

PLAISTOW BARTON SHIRWELL DEVON

Results a Desk-Based Assessment,
Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Monitoring



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Plaistow Barton, Shirwell, Devon

Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Monitoring

For

Mr Lightowlers

By



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Summary

Now known as Plaistow Barton, the farmstead was formerly known West Plaistow with a corresponding farmstead called Plaistow to the east. It is not clear whether Plaistow Barton was an original manorial centre or demesne farm, as the current mid-19th century name might imply, but substantial earthworks are located a short distance to the east of the current farm. The existing buildings are of post-medieval origin (17th century), having undergone numerous changes in the 19th and 20th centuries, no earlier fabric was recorded and no earlier features or finds were uncovered. For the buildings, four main phases were identified, with the development of Plaistow Barton reflecting the changing fortunes and fashions in North Devon agriculture over the last 350 years.

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1.0 Introduction

Location: Plaistow Barton
Parish: Shirwell
District: North Devon
County: Devon

1.1 Project Background

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by Mr Lightowlers to conduct historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording at Plaistow Barton, Shirwell, Devon. This was in order to discharge the archaeological planning conditions on the site in relation to the proposed conversion of two agricultural buildings to dwellings. The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a brief produced by Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES) (Appendix 1) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced and agreed with DCHES before the commencement of works (Appendix 2).

1.2 Location and Geology

Plaistow Barton is situated in hilly country some 4 kilometres to the north of Barnstaple between the villages of Muddiford and Shirwell, and close to the western fringes of Exmoor (Figure 1). The Soil Survey lists the soils as those of the typical brown podzolic soils of the Manod variety, being well-drained fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock (1983). The bedrock is comprised of Pickwell Down Sandstones.

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

Plaistow Barton was recorded as a manor in the Domesday Book and held by Drogo of the Bishop of Coutances, while before the conquest it was held by Brictwold. There are also documentary references to a settlement here, worth 20 shillings in 1086, when it is referred to as Pleistow, to Pleitowe in 1166, Plegestowe in 1167 and Pleystowe in 1242. The place name of Plaistow may be derived from Old English meaning a play or ceremonial meeting place.

Now known as Plaistow Barton, the farmstead was formerly known as West Plaistow (until the mid-19th century) with a corresponding farmstead called Plaistow to the east. The latter is now East Plaistow. It is not clear whether Plaistow Barton was an original manorial centre or demesne farm, as the current name might imply. Plaistow Barton is a however a farmstead of medieval origin, the buildings lying within an ovoid enclosure. A short distance to the east is a well preserved hilltop enclosure of probable prehistoric origin to the south of which the traces of a possibly medieval rectangular enclosure are also visible.

Plaistow Barton farmhouse itself is of 17th century date with extensive 19th century additions (Appendices 3 & 4). The other existing farm buildings appear to be of post-medieval origin, having undergone numerous changes in the 19th and 20th centuries.

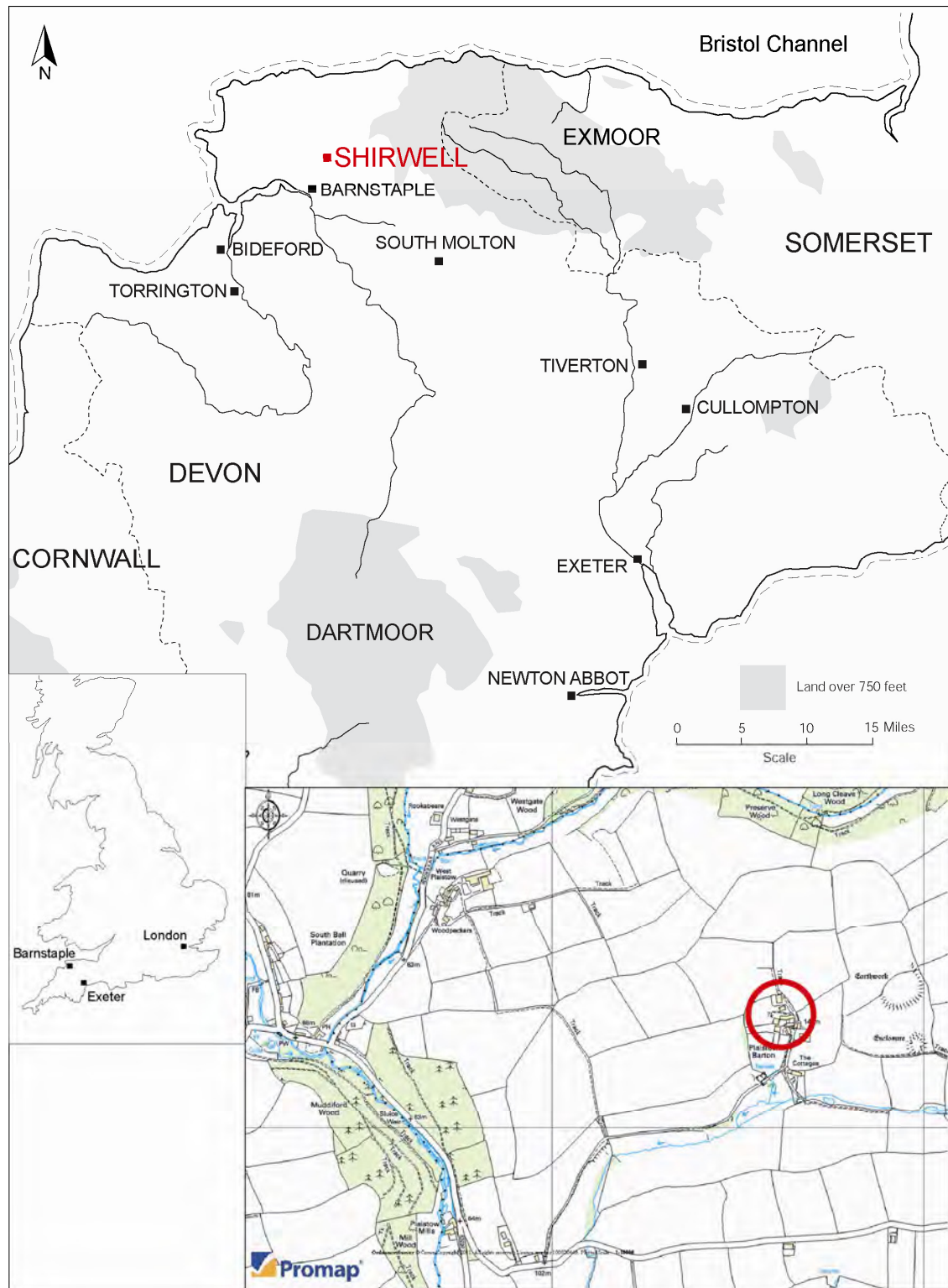


Figure 1: Regional location.

1.4 Methodology

The buildings were surveyed on 7th April 2008 by C. Humphreys and D. Laing-Trengove. The recording work was undertaken with reference to IfA and English Heritage guidelines on the recording of standing buildings. Photographic and written records were produced.

The retrogressive cartographic analysis was undertaken by T. Green, with reference to the IfA guidelines on the preparation of Archaeological Desk-based Assessments (2008). Printed and unpublished material in the Devon HER (DCHES), the Devon Record Office (DRO), the West Country Studies Library (WCSL), and the North Devon Record Office (NDRO) was consulted as part of this work.

The groundworks were all excavated by machine using a 1m wide toothless bucket. The service trenches and reduction of floor levels inside the buildings were carefully monitored between 16th–23rd April 2008 by C. Humphreys and D. Laing-Trengove. The geothermal heating trenches were monitored by Dr. S. walls on 31st May 2011.

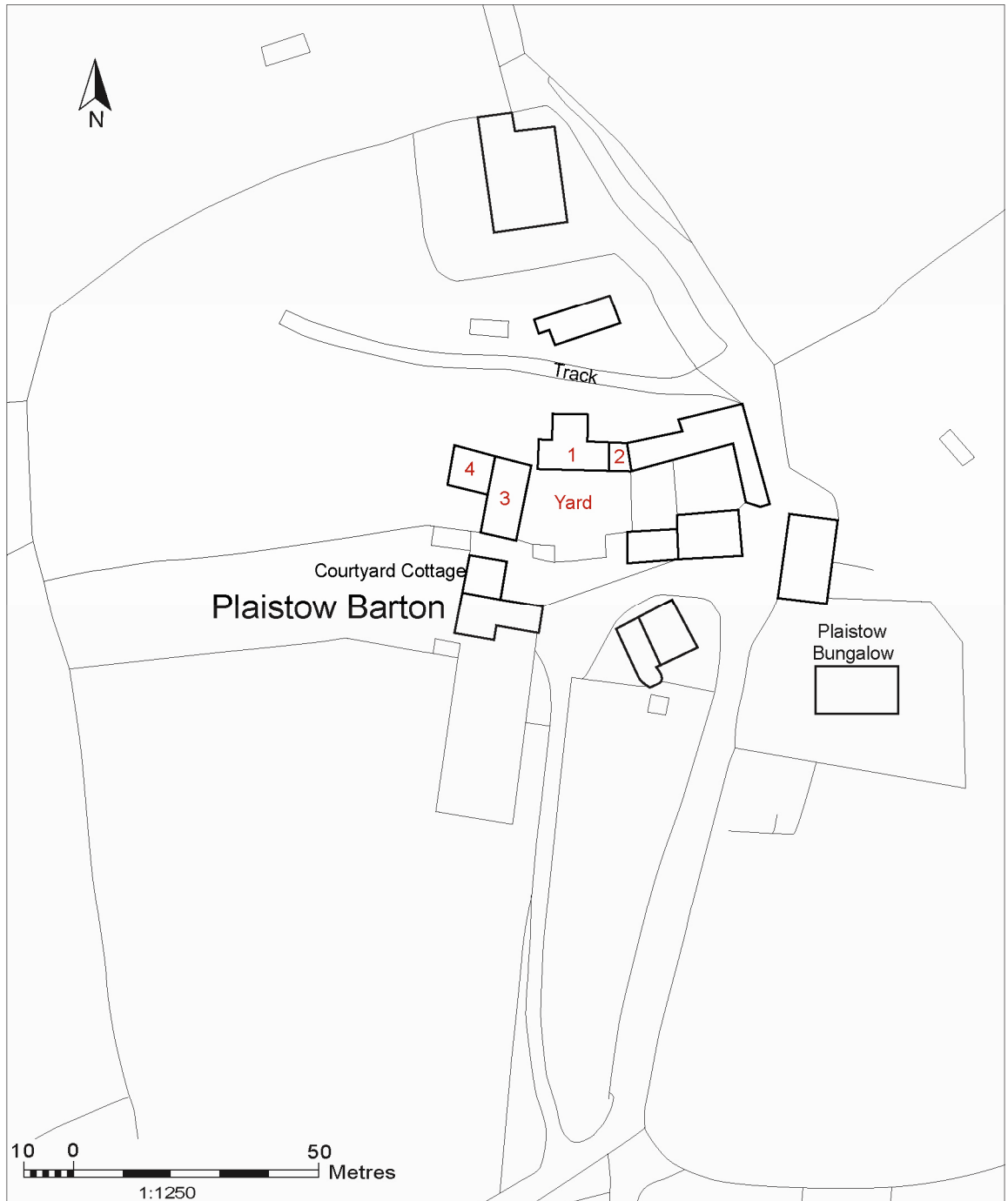


Figure 2: Site location. The numbered buildings (1-4) relate to those subject to this survey.

2.0 The Desk-Based Assessment

2.1 The Cartographic Record

The earliest available map of the site is the Ordnance Survey's Draft Map of 1804-5 (Figure 3) which shows a range of buildings labelled 'West Plaister' which represent what is later called Plaistow Barton. The map provides no specific detail of the lay-out of buildings, only indicating that there were several structures on the site at this time. The map does however hint at the ovoid enclosure within which the buildings and neighbouring paddocks are later seen to be contained within.



Figure 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Draft map of 1804-5 (WCSL).

The earliest detailed record of the layout of Plaistow Barton is the Shirwell tithe map (Figure 4), this rather rudimentary depiction indicates an arrangement comprising a complex building to the west, coloured pink (and therefore domestic), two long, parallel structures to the east and a small square building to the south-east. Together with a group of small paddocks, these lie within an ovoid enclosure with access from the east and south-east. As in 1804-5, the settlement was named at this date 'West Plaistow'.

A much more detailed record of the buildings was produced for insurance purposes in 1871 (Figure 5). Comparison with the buildings recorded in 1839 (Figure 4) is difficult, as this record is clearly much more detailed. It seems clear however, that building's D (the round house) and K (the cattle shed) had been built since the tithe map had been produced. It also seems that a wing which was present on the west of the dwelling house in 1839 had been removed and – if the colour coding of 1839 is correct – that *either* the northern portion of the dwelling house had

been replaced by a barn *or* it had been divided off and had changed its function. Building's I (the cart shed) and J (the wagon linhay) which were present in 1871, are also discernible on the earlier map as a roughly sketched feature (in red).

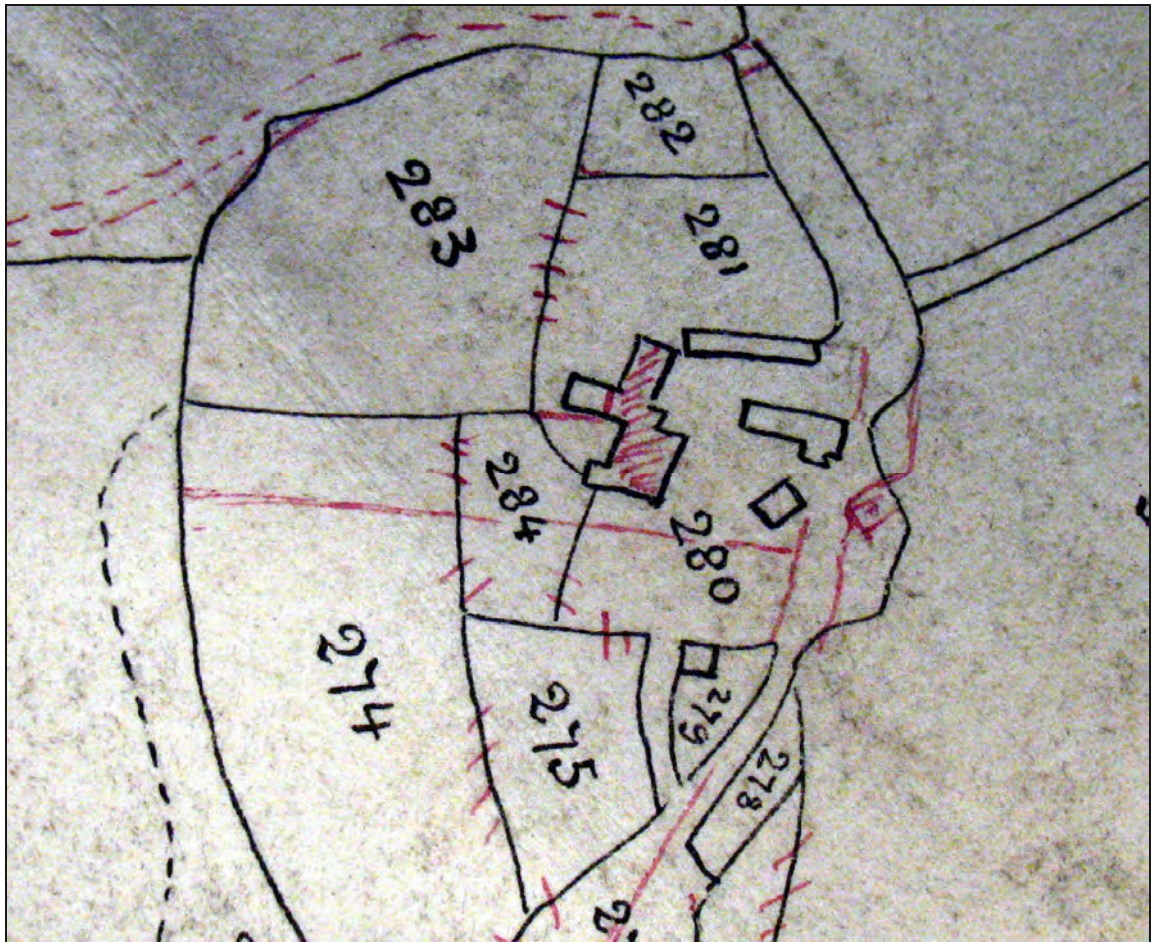


Figure 4: Extract from the Shirwell tithe map of 1839 (NDRO B707/12).

A full list of the buildings is provided with a key to the function and the construction materials used for each of the structures:-

A.	Dwelling house and domestic offices	stone, slate
B.	Fowl house	stone, slate
C.	Barn	stone, reed
D.	Round house	stone, reed
E.	Shippons	stone, reed
F.	Gig house	stone, reed
G.	Carpenter's shop	stone, reed
H.	Pigs house	stone, slate
I.	Cart shed	stone, slate
J.	Wagon linhay	stone, reed
K.	Cattle shed	stone, slate
L.	Shippons	stone, slate
M.	Stable	stone, slate
N.	Cattle shed and granary	stone, slate
O.	Shippon and cattle sheds	stone, slate

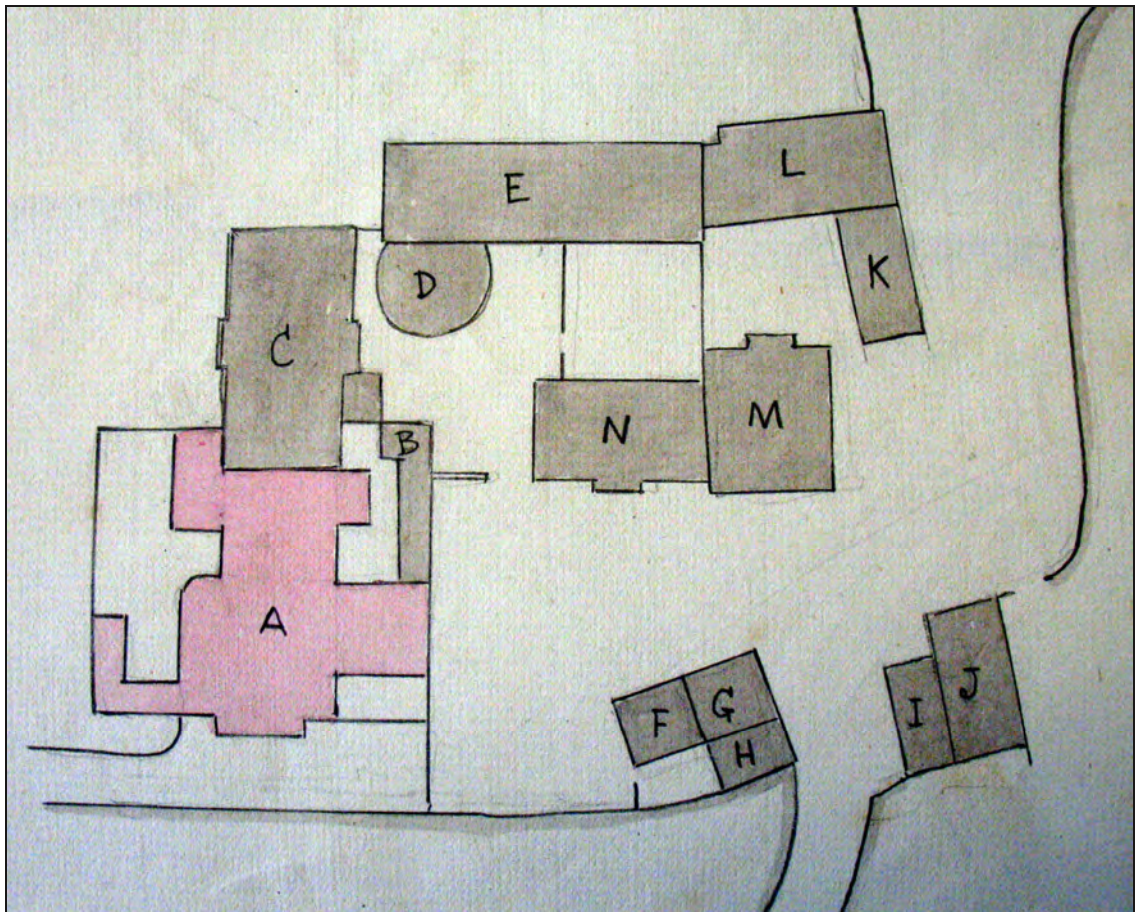


Figure 5: Plan of Plaistow Barton from 'Draft Particulars for the Bratton & Shirwell Insurance, 1871' (NDRO).

The next available map is the altered tithe map of 1881 (Figure 6), which confusingly shows the dwelling house as in 1839, i.e. with the west wing, but includes the round house and the cattle shed of 1871. Unlike in 1871, the round house is shown as joining the west and north wings of the group. Unfortunately there is no use of colour coding on this map to distinguish domestic function.

By the time of the Ordnance Survey First Edition (in 1886) the footprint of the main buildings appears to be little, if any different from that of 1871. The round house is shown as joining the west and north wings and is apparently open-fronted, as are the shippons and cattle shed (Buildings L and K of 1871) to the north-east. The gig house/carpenter's shop/pigs house appears to have undergone some slight change by this time, perhaps with an addition to the north.

The Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey (of 1903) shows that the round house appears to have been demolished by this date, to be replaced by a small square southward extension at the western end of the shippons (building E of 1871). A somewhat larger square extension has also been added on the north side of this building. To the west of the gig house a small, slim structure had been added, and the 'barn' to the north of the dwelling house has gained an extension to the north-west.

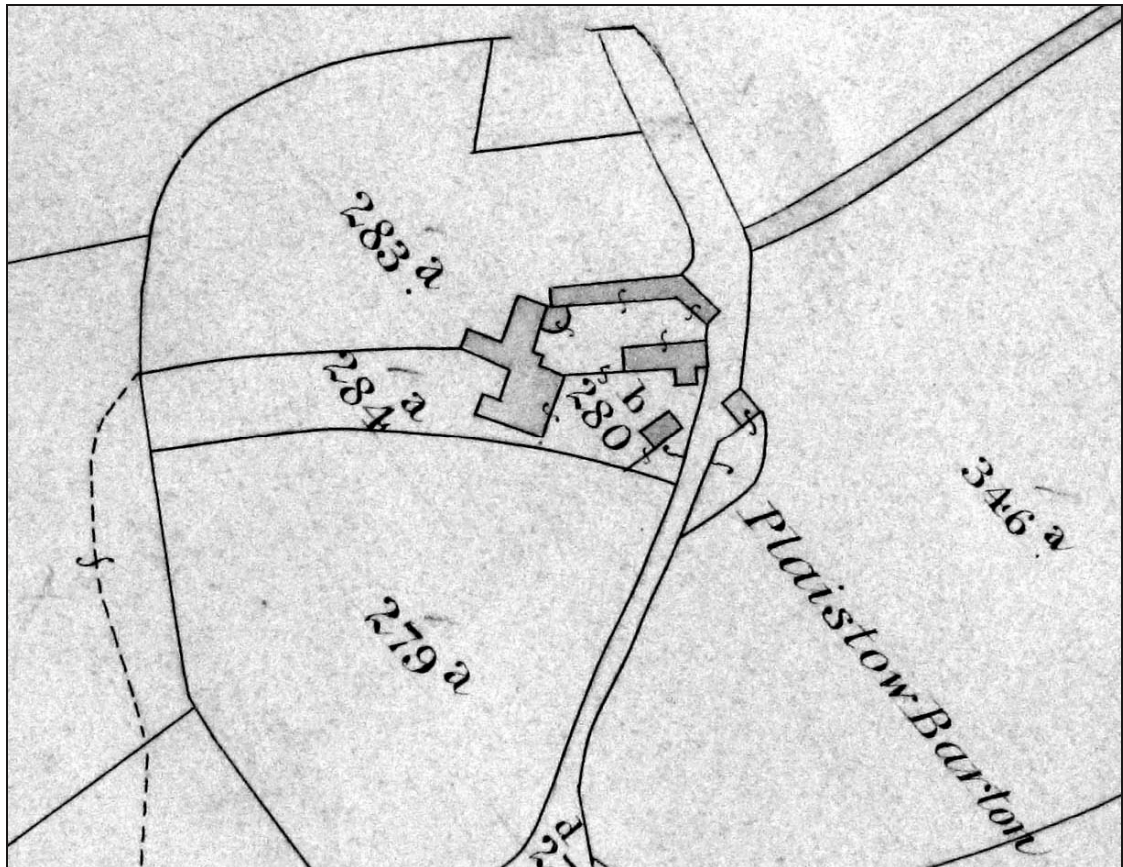


Figure 6: Extract from the altered Shirwell tithe map of 1881 (DRO).

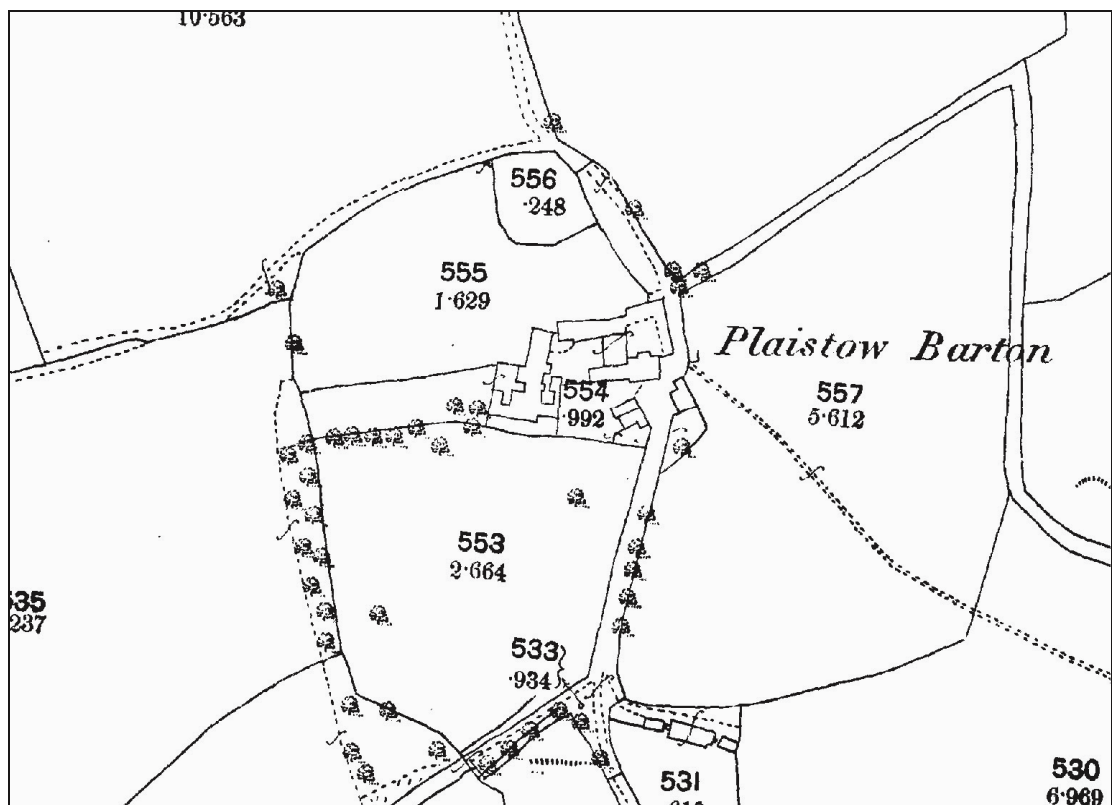


Figure 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition map at 1:2500 surveyed 1886, published 1889. Devon sheet 9:7 (WCSL).

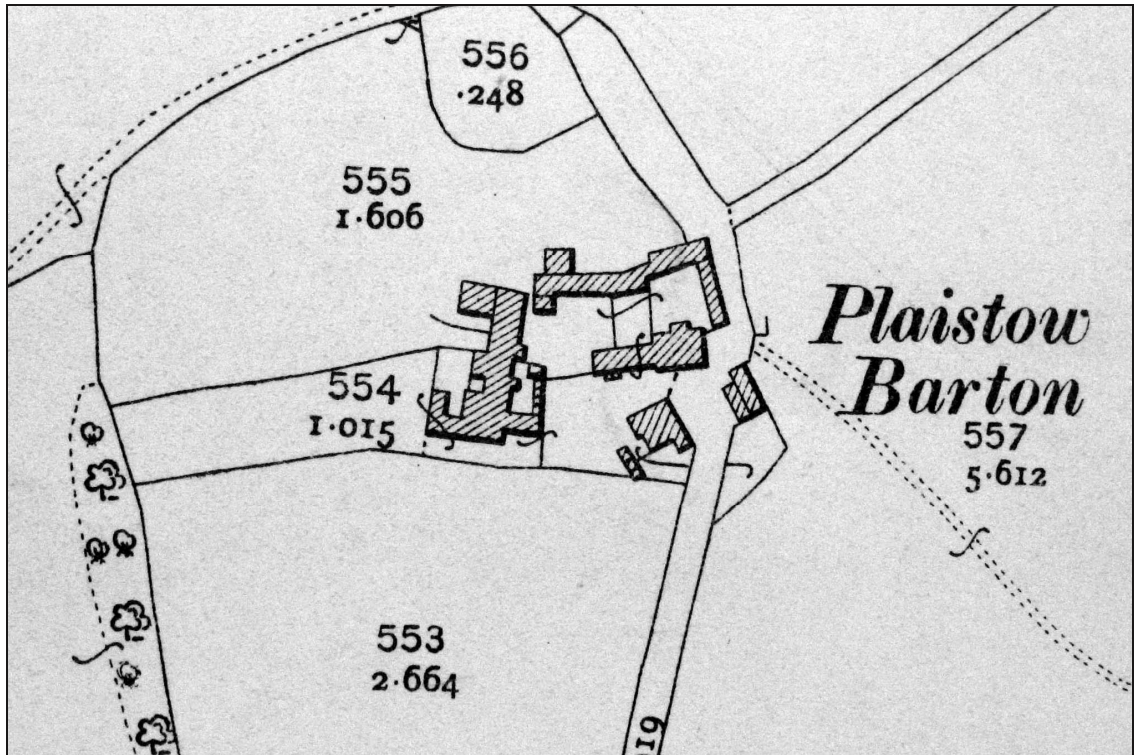


Figure 8: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Second Edition map at 1:2500, surveyed 1903, published 1904. Devon sheet 9:7 (DRO).

The aerial photograph of 1946 (Figure 9) suggests that there was no clear evidence of any significant further change during the early 20th century. But it is clear that since the mid-20th century the dwelling house has lost any wings that formerly existed on its western side (Figure 10). Also during the later 20th century the original ‘cattle shed and granary’ (building N in 1871), had been removed, as had the ‘fowl house’ (building B in 1871). The original gig house may have been enlarged during this time and in the location of the original cart shed and wagon linhay (buildings I and J in 1871) is a building on a different orientation (east-west rather than north-south). Other new buildings have been introduced to the north and to the south-east of the original group. The aerial shot of 2008 (Figure 10) also clearly shows that the field to the north of the buildings was being used as a scrap yard and shell waste dump from the late 20th century.

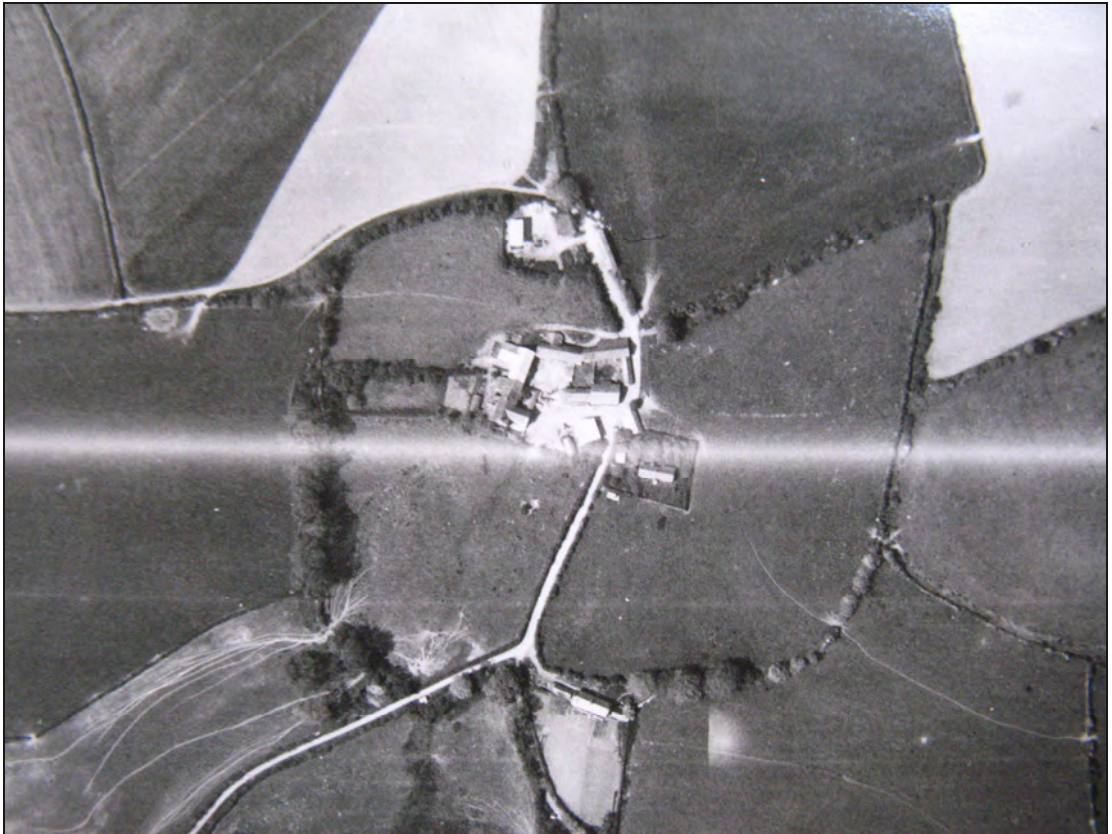


Figure 9: Aerial photograph April 1947:CPE/UK 1974 11 APR 47 58 SQDN 1171 (Devon County HES).



Figure 10: Recent aerial view (maps.google.co.uk accessed 21.4.08).

3.0 The Building Survey

3.1 General Description

The farm buildings at Plaistow Barton are sited on a gentle south western slope, to the north of the farmhouse (see Figure 16). The four buildings subject to this survey comprise the western part of a more extensive range of farm buildings now split into different ownerships. The buildings are cut into the slope of the higher ground to the north and access to the buildings has been achieved by levelling the area with a revetted retaining bank beyond. The ground around the farm has suffered considerable disturbance in the late 20th century and there is evidence of dumping to the rear (north and west) of the building complex. The yard to the south of these buildings is mostly concreted but where the ground rises slightly to the north cobbling is visible in front of the threshing barn (Building 1).

The range of semi coursed rubble stone buildings is comprised of a threshing barn (Building 1), with a shippon extension (Building 2). The building to the south-west of this is comprised of a ground floor shippon with a first floor threshing floor (Building 3) and an engine house (Building 4) to the east.



Figure 11: The yard and south facing elevations of Buildings 1 and 2 (2m scale).

3.2 Building 1 (Threshing Barn)

Building 1 is a south facing two storey, six bay threshing barn, constructed of semi coursed stone rubble with a gabled slate roof. The south front has a large central opening, formally two stories high, now with a large lintel at first floor level supporting the infilled wall above, with a slit window to the west and a former slit, now blocked, to the east (Figure 11). A more recent window opening with brick and stone reveals and a concrete lintel is located slightly to the right

of this blocked eastern slit. The north wall contains an opposing draught door with an infilled brick jamb to the west.

There is evidence of five window slits at ground floor level; two in the south wall (one blocked), two in west gable, with wooden sills remaining in part, and one (blocked) in the western portion of the north wall. The west wall also contains a central square opening between the two slit windows with an external slate sill and at first floor level an inserted tall opening with concrete sills and a modern two light frame. The eastern part of the north wall also contains a single first floor window opening with two modern lights nailed to an earlier pegged frame. This is possibly a former loading door as the barn is floored to the west, with large oak joists, and appears to have been floored to the east where disturbances in the north and south walls give the positions of the former floor joists. The fourth bay, containing the door openings and former threshing floor is to full height.

At the north-east corner of the north wall the wall thickens and projects into the building to first floor level, with the remains of the former east wall projecting beyond this and disturbance visible in the masonry above where the north wall of the extension (Building 2) is tied into the building. The south end of the former east wall, partially remains in the south wall (Figure 12), suggesting that more of the east wall may have been retained until relatively recently.

The floor of the barn which slopes slightly from the north-east, is mainly concrete but with a block of cobbles along the south-west wall, and a string of stones laid on edge delineating a rectangular area adjacent to the threshing door. The roof structure is of 19th/20th century date, with pegged apex and bolted collars.

To the north-west of the barn a rubble stone lean-to, mostly demolished, abuts the north wall and is built into the bank to the north, with a door opening in the south-east corner.



Figure 12: Vertical join in the south elevation between Buildings 1 and 2, viewed from the north (2m scale).

3.3 Building 2 (Shippon extension)

Building 2 is a one and half storey shippon extension to the eastern end of Building 1, which infilled the space between the threshing barn (Building 1) and the building to the east (a further shippon). Building 2 has rubble stone walls, with a door opening in the south wall with a segmental brick arch resting on stone jams. The segmental brick arch is similar, although not identical, to those in the eastern front of Building 3. There is an opposing door to the north with a two light window above in a rough frame. The interior south-east corner has a projecting block of masonry to roof height – which may be a possible buttress to the building (shippon) to the east?

There is a blocked door opening at the northern end of the east wall, and the north wall consists of two thicker sections of wall rising to first floor height with a recess between, extending from

approximately a metre above the floor, a single remaining floor joist rests on the top of this thicker wall to the west and there are traces of wood to the east from a former loft floor joist. The roof is shared with Building 1 but the rafters enter the wall at a lower level than elsewhere at the eastern end of the north wall. The floor is of modern concrete, and is at a higher level than the floor of Building 1, with a drain running east-west approximately 1m from the south wall.

3.4 Building 3 (Barn)

An east facing rectangular rubble stone agricultural building with ground floor shippon and first floor threshing floor under a galvanized roof (Figure 13).

The east front has four symmetrically placed ground floor door openings with segmental brick arches and a first floor draught or loading door with ledged and braced stable type doors (Figure 13). Between the central ground floor doors and those at the level of the first floor are two inserted lengths of ceramic pipe, while at a slightly higher level are two pairs of inserted air bricks. Their function is unclear, although one would expect them to be associated with airflow to the threshing floor, but they appear to be blocked by, and at the same level as the floor itself. The upper north gable has been rebuilt in concrete block with the window at first floor level also blocked at this time. The door opening at first floor level in the south elevation was also infilled with concrete blocks.



Figure 13: The eastern elevation of Building 3 (2m scale).

The exterior south elevation retains the ghost of a former building which once infilled the space between the main house and Building 3 (Figure 14). The west elevation is built into the bank to the rear with an engine house (Building 4) at first floor level to the north of the building and a large single door opening on to the threshing floor with cheeks which have disturbed tops and a segmental brick arch. The ground is ramped up to the threshing door and riveted with stone to

the south alongside the lower ground level leading to the only ground floor door opening, again with a segmental brick arch. There is also a drain running at ground level behind the west wall.

The ground floor is split into three rooms, the southern room has opposing doorways and acts as a covered passage. The south wall is roughly rendered as is the rubble stone partition wall to the north which defines the central room. The central room has been divided by a concrete block wall into two rooms in the 20th century and apart from the two doors in the eastern elevation has no other openings. A roughly pointed stone rubble partition divides the central room from the northern room, possibly formerly a calf house, with no window openings.



Figure 14: The ghost of a building on the south elevation of Building 3, which formerly filled the gap between the main farmhouse and this barn, viewed from the south-east.

The upper floor is a single room with a largely collapsed pine boarded floor. The stone rubble walls are partially cement rendered to 0.5m above the floor level. The roof structure of the building is a bolted kingpost, with a galvanised sheet roof.

3.5 Building 4 (Engine House)

A single storey, square, three bay rubble stone engine house with a galvanised roof, gabled to the west and adjoining the west wall of Building 3 at first floor level. There are large sliding double doors in the north wall, the ground is ramped up to allow level access to the doors which suggests a later use as a garage. The exterior stonework of the jambs suggests that this opening was forced through. The south-east corner of south wall has a single door opening set above floor level with steps up to higher ground level to the south. There is also a two light window at the west end. The west wall has a circular opening high in the gable and the east wall contains a blocked opening north of centre and has the remains of the former drive for the engine remaining at the southern end. There is no clear evidence for a horse engine and it is probable that a motor was used. The floor is modern uneven concrete which slopes slightly to the south. The roof is a lightweight pine bolted kingpost structure built into the north and south walls and resting on wooden pads as in Building 3.



Figure 15: The north facing elevation of Buildings 3 and 4, viewed from the north (2m scale).

4.0 Archaeological Monitoring

4.1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during all of the major ground works on the site, which included the insertion of service trenches to the south, the reduction of floor levels within the barns and the proposed geothermal heating system to the west (Figure 16).

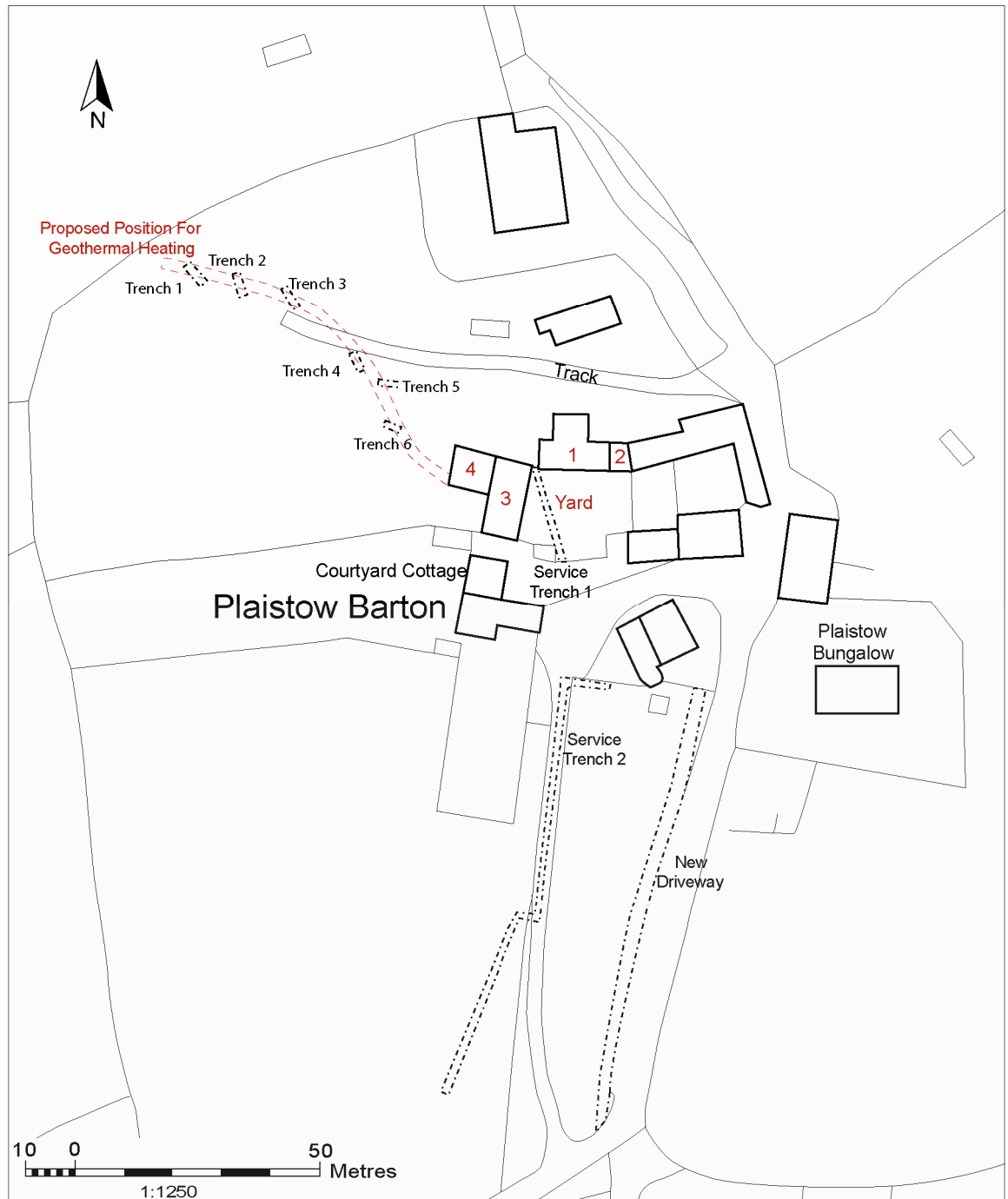


Figure 16: Plan of the excavated areas.

4.2 Reduction of floor levels

Each of the barns had concrete floors which were removed to reduce the floor levels within the four buildings. The removal of these revealed little more than was already visible, such as the presence of a cobbled surface within the western part of Building 1 (see Section 3.2 above). The floors within Buildings 1, 2 and 3 were all cut into a grey yellow-brown clay-silt with frequent sub-angular stones (up to 120mm).

The concrete floor within Building 4 revealed a much more complex history, with the concrete floor representing a complete change in the floor level of the building. This change in floor level probably occurred during the late 20th century and reflects the change of use of the building from an engine house to a garage. The concrete floor covered a 0.1m thick band of grey-brown gritty clay-silt predominantly composed of stone rubble, with frequent oil staining. This uniform rubble layer overlay a 1.5m (excavated) thick deposit of dumped material, which was comprised of a variety of dumps of stone rubble and soil, with at least six different tipping lines visible in section (Figure 17). The dumping of material within the building was similarly constructed, and presumably contemporary, with the earth and stone rubble ramp with roughly coursed stone wall revetments that abutted the forced northern opening to the Building. No earlier floor levels were identified within the excavated material, but a change in build was noticed 1.3m below the current floor level, with the upper dressed wall changing to a roughly coursed lower portion.



Figure 17: The raised floor with the engine house (Building 4) viewed from the north (2m scale).

4.3 Service Trenches and Driveway

Service Trench 1 (for locations see Figure 16) was a 20m long and 1m wide excavation against (and under) the southern boundary wall of the yard and extending across the yard in a north-west by south-east orientation to the gap between Buildings 1 and 3. This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m and revealed that below the concrete floor/cobbles of the yard was

a 0.2m deep band of light grey-brown gritty silt-clay comprised predominantly of sub-angular stone rubble (up to 75mm), with occasional mortar and slate fragments. This rubble deposit overlay a relatively clean yellow-brown clay-silt (excavated to a depth of 0.32m) with occasional large sub-angular stones (up to 100mm). A single piece of late 17th century rim of a North Devon Ware pot was found within this deposit.

Service Trench 2 was a 14.9m long and 1m wide trench running east-west against the southern side of the south hedge behind the former gig house (Building's F, G and H in 1871), before narrowing to 0.5m wide and running south along the western drive for approximately 50m, before again turning to the south-east for a further 45m. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m, but was primarily at a depth of 0.45-0.6m. The topsoil was a dark grey-brown silt-clay topsoil of up to 0.3m depth. The topsoil overlay a relatively clean yellow-brown clay-silt (excavated to a depth of 0.45m) with occasional large sub-angular stones (up to 100mm).

In addition to these service trenches the eastern driveway was widened and a trench of approximately 3m width and 95m length was opened using a 1m wide grading bucket. This trench was only excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3m, and therefore simply removed the dark grey-brown topsoil down onto the same clean yellow-brown clay-silt subsoil seen elsewhere on the site. No features were observed.

4.4 Geothermal Heating Trenches

A series of six 1m x 3.2m trenches were excavated along the proposed length of the geothermal heating system. The formation level for this was 0.5-0.6m below the surface along its length. All six of the trenches were excavated to subsoil level, which was at a minimum 0.6m below the current ground level.

Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.9m, revealing a humic dark-brown silt-clay topsoil of 0.35m depth, containing large quantities of scallop shells, frequent plastic fragments and occasional large sub-angular stones (up to 130mm). The topsoil overlay a 0.13m deep deposit of grey-buff clay-silt which contained frequent small sub-angular stones (up to 60mm) and rare slate fragments. This overlay a 0.35m deep yellow-brown clay-silt with frequent large sub-angular stones (up to 250mm). Below this deposit containing large stones was the natural subsoil, a yellow-orange clay-silt.

Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.9m, revealing an identical stratigraphy to Trench 1.

Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 1.2m (slightly over-dug) and revealed identical stratigraphy to Trenches 1 and 2. The only variation from the other trenches was the evidence of at least two phases of bonfires apparent within the humic topsoil, presumably as the area was relatively level and a safe distance from the buildings.

Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of 0.75m, revealing an identical stratigraphy to Trench 1 but with only 0.22m depth of topsoil, which contained slightly less frequent shells.

Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 0.65m and presented a slightly different stratigraphic picture. The dark-brown humic silt-clay topsoil extended to a depth of 0.3m in Trench 5, but contained slightly more frequent large sub-angular stones (up to 120mm) than Trenches 1-4 and much rarer shell fragments. This overlay (as with Trenches 1-4) a deposit of grey-buff clay-silt which contained frequent small sub-angular stones (up to 60mm) and rare slate fragments. This deposit below the topsoil in Trench 5 was however considerably deeper (0.3m deep) than in Trenches 1-4 and also directly overlay the natural subsoil.



Figure 18: Southwest facing section of Trench 1 (2m scale).

Trench 6 was excavated to a depth of 1.2m and revealed a similar stratigraphy to Trench 5, but with a 0.5m deep dark-brown clay-silt with frequent large sub-angular stones (up to 200mm) immediately above the subsoil. This thick deposit of stones may be indicative of a demolition/construction deposit associated with Building 4 in the late 19th century.

Only a single small sherd of late 17th/ early 18th century North Devon Ware was recovered from these six trenches. This was recovered from within the topsoil of Trench 3, alongside the numerous pieces of 20th century rubber, metal and plastic.

5.0 Development and Phasing

This phasing discussion is concerned with the four buildings which were surveyed as part of this project, and to those structures formerly attached to these buildings (as evidenced by historic maps and building fabric). The farmhouse and the various other agricultural buildings on the site are not considered in detail as part of this phasing discussion. Four main phases of construction can be identified (Figure 19) and each of these is discussed in turn (below).

5.1 Phase 1

The earliest structure surviving is the threshing barn (Building 1) which was constructed during the 17th century and is therefore broadly contemporary with the current farmhouse (see Appendix 3) and the shippon located to the east of Building 1.

5.2 Phase 2

It is clear that by 1839 that in addition to Building 1 structures also existed in the locations of Buildings 2 and 3 (Figure 4), however Building 3 appears to have been part of the domestic range at this time. This may suggest that this building was subsequently demolished and rebuilt for agricultural use, although given the rudimentary nature of the tithe map its accuracy may be called into question. The brick built doorways of Building 3 (and Building 2) do however support a mid-19th century construction date.

The second main phase of construction on the site therefore dates to between 1839 and 1871 when the northern wing of the farmhouse was seemingly demolished and a barn (Building 3) constructed in an almost identical position. At a similar time (but possibly not contemporary), a shippon extension was added (Building 2) onto the eastern end of Building 1, filling the gap between Building 1 and the shippon to the east.

The mapping evidence (Figure 5) also shows that by 1871 an (open fronted) round house had been constructed against the south-west corner of Building 1, and possibly also attached to Building 3 (Figures 6-7). The round house was removed between 1886 (Figure 7) and 1903 (Figure 8) to be replaced by a small rectangular building, which was itself demolished by the time of the RAF aerial photograph of 1947 (Figure 9).

A small rectangular building of unknown function was also constructed during the mid-19th century against the southern end of the east side of Building 3 (Figure 5). This was removed between 1903 and 1947, leaving only a slight vertical scar visible on the barn.

The mapping evidence also indicates that Plaistow Barton was known as 'West Plaistow' until the mid-19th century. The change in name may be a reflection of a change in ownership as well as a change of status of the property associated with the major investment which was occurring in the farm buildings at this time.

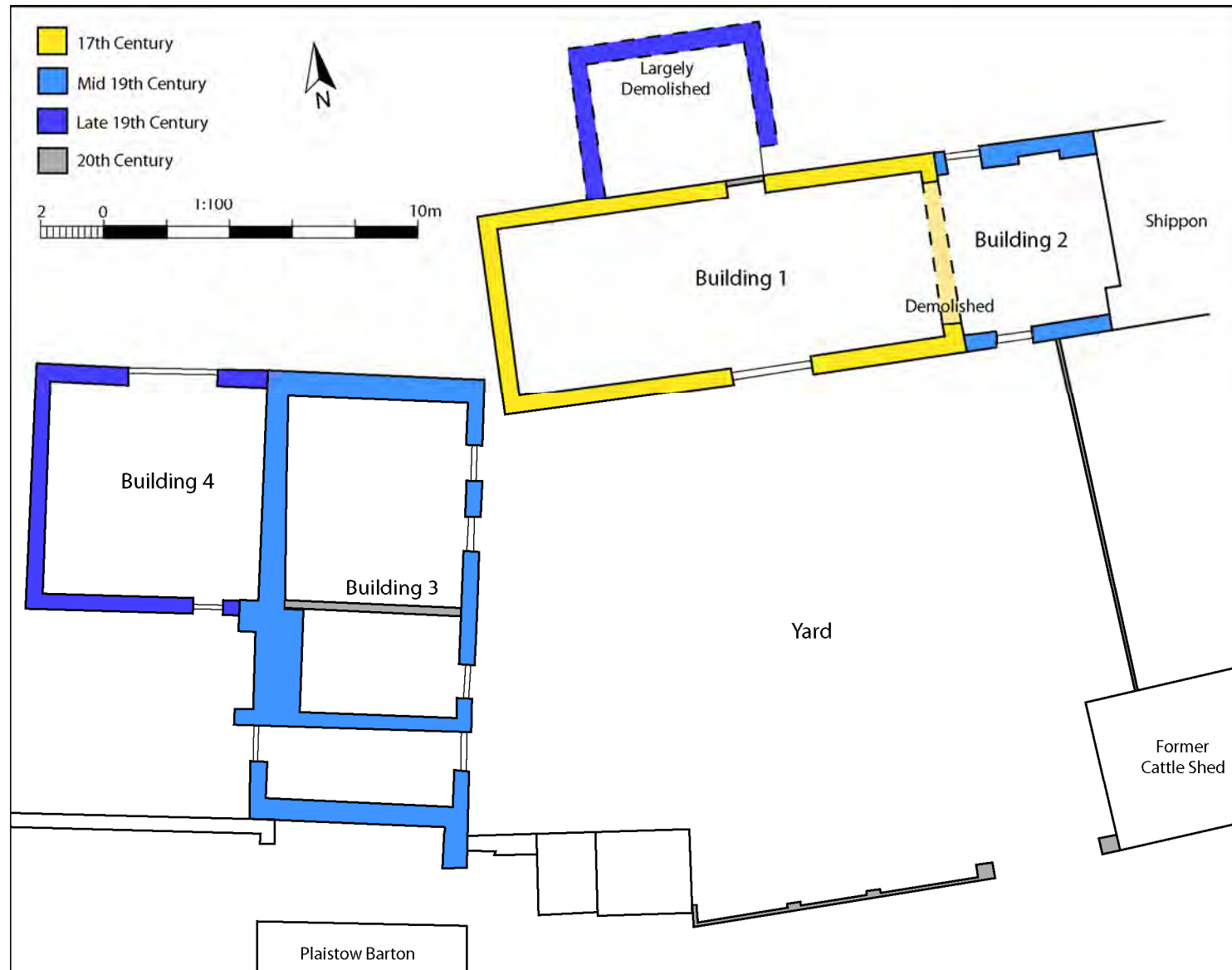


Figure 19: Phased plan of the buildings.

5.3 Phase 3

The third phase of changes occurred in the late 19th century, specifically between 1886 (Figure 7) and 1903 (Figure 8) when the engine house (Building 4) was constructed to the west of Building 3. Also during this time span the lean-to was added to the north of Building 1, although this had been almost completely demolished by the time of this survey.

5.4 Phase 4

The final phase of construction in the 20th century represents a series of changes in the use of these agricultural buildings, primarily this resulted in a number of structures being demolished, such as the building which formerly connected the domestic range with the southern end of Building 3 (Figure 14).

A series of repairs to the first floor of Building 3 occurred during this time, as well as some internal divisions and blocking of openings and windows in each of the buildings. Most striking however in terms of the changing usage of the buildings, was the raising of the floor level inside the engine house (Building 4), and the rubble and earthen ramp which was constructed to access the forced opening in the north side of this building.

6.0 Discussion and Conclusion

Plaistow Barton represents a group of post-medieval farm buildings and structures which reflect the changing fortunes and fashions in North Devon agriculture over the last 350 years.

The present farm dates from the 17th century, circa 1679 (see Appendix 3), with several of the farm buildings including the threshing barn (Building 1) also constructed around this time.

As the agricultural revolution gathered pace in the 19th century, ‘West Plaistow’ (as it was then) was well-placed within the ambit of Barnstaple to profit from growing demands. This saw the construction of several new buildings including the shippon extension (Building 2) and barn (Building 3) as well as mechanical innovations, such as in the construction of a round house against the threshing barn for a horse engine. The improving fortunes of the farm are also reflected in the ‘gentrification’ of the name at this time with West Plaistow becoming Plaistow Barton.

The mid-19th century investment and high point was followed by much subtler modifications, typically driven by technological changes, such as the creation of the Engine House (Building 4) and demolition of the round house in the late-19th century.

The 20th century modifications reflect the increasing downturn in the fortunes of the farm, with several of the buildings demolished. This decline is perhaps most vividly illustrated by the 1940s sale of panelling, and possibly other historic features from the farmhouse, many of which may have featured in Bruce Oliver’s restoration of the Three Tuns in Barnstaple (see Appendix 3 and Gillard *et al* 2011). The changes in the fabric of the farm buildings also hint at this downturn with a diversification of activities apparent on the farm, such as the engine house being converted into a garage. The huge dumps of shells noted in the geothermal heating trenches also emphasised this diversification.

Potential for future work:

Despite the building survey and archaeological monitoring having provided no evidence for pre-17th century activity on the site, there is the distinct possibility that further work, particularly in terms of detailed surveys of the other buildings and the farmhouse may provide evidence for the survival of earlier structures.

7.0 Bibliography & References

Published Sources:

English Heritage 2006: *Understanding Historic Buildings, a Guide to Good Recording Practice*.

Gillard, M., Green, T., Laing-Trengove, D. and Walls, S. 2011: *The Three Tuns, High Street Barnstaple: Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Watching Brief*. South West Archaeology Report No: 110531.

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for archaeological Desk-based Assessment*.

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1996 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*.

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*.

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1995 (Revised 2001 & 2008): *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*.

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 2001 (Revised 2008): *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

Unpublished Sources:

Internet Resources:

[http:// maps.google.co.uk](http://maps.google.co.uk)

Devon Record Office:

Altered Shirwell tithe map, 1881.

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1:2500, 1904. Devon sheet 9:7.

North Devon Record Office:

B707/12: Shirwell tithe map, 1839

1478M/77a-j: Draft Particulars for the Bratton & Shirwell Insurance, September 1871.

West Country Studies Library:

Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Draft, 1804-5

Ordnance Survey First Edition 1:2500, 1904. Devon sheet 9:7.

Devon County Historic Environment Service:

Aerial photograph: CPE/UK 1974 11 APR 47 58 SQDN 1171

Appendix 1

BRIEF FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING OF GROUNDWORKS

Location:	Plaistow Barton	Planning no:	40282
Parish:	Shirwell	HES ref:	Arch-dc-nd-9053
District:	North Devon	Proposal:	Incorporation of attached cottage and conversion of two barns
County:	Devon		
NGR:	SS 57576 38306		

1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES), at the request of James Carroll of Stags Estate Agents, with regard to the archaeological works required as a condition of planning consent for the above works at Plaistow Barton.
- 1.2 The principal objectives of the programme shall be to:
 - i) investigate and record any historic building fabric or architectural detail that is obscured, removed or otherwise affected by the development and
 - ii) monitor groundworks associated with the development to allow any exposed archaeological deposits to be investigated and recorded.
- 1.3 In accordance with PPG16 (1990) Archaeology and Planning Policy on archaeology, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. This condition requires that: *'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.'* The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the District Planning Authority.
- 1.4 Plaistow Barton was recorded in Domesday as Plaistow and held by Drogo of the Bishop of Coutance, while before the conquest it was held by Bristnold. There are also documentary references to the settlement here in 1086, when it is referred to as Pleistow, to Pleitowe in 1166, Plegestowe in 1167 and Pleystowe in 1242. The place name of Plaistow may be derived from Old English meaning a play or ceremonial meeting place. Plaistow Barton farmhouse itself is of 17th century date with 19th century additions. Given the potential antiquity of settlement here it is possible that groundworks associated with the above development may expose archaeological deposits associated with this early settlement. In addition, the proposed development has an impact upon the historic fabric of the barns associated with the farmstead.
- 1.5 This Brief covers the area defined in the application area as submitted by the applicant.

2. WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

This document sets out the scope of the works required to record the historic fabric affected by the proposed development and to determine the extent and character of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area and will form the basis of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* to be prepared by the archaeological contractor to be approved by the HES and the Local Planning Authority.

3. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

3.1 Historic building recording

An initial appraisal shall be made of the standing building. The HES will be informed as to the results of this appraisal to allow the appropriate level of building recording required. If necessary – dependant upon the results of the appraisal - a record shall be made of the historic fabric of the building affected by the development. Consideration should be made of the use of the architect's plans as a record of the standing buildings. This work shall conform to the appropriate and agreed recording levels as set in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice - English Heritage 2006* (available on-line at the English Heritage website) and described below:

The contracted archaeologist should make themselves familiar with the specification required for each of the recording levels and the detail of the proposed archaeological works should be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

3.2 Monitoring and Recording of Groundworks

Topsoil and all groundworks in archaeologically sensitive areas, as defined and agreed in consultation with the HES, should be removed by machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits.

3.2.1 Archaeological features will be cleaned and excavated by hand, recorded and fully recorded by context as per the appropriate Institute of Field Archaeologist Guidelines. All features shall be recorded in plan and section at a minimum scale of 1:20, larger where necessary. As a minimum:

- i) Small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) Larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and

iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.

Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

3.2.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

3.2.3 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling strategies should be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required.

4. MONITORING

4.1 The archaeological contractor shall agree monitoring arrangements with the County Historic Environment Service and give reasonable notice of commencement of the fieldwork.

4.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds.

5. REPORTING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HES on completion of the site work.

5.2 The report shall be prepared collating the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined above. The report shall include plans of the features, including their location, description of the historic building fabric, architectural features of interest, below-ground archaeological deposits and artefacts together with their interpretation. Some desk-based research may be required to place the results of the fieldwork into a historical context. It is recommended that a draft report is submitted to the HES for comment prior to its formal submission to the Local Planning Authority.

A copy of this brief shall be included in the report.

5.3 The HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependant upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period.

5.4 On completion of the report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the HES in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES - on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the HER.

5.5 The archaeological contractor shall complete an online OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological Investigations*) form in respect of the archaeological work.

5.6 Publication

Should particularly significant historic fabric, architectural features, below-ground remains, finds be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES.

6. PERSONNEL

6.1 The work shall be carried out by a recognised archaeological contractor, agreed with the HES. Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (MIFA), or by a person of similar standing.

6.2 Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the contractor. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.

6.3 The archaeological contractor shall give the HES two weeks notice of commencement of works and shall be responsible for agreeing monitoring arrangements. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds.

6.4 The work shall be carried out in accordance with *IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (1994)*, as amended (1999).

7. DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

7.1 The archaeological contractor shall contact the museum that will receive the site archive to obtain an accession number and agree conditions for deposition. *The accession number will be quoted in the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

7.2 The archaeological archive resulting from the work should be deposited with the appropriate museum, in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term Storage, published by the UK Institute for Conservation, should be adhered to.

7.3 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum. The proposed museum should be contacted at the beginning of the project. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

8. CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS

Stephen Reed Archaeological Officer, Devon County Council, Environment, Economy and Culture
Directorate, Matford Offices, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QW, Tel: 01392-383303 Fax: 01392-383011 E-mail: stephen.reed@devon.gov.uk
21/11/06

Appendix 2

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING AT PLAISTOW BARTON, SHIRWELL, DEVON.

Location:	Plaistow Barton	NGR:	SS 57576 38306
Parish:	Shirwell	Planning no:	40282
District:	North Devon	HES ref:	Arch-dc-nd-9053
County:	Devon		

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document forms a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been produced by South West Archaeology (SWARCH) at the request of Mr Lightowlers (the Client), and sets out the methodology for historic building recording and archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken during ground works associated with the incorporation of an attached cottage and the conversion of two barns at Plaistow Barton, Shirwell, Devon and for related off site analysis and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes conforms to a brief provided by Devon County Historic Environment Service (DCHES). The work is being commissioned in line with government planning policy (PPG No. 16 *Archaeology and Planning* (DoE, 1990)) and the archaeological condition attached to the planning consent, which states that;
'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. The development shall be carried at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the District Planning Authority.'
- 1.2 The programme of work to be carried out by SWARCH and covered by this WSI consists of:
- 1.2.1 Desk-based work to establish the context of the site.
 - 1.2.2 Building recording and related analysis and reporting.
 - 1.2.3 The archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks in areas subject to development; during the removal of the existing surfaces, turf and topsoil, the reduction of ground levels, and the excavation of any service trenches and foundations.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Plaistow Barton was recorded in Domesday as Plaistow and held by Drogo of the Bishop of Coutance, while before the conquest it was held by Bristnold. There are also documentary references to the settlement here in 1086, when it is referred to as Pleistow, to Pleitowe in 1166, Plegestowe in 1167 and Pleystowe in 1242. The place name of Plaistow may be derived from Old English meaning a play or ceremonial meeting place. Plaistow Barton farmhouse itself is of 17th century date with 19th century additions. Given the potential antiquity of settlement here it is possible that groundworks associated with the above development may expose archaeological deposits associated with this early settlement. In addition, the proposed development has an impact upon the historic fabric of the barns associated with the farmstead.

3.0 AIMS

- 3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:
- 3.1.1 Establish the historic context and development of the site.
 - 3.1.2 Investigate and record any historic building fabric or architectural detail that may be obscured, removed or otherwise affected by the development.
 - 3.1.3 To observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits in areas affected by groundworks associated with the development.
 - 3.1.4 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.0 METHOD

- 4.1 A desktop assessment of the known history and archaeology of the site will be undertaken. This will collate cartographic information held in the North Devon Record Office, the Devon Record Office, and the West Country Studies Library as well as records and photographs held on the Devon Historic Environment Service Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 4.2 An archaeological record of historical and architectural elements of the buildings affected by the development will be undertaken. The recording will be in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance on the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2001) and will be based on English Heritage Level 2 (*Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*) guidelines and will incorporate the recommended typical elements as per 5.2 paragraph 3 and will consist of:
- 4.2.1 The production of written records describing the buildings and detailing the origin, development and use of the buildings.
 - 4.2.2 The annotation of existing plans of the buildings as appropriate, showing the form and location of any features of historic significance.
 - 4.2.3 A comprehensive digital photographic film record of the buildings;
 - 4.2.4 Should significant building elements be exposed which merit further archaeological work; this will be undertaken in consultation with, and to a specification agreed with the North Devon District Council

- Conservation Officer and the HES. Any such exposed elements will remain undisturbed until their significance can be determined and to allow consideration for their retention *in situ*.
- 4.3 The Client will provide SWARCH with details of the location of existing services and of proposed groundworks within the site area, and of the proposed construction programme.
- 4.4 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site.
- 4.4.1 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times.
- 4.4.2 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
- 4.4.3 If the depth of trenching exceeds 1.2 metres the trench sides will need to be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologist to examine and if appropriate record the section of the trench. The provision of such measures will be the responsibility of the client.
- 4.5 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* (revised 2001) and the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2001).
- 4.5.1 **All areas affected by groundworks will be monitored**, including the geothermal trenching, service trenching and any landscaping. The location of the geothermal heating trench and water trench is marked on the attached plan. Other service trenches will be contained within the farmyard but both they and the geothermal trench may be subject to alteration dependant on the ground conditions exposed during the excavations.
- 4.5.2 Wherever possible ground works are to be undertaken using a 360° tracked or wheeled JCB-type machine with a toothless grading bucket to the depth of undisturbed *in situ* weathered subsoil, to the upper surface of *in situ* archaeological deposits or to a depth that will not be affected by the development (assuming the latter is known) – whichever is highest. Where archaeological deposits are reached at a level above the intended formation or invert level, they will be excavated by the site archaeologist down to the latter, by hand. After natural subsoil has been reached and any archaeological recording necessary has taken place, deeper excavation may be carried out with a toothed bucket.
- 4.5.3 The reduction of ground levels and trenching will be undertaken with the site archaeologist present, unless otherwise agreed with SWARCH and DCHES. Should any potential archaeological deposits be revealed the machining will stop to allow the archaeologist to investigate and record them. Upon removal of existing surfaces the material beneath will be examined by the site archaeologist for the identification of features and soil marks and the recovery of artefacts, before further level-reduction can proceed. Where necessary to clarify features and soil marks the area will be cleaned by hand. The examination will be undertaken before the exposed level is affected by any further construction work and before plant and machinery is driven over it. Any archaeological features discovered will then be cleaned, excavated by hand and recorded to IFA guidelines and as per paragraph 5 below.
- 4.5.4 If archaeological features are exposed, then *as a minimum*:
- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
 - ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);
 - iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.
- Whether any further excavation is required will be confirmed with DCHES
- 4.6 All archaeological deposits that are exposed will be investigated and recorded. In the event of significant *in situ* archaeological remains being encountered it may be considered necessary to halt development and recording work so that discussion can take place regarding preservation of these remains, possible design/engineering alternatives and appropriate levels of archaeological recording.
- Sufficient time must be allowed for archaeological excavation, sampling, and recording appropriate to the deposits revealed. This may necessitate some delay to development work, although the site archaeologist will attempt to keep delays to a minimum. If complex or extensive archaeological deposits are exposed then DCHES will be consulted as to the appropriate level of further investigation required. However, unless there are exceptional circumstances, excavation will not normally extend beyond the limits (extent and depth) of the ground works required for this development.
- 4.6.1 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. dendrochronological or palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits.
- 4.6.2 In the unlikely event of any human remains being found on this site they will be dealt with in accordance to procedures in published guidance (McKinley and Roberts 1993 (IFA *technical paper no. 13*) and EH/CofE 2005 (*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*). SWARCH will advise the client as to obtaining the necessary Licence from the Ministry of Justice. Where necessary, SWARCH will consult with an appropriate specialist (see attached list).
- 4.6.3 Spoil will be examined and any significant artefacts recovered.
- 5.0 MITIGATION**
- 5.1 The nature of any such further works or variation in the methods and procedures laid out in this WSI will be determined by the results of these investigations and in consultation with the DCHES.
- 6.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING**
- This will be based on IFA guidelines and those advised by DCHES and will consist of:

- 6.1 Standardised single context recording sheets, survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1: 50 and 1:100 as appropriate, and B/W, colour and digital photography.
- 6.2 Survey and location of archaeological features.
- 6.3 Labelling and bagging of finds on site. Post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained.
- 6.4 Any initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures necessary will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by an appropriate conservation specialist (see attached list), and in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum.
- 6.5 Should paleoenvironmental or other deposits or material of potential interest be exposed they will be assessed on site by SWARCH staff and where appropriate by an appropriate environmental specialist (see attached list) - with advice as necessary from the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor - regarding the potential yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence. Should this assessment prove positive, appropriate sampling procedures would be initiated in line with national guidance (*Environmental Archaeology (English Heritage CFA Guidelines No. 2002/01)*), and further liaison with outside specialists organised, including the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor.
- 7.0 PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
- 7.1 The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys of SWARCH.
- 7.2 The DCHES will be informed of the start of the fieldwork, will monitor the project throughout and may wish to inspect the works in progress.
- 8.0 ARCHIVE AND REPORT**
- 8.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the entire project. The archive will be produced to the relevant archive standards. This will include the photographic record. If digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record the archive medium required will be agreed with the museum; if prints are required then these will be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium. The archive will be deposited with the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon under accession number NDDMS: 2007.140. Conditions for the deposition of the archive will be agreed with the Museum.
- 8.2 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), will also be deposited with the above museum in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage will be adhered to and any sampling procedures will be carried out prior to deposition and in consultation with the museum. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists. Any significant finds resulting from the excavation will be deposited under the above accession number.
- 8.3 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the HES on completion of the site work. A report will be produced and copies sent to the County HER and to DCHES.
- 8.4 The report will include the following elements as appropriate:
 - 8.4.1 The results of the desk based study;
 - 8.4.2 Relevant historic maps, plans and images;
 - 8.4.3 Results of the building survey, including plans of the building detailing the phased development, the form and function and a written description of the interior and exterior of the building
 - 8.4.4 A location plan and overall site plan showing the location of the area subject to the watching brief as well as the distribution of any archaeological features;
 - 8.4.5 Plans and sections of significant features or deposits at a relevant scale;
 - 8.4.6 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
 - 8.4.7 An assessment of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples together with any recommendations for further analysis;
 - 8.4.8 Any specialist reports commissioned;
 - 8.4.9 Discussion of the archaeological deposits encountered and their context.Copies of the report will be submitted to the DCHES and deposited with the County HER, National Monuments Record, and the site archive, within 6 months of the close of fieldwork unless agreed otherwise with the DCHES.
- 8.5 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements - including any further analysis that may be necessary - will be confirmed with the DCHES, in consultation with the Client. SWARCH, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and the DCHES.
- 8.6 A copy of the report (or HER entry) detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) database under OASIS no. southwes1-37122.

Deb Laing-Trengove, South West Archaeology , The Thornes, Kentisbury, Barnstaple, N. Devon, EX31 4NQ,
Telephone: 01271 883000, Email deblt@swarch.net

Appendix 1 – List of specialists

Building recording

Robert Waterhouse, 13 Mill Meadow, Ashburton TQ13 7RN, Tel: 01364 652963

Richard Parker, Exeter Archaeology, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter EX4 3LS, Tel: 01392 665521, exeter.arch@exeter.gov.uk

Conservation

Richard and Helena Jaeschke, 2 Bydown Cottages, Swimbridge, Barnstaple EX32 0QD, Tel: 01271 830891

Curatorial

Alison Mills, North Devon Museum, The Square, Barnstaple, Tel: 01271 346747

Geophysical Survey

Ross Dean, South West Archaeology Limited.

GSB Prospection Ltd. Cowburn Farm, Market Street, Thornton, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD13 3HW, Tel: 01274 835016, gsb@gsbprospection.com

Human Bones

Seana Cummins, South West Archaeology Limited.

Louise Lou, Head of Heritage Burial Services, Oxford Archaeology, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 OES, Tel: 01865 263 800

Lithics

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Metallurgy

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Timber Conservation

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Appendix 3

Text of English Heritage Listing Documents:

IoE Number: 98223

Location: PLAISTOW BARTON, SHIRWELL, NORTH DEVON, DEVON

Date listed: 16 November 1984

Date of last amendment: 16 November 1984

Grade II

SS 53 NE SHIRWELL 5/50 Plaistow Barton-

SS 53 NE SHIRWELL 5/50 Plaistow Barton - - II Farmhouse, C17 with mid C19 wing at lower end forming a T-plan. Heavily restored mid C20. Rendered stone rubble and cob-slate roof with gable ends. Probably originally a 3 cell plan with blocked through passage and demolished upper end. Off centre brick stack and stack at lower gable end. 2 storey's. Irregular fenestration with all C20 casements and most openings altered. Rebuilding on back wall with uneven wall surfaces. Interior largely altered but included for surviving plasterwork overmantel with strapwork decoration, pegasus in central roundal, cartouche dated 1679 initialed ILPL. Timber paneling below; other paneling said to be in The Three Tuns, Barnstaple.

Appendix 4

Extract from the text of the Devon County Historic Environment Records.

No: 19060

District: North Devon District
Class: Agriculture and Subsistence
Type: FARMSTEAD
NGR: SS57623827
Historic Parish: SHIRWELL
OS Map: SS53NE
Civil Parish: Shirwell
Broad Period: Medieval
Period: Medieval, Saxon, XI, XII, XIII

Summary

Plaistow Barton was Pleistow in Domesday. It was held by Drogo of the Bishop of Coutances. Before the Conquest it was held by Brictwold. Some early descents given (Reichel).

Description

Plaistow may be derived from Old English term meaning 'playing place' or 'ceremonial meeting place' (Green)
First mentioned as Pleistou in 1086, Pleistowe in 1166, Plegestoue in 1167 + pleystowe in 1242 (Gover et al). (Gover, J. E. B. + Mawer, A. + Stenton, F. M. 1931)
Reichel, O. J. /Hundreds of Devon/(1928-1938)463,470,477,478,493/*The Hundred of Shirwell in Early Times*.
Gover, J. E. B. + Mawer, A. + Stenton, F. M. /*The Place-names of Devon*/(1931)69.
Green, T. /NDAS Newsletter/5(spring 2003)8/*The Archaeology of Some North Devon Place Names*.

No: 32200

District: North Devon District
Class: Domestic
Type: FARMHOUSE
NGR: SS57623827
Historic Parish: SHIRWELL
OS Map: SS53NE
Civil Parish: Shirwell
Broad Period: Medieval
Listed Building Grade: Grade II
Period: Post Medieval, XVII

Summary

Plaistow Barton, farmhouse, 17th century with mid-19th century wing at lower end forming a T-plan. Heavily restored mid 20th century. Rendered stone rubble and cob - slate roof with gable ends. Probably originally a 3-cell plan with blocked through-passage and demolished upper end. Some survivals of plasterwork overmantel with strapwork decoration. Cartouche dated 1679 initialled ILPL (DoE).

Nearby monuments:

No. 929: Rectangular enclosure visible as a soil mark at SS580-382

No. 11992: Ovoid hilltop enclosure at SS57943837

Appendix 5

List of Jpegs on the CD-Rom at the rear of this report

<i>Photo Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>Scale</i>
01	Barn 1, exterior southern elevation.	South	2m
02	As above.	South-west	"
03	Large opening in southern elevation of Barn 1.	South	"
04	Window in southern elevation of Barn 1.	"	"
05	Southern entrance to Barn 2.	South-west	"
06	Barn 1, internal shot.	East	-
07	As above.	West	-
08	As above.	"	-
09	As above.	East	-
10	South east corner of Barn 2.	North-west	-
11	North east corner of Barn 2.	South-west	-
12	Internal join between Barns 1 and 2.	North	2m
13	As above.	South	-
14	Exterior join as above.	North	2m
15	Exterior north elevation of Barns 2 and 1.	North-east	"
16	As above.	North-west	"
17	As above.	North	"
18	Door in north elevation of Barn 1.	North-west	"
19	Blocked opening in east elevation of Barn 2.	North-west	-
20	Roof of Barn 1.	East	-
21	Exterior north elevation of Barns 3 and 4.	North	2m
22	Exterior west elevation of Barn 4.	West	"
23	As above, with Barn 3.	"	"
24	Exterior South elevation of Barn 4.	South-west	"
25	Exterior of large western opening to Barn 3.	West	"
26	Interior north elevation of Barn 3.	South	-
27	Opening in the interior of the eastern elevation of Barn 3.	West	-
28	Exterior south elevation of Barn 3.	South-east	-
29	Yard between the barns.	South	-
30	Exterior western elevation of Barn 1.	North-west	2m
31	Exterior eastern elevation of Barn 1.	North-east	"
32	As above.	East	"
33	As above.	"	-
34	Plaistow Barton in its setting.	North-west	-
35	As above.	West	-
36	As above.	"	-
37	As above.	"	-
38	Field to the west of the Barns.	East	-
39	Yard.	North-east	-
40	As above.	North-west	-
41	Detail of northern most door in eastern elevation of Barn 3.	East	-
42	As above, internal shot.	West	-
43	Gap between Barns 1 and 3.	South	-
44	Western drive up to Plaistow Barton.	South	-
45	Service Trench 2 along the western drive.	North	-
46	As above.	South	-
47	Service Trench 2 to the west of western drive	"	-
48	South end of new drive.	South	2m
49	New drive.	"	"
50	As above.	"	"
51	New drive.	North	"
52	Typical west facing section.	West	"
53	Typical east facing section.	East	"
54	As above.	"	"
55	North end of new drive.	South	"
56	Burnt feature within topsoil.	"	"

57	As above.	"	"
58	As above.	North	"
59	Northern part of Service Trench 2.	East	"
60	As above	West	"
61	Service Trench 1 in yard.	South	"
62	As above.	West	"
63	As above.	East	"
64	As above.	North	"
65	Floor in north east corner of engine house Barn 4, scale indicating approximate position of the western edge of possible concrete plinth.	South	"
66	Floor in north west corner of Barn 4.	South-east	"
67	Floor in south west corner of Barn 4.	North-east	"
68	South facing section of floor in Barn 4.	South	"
69	As above.	"	"
70	Floor in south east corner or Barn 4.	North-west	-
71	Ramp outside north door to Barn 4 showing rubble construction.	West	2m
72	As above.	"	"
73	South east corner of Barn 2.	North-east	-
74	East end of Barn 1.	"	-
75	West end of Barn 1.	East	2m
76	South wall of Barn 1 showing (unbroken) section of cobbled floor.	North	"
77	As above showing south west corner.	"	"
78	Barn 2 and east end of Barn 1.	North-west	-
79	Floor adjacent to main door in Barn 1 after removal of concrete.	East	-
80	As above showing concrete drainage channel.	South	2m
81	As above.	West	"
82	As above.	North	"
83	Service Trench 1.	South	"
84	As above.	North	-
85	As above.	East	-
86	Wall abutting north wall of Building 4	East	2m
87	As above	North-east	"
88	Reduced floor inside Barn 4	West	"
89	As above.	"	"
90	As above.	North	"
91	As above.	"	"
92	Opening in north wall of Barn 4 after abutting wall removed.	North-east	"
93	As above.	"	"
94	As above.	East	"
95	Reduction of floor in Barn 2	West	"
96	Join between Barns 1 and 2	North	"
97	Reduction of floor in Barn 1	East	"
98	Reduction of floor in Barn 3	North-west	-
99	General site shot.	North-west	-
100	Trench 1.	"	2m
101	As above.	"	"
102	North east facing section of Trench 1.	North-east	"
103	South west facing section of Trench 1.	East	"
104	Trench 2.	North-east	"
105	East facing section of Trench 2.	East	"
106	Trench 3.	North-east	"
107	East facing section of Trench 3.	East	"
108	Trench 4.	North-east	"
109	West Facing section of Trench 4.	West	"
110	Trench 5.	North-east	"
111	North facing section of Trench 5.	North	"
112	Trench 6.	North-east	"
113	South facing section of Trench 6.	South	"
114	As above.	"	"
115	External North elevation of Barn 4.	North	"
116	As above, with interior eastern elevation.	"	"



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