



# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological building recording at The Barn  
Potterspury Lodge School, Potterspury  
Northamptonshire  
October 2013



## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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Northamptonshire  
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Tim Upson-Smith and

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Report 13/255

December 2013



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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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Approved by	A Chapman		

**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		OASIS No: 166527
Project title	Archaeological building recording at The Barn, Potterspurry Lodge School, Potterspurry, Northamptonshire	
Short description	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a buildings recording action at The Barn, Potterspurry Lodge School, Potterspurry prior to its conversion to meeting room and workshop. The survey demonstrated that the buildings formed an integral part of a mid to late 19th-century farmstead, functioning as a cart shed.	
Project type	Building assessment	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type and period	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -century farm building	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Northamptonshire	
Site address	Potterspurry Lodge School	
NGR	SP 74622 44742	
Area	c95 sq m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Consultant	
Project design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Tim Upson-Smith	
Project Manager	Steve Parry	
Sponsor or funding body	Potterspurry Lodge School	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	October 2013	
End date	December 2013	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
Title	Archaeological building recording at The Barn, Potterspurry Lodge School, Potterspurry, Northamptonshire	
Serial title & volume	Northamptonshire Archaeology Report 13/255	
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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>HISTORICAL BACKGROUND</b>	<b>4</b>
	3.1 Bryant's map of 1827	
	3.2 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884	
	3.3 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900	
<b>4</b>	<b>BUILDING ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>6</b>
	4.1 Exterior	
	4.2 Ground Floor	
	4.3 First floor	
<b>5</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>7</b>
	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
	<b>APPENDIX: LISTING DESCRIPTION</b>	

## Figures

Fig 1: Site location

Fig 2: Plan of the Lodge and Barns

Fig 3: Bryant's map of 1827

Fig 4: 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 showing the layout of the Lodge and the Barn

Fig 5: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 showing the layout of the Lodge and the Barn

Fig 6: The principal elevations

Fig 7: Section through the Barn

Fig 8: Ground and first floor plans

Fig 9: The north elevation of the Barn, looking west

Fig 10: The north elevation of the Barn, looking south

Fig 11: The eastern gable

Fig 12: Bull-nosed brick detail around the carriage arches

Fig 13: The ground floor, looking west

Fig 14: The ground floor, looking north with stairs to the right

Fig 15: Detail of the roof structure with crossed bracing, looking east

Fig 16: The stair door

Fig 17: The first floor landing the scar of removed chicken coops to the right

Fig 18: The first floor, looking west, showing surviving chicken coops and roof structure

Fig 19: Tack Room 1, looking west

Fig 20: Tack Room 2, looking west

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING AT  
THE BARN, POTTERSPURY LODGE SCHOOL  
POTTERSPURY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
OCTOBER 2013**

**Abstract**

*Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out a buildings recording action at The Barn, Potterspury Lodge School, Potterspury prior to its conversion to meeting room and workshop. The survey demonstrated that the buildings formed an integral part of a mid to late 19th-century farmstead, functioning as a cart shed.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) was commissioned by Potterspury Lodge School to undertake a programme of archaeological building recording at The Barn, Potterspury Lodge School, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 74622 44742, Fig 1).

The work was carried out in response to the proposed conversion of the former open fronted cart shed into meeting space and a workshop

**2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

The objectives of the work were to:

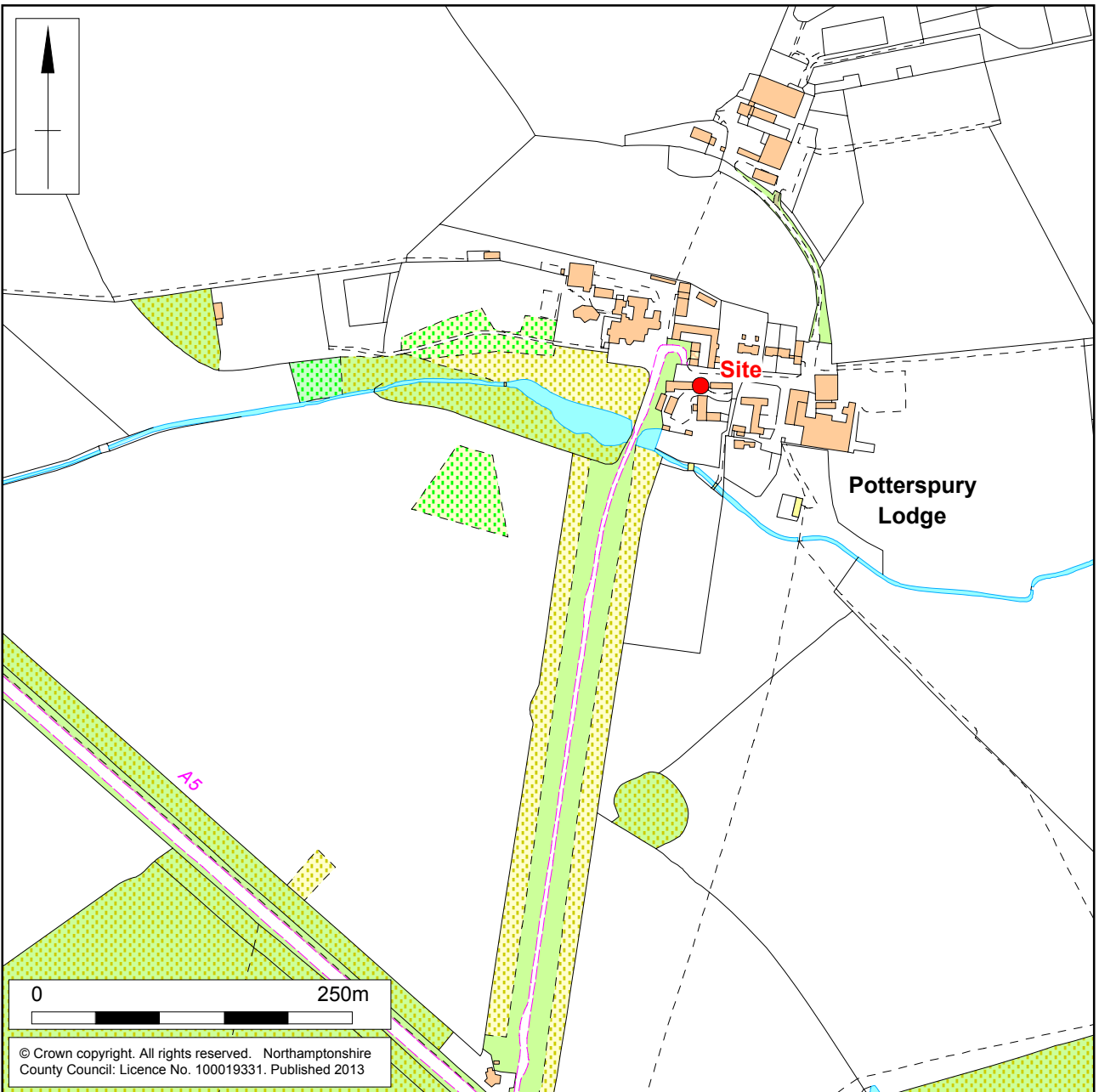
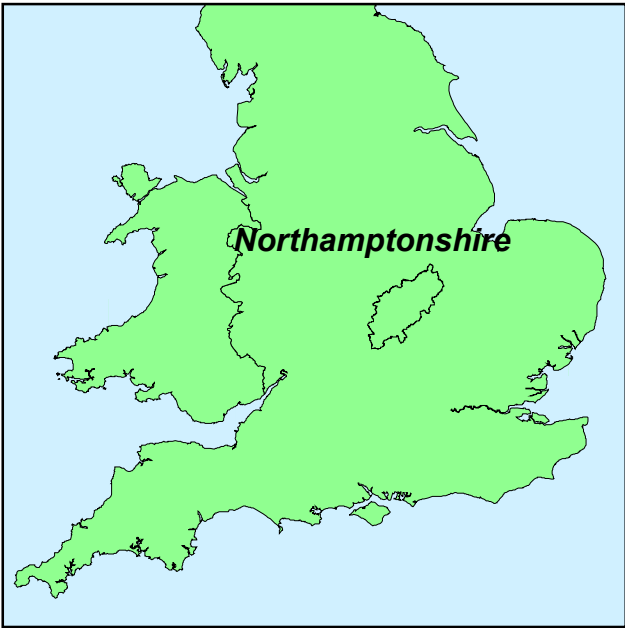
- provide a drawn and photographic record of the buildings;
- understand the functioning of the buildings within the life of the farm.

A site visit was made on Monday 21st October 2013. The work was carried in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (NA 2013).

The buildings were recorded in accordance with the standards, conventions and specifications defined in English Heritage, *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice* (2006). The record conformed in general to that of Level Two.

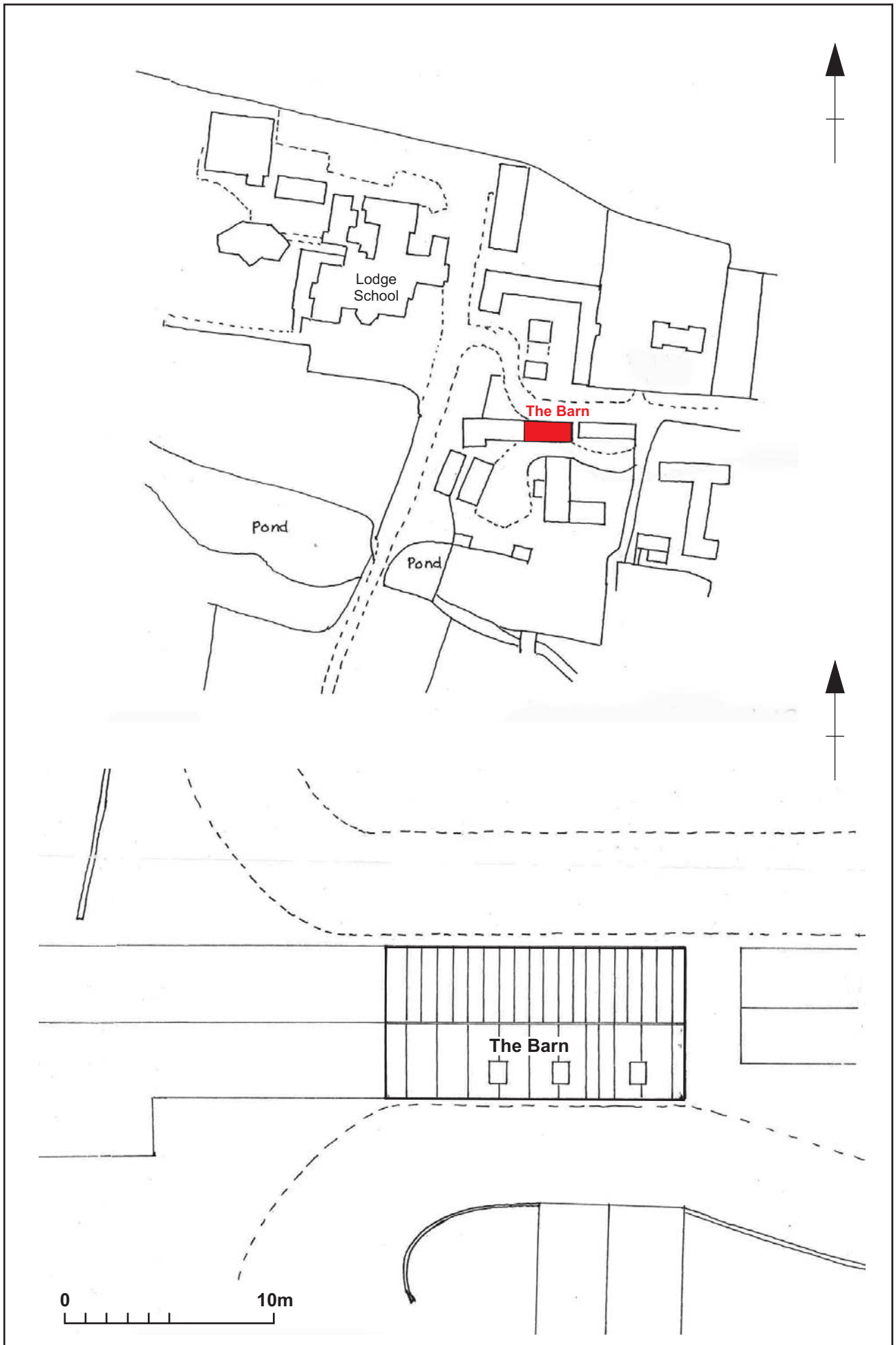
All principal exterior elevations, where possible, were photographed. All rooms were photographically recorded and included significant structural or decorative details that may be lost during alterations or moved to alternative locations within the building.

A plan of the building, provided by the developers, was checked for accuracy on site. Fixtures and fittings, which related to the buildings' early use, were recorded and former uses of the individual building were postulated where sufficient evidence remained to do so.



Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Plan of the Lodge and Barn Fig 2



### 3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to 'Pevsner' (Bailey *et al* 2013, 531-32), the Lodge was constructed in 1664 and had additions in 1899 and the 1920s. Renowned architect Edwin Lutyens is said to have been involved in the 1899 works. Further alterations and adaptations occurred in 1976. The Lodge was converted to school use in 1956.

#### 3.1 Bryant's map of 1827

The Lodge and some of the larger ancillary structures are shown on the Bryant map of 1827 with a tree-lined avenue leading to Watling Street to the south (Fig 3). It is unclear how the outlying structures relate to the surveyed building.

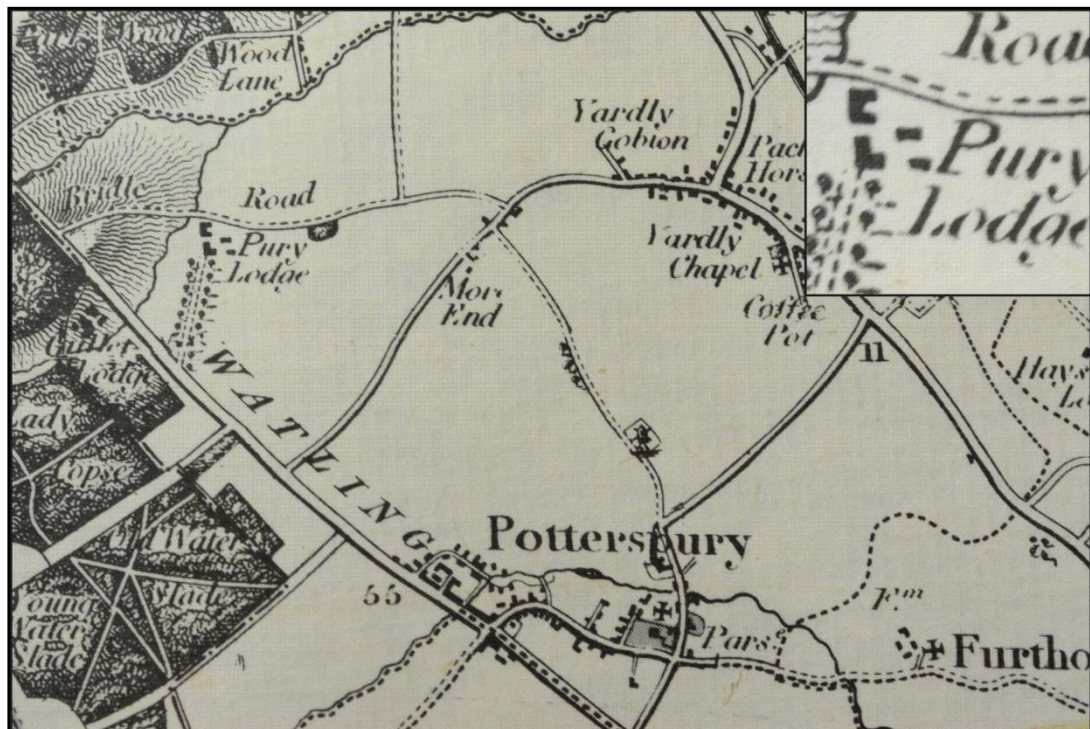
#### 3.2 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 clearly shows the layout of the Lodge and outbuildings (Fig 4). The surveyed structure is present with north facing carriage arches clearly shown. A feature of the building, not surviving at the time of this survey, is a southern extension to the Barn. It is unclear from the map if this was a separate structure to the Barn or if there was access between the two. No evidence for a blocking was seen during this survey.

#### 3.3 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900

The layout of the Lodge and related structures remains largely unchanged from that shown in 1884 (Fig 5). A few of the smaller outbuildings appear to have been demolished or are not shown.

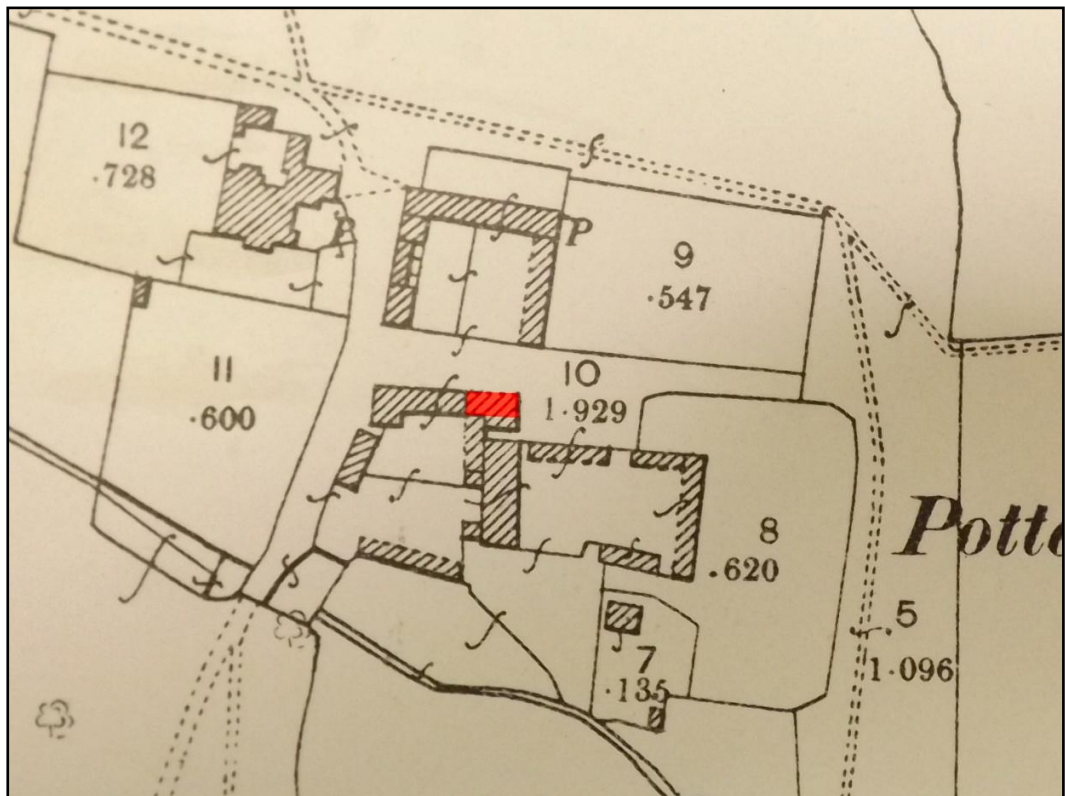
Map evidence in conjunction with the style and form of the building point to a date for construction in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. The bull-nosed bricks, which are an original part of the fabric, were not in use prior to 1840.



1827, Bryant map showing Pury Lodge Fig 3



1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884 showing the layout of the Lodge and the Barn Fig 4



2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900 showing the layout of the Lodge and the Barn Fig 5

## **4 BUILDING ASSESSMENT**

The building was visited on the 21st October 2013 to carry out a photographic, written and drawn survey of the building. It was not possible to access the southern elevation, as the land is under separate ownership.

### **4.1 Exterior**

The surveyed building was a later addition to the building on its west side, which had already been converted from its original farm use to school use. It is on a simple, rectangular plan of one build, with the exterior walls being coursed limestone faced internally with red brick in English bond, with brick detailing around the cart entrances and windows (Figs 6-9). Segmental, red brick arches and bull-nosed brick sills are present around the doors and windows. The bricks forming the jambs of the cart openings and window openings are also bull-nosed (Fig 12). The gabled roof was originally Welsh slate with bull nose bricks at the eaves. The southern half of the roof was later re-covered in corrugated iron (Fig 6).

The building was originally open fronted with three carriage arches facing north. These were later covered over with timber, sliding garage-style doors (Fig 10). Two rectangular windows at first floor level look north with an opposing pair facing south and a single, high level window looks east through the gable wall. The windows are fixed, single panes in softwood frames throughout, inserted into the original openings in the mid-late 20th-century.

### **4.2 Ground floor**

The ground floor is accessed from the north via the carriage arches. It is open plan on a plain rectangular layout with a stair leading to the first floor at the east end of the room (Fig 8). The stair is enclosed from the main room and supported by a red brick wall which also forms a small understairs area with corrugated sheeting over (Fig 14). A plank and batten door with diagonal slats separates the stair from the room (Fig 16).

Three north-south running beams support the floor joists over. These beams are supported on the brick arch dividers at the south, by the south wall and centrally by vertical timber posts (Fig 14). Crossed, diagonal slats ran between the joists, providing additional bracing and strengthening for the first floor (Fig 15).

The walls are whitewashed internally and the room has a floor of beaten earth throughout. No original fixtures or fittings survive.

### **4.3 First floor**

The first floor is an open plan space which had been subdivided into two smaller tack rooms at the western end (Tack Rooms 1 and 2, Fig 8). The walls are of red brick in English bond, whitewashed over. The partitions are constructed of vertical timber planks, which had been whitewashed (Fig 20).

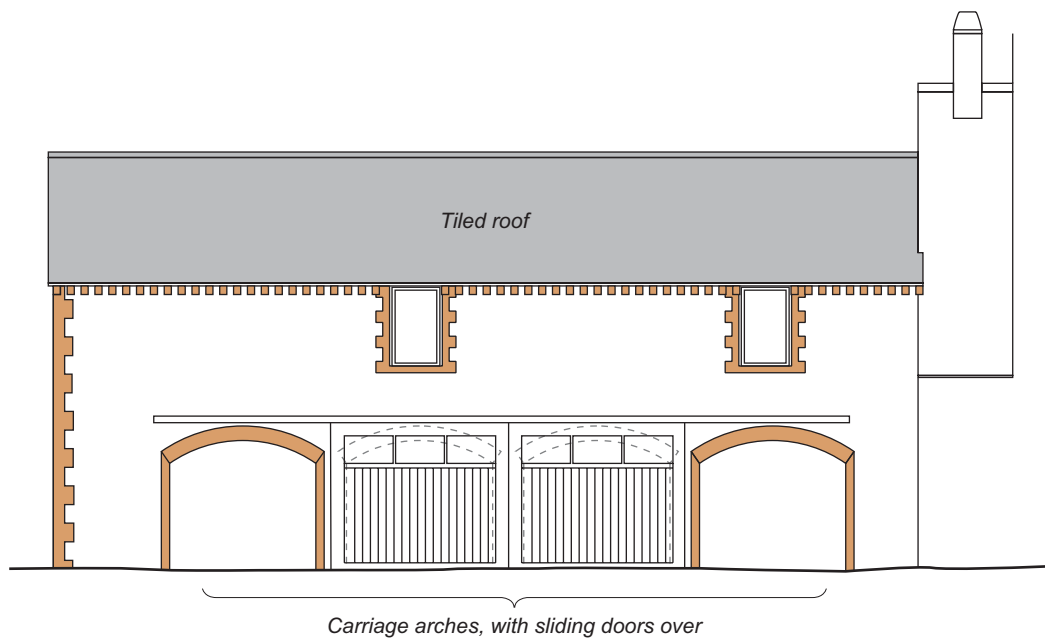
A row of raised, enclosed chicken coops run the full length of the south wall of the first floor. These are simple wooden structures with wooden roofs which could be raised and lowered (Fig 18).

The roof is supported by simple, exposed, machine-cut pine trusses with central iron supporting rods and diagonal struts (Fig 18). A high level window in the eastern gable wall provides light to the top of the stair (Fig 11).


The tack rooms are small, square spaces, approximately 3 x 3.2m (Figs 19-20). No original fixtures were present in the rooms.

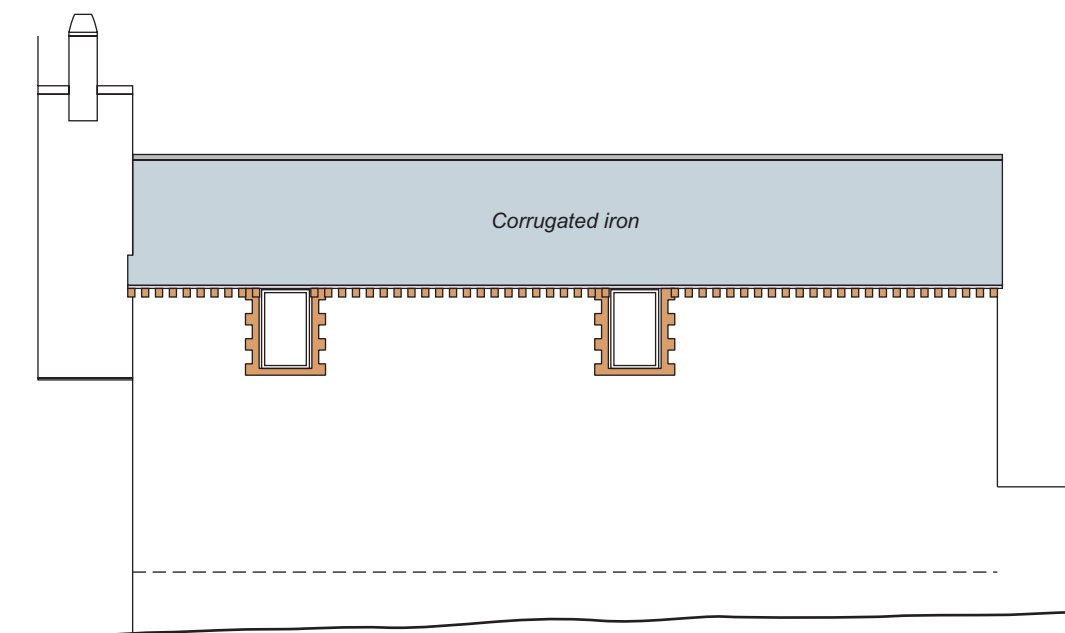
## **5 DISCUSSION**

The survey recorded the former cartshed which is proposed for conversion into a workshop and meeting space. The cartshed formed part of a late 19th-century farmstead complex. This complex largely replaces the buildings shown on the 1827 Bryant map. The middle and latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup>- century saw an increase in prosperity of farms fuelled by the demands of an increasing population. The phase of building on the farmstead is likely contemporary with this period of prosperity and growth.




**North elevation**

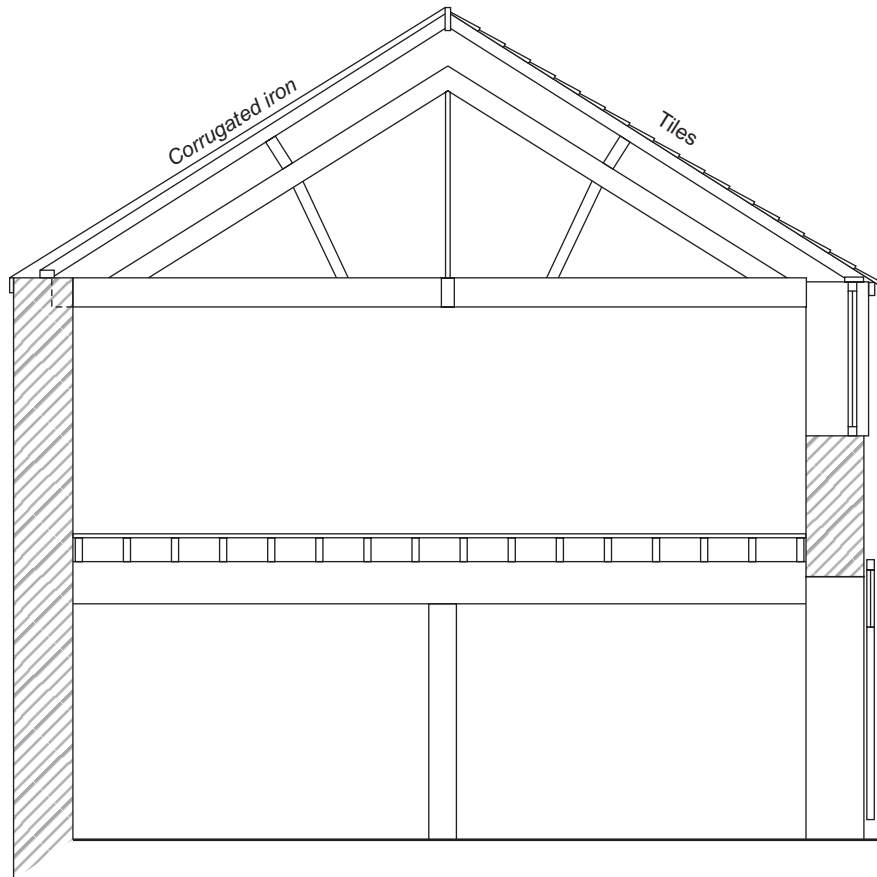
 Red brick detail



**South elevation**

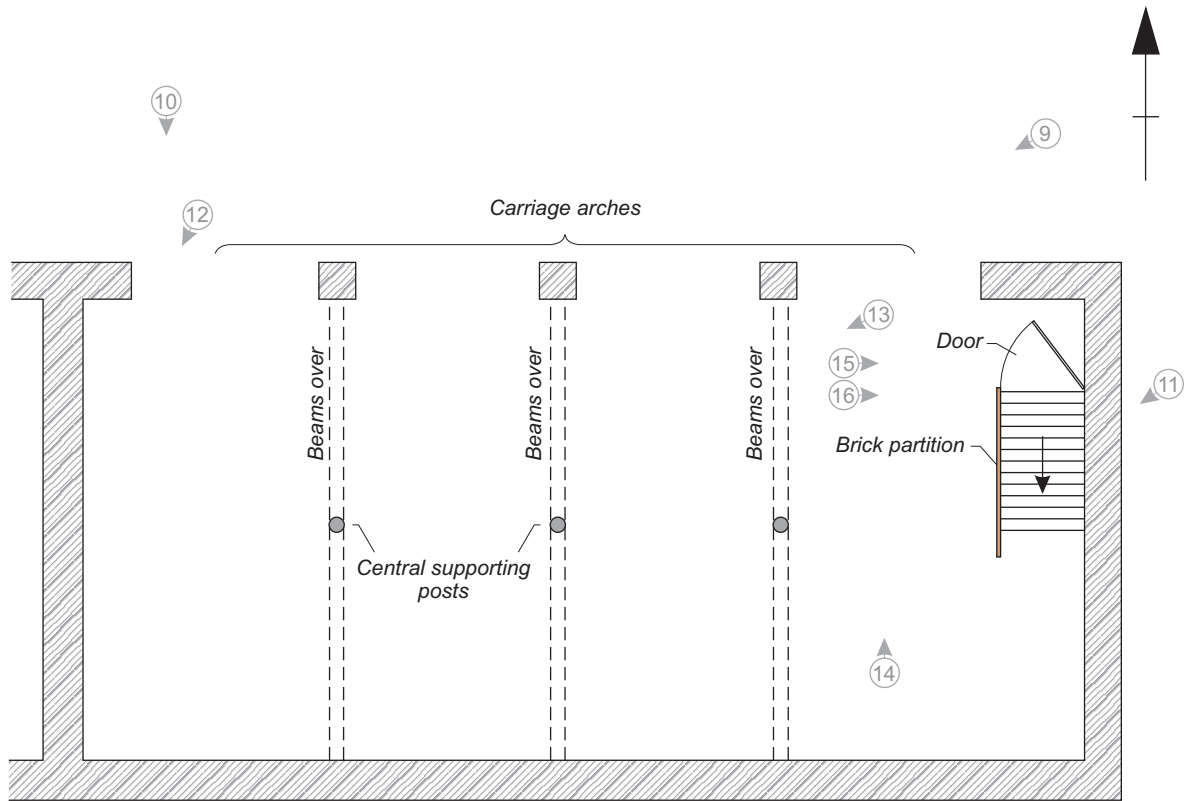
 Red brick detail



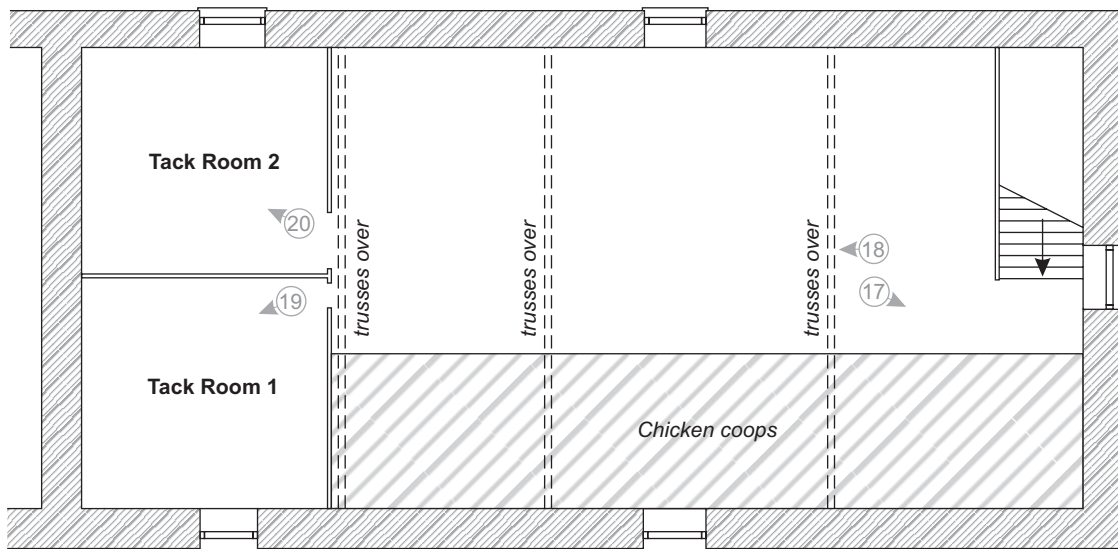


Scale 1:125 (A4)

Section through the Barn Fig 7



**Ground floor**



**First floor**

(X) Photo locations





The north elevation of the Barn, looking west Fig 9



The north elevation of the barn, looking south Fig 10





The eastern gable Fig 11



Bull-nosed brick detail around the carriage arches Fig 12



The ground floor, looking west Fig 13



The ground floor, looking north with stairs to the right Fig 14



Detail of the roof structure with crossed bracing, looking east Fig 15



The stair door Fig 16



The first floor landing showing the scar of removed chicken coops to the right Fig 17



The first floor, looking west, showing surviving chicken coops and roof structure Fig 18



Tack Room 1, looking west Fig 19



Tack Room 2, looking west Fig 20

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**APPENDIX 1: LISTING DESCRIPTION**

Pottersury Lodge (Rudolph Steiner School), Yardley Gobion

Grade: II

Date Listed: 1 December 1951

English Heritage Building ID: 235379

OS Grid Reference: SP7458244792

Location: Yardley Gobion, Northamptonshire NN12 7LL

Country house, now school. Late 17th-century with extensive alterations and additions of c1900. Coursed squared limestone with ironstone dressings, plain-tile roof, brick lateral and internal stacks. 2-storey, 7-window range. Original plan unclear. Original 3-bay centre breaks forward and has central part-glazed door with moulded eared ironstone surround flanked by panelled pilasters topped by console brackets supporting pulvinated frieze with blank tablet to centre and broken segmental pediment framing base of former urn or cartouche of arms. Doorcase and windows either side are now in large canted stone porch of c1900. 12-pane sash windows to ground and 1st floors with flat-arched heads. Centre has chamfered quoins, plain parapet with segmental raised centre and ball finials, and timber octagonal cupola of c1900 to roof with Tuscan columns, domed lead roof and weather-vane incorporating sailing ship. 2-storey-and-attic, 2-window projecting wing to left with Venetian window to ground floor. Sash windows to 1st floor and hipped roof with segmental dormer; c1900. Other additions to rear. Interior has open-well staircase with twisted balusters on bulbous feet and one room with 17th-century panelling. (Buildings of England: Northamptonshire: p377).

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