

**BRITTONS FARM SHIPPON
GOLDSWORTHY
PARKHAM
DEVON**

Historic Building Recording and Archaeological Excavation



South West Archaeology Ltd. report no.190126



www.swarch.net

Tel. 01769 573555
Tel. 01872 223164

Brittons Farm Shippon, Goldsworthy, Parkham, Devon

Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Excavation

By E. Wapshott & S. Stevens

Report Version: Final

Issued: 28th January 2020

Re-issued: 12th February 2020

Finalised: 4th March 2020

Work undertaken by SWARCH
for a Private Client (the Client)

SUMMARY

South West Archaeology Ltd. was commissioned to undertake historic building recording and an archaeological excavation at Brittons Farm, Goldsworthy, Parkham. The attached 'shippon' is to be converted to residential use.

The historic building recording identified three main phases of build, each representing a lift in the height of the cob walls to create the two-storey structure we see today. Its structural relationship with the farmhouse could not be definitively established as the relevant sections of walling were still plastered. All that can be said is that the walls of the barn were raised to meet the roofline over the house during Phase 2, and that those walls may have encapsulated a roof truss. The evidence for trusses over the rest of the structure is absent.

The excavations identified that the walls of the barn were built directly onto the stony subsoil and lacked foundations. Archaeological features were identified and excavated – a probable ditch, two small pits/postholes and three small square sockets – which point to earlier activity on the site. However, these features do not appear to relate to the standing building. No evidence for an axial drain, either beneath the concrete floor or in the end wall itself, was encountered.

The evidence is, therefore, equivocal. It can neither confirm nor disprove the hypothesis outlined in the Keystone report. The archaeological evidence would indicate it is not a longhouse-type derivative, but it appears to have always had an agricultural function. The lack of clear dateable features restricts us to relative phasing, but the build and character of the slit vents would suggest a late medieval to early post-medieval date, perhaps the later 16th to early 17th century.



January 2020

South West Archaeology Ltd. shall retain the copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project. The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of South West Archaeology Ltd. and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information available at the time of production.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
CONTENTS	3
LIST OF FIGURES	3
LIST OF APPENDICES	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
PROJECT CREDITS	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	5
1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
1.4 METHODOLOGY	5
2.0 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING	7
2.1 BUILDING DESCRIPTION	7
2.2 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUILDING	10
2.3 FUNCTION	11
2.4 RELATIONSHIPS	11
2.5 SIGNIFICANT FEATURES	11
2.6 DEVELOPMENTAL PHASING OF THE BUILDING	11
2.7 DATING OF THE BUILDING	14
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING	15
4.0 CONCLUSIONS	17
5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	17

LIST OF FIGURES

Cover plate: The south elevation of Brittons Farm and shippon, as seen from the road.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.	6
FIGURE 2: PLAN SHOWING THE SHIPPON AND TRENCH IN RELATION TO THE REST OF THE FARMHOUSE.	7
FIGURE 3: THE 'SHIPPON' END OF THE FARMHOUSE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.	8
FIGURE 4: THE WEST PARTITION WALL; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST.	9
FIGURE 5: THE INTERIOR NORTH WALL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.	9
FIGURE 6: THE APEX OF THE EAST GABLE; VIEWED FROM THE WEST.	10
FIGURE 7: SIMPLIFIED GROUND-FLOOR PLAN SHOWING PRIMARY BUILD AS ALTERED AND REPAIRED PLAN.	13
FIGURE 8: THE TRENCH VIEWED FROM A RAISED OBLIQUE ANGLE; FROM THE NORTH-WEST.	15
FIGURE 9: TRENCH PLAN SHOWING THE EXCAVATED AREA AND SECTIONS THROUGH THE EXCAVATED FEATURES.	16

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: BUILDING RECORDING TABLE	18
APPENDIX 2: ANNOTATED BUILDING RECORDING PHOTOGRAPHS	22
APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST	26
APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE	27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE CLIENT
TREWIN ARCHITECTS (THE AGENT)

PROJECT CREDITS

PROJECT DIRECTOR: DR SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA

DESK-BASED RESEARCH: NATALIE BOYD

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING: EMILY WAPSHOTT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION: EMILY WAPSHOTT, SEAN STEVENS

REPORT: EMILY WAPSHOTT, SEAN STEVENS

EDITING: DR SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA; DR BRYN MORRIS, ACIFA

APPROVED BY: DR SAMUEL WALLS, MCIFA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION:	BRITTONS FARM
PARISH:	PARKHAM
DISTRICT:	TORRIDGE
COUNTY:	DEVON
NGR:	SS 39262 22825
SWARCH REF:	PBFS19
PLANNING APPLICATION:	1/1208/2018/FUL

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) was commissioned by a private client to undertake historic building recording and archaeological recording at Brittons Farm, Goldsworthy, Parkham, Devon. This work was undertaken in advance of the conversion of the shippon to a domestic annex. The works were carried out in accordance with a WSI (Boyd 2019) drawn up in consultation with the Local Planning Authority.

1.2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies in the centre of the hamlet of Goldsworthy, c.1km north of Parkham village and 0.5km south-east of Horns Cross. The site lies on an east-facing slope which drops down to a stream that runs to the coast, to the north. The site sits at a height of c.129m AOD. The soils are the well-drained fine loamy soils over rock of the Neath Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the sedimentary sandstone of the Bude Formation (BGS 2019).

1.3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Parkham is a village and parish in the Hundred of Shebbear and the Deanery of Hartland (Lysons 1822). Parkham was recorded as *Percheham* in Domesday, *Parkeham* and *Parcham* in the 13th century. The name derives from the Old English elements *pearroc(a)* and *hām(m)*, meaning ‘Paddock Homestead’ or a farmholding with small enclosures. Brittons Farmhouse and attached shippon is a grade II Listed 17th/18th century structure. The site was subject to a historic building assessment carried out by Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants in 2018, which concluded that the shippon (and farmhouse) have likely medieval origins. The Listing text states:

Britton's Farmhouse and attached shippon GV. II Farmhouse. Late C17/early C18, with late C19 alterations. Colourwashed render over stone and cob; late C19 gabled slate roof; lateral stack to centre of front wall of rendered stone finished in C19 and C20 brick; left end stack of rendered stone finished in mid C19 brick. 3-unit plan with through-passage to right of central hall; early C19 rear wing. 2 storeys; 3-window range. Late C19 stone porch with brick dressings and moulded semi-circular arched doorway: late C19 six-panelled (2 glazed) inner door. Flat rendered arches over C19 plank loft door to shippon on right, late C19 two-light casements with glazing bars and one-light casement to left of door. Doorway to shippon in right gable end. Early C19 rear wing has rendered stone end stack. Interior: stop-chamfered beam in hall. First floor not inspected but external evidence and information from occupant suggests that roof trusses have been replaced.

1.4 METHODOLOGY

The building recording was conducted by Emily Wapshott in January 2020. The work was undertaken in line with best practice and follows the guidance outlined in: ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014) and Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording*

Processes (2016). The desk-based assessment follows the guidance as outlined in: *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (Cifa 2014, Revised 2017) and *Understanding Place: historic area assessments in a planning and development context* (English Heritage 2017). The discussion of setting builds on the approaches outlined in the appropriate guidance (DoT guidance and Historic England 2015). The archaeological excavation was undertaken in January 2020 by Sean Stevens and Emily Wapshott and followed the guidance outlined in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIFA 2014).



FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

2.0 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

The farmhouse faces south, enclosed by a small walled garden laid to lawn and bordering onto the parish lane. The road junction is at the centre of the hamlet, flanked by historic cottages and converted farm buildings that lie to the east-south-east, with a historic thatched cottage to the north-east and modern open-span farm buildings to the north-west. The hamlet is bordered by fields to all sides. The farm sits to the southern edge of a large sub-ovoid enclosure, bounded by hedgebanks and respected by the local road and farm tracks, suggesting the presence of an early settlement boundary.

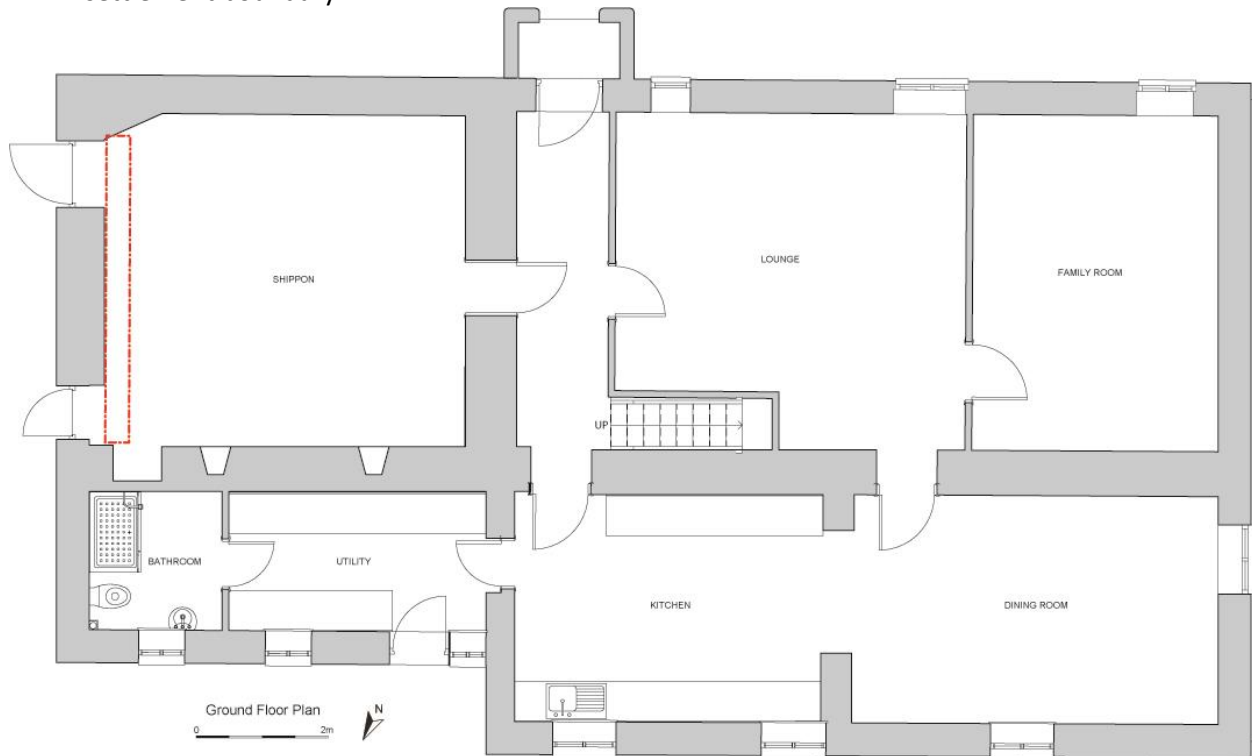


FIGURE 2: PLAN SHOWING THE SHIPPON AND TRENCH IN RELATION TO THE REST OF THE FARMHOUSE (BASED ON SUPPLIED PLANS).

2.1 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The shippon is built of several distinctive phases of cob on a regularised rubble base, using local sandstone and slatestone, the stonework in a clay bond, with later applied lime pointing. The building is roofed in Welsh slate, contiguous with the farmhouse, with black glazed ridge tiles. There are timber boxed eaves, painted red, with brown box-profile guttering and downpipes. The south elevation is externally smooth-rendered and painted with an offset loading door at first floor; the north elevation, rendered, unpainted, is largely obscured by a rubblestone lean-to outshut. The external eastern gable is covered by a thin layer of unpainted roughcast render, with downpipes crossing the upper part to a central hopper, discharging to an open drain. There is an owl hole at the apex, with two ground floor doorways, both having modern plank doors in composite timber frames. The interior walls of the barn are of exposed cob and stone, with some evidence of historic whitewash in patches; all fixtures and fittings having been stripped out. The internal floor level has been reduced, exposing the base of the north and south walls; in common with many similar buildings, the walls are built directly onto stony natural subsoils. The floor is now formed of poured concrete over a damp-proof course.



FIGURE 3: THE 'SHIPPON' END OF THE FARMHOUSE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

In detail, the south wall has a ground-floor central slit vent, which has been much patched with concrete block and externally blocked and rendered over, with the remains of a timber lintel and plank sill. There is also an extant first-floor loading door offset to the east end. The base of the loading door has been underbuilt/patched with rubble stone in a cob bond; the top of the opening and lintel have been raised in height, patched with brick and a modern timber lintel inserted. The doorframe is a composite of reused timber with a modern narrow-plank door. There is a series of irregular ragged sockets at first-floor loft level where beams have been removed. To the west end, exposed by the removal of the first-floor lath and plaster partition to the cross-passage chamber, is a deep angled socket set at low two-storey height; it appears to be the empty socket for the foot of a large truss blade. Tapering and deep, this socket indicates a heavy A-frame was located here. The differently-coloured cob packed into the slot below and running down within the first raise to the top of the primary build/first floor level could indicate a jointed cruck-post has been removed and the socket above in itself is a remodel/replacement, updating and raising the form of the roof. This detail could confirm a medieval date for the range.

The north wall has two paired and equally-spaced ground-floor slit vents. Both are blocked externally, with timber lintels and plank sills and deeply splayed sides. To the east end at ground-floor level there is a narrow, forced doorway with cement-rendered sides and thin painted reused timber lintel, blocked externally with concrete blocks. There is a series of irregular ragged sockets at first-floor loft level where beams have been removed. To the west end, exposed by the removal of the first floor lath and plaster partition to the cross-passage chamber is a deep angled socket, set at low two-storey height, sat on top of the pale red cob of the first raise. It appears to be an empty socket for the foot of a large truss blade, matching the socket in the south wall.

The east gable contains evidence of the raising of the roofline to a shallower pitch, with rounded sockets for the original purlins within a historic roofline scar. It has an altered owl hole in the raised apex, and a forced slit vent at ground-floor level, offset to the north side, with patched sides and a reused timber lintel. This has then been blocked with rubble in lime mortar. There are two ground-floor doors; that to the north forced in the recent past with a thin reused timber lintel. The south doorway is a historic opening with good heavy weathered timber lintel and

shaped reveals to the north jamb within the stonework; the upper cob is patched with brick. This opening has been repaired or partially infilled on the south-east corner with cob, forming an odd rounded pier within the opening, abutting the underside of the lintel. There are two smaller joist holes at loft level in the east wall, and the timber lintel of the forced slit vent braces across an earlier lower socket for a heavier beam.



FIGURE 4: THE WEST PARTITION WALL; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



FIGURE 5: THE INTERIOR NORTH WALL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-WEST (SCALE 2M).

To the west the partition wall to the cross passage is of cob to the ground floor, with a large forced opening (doorway with cupboard) with reveals rebuilt in concrete block. The cob sits on a much lower rubble base, of cruder looser build, but patched with stonework in places above where the cob has failed. The cob is of a different consistency and colour to that of the primary build of the barn, being a coarse dark grey colour with lots of small stones/crushed shillet. Significantly more whitewash survives on this wall than the others. There is a wide blocked doorway to the south end infilled with looser rubble stone in lime mortar, with good shaped reveals to the north jamb. The first-floor element of the partition, formerly of studwork, lath and cob with lime plaster, has been removed; the barn is now open to a small bedroom chamber over the current cross passage.



FIGURE 6: THE APEX OF THE EAST GABLE; VIEWED FROM THE WEST.

The modern slate roof is carried on lightweight rafters and purlins with plastic sheet/felting insulation under the slate. There are two modern broad-pitched A-frame pine trusses with shallow lapped collars and an overlapping ridge. The vertical ridge-plank is carried on a nailed yoke. All the joints are bolted. In the bedroom over the cross passage to the south can be seen the plastered-in base of an earlier and much lower truss blade, representing a far steeper (and likely once thatched) roofline. Sockets in the cob walls of the barn to either side of the removed partition, as discussed above, also sit at this height, with an angled profile which would suggest the seating for the ends of truss blades. This steeper roofline ties in with the roofline scar on the eastern gable.

2.2 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUILDING

The building is a typical example of a vernacular outbuilding in the North Devon region; being of local cob and stone rubble build. It is statutorily protected by its Grade II Listing status, being attached to the farmhouse.

The building is important within its immediate setting for providing context to the Listed farmhouse, to which it is attached, and the detached Listed threshing barn to the south-west. It remains quite authentic as a barn but its historical fittings have been lost and it is compromised by the various modern alterations, reducing its historic integrity and aesthetic value. However, the exposure of its structural form by the stripping out of the building has highlighted a more involved developmental phasing. This contributes to the value of the building, raising its evidential and potential historical value.

2.3 FUNCTION

The barn formed the service end of the farmhouse range, of agricultural function. Historic photos from earlier surveys show fittings akin to animal housing, with a loft above, the sockets of which remain in the walls.

2.4 RELATIONSHIPS

The barn is attached to the east end of the linear farmhouse range, it is broadly contiguous with the farmhouse but lies at a slightly cranked oblique angle.

2.5 SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

- The two slit vents in the north wall.
- The blocked damaged slit vent in the south wall.
- The blocked forced slit vent in the east gable.
- The altered owl hole in the east gable.
- The rounded socket holes in the east gable evidence of the purlins form a lower steeper roofline.
- The angled sockets in the cob walls at the west partition to the bedroom over the cross passage, evidence of former removed truss blades.
- The blocked doorway to the south end of the cross-passage partition.
- The shaped stonework of the reveals to the south doorway in the east gable, opposite the blocked door from the cross-passage.

2.6 DEVELOPMENTAL PHASING OF THE BUILDING

The phasing discusses the clear structural relationships within the exposed build in the barn walls and therefore the chronological development of the building over time. No features of dateable form were observed during the building recording; however, it is expected the date range of these alterations is broadly the period of the later 16th-19th century (see Appendix 3 for annotated photographs).

2.6.1 PHASE 1

The earliest fabric in the barn survives c.2.25-2.4m high in the south wall, c.2.25-2.4m high in the north wall and c.2.1m high in the east wall. This is represented by c.1.2-1.4m of regularised stone rubble walling, being semi-coursed small irregular stones in a clay bond. The cob of this phase rises between 0.85-1.25m above the stonework, being densely packed and consistent throughout. This initial phase of walling is slightly battered, densely tamped down, the cob tapering slightly to the top, demarking very clearly the build line to the next raise. This evidence identifies the barn as being of single storey height when first built. There is no surviving evidence of roofing structure or disturbed cob where any structure has been removed. The integrity of the wall at the build line would suggest it had not been cut down and rationalised before the next raise.

This phase contains the deeply-splayed slit vents in the north and south walls. The shaping of the stone blocks to the north jamb of the southern door in the east gable, despite later repairs, would suggest that this was always intended as an exterior access. There are remnants of former whitewash to the stonework on all the walls and the cob is smoothed within the embrasures of the slit vent openings, otherwise being rough and unfaced to the interior. The slit vents point to a use for animal housing, there being a need for a good passage of air through the space. Whilst the stone base to the west partition is of looser build and the cob is cruder, and the wall has been inserted between the north and south walls, it is likely the partition represents the same broad phase as the exterior walls. The blocked doorway to the south end of the cross-passage partition would be opposite the exterior door in the east gable, perhaps suggesting a feed channel and/or pedestrian access. The evidence of these opposing doors would support the interpretation of animal housing on the ground floor and therefore its identification as a shippon.

2.6.2 PHASE 2

This phase represented financial investment in the barn as the walls are raised by c.1-1.4m creating a proper loft or tallet for storage. There is a clear build line with the lower cob, the raise being in a reddish-yellow coloured cob of a much smoother consistency which has some internal smoothing/finishing to this face. This raise brings the north and south walls of the barn in line with the sockets for the historic roofline over the farmhouse, as evidenced by the empty sockets seen in the cob walls and the plastered-over truss blade in the bedroom over the cross passage. Interestingly, however, there is no evidence for other truss blade sockets within the three-bay barn on a level with those that survive over the house; there are, however, narrow slots under the sockets to both walls which have been packed with different coloured cob and run through the whole depth of this raise. Slots like this could indicate posts integral to the wall carrying a jointed cruck. The evidence is equivocal and limited but the presence of a truss here does indicate the range always continued and points to an earlier phase of roofing, perhaps one with a very deep hip.

2.6.1 PHASE 3

The east wall was raised to a gable at this stage, likely from a previous deep hip. The colour of the cob used is similar to that of the lower first phase, but it is coarser in consistency and finish, with clear tamping line at the eaves before it rises to the apex. This cob is obviously not as densely packed as the other phases as there are visibly more rat holes than in the other walls. There was a wide shallow splayed owl hole right at the apex of this gable. The cob of this phase wraps around onto the north-east corner and north wall, at the east end, a stretch of c.2m long, rising 0.2-0.3m high above the reddish-grey second phase cob. This cob again has a flat top to the gable right at the apex, suggestive of a short half-hip being retained, typical in thatch. Its roofline is also very steep to north and south, again indicating a thatched roof, with visible sockets for heavy purlins. Heavy purlins carrying common rafters could indicate there was never a truss over this space. A poor-quality build would again point to an agricultural function.

2.6.1 PHASE 4

The walls were raised by another 1m to north and south, making the barn fully two storeys in height and in line with the farmhouse. To the south wall a plank wall-plate was laid on the older cob and fixed into place with lime mortar, possibly to spread the weight of the new raise. The east roofline was also raised, to a much shallower pitch; c.0.5m at eaves, rising to c.0.1m, with c.0.5m at apex. This would indicate the thatched roof was replaced with slate. The south door from the cross passage and the additional slit vent were blocked by stone rubble in lime mortars.

2.6.1 PHASE 5

The roof structure was replaced in the 1960s when the Allin family took on the farm. The roof pitch was maintained from the previous phase and the covering was retained as natural slate. A feed channel was been formed to the north side of the barn, served by the forced door to the

north of the east gable. The cement render to the lower south wall, together with the evidence for a feed passage to the north, would suggest the interior had been repurposed as a milking parlour, probably with stalls for four cows.

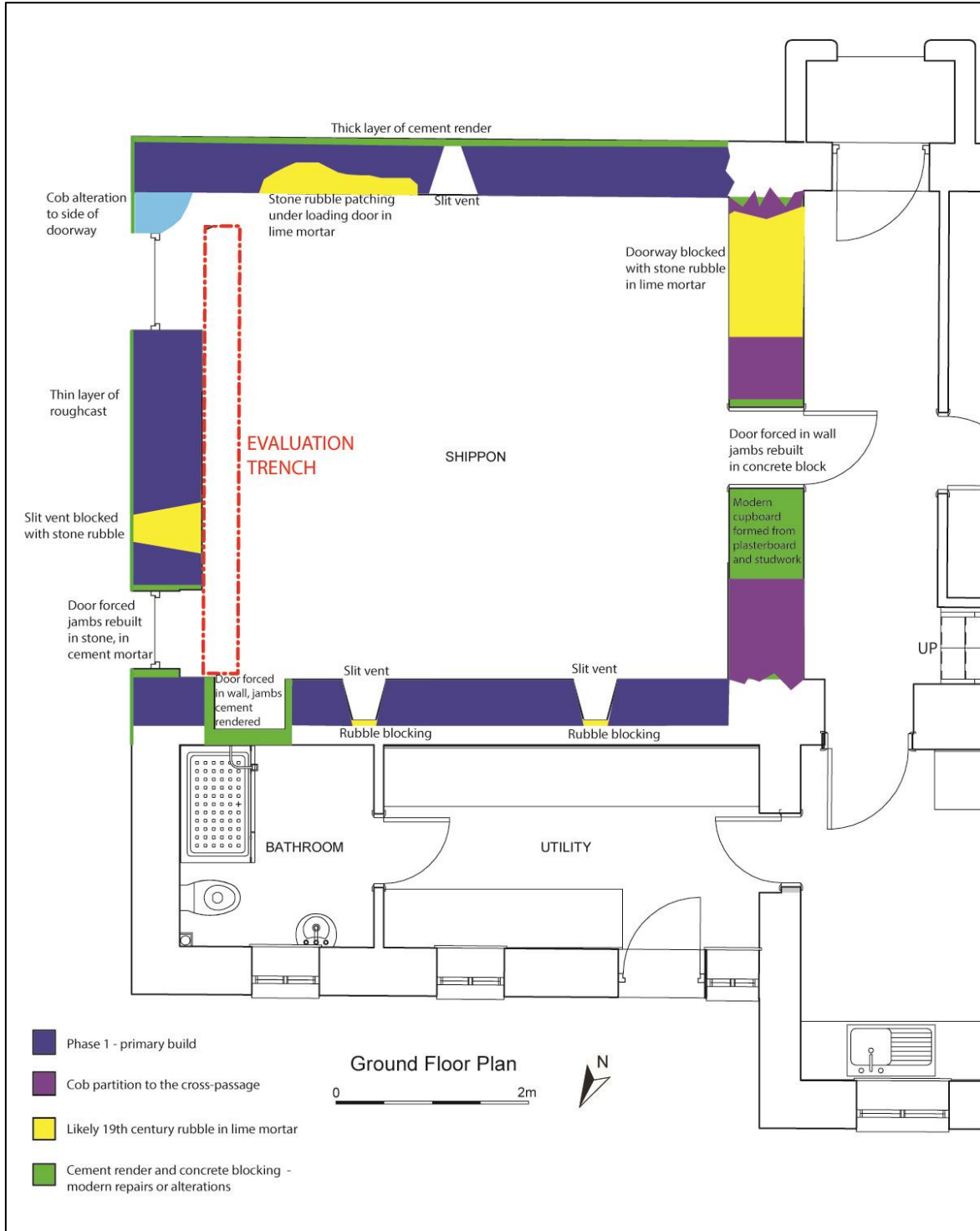


FIGURE 7: SIMPLIFIED GROUND-FLOOR PLAN SHOWING PRIMARY BUILD AS ALTERED AND REPAIRED (BASED ON SUPPLIED DRAWINGS).

2.7 DATING OF THE BUILDING

The form of the primary build of the barn would suggest a date broadly within the later medieval period to early 17th century. Its structural relationship with the farmhouse remains unclear as the walls have not been exposed at the junction between the two. The cob of the cross-passage partition is of a different colour and consistency, and one might expect this to have replaced an earlier plank screen in any case if the building was medieval in origin. The details that do survive support an agricultural function. The opposing doorways on the south side run contrary to this potentially early date, as they are a more adapted form associated with a different post-medieval style of farming. The lack of a surviving floor surface and the apparent absence of an *in-situ* drain means we cannot confirm a medieval date for this building.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

A single trench up against the east gable wall was excavated and recorded. The concrete floor at the east end was cut, broken up and cleared away prior to work starting. Underneath the modern concrete was plastic damp-proof sheeting and beneath this a packing/levelling layer (100) of loose yellow sand mixed with pale yellow-brown clay subsoil up to 0.10m thick. A modern plastic pipe entered the building at the north-west end of the trench. A list of full context descriptions (Appendix 3), Bulk Samples (Appendix 4), and additional photograph (Appendix 5) can be found at the back of the report.

Three square post sockets, all measuring 0.10×0.10 across and 0.10m deep were identified within the trench. [101] was located at the north-western end of the trench; sockets [105] and [107] were in the middle, between posthole/pit [103] and ditch [109]. All three sockets were filled with dark-mid grey-brown soft-friable silt-clays ((102) (106) and (108) respectively).

At the south-eastern end of the trench was a probable ditch [109] orientated north-east to south-west; it was 1.05m wide with gradual sides and a flattish base, cut by later posthole/pit [111]. The fill of ditch [109] was (110) a light-mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay with charcoal flecks. A

Between sockets [101] and [105] was posthole/pit [103]. This was sub-oval in shape with vertical sides and a poorly-defined base; it measured 0.40×0.30m across and 0.20m+ deep. Posthole/pit [103] contained (104), a light-mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay with common very small stone inclusions. Also cutting ditch [109] was a second posthole/pit [111]; this was sub-circular with a very gradual north-north-west slope and a steep south-south-east slope. It has a narrow concave base and measured 0.40×0.30m+ across and c.0.18m deep. It was filled by (112) a light-mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay with common very small stone inclusions.



FIGURE 8: THE TRENCH VIEWED FROM A RAISED OBLIQUE ANGLE; FROM THE NORTH-WEST (2M SCALE).

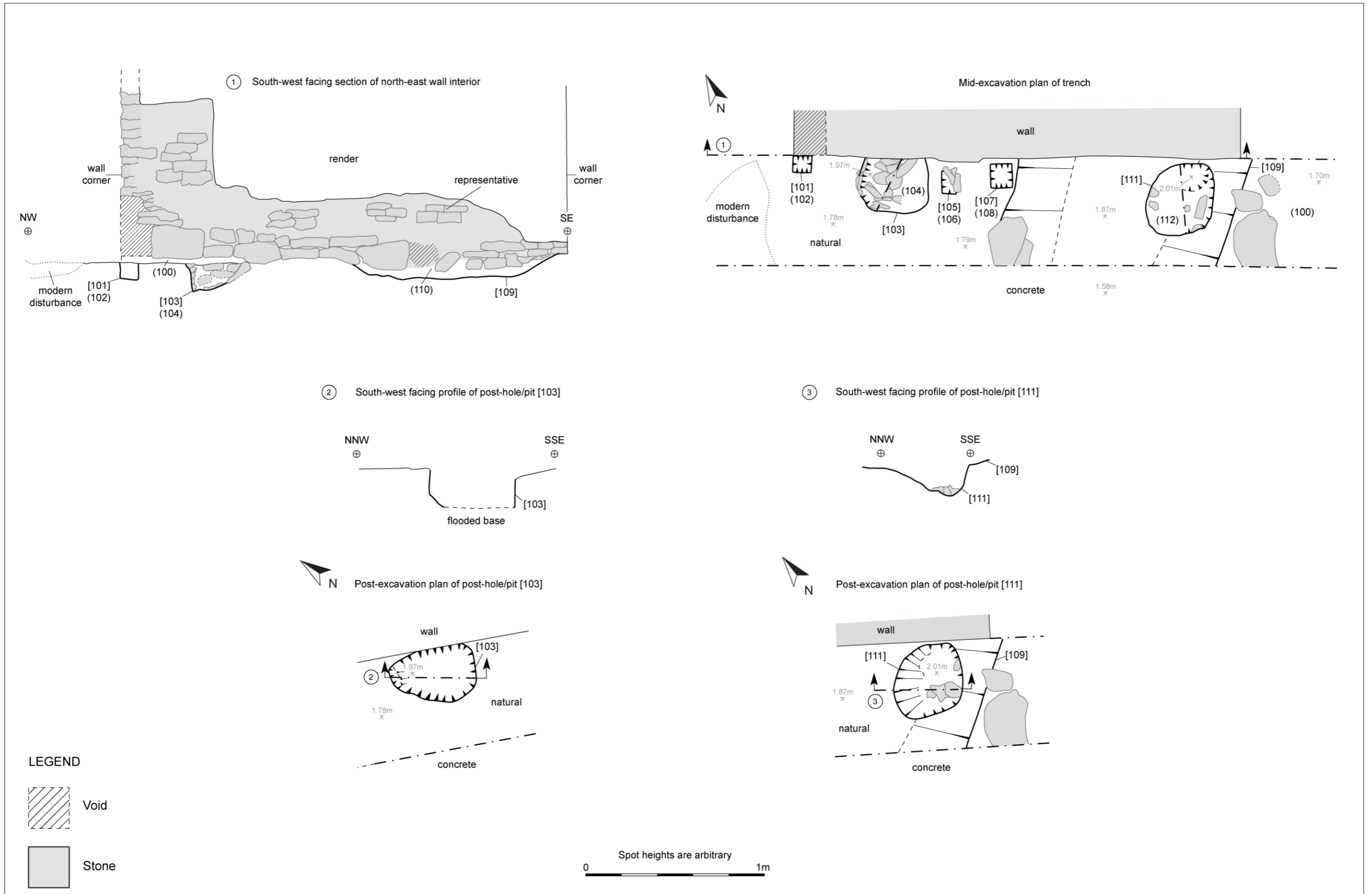


FIGURE 9: TRENCH PLAN SHOWING THE EXCAVATED AREA AND SECTIONS THROUGH THE EXCAVATED FEATURES.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The historic building recording identified three main phases of build, each representing a lift in the height of the cob walls to create the two-storey structure we see today. Its structural relationship with the farmhouse could not be definitively established as the relevant sections of walling were still plastered. All that can be said is that the walls of the barn were raised to meet the roofline over the house during Phase 2, and that those walls *may* have encapsulated a roof truss. The evidence for trusses over the rest of the structure is absent.

The excavation identified that the walls of the barn were built directly onto the stony subsoil and lacked foundations. Archaeological features were identified and excavated – a probable ditch, two small pits/postholes and three small square sockets – which point to earlier activity on the site. However, these features do not appear to relate to the standing building. No evidence for an axial drain, either beneath the concrete floor or in the end wall itself, was encountered.

The evidence is, therefore, equivocal. It can neither confirm nor disprove the hypothesis outlined in the Keystone report. The archaeological evidence would indicate it is *not* a longhouse-type derivative, but it appears to have always had an agricultural function. The lack of clear dateable features restricts us to relative phasing, but the build and character of the slit vents would suggest a late medieval to early post-medieval date, perhaps the later 16th to early 17th century.

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Published Sources:

CIFA 2014: *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological Investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.*

Cifa 2014: *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

Historic England 2015: *Understanding Historic Buildings, a Guide to Good Recording Practice.*

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales.*

Unpublished Sources:

Keystone (J. Thorpe) 2018: *Brittons Farmhouse Goldsworthy Parkahm Devon. Report K906.*

APPENDIX 1 : BUILDING RECORDING TABLE

Shippon Brittons Farm		
		General Description
Function/Summary:		Two storey historic barn, of former mixed animal housing and loft function, known colloquially as a shippon. Attached to the end of a farmhouse range which is Grade II Listed.
Dating Evidence:		Build form and style, structural phasing, historic mapping.
EXTERIORS		
Elevation NORTH		Description
Fabric Description:		Two storey elevation, cob on a stone rubble plinth. Externally cement rendered, smoothed and faced, unpainted.
Roof Covering		Welsh (graduated) slate roof, black glazed ridge tiles. Overhang on the eaves.
Opening – Windows:	2	Ground floor slit vent. Obscured within the lean to and plastered over externally.
		Ground floor slit vent. Obscured within the lean to and plastered over externally.
Opening – Doors:	1	Ground floor forced doorway blocked externally in concrete block. Obscured within the lean to and plastered over externally.
Drainage/Guttering		Brown plastic box-profile guttering carried on painted boxed timber eaves.
Significant Details:		N/A
Relationships:		This elevation is contiguous with the east gable and abutted by a lean to on its external face.
Elevation SOUTH		Description
Fabric Description:		Two storey elevation, cob on a stone rubble plinth. Externally cement rendered, smoothed and faced, painted cream.
Roof Covering:		Welsh (graduated) slate roof, black glazed ridge tiles. Overhang on the eaves.
Openings – Doors:	1	Large wide rectangular loading door, offset to the east end of the elevation, at low first floor height. Sloping cemented sill, painted with wall. Composite timber plain frame, with dark wood stain. 20 th century plank door on modern hinges, also with same dark wood stain.
Opening – Windows:	1	Ground floor slit vent. Blocked externally and rendered over, to centre of the wall.
Drainage/Guttering		Brown plastic box-profile guttering carried on painted boxed timber eaves.
Significant Details:		N/A
Relationships:		This elevation is contiguous with the east gable.
Elevation WEST		Description
Relationships		Internal partition between barn and cross passage and chamber above.
Elevation EAST		Description
Fabric Description:		Two storey gable-end of cob on a stone rubble plinth. Externally rendered in loose roughcast, unpainted.
Roof Covering		Gabled end, slight overhang of slates, stepped painted timber barge boards cemented underside of ridge tiles at apex.
Openings: Doors	2	Narrow forced doorway with ragged patched sides rebuilt in rubble with hard cement-based mortars. Narrow 20 th century timber lintel. Reused/recycled earlier pegged timber frame, painted, likely 19 th century. Heavy painted strap hinges. Modern plank door, 20 th century, some galvanised sheeting to interior lower panels.
		Wide lower doorway, heavy weathered oak lintel. Composite modern doorframe to the south side. Generic 20 th century plank door on modern hinges with modern bolt. The reveals to the north side jamb are shaped carefully within the lower stone rubble walling, indicative of this being a correct first phase opening. The cob has had to be patched above the stonework, in brick, likely merely a repair.
Openings: Windows	1	Owl hole to apex of gable, timber pegged frame, planks nailed over blocking the opening. The opening is narrowed by two phases of cob, timber lintel rendered over externally.
Drainage/Guttering		Two downpipes carry the water from the gutters to the north and south elevation across and down into a single wider downpipe across this elevation, obscuring details behind.
Significant Details:		There is a ground floor blocked slit vent to the north side. It has been forced into the elevation then later re-blocked in rubble in hard lime mortars. A relatively modern timber lintel has been inserted into the blocked opening on the exterior face and now supports the iron loops which hold the downpipes in place.
Relationships:		The east gable is contiguous with the north and south walls.
INTERIOR		Description
North Wall		
Walls:		The earliest fabric in the barn survives to c.2-2.4m to the north wall. This is represented by c.1.25m of regularised stone rubble walling, using small irregular stones, semi coursed in a clay bond. The cob of this phase rises 1-1.4m above the stonework, being densely packed

		<p>and consistent throughout of a pale greyish-brown and stony in consistency, unfaced to the interior. This initial phase of walling is slightly battered, densely tamped down, the cob tapering slightly to the top.</p> <p>This phase represented financial investment in the barn as the walls are raised by c.1.1.3m creating a proper loft or tallet for storage. The heavy beam sockets set onto the top of the early cob and packed around by the new phase of cob. This raise brings the barn to the north and south walls in line with the sockets for the historic roofline over the farmhouse. The cob is of a reddish-yellow colour, of much smoother consistency and has an internal smoothed 'face'.</p> <p>The wall has then been raised by another 1m, of a dark coarse red cob.</p>
Floor:		The base of the wall sits above the modern poured concrete floor, c.20cm below the base of the wall to the west, c.10cm to the east. It is clear the walls were built directly onto a platform of hard-packed subsoil, without foundations.
Roof Structure:		<p>Large angled socket in the wall at the line with the cross-passage partition. Tapering and deep socket indicates a 16th or 17th century truss, probably a heavy A-frame located here at top of wall before third raise. Different coloured cob packed into a 'slot' below running down within the second raise to the top of the primary build/first floor level could indicate a raised or jointed cruck has been removed and the socket above in itself is a remodel/replacement, updating and raising the form of the roof. This detail could confirm an earlier medieval date for the range.</p> <p>Modern bolted heavy A-frame roof with shallow lapped collars, lightweight rafters and battens carry modern felting and slates.</p>
Opening – Windows:	2	<p>Ground floor slit vent. Timber lintel and plank sill remain although damaged/rotten. Cob sides smoothed into the splay, deeply sloping. Blocked externally with rubble in a hard cement mix mortar.</p> <p>Ground floor slit vent. Timber lintel and part of the plank sill remains but largely replaced with rubble in a grey coarse cement mortar. Cob sides smoothed into the splay, deeply sloping. Blocked externally with rubble in a hard, smooth consistency mortar.</p>
Opening – Doors:	1	Ground floor forced doorway blocked externally in concrete block. Narrow reused painted timber lintel, sides plastered using cement render.
Significant Details:		<p>Row of ragged large sockets for heavy loft beams, set above slit vents. These have been forced into the wall, just at the build line between the primary build and first raise, such as they sit over and onto a lintel etc, evidence of the loft being a secondary feature inserted later, not part of the original design, which was likely single storey.</p> <p>There are possibly two lower heavier sockets under two of these, one each to east and west ends, for a much lighter-weight tallet, part of the primary build, but later alteration makes it hard to confirm.</p>
Dating Evidence:		A piece of late medieval pottery was found within the cob of the primary build, the build form of this would indicate a later 16 th or 17 th century date, but without a defining feature such as roof structure, dating exactly is impossible.
South Wall		
Walls:		<p>The earliest fabric in the barn survives to c.2.25-2.4m to the south wall. This is represented by c.1.35–1.4m of regularised stone rubble walling, using small irregular stones, semi coursed in a clay bond. The cob of this phase rises 0.85-1m above the stonework, being densely packed and consistent throughout of a pale greyish-brown and stony in consistency, unfaced to the interior. This initial phase of walling is slightly battered, densely tamped down, the cob tapering slightly to the top.</p> <p>This phase represented financial investment in the barn as the walls are raised by c.1.4m creating a proper loft or tallet for storage. The heavy beam sockets set onto the top of the early cob and packed around by the new phase of cob. This raise brings the barn to the north and south walls in line with the sockets for the historic roofline over the farmhouse. The cob is of a reddish-yellow colour, of much smoother consistency and has an internal smoothed 'face'.</p> <p>The wall has then been raised by another 1m, of a dark coarse red cob.</p>
Floor:		The base of the wall sits above the modern poured concrete floor, c.20cm below the base of the wall to the west, c.10cm to the east. It is clear the walls were built directly onto a platform of hard-packed sandy yellow-brown subsoil, without foundations.
Roof Structure:		<p>Large angled socket in the wall at the line with the cross-passage partition. Tapering and deep socket indicates a 16th or 17th century truss, probably a heavy A-frame located here at top of wall before third raise. Different coloured cob packed into a 'slot' below running down within the second raise to the top of the primary build/first floor level could indicate a raised or jointed cruck has been removed and the socket above in itself is a remodel/replacement, updating and raising the form of the roof. This detail could confirm an earlier medieval date for the range.</p>

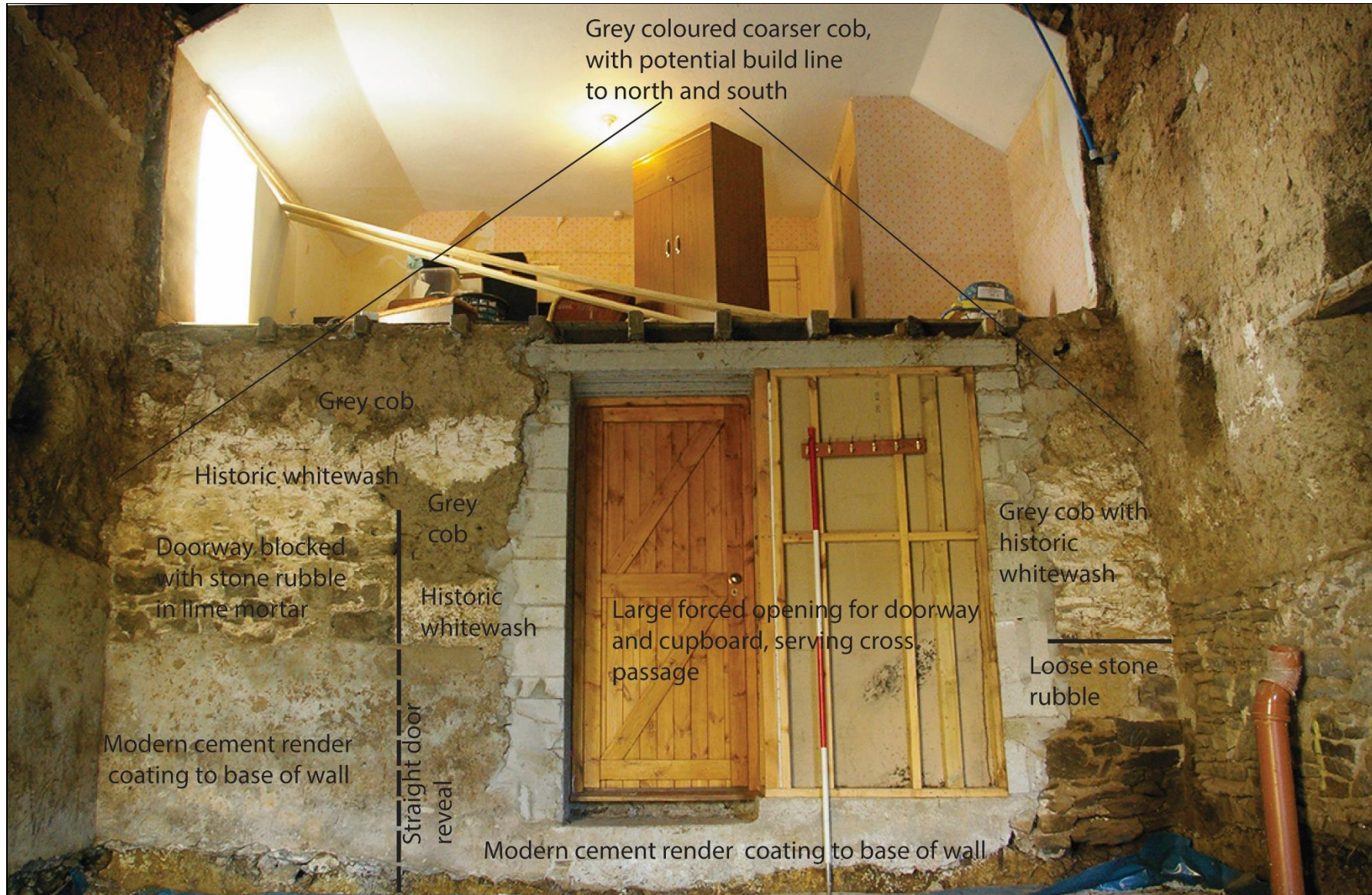
		Modern bolted heavy A-frame roof with shallow lapped collars, lightweight rafters and battens carry modern felting and slates.
Opening – Doors:	1	Loading door, offset to east end, first floor height. Sides smoothed cob to centre, raised lintel above patched in brick and with modern timber lintel. The base has been cut into the earlier phase of cob, patched in light red cob, this has then fallen out and been patched with stone rubble in lime, leaving traces of the cob patching to the rear. A timber sill has rotted out and the top of the rubble in lime has been repaired with cement mortar.
Opening – Windows:	1	Ground floor central slit vent. Timber lintel and plank sill remain although damaged/rotten. Cob sides smoothed into the splay, deeply sloping. Blocked externally with rubble in a hard cement mix mortar.
Significant Details:		Row of ragged large sockets for heavy loft beams, set above slit vents. These have been forced into the wall, just at the build line between the primary build and first raise, such as they sit over and onto a lintel or force the side of a slit vent etc, evidence of the loft being a secondary feature inserted later, not part of the original design, which was likely single storey.
Dating Evidence:		A piece of late medieval pottery was found within the cob of the primary build, the build form of this would indicate a later 16 th or 17 th century date, but without a defining feature such as roof structure, dating exactly is impossible.
West Wall		
Walls:		To the west the partition wall to the cross passage is of cob to the ground floor. The cob sits on a much lower rubble base, of cruder looser build, c.0.5m. The cob above c.2m abutting the north and south walls, of a different consistency and colour to that of the primary build of the barn, being a darker grey colour. The first-floor element of the partition, formerly of studwork, lath and cob with lime plaster, has been removed, the barn now opens to a small bedroom chamber over the current cross passage.
Floor:		The base of the wall sits above the modern poured concrete floor, c.20cm below the base of the wall to the west, c.10cm to the east. It is clear the walls were built directly onto a platform of hard-packed subsoil, without foundations.
Roof Structure:		Large angled sockets in the north and south walls at the line with the cross-passage partition. Tapering and deep socket indicates a 16 th or 17 th century truss, probably a heavy A-frame located here at top of wall before third raise. Different coloured cob packed into a 'slot' below running down within the second raise to the top of the primary build/first floor level could indicate a raised or jointed cruck has been removed and the socket above in itself is a remodel/replacement, updating and raising the form of the roof. This detail could confirm an earlier medieval date for the range. Modern bolted heavy A-frame roof with shallow lapped collars, lightweight rafters and battens carry modern felting and slates.
Opening – Doors:	2	Blocked doorway to south end of wall. Straight reveals, in shaped stones to the north side, obscured by repairs to the south. Blocked with loose stone rubble in lime mortar.
		Modern doorway forced into centre of wall, sides rebuilt in concrete block, new lintel and door. Next to this a wider forced area has been formed into a large cupboard with plywood sheeting and studwork framing, serving the cross passage to the west.
Opening – Windows:		N/A
Significant Details:		N/A
Dating Evidence:		The structural relationship of this internal partition with the exterior walls of the farmhouse cannot be confirmed but it appears to abut the interior face of the north and south walls and be very loosely tied in or not tied in at all. This does not mean it is not broadly contemporary, but one would usually expect the screens to be timber planks, however all of the partitions on the ground floor have been noted as being of thick cob.
East Wall		
Walls:		The earliest fabric in the barn survives to c.2.1m to the east wall. This is represented by c.1.25m of regularised stone rubble walling, using small irregular stones, semi coursed in a clay bond. The cob of this phase rises between c.0.8-1m above the stonework, being densely packed and consistent throughout. This phase represented financial investment in the barn as the walls are raised by c.1.2m creating a proper loft or tallet for storage. The east wall is raised again to a gable, c.2.2m-2.5m, likely from a previous deep hip. The colour of the cob used is similar with the lower first phase, but it is coarser in consistency and finish, with clear tamping line at the eaves before it rises to an apex. This cob is obviously not as densely packed as other phases as it is clearly more ridden with rat holes than the other walls. The cob of this phase wraps around onto the north-east corner and north wall, at the east end, a stretch of c.2m long, rising 0.2-0.3m high above the reddish-grey second phase cob. This cob again has a flat top to the gable right at the apex,

		suggestive of a short half-hip being retained, typical in thatch. Its roofline is also very steep to north and south again suggestive of a thatched roof, with visible sockets for heavy purlins. Heavy purlins carrying common rafters could indicate there was never a truss over this space, being a poorer quality of build, but this was only ever agricultural in function. The roofline is then raised c0.5 to c0.1m to the sides, making the roofline shallower. At the apex it is raised by c.0.5m. This is the same dark red coarse cob seen raising the walls by 1m to the north and south.
Floor:		The base of the wall sits above the modern poured concrete floor, c.20cm below the base of the wall to the west, c.10cm to the east. It is clear the walls were built directly onto a platform of hard-packed subsoil, without foundations.
Roof Structure:		Modern bolted heavy A-frame roof with shallow lapped collars, lightweight rafters and battens carry modern felting and slates.
Opening – Doors:		There are two ground floor doors, to the north forced in the recent past with thin reused timber lintel. The south doorway is a historic opening with good heavy weathered timber lintel and shaped reveals to the north jamb, within the stonework, the upper cob patched with brick. This opening has been repaired or partially infilled on the south-east corner with cob, forming an odd rounded pier within the opening, abutting the underside of the lintel.
Opening – Windows:		N/A
Significant Details:		There is an altered owl hole in the apex, which has been raised in height with the reddish later cob and a new lintel inserted, as well as narrowed on the south side, forming more of a slit vent. There is a forced slit vent at ground floor, offset to the north side, with patched sides and reused timber lintel. This has then been blocked with rubble in lime mortar. The lintel is weathered oak and runs in front of an earlier empty socket in the wall for a heavy beam. There are two smaller joist holes at loft level to the centre of the wall. The east gable contains evidence of the raising of the roofline, to a shallower pitch, with rounded sockets for original purlins within a historic roofline scar.
Dating Evidence:		The east gable exhibits cob of the primary build and first raise, as well as a later alteration to a gable and the later raise which alters the roofline.
Interior of Shippon		
Function:		Slit vents to ground floor and historic photos of troughs and hayricks indicate this was animal housing. Large beam sockets at first floor indicate the presence of a loft for fodder storage.
Walls:		Exposed cob on a stone rubble base. Some historic whitewash in places.
Floor:		Poured concrete over blue plastic damp proof sheeting. This lies on a bed of stony subsoils. The base of the historic north and south walls are exposed, seen sitting directly on the subsoil, on a gentle slope, the floor level has therefore been considerably reduced, 0.25m to the west, to 0.1m to the east end.
Roof Structure:		Two pine trusses, modern c.1960s. Bolted half-lapped ridge, with nailed yoke carrying plank ridge. Shallow lapped collars also bolted. Two bolts to each joint. Lightweight purlins and rafters carrying black plastic insulation sheeting, then welsh slates.
Significant Details:		To the west end of the barn, where the partition has been removed to the bedroom, at first floor, there are sockets to the north and south walls which are narrow and deep within the cob, angled upwards, for the base of large tapering truss blades. This indicates the former roofline, from when the barn was thatched.
Dating Evidence:		The truss blades are set into the cob at the former top of the wall, suggestive of post-medieval A-frames, rather than earlier forms of build.

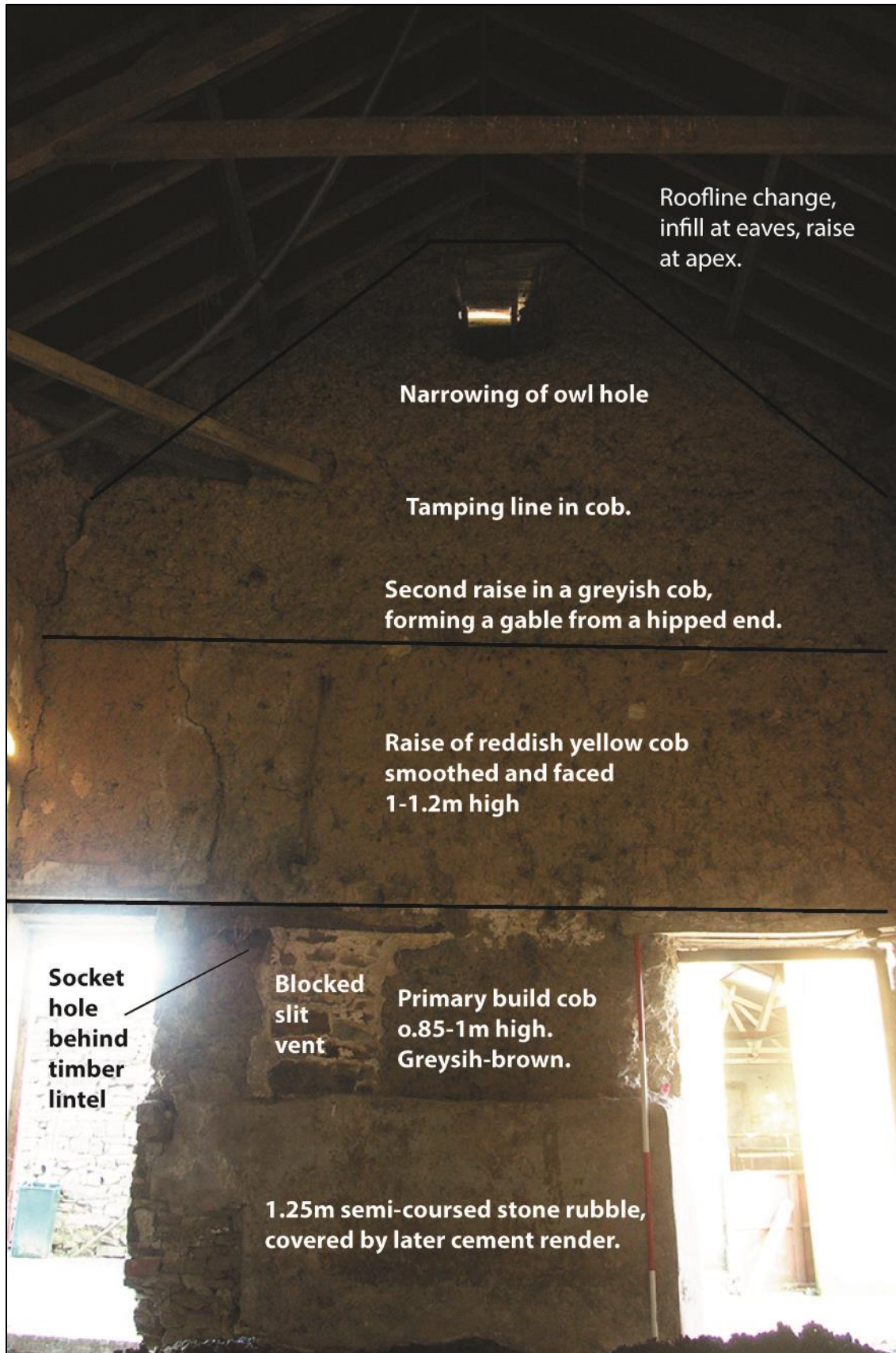
APPENDIX 2: ANNOTATED BUILDING RECORDING PHOTOGRAPHS



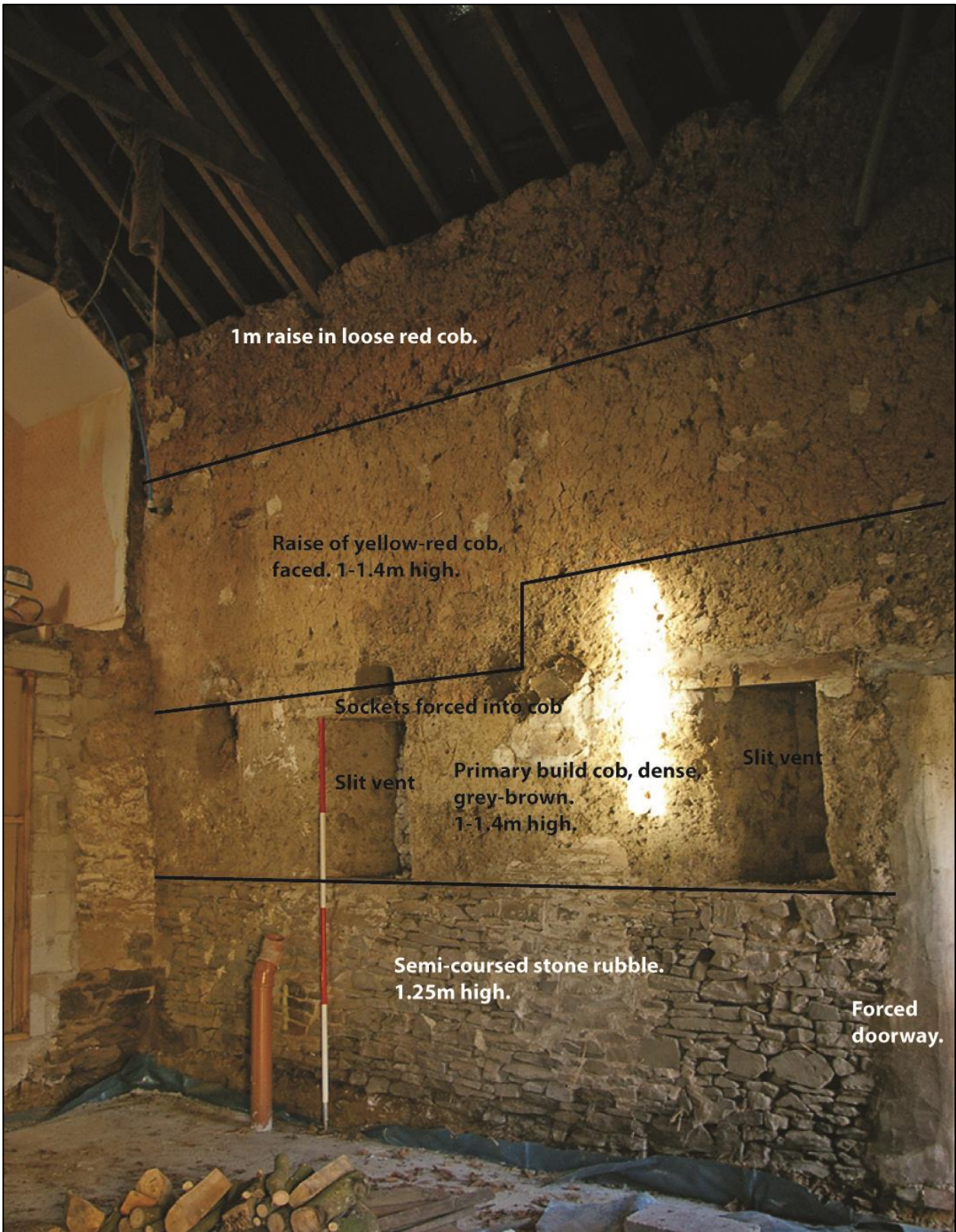
1. SOUTH WALL OF BRITTONS FARM SHIPPON, WITH 2M SCALE; WITH ANNOTATIONS AND NOTES ON STRUCTURAL PHASING.



2. THE WEST WALL OF BRITTONS FARM SHIPPON, WITH 2M SCALE; ANNOTATED WITH NOTES ON STRUCTURAL PHASING.



3. THE EAST GABLE OF BRITTONS FARM SHIPPON: ANNOTATED WITH NOTES ON STRUCTURAL PHASING (SCALE 2M).



4. THE NORTH WALL OF BRITTONS FARM SHIPPON: ANNOTATED WITH NOTES ON STRUCTURAL PHASING (SCALE 2M).

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Type	Description	Relationships	Extent: depth/thickness (m)	Spot date
(100)	Layer	Loose yellow sand levelling layer under concrete (covering features), with common medium to large stone inclusions up to 0.30m wide.	Overlies (102), (104), (106), (108), (110), (112)	Up to 0.10m thick	Modern
[101]	Cut	Square socket on north-west end of trench, with vertical sides and a flat base. Measures 0.10x0.10m.	Filled by (102); cuts (113)	c. 0.10m deep	-
(102)	Fill	Fill of [101]. Dark-mid grey-brown soft-friable silty-clay.	Overlain by (100); fill of [101]	c. 0.10m thick	-
[103]	Posthole/pit	Sub-oval pit (Pit 1) with vertical sides and sharp breaks at the top, with a moderate break into a steep slope on the NNW side. Measures c.0.40m long x c. 0.30m wide; base poorly defined due to water ingress.	Filled by (104); cuts (113)	0.20m+ deep	-
(104)	Fill	Light-mid yellow-brown soft silt-clay, with common very small stone inclusions.	Overlain by (100); fill of [103]	>0.20m thick	-
[105]	Cut	Square socket on north-west end of trench, with vertical sides and a flat base. Measures 0.10x0.10m. Located south-east of [103].	Filled by (106); cuts (113)	c. 0.10m deep	-
(106)	Fill	Fill of [105]. Dark-mid grey-brown soft-friable silty-clay.	Overlain by (100); fill of [105]	c. 0.10m thick	-
[107]	Cut	Square socket on north-west end of trench, with vertical sides and a flat base. Measures 0.10x0.10m. Located south-east of [105].	Filled by (108); cuts (113)	c. 0.10m deep	-
(108)	Fill	Fill of [107]. Dark-mid grey-brown soft-friable silty-clay.	Overlain by (100); fill of [107]	c. 0.10m thick	-
[109]	Ditch	Probable linear ditch orientated north-east to south-west, with gradual sides and break of slope to a flattish base. Measures 1.05m wide.	Overlain by (400); overlies (102)	c. 0.20m deep	Medieval?
(110)	Fill	Fill of [109]. As (104), with common charcoal flecks.	Overlain by (101); fill of [109]; cut by [111]	c. 0.20m thick	Medieval?
[111]	Post-hole/pit	Sub-circular pit (Pit 2) with a very gradual NNW side and steep SSE side, to a narrow concave base. Measures 0.40m x >0.30m.	Filled by (112); cuts (110), (113)	c. 0.18m deep	Medieval/post-medieval?
(112)	Fill	As (104).	Overlain by (100); fill of [111]	c. 0.18m thick	Medieval/post-medieval?
(113)	Natural	Yellow-brown soft-firm clay.	Cut by [101], [103], [105], [107], [109], [111]	-	-

APPENDIX 4: BULK SAMPLE LIST

Sample	Context	Feature type	Description	% Fill of feature	Weight when recovered	Processed	Spot date
<1>	(104)	Fill of Pit [103]	No charcoal noted, but wet	50%	7.735kg	No	?
<2>	(112)	Fill of Pit [111]	Rare to occasional flecks of charcoal noted	50%	7.713kg	No	Medieval/post-medieval?

APPENDIX 5: PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE



1. VIEW OF BRITTONS FARM FROM THE ROAD JUNCTION IN THE CENTRE OF THE HAMLET OF GOLDSWORTHY; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



2. DETAIL OF THE FARMHOUSE SECTION OF THE RANGE AT BRITTONS FARM; VIEWED FROM THE SSE.



3. LEFT: THE SOUTH ELEVATION OF THE 'SHIPPON'; VIEWED FROM THE ESE.

4. RIGHT: THE EAST GABLE END OF THE 'SHIPPON'; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.



5. THE EAST GABLE WALL, SHOWING THE TWO DOORS AND OWL HOLE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



6. THE NORTH ELEVATION OF THE 'SHIPPON', WITH ABUTTING LEAN-TO; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



7. LEFT: THE NORTHERN OF THE TWO DOORWAYS IN THE EAST ELEVATION, WITH REUSED FRAME; VIEWED FROM THE ENE (2M SCALE).

8. RIGHT: THE SOUTHERN OF THE TWO DOORWAYS IN THE EAST ELEVATION, WITH WEATHERED TIMBER LINTEL; VIEWED FROM THE ENE (SCALE 2M).



9. THE INTERIOR, NORTH WALL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).



10. LEFT: THE WEST SLIT VENT IN THE NORTH WALL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.

11. RIGHT: THE EAST SLIT VENT IN THE NORTH WALL; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH.



12. THE WEST WALL, PARTITION TO THE CROSS PASSAGE; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST (SCALE 2M).



13. LEFT: THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE BARN, SHOWING A LARGE EMPTY SOCKET AND POSSIBLE INFILLED SLOT BELOW; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.
14. RIGHT: THE SOUTH-WEST CORNER OF THE BARN, SHOWING A LARGE EMPTY SOCKET WITH POSSIBLE INFILLED SLOT BELOW; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST.



15. THE SOUTH WALL, INTERIOR FACE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (2M SCALE).



16. THE SOUTH WALL, INTERIOR FACE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-WEST (2M SCALE).



17. DETAIL OF THE CENTRAL SLIT VENT IN THE SOUTH WALL; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.



18. THE LOADING DOOR IN THE SOUTH WALL; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH.



19. THE GABLE OF THE BARN; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (2M SCALE).



20. THE BLOCKED SLIT VENT IN THE EAST GABLE; VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



21. THE CURRENT ROOF OF THE BARN; VIEWED FROM THE WEST.



22. LEFT: THE TRENCH, POST-EXCAVATION VIEW; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (2M SCALE).

23. RIGHT: THE TRENCH, POST-EXCAVATION VIEW; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH (2M SCALE).



24. SHOT OF POSTHOLE/PIT [111], IN DITCH [109], UNDER EXCAVATION; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (0.3M SCALE).



25. EXCAVATED VIEW OF POSTHOLE [105], WITH SMALL POSTHOLE/SOCKET [107]; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (0.3M SCALE).



26. EXCAVATED VIEW OF PIT/POSTHOLE [103], TO THE NORTH END OF THE TRENCH; VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH (0.3M SCALE).



27. EXCAVATED VIEW OF SMALL POSTHOLE/SOCKET [101]; VIEWED FROM THE WEST (0.3M SCALE).



THE OLD DAIRY
HACCHE LANE BUSINESS PARK
PATHFIELDS BUSINESS PARK
SOUTH MOLTON
DEVON
EX36 3LH

TEL: 01769 573555
TEL. 01872 223164
EMAIL: MAIL@SWARCH.NET