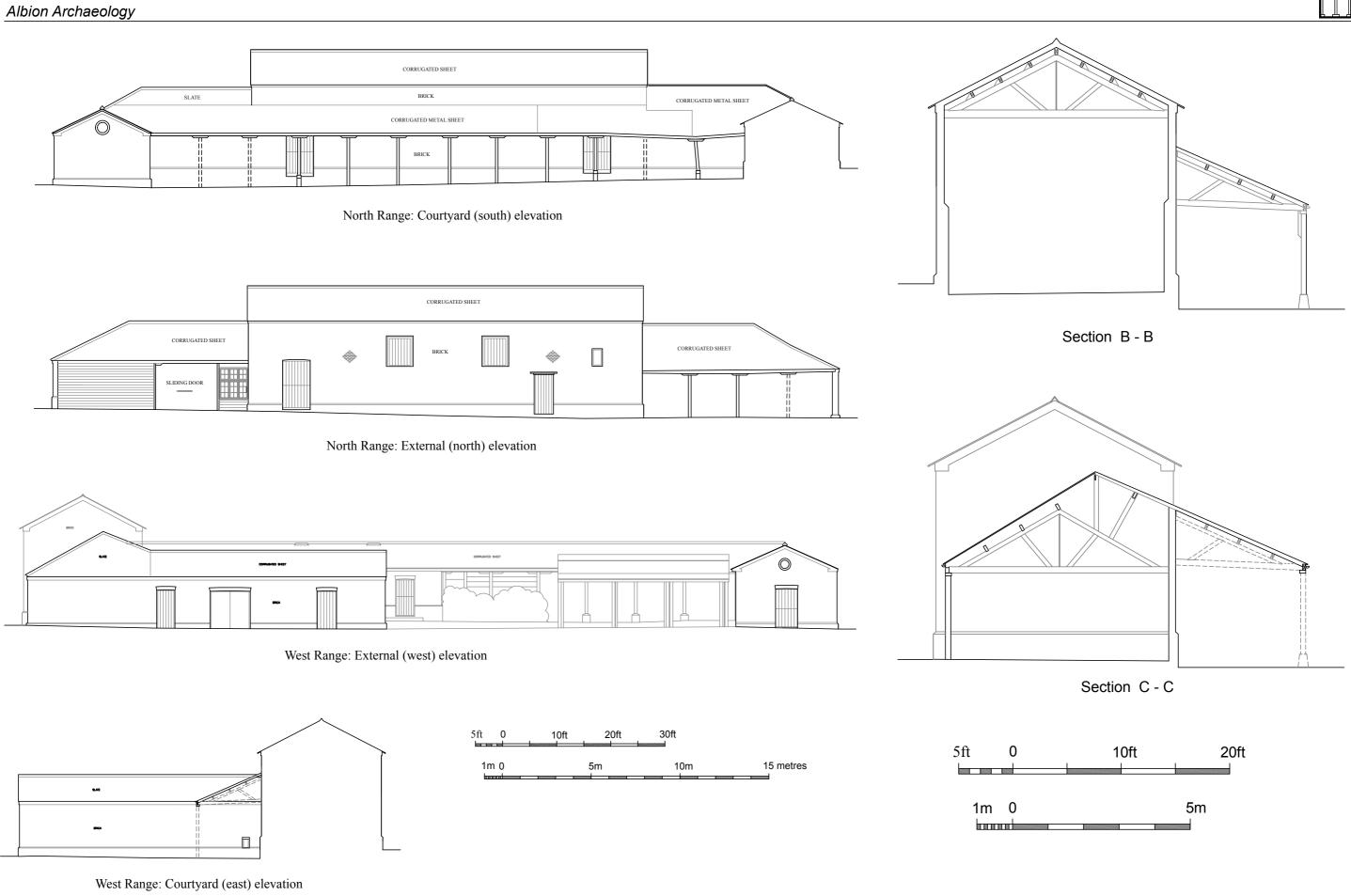


Figure 8: Elevations and sections

Village Farm, High Street, Sutton, Bedfordshire: Historic Building Recording



Image 1: Village Farmhouse Seen from the High Street, looking north-west



Image 2: General view of Village Farm Taken with camera pole, looking north-east towards the north range



Image 3: South range: exterior elevation, looking north-east

(Scale 2m)



Image 4: South range: exterior elevation, looking north-west

(Scale 2m)



Image 5: South range: courtyard elevation, looking south-east

(Scale 2m)



Image 6: South range: courtyard elevation, looking south-west Pole barn shelter in foreground (Scale 2m)



Image 7: South range: C1, looking south-west Showing door in west wall (Scale 2m)



Image 8: South range: C1, looking north Showing low-level opening at end of north wall (Scale 2m)

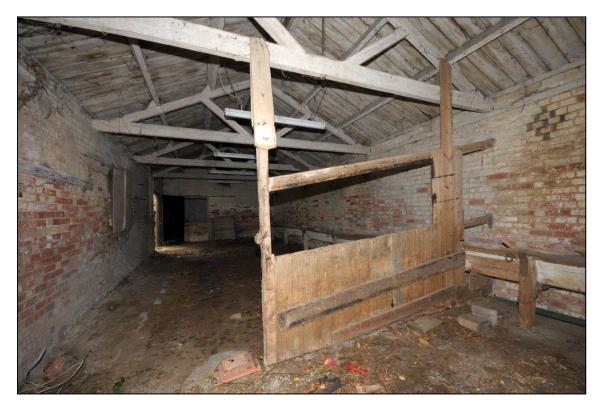


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Image 9: South range: C2, looking west



Image 10: South range, C2, east end, looking east Showing opening to C3 in east wall with detached sliding shutter (Scale 2m)



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Image 11: South range: C2, west end, looking east Showing a single stall partition in foreground (Scale 2m)



Image 12: South range: C2, detail of shutter on north wall Showing sliding shutter covering window



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Image 13: South range: C3, looking north-east Showing door in front (north) wall and blocked hole in east wall



Image 14: South range: C4, looking south-east Showing opening to C5 (partly obscured by door) (Scale 2m)



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Image 15: South range: C4, looking north-west (Scale 2m)



Image 16: South range: C4, detail of roof vent



Image 17: South range: C5, looking north-west

Showing two stall partitions at left, with door and two windows in front wall (Scale 2m)



Image 18: South range: C5, looking north-east Showing door, eastern window and east end wall (Scale 2m)



Image 19: South range, C5, west end, looking south-west

Showing opening to C4 with detached sliding shutter leant against wall (Scale 2m)

Image 20: South range: C5, stall near west end

Looking north-east (Scale 2m)

Village Farm, High Street, Sutton, Bedfordshire: Historic Building Recording



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Image 21: East range, courtyard elevation

(Scale 2m)



Image 22: East range, courtyard elevation: detail of doors to C7 and C8

(Scale 2m)



Image 23: East range, courtyard elevation: detail of C6

(Scale 2m)



Image 24: East range: C6, looking north-east

Showing feeding trough



Image 25: East range: C6, looking south

Showing timber partition partly enclosing two bays at the north (Scale 2m)



Image 26: East range: C6, detail of window between C6 and C5

This is an external window in C5, located in the south end of C6



Image 27: East range: C7, looking north-east

Showing wall scar at right, left by demolished stable partition (Scale 2m)



Image 28: East range: C8, looking northwest

Showing door to courtyard at left and door to C9 at right (Scale 2m)

Village Farm, High Street, Sutton, Bedfordshire: Historic Building Recording



Image 29: East range: C9, looking south-west Showing door from C8 in centre and copper at right (Scale 2m)



Image 30: East range: C9, looking north-east

Showing copper at left; door to C10 at mid-right; and external (east) door and window at right (Scale 2m)



Image 31: East range: C9, detail showing copper

Looking north-west (Scale 2m)

Image 32: East range: C9, detail showing external (east) door

Door modified by sawing into two parts to form a stable-type door

Village Farm, High Street, Sutton, Bedfordshire: Historic Building Recording



Image 33: North range, external elevation, looking south-west Showing compartment C10 in foreground



Image 34: North range, external elevation, looking south-east Showing compartment C13 in foreground (Scale 2m)



Image 35: North range, external elevation, detail of barn C12

Showing taking-in door and honeycomb vent with later (cut-in) features comprising the door and the small opening (Scale 2m)



Image 36: North range, courtyard elevation, looking north (Scale 2m)

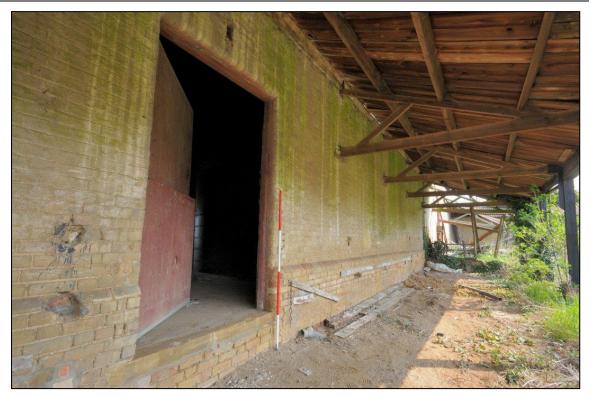


Image 37: North range, courtyard elevation, looking east Showing door to C12 in foreground (Scale 2m)



Image 38: North range: C10, looking north-west Showing weatherboard front wall and sliding door (Scale 2m)



Image 39: North range: C10, looking east Showing rear (south) and end (east) walls (Scale 2m)

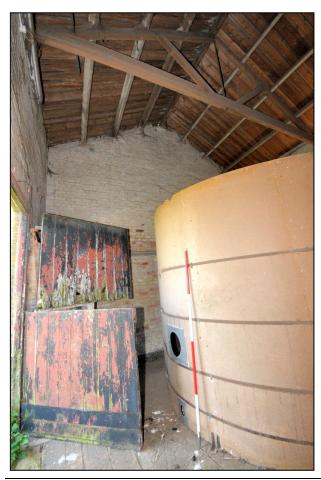


Image 40: North range: C11, looking east

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Showing north door and one of the grain bins/silos (Scale 2m)

Village Farm, High Street, Sutton, Bedfordshire: Historic Building Recording



Image 41: North range: C11, looking west

Taken with camera pole, showing roof, chamfer on walls and shutter to high-level opening in north wall at right



Image 42: North range: C12, looking east Showing door opening off courtyard (Scale 2m)

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Image 43: North range: C13, looking south-east Showing rear and east end wall (Scale 2m)



Image 44: North range: C13, looking west Showing west end (Scale 2m)



Image 45: West range: C14-C15, looking south-west Showing knocked-through opening with RSJ between C14 and C15 (Scale 2m)



Image 46: West range: C14-C15, looking south-east Showing rear (east) wall with small opening in lower part of wall of C14 (Scale 2m)



Image 47: West range: C16, looking south-west Showing external door in west wall and stall dividers (Scale 2m)

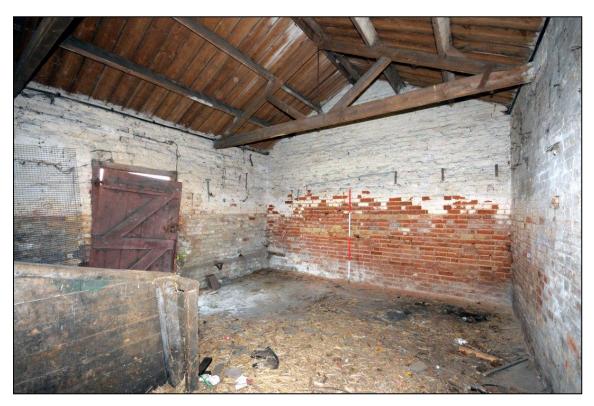


Image 48: West range: C16, looking north-west

(Scale 2m)





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