
**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING ON
FARM BUILDINGS AT
CHURCH FARM
LOW ROAD
WRETTON
NORFOLK
(52833)**

Work Undertaken For

Parsons and Whittley Ltd

June 2009

Report Compiled by
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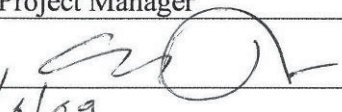
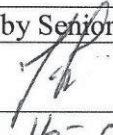
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological building recording was undertaken prior to the conversion of farm buildings at Church Farm, Low Road, Wretton, Norfolk. The buildings are of vernacular architectural and historic interest.

The building, floor plans, external elevations and internal details were recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

The survey recorded a flint cobble and brick barn which had probably been built for hand-threshing and the storage of grain and straw in the late 18th century. The barn retained many original features typical of threshing barns of this period. The initials 'I.P.' were recorded as iron tie plates in both gable ends of the barn, and probably refer to the individual who commissioned the barn. A low blocked opening may indicate that part of the barn was used as a pigsty at some time, perhaps in the later 19th century. Modern additions and alterations inside the barn might indicate its recent use as a kennel.

A probable former stable of flint cobble and brick, was also recorded, and was of probable late 18th century or slightly later date. This had been more recently used as animal accommodation, and a modern extension had been added to this. A datestone '1710' was recorded in the walling of the probable stable, and although this was reused may reflect the former presence of a building in this position or in the immediate vicinity.

Eaves scars on the northern and eastern walls of the main barn may represent former buildings apparent in 19th and 20th century sources.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of Archaeological Building Recording

Building recording is defined as:

'... a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components on land or under water.' (IfA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Parsons and Whitley Ltd to undertake a programme of historic building on farm buildings at Church Farm, Low Road, Wretton, Norfolk. A planning application (08/01745/F) was submitted to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for the conversion of the farm buildings to a dwelling. Permission was subject to conditions including the undertaking of a programme of archaeological building recording prior to the conversion works.

The building recording was carried out on 28th May 2009 in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Head of Archaeological Planning at Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

2.3 Site Location

Wretton is located approximately 8km east-southeast of Downham Market in the borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (Figure 1). Church Farm is in the southern part of the village, north of Low Road, at National Grid Reference TL 6893 9958 (Figure 2).

3. AIMS

In accordance with the specification, the aims of the work were to provide a record of the standing structure on the site prior to its conversion.

4. METHODS

Recording of the building was undertaken to Level 2 standard, according to the English Heritage specification (2006).

Subject to accessibility, the recording of the building included:

- Details of the precise location, status, description of the building's type, materials, possible date, plan, form, function, development sequence, history in terms of architects, builders, patrons and owners if identifiable, and comments on the building's past and present relationship to its setting.
- A photographic survey showing the building in its context, details of the exterior, interior views of the principal rooms, circulation areas and details. The survey used black and white print film, supplemented by colour print and digital photography.
- Measured plans at appropriate scales of all main floors incorporating details of the form and location of any structural features of historic interest.

Photographic recording was undertaken with a manual 35mm camera fitted with a macro lens and a digital camera. Black and white film was used whilst digital photographs were in colour. An index of the photographs was compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro forma recording sheets.

5. RESULTS (Figure 4)

The surveyed buildings are part of a former farm complex, and form a rectangular range. This range comprises a barn and attached single storey building, the latter having a modern extension to the south (Figures 3 & 4, Plate 2).

Internally, each of the surveyed buildings were divided by various pens, obscuring parts of the buildings. Externally vegetation obscured small portions of the building.

Main Barn

The main barn is rectangular and approximately 22m long by 9.5m wide (Figure 4, Plates 2, 5, 10 & 12). This comprised a single room, open to the rafters, with a bay to the south of a pair of large opposed doorways, and a double-sized bay to the north (Plate 13). The predominant building material externally is flint cobble, with small pieces of carrstone between the cobbles (Plates 7 & 11). The lower parts of the internal elevations were of chalk cobbles (Plates 14 & 15), and large chalk blocks were used as the lowest course in places both externally and internally (Plate 11). The coursing of the flint and chalk varied, externally being largely randomly placed to roughly coursed cobbles, and internally often being roughly squared and coursed (Plates 5, 11, 14 & 15).

Brick quoins were present at each corner of the building, extending from ground level to the full height of the walls, with similar brickwork either side of each of two opposing large doorways in the western and eastern elevations (Plates 5 & 7). The majority of this appeared to be gault brick probably dating to the late 18th century. The Norfolk Skintling Survey indicated that horizontal skintling marks (formed when bricks are set out to dry before being placed in the kiln) as seen in some of the bricks used in the Wretton

barn appear from 1770 onwards (James and Rose, ND). Further brick quoins flanked a first floor opening in the northern elevation (Plate 10). Eight breather slits were noted, three in each of the west and east elevations, and two in the northern gable end. Each of these again had brick quoins to either side, some of which were bullnose bricks, forming a decorative opening with diamond-shaped detailing (Plate 6). This detailing was again in the same brick as that used on the corner quoins of the barn.

Four brick courses were recorded externally, c.0.75m above ground level (Plates 7 & 11). These were of mixed type, including gault and red bricks, and various sizes. The mixing of these bricks indicated that these were probably reused from an earlier building. Above the lower two of these courses, the walls recessed slightly. The brick type used in the quoins at the corners of the building altered at this slight step in the wall, the brick below this level differing from that seen elsewhere in the building, here being predominantly of thin gault bricks of uncertain date, but again probably re-used or made for another purpose (Plate 7).

Both the north and south gables were raised, and the brickwork of the quoins continued upward to form slight brick kneelers and tumbled brickwork above, again in late 18th century gault brick (Plates 10 & 8).

These bricks were also used to form horizontal courses on each of the four elevations. At the west and east, this comprised four courses of brick at the top of the wall, with two header rows topped by two stretcher rows (Plates 5 & 12). At each of the gable ends these continued as three header rows at eaves level (Plate 10).

A doorway was recorded in the northern elevation, although this was partially surrounded by concrete or mortar, and it was not clear if this was original to the

building (Plate 10). A further opening was identified in this elevation, a window or pitching hole at eaves level, directly atop the three horizontal brick courses (Plate 10). Above the brick quoins to either side of this opening was a single segmental arch, again in late 18th century gault brick. This opening had a wooden surround, and internally two asymmetrical notches were noted in the lintel, which could indicate that this timber was reused.

A very small opening was noted close to the apex of the north gable end, a diamond-shaped opening formed by four bullnose bricks. This was blocked internally, and may be a purely decorative feature or possibly an owl hole. Alternatively, this might have been associated with some sort of lifting mechanism for loading or unloading materials from carts. A short timber was attached to northern external elevation externally, and an iron object was in turn affixed to this. Two iron bolts were also visible externally here, corresponding to the location of an iron bar visible on the interior. All of these fixings may also be associated with some sort of lifting apparatus (Plate 10).

The barn was roofed in red pantiles, and a change in the pitch of the roof was noted over the lowest c. 3 courses of pantiles, the roof sloping more gently here (Plate 5).

Two decorative iron tie plates were noted at each gable end of the barn, close to the roofline. In each case these formed the initials 'I' and 'P' (Plates 10 & 8).

A low blocked opening was evident in the west wall of the barn internally, this had an arched shape at its top and was a maximum of 0.90m high (Plate 14). The was filled with modern concrete or mortar. The opening was not evident externally, although a larger area of apparent repair was evident, as an irregular patch with fresh mortar and a bulge in the wall (Plate 12).

Each of two large opposing openings extended to the full height of the wall (Plates 5 & 12). Both had modern iron girders at each side. The easterly opening was partly infilled with modern wood at the top, with modern iron gates and fencing below and had a steel lintel. The westerly opening was infilled with breeze blocks from ground level to a height of 1.90m. Above this the remainder of the opening was infilled with modern wood. The lintel of this opening was of timber, and this had several notches on its underside, possibly from a former structure blocking this opening.

Internally, three tie beams were noted, the northernmost two of these having extant braces (Plate 13). The southerly tie beam was without braces, although notches were evident denoting their former location.

The floor inside the barn was of concrete throughout, and the internal area was divided by a number of modern plywood and iron partitions, forming smaller roofed areas. One of these partitioned areas was square, with iron bars and a doorway at the south (Plate 16). Health and safety at work and other posters within this area indicated its possible use as a workplace in the recent past. Two similar partitioned areas had been created at the south of the barn (Plate 17). A breather slit within each of these two areas was glazed, and a central dividing wall of plywood and iron featured a low iron grill. Within each of these two areas were raised wooden structures. These were open-fronted, with the front of each being partly covered with plastic freezer sheeting (Plate 18). The westernmost of these contained straw and a dog basket, whilst dog medicines were also noted in this room, perhaps indicating the use of these for dog breeding or as kennels.

A timber attached to the easterly wall of the barn had a number of bent iron nails attached, used as equipment pegs, whilst an iron bar across a breather slit here could perhaps be part of a hay rack or for further

equipment storage (Plate 15).

Iron attachments on the northern wall of the barn may represent the remains of former animal pens here.

An eaves scar of a mono-pitched roof was evident on the northern gable end of the barn, comprising fragments of pantile and mortar adhering to the wall (Plate 10). A further possible eaves scar of a gabled roof was noted on the eastern wall (Plate 5).

Southerly building

A single storey building abutted the main barn at the southern gable end (Plate 8). A straight join was noted between the two buildings, but the angling of brickwork at the base of the main barn at this join would suggest that the southerly building is a later addition, built onto the barn (Plate 7).

Overall this building was rectangular and approximately 13m long by 9.5m wide. Two opposing doorways were located near the centre of each of the west and east walls, forming a central corridor through the building, with bays to the north and south of this (Plates 8 & 19).

The east and west walls of the building were of flint cobble with occasional bricks used as cobbles, whilst brick quoins were noted at the corners of the building, and to either side of the opposing doors (Plates 8 & 4). Traces of whitewash or render adhered to the exterior. The majority of the bricks used in the quoins at the corners of the building and flanking the doorways were red and apparently of late 18th century type, although the brick was somewhat mixed (Plate 7). Curiously, the lowest courses of this brickwork were of thin bricks, echoing the construction of the main barn. Again these thinner bricks are likely to be reused and originally made for another purpose (Plate 7).

A datestone showing the date '1710' was incorporated into the cobble of the eastern

wall (Plates 8 & 9). This was almost certainly re-used but may have derived from an earlier building on the same site or in the near vicinity.

Two small openings flanked the eastern doorway, each of which was surrounded by brickwork including quoins to either side and the brick apparently being similar to that used in the majority of the external detailing. Each opening had a wooden surround and lintel and a wooden shutter (Plate 8).

Brick courses topped both the east and west walls, two courses to the east and at least one course to the west. The building was roofed in red pantiles.

The southern gable end was visible externally above eaves level, although was difficult to see clearly due to overhanging trees. This was all of red brick, although neither the brick type nor date could be identified. The coursing of this brick was rather irregular, with several header rows and some mixed header and stretcher rows. Two round iron tie plates were noted at the roofline.

All the walls of the building were whitewashed and partially rendered internally, hampering examination of their construction. Additionally, a modern ceiling of insulating tiles largely prevented examination of the walling above eaves level and the roof construction. The lower parts of each of the northern and southern gable ends were apparently of flint cobble, although some patterning in the cobbles evident through the whitewash might indicate the occasional use of half bricks laid diagonally in rough courses. A break in the ceiling allowed partial examination of the southern gable end above the ceiling. As externally, this wall was entirely of brick and was thinner than the lower (cobble) part of the wall, except for two wider pillars which continued to the roofline, apparently forming supports for the roof timbers.

Internally, the building had a concrete floor throughout, the floor in the central corridor being lower than that in the north and south bays, forming a manure passage allowing drainage. Small low openings were noted to one side of each of the two opposing doors, allowing effluent to drain from the building, and whilst the eastern of these was brick-built and may be an original feature, the western example contained a relatively modern ceramic pipe.

Four substantial wooden pegs were noted flanking the western doorway, and were probably tack hooks (Plate 21). A further single peg of the same type was located to the north of the eastern door.

A single small projecting timber was noted in the northern wall, approximately 1.5m from the ground. This might perhaps represent the scant remains of former stalls within the building, although this was unclear.

Each of the north and south bays contained modern livestock pens of breeze block, brick, iron and boarding (Plates 19 & 20). The eastern part of each was partially covered with wooden planking, possibly to provide storage space above each of the pens. Plumbing was noted supplying drinkers in each of the pens.

An opening in the southern wall of the building contained an iron livestock door, leading to a modern extension.

Modern extension

A single storey breeze block building was located at the southern end of the range, abutting the adjacent building (Plates 2 & 8). This was rectangular in plan and covered an area of approximately 9.5m by 4m.

The walls were of whitewashed breeze blocks, whilst corrugated sheeting, possibly asbestos, formed the mono-pitched roof.

Two glazed windows were noted in the southern wall.

In addition to the doorway leading from the adjacent building to the north, the interior was accessed via a further iron livestock door in the western wall (Plate 22). The interior was divided into two rooms, iron hinges at the opening between these indicating the former presence of a further doorway here.

The majority of the internal walls of the two rooms were covered in galvanised highway crash barriers attached to iron framing, presumably to protect the walls from damage by livestock (Plate 22).

A ceiling of insulating tiles was noted, of the same type as that used in the adjacent building.

6. DISCUSSION

At present, the surveyed buildings are in a variable state of repair. The buildings form part of a farm complex and are presently disused.

The majority of the recorded masonry was of flint cobble walls with brick elements. Although the flint cobble elements are not of themselves readily dateable, the majority of the brickwork of both the main barn and the southern building were of probable late 18th century date.

The brick quoins to either side of each of the large opposed doorways of the main barn indicate these openings are original to the building. Similarly, in the west, north and east elevations were eight breather slits and a first floor opening that seem to be original features. In combination with the overall form of the building, these features are typical of a barn used for hand-threshing and grain storage, and indicate that it was likely to have been built for this function. No traces remained of the original doors within the large

paired openings, each being partly infilled with modern materials.

A study of farmsteads in South Lincolnshire notes that this form of barn continued to be built well into the 19th century, until the widespread shift to mechanical threshing later in the century (Barnwell and Giles 1997, 48-49). These barns would typically feature a pair of tall and opposed threshing doors in the long walls. Between these lay the threshing floor where grain would be threshed and winnowed in the draught created by the paired doors. The space either side of the threshing floor would be used for storing unthreshed crop and straw (*ibid*). The breather slits identified in the Wretton barn would have served to allow ventilation to the storage bays. Such ventilation was only necessary to a limited extent as corn was stored dry and needed much less ventilation than hay (Brunskill 1999, 43).

The first floor opening in the north gable end of the building may have functioned simply to allow increased light into the building, at the end of the larger northern bay (Plates 10 & 13). However, this opening was probably constructed as a pitching hole, to facilitate unloading of unprocessed crops from carts into the building. Detailing and fixtures above the opening could be the remains of lifting mechanisms associated with raising sacks of processed crops through the opening. Some examples of similar barns have an area of upper flooring within a bay forming an area of storage space for processed crops. However, no evidence was identified for the former presence of any upper flooring within the barn, and such an opening might be expected to be somewhat larger. Overall, it seems most probable that the opening served a dual function of pitching hole and allowing light into the barn. It is possible that the fixtures on the northern gable end are indeed associated with a lifting mechanism, but perhaps rather one designed to aid loading of sacks of

processed crops from the northern doorway of the barn up onto carts.

Cross tie plates on each gable end of the barn featured the initials 'I.P.'. These initials probably relate to the individual who commissioned the barn, although investigation to determine who these initials referred to was beyond the scope of the present study.

A small low opening evident in the interior of the west wall of the main barn is somewhat curious, as this is not a typical feature of a threshing barn. It is likely that this relates to a subsequent phase of use of the building, once it had ceased to be used for threshing. The overall shape and low height of the opening is reminiscent of low openings sometimes associated with pig accommodation, with such pigsties consisting of an unlit room with a low arched opening giving access to the main cattle yards (Barnwell and Giles 1997, 62), and it is possible that pigs were kept in the western part of the barn, with access to open area to the west.

Other alterations to the interior of the barn, including the blocking of the larger western opening and the construction of the internal partitions relate to the most recent use of the building, possibly in dog breeding kennels, and activities associated with the management of the farm.

Examination of an aerial photograph of 1946, particularly the shadow cast by the range, indicates that a single storey building may have been attached to the northern end of the main barn at this time (Figure 5). This may well relate to the eaves scar noted on the northern gable end of the barn (Plate 10), and it is possible that this additional building is also depicted on 19th century maps, although this is uncertain.

Similarly, a possible small building is depicted on the 1890 map at the east of the main barn (Figure 5), which may relate to

the possible eaves scar noted in the east elevation of the barn (Plate 5).

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 depicts a range of buildings in the position of the surveyed range (Figure 5), and it is likely that this is the same as the extant buildings, indicating that the barn and southerly building pre-date 1890. A range of buildings is also depicted on the earlier Tithe map of 1838, and it appears that at least the main barn is depicted here, and so predates this map (Figure 5). The late 18th century bricks used in the majority of the detailing of the barn may well provide a date for the construction of the barn.

Although unclear, the range to the south of the barn shown on the Tithe map appears to comprise two smaller buildings. It is not clear whether these depict the extant southerly building and an additional now-demolished building at its south, or two earlier buildings, replaced by the extant southerly building. Some of the brick of the southerly building is of later 18th century date, which may indicate it was built in this period. However, it is also possible that the bricks were re-used, possibly even from an earlier building on the same spot. The datestone '1710' incorporated into the east wall is almost certainly re-used, but it is possible that this derived from a former building on the same site. The dating of the southerly building based purely on cartographic evidence and the bricks used in its construction is then somewhat inconclusive, but the building certainly predates 1890, and may well be significantly earlier, perhaps of later 18th century date.

The southern building is typical in form and layout of a stable. In a study of farmsteads in south Lincolnshire, the prevalent type found in the late 18th and early 19th century featured central doorways in each side wall with a manure passage with drains between. The horses

would be stalled on each side of the passage, facing the end walls (Barnwell and Giles 1997, 35), and this parallels the layout in this example. In the studied south Lincolnshire stables, harness hooks were often located near doorways, and this is also the case here. However, in the Lincolnshire examples, late 18th and early 19th century stables were typically two-storey buildings which lacked windows and had a granary over. Later stables were commonly of a different arrangement, with stalls arranged along the length of the building, and from the mid to late 19th century ventilation was improved (*ibid.*). This means that although the building was clearly built as a stable, its form and layout display characteristics of both the earlier and later forms identified in the Lincolnshire study, and so comparison of the arrangement of the building with the results of that study does not assist in refining its dating. The range of earlier and later characteristics could however indicate that the building is transitional between these styles, and hence perhaps of early to mid 19th century date.

Earlier examples of 18th century stables in East Anglia typically had stalls across the end walls (as in the Lincolnshire examples) and hay lofts above, and from the late eighteenth century improvements including east-facing windows providing light for morning grooming were made (English Heritage 2007). The two eastern windows in the present example may indeed have served to facilitate morning grooming, and so a late 18th century date (also consistent with the majority of the brickwork of the building) might be suggested for the southern building. As the roof structure of the building was obscured by a modern ceiling it was not possible to ascertain whether any possible hay loft floor may have originally been present at eaves level. However, the height of the roof above the eaves could allow for a hay loft in the roofspace. Overall then, it seems that a late 18th century date for this building is likely.

Comparison of the 1890 Ordnance Survey map and an aerial photograph of 1946 suggests that the range formerly extended further to the south, as far as Low Road (Figure 5). This indicates that a further building was demolished during this period. This could explain the use of brick in the upper part of the southern building, and this part of the wall may have been infilled or replaced at the time of the postulated demolition of an adjacent building to the south.

The small recorded building at the far south of the range is a modern addition, and both this and the southern building have been recently used as animal accommodation.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Building recording was undertaken prior to the conversion of farm buildings at Church Farm, Low Road, Wretton, Norfolk.

The recorded buildings comprised a barn, probable former stable and modern extension, these forming part of a farmstead.

A flint cobble and brick barn had apparently been built for hand-threshing and the storage of grain and straw, and retained many original features peculiar to threshing barns. The brickwork of this barn may suggest a construction date in the later 18th century, and the barn is apparently depicted on the 1838 Tithe map. A low blocked opening in the west wall of the barn may indicate the use of part of the building as a pigsty after it had ceased to be used for hand-threshing and associated storage, perhaps in the later 19th century, after the increased use of mechanical threshing which required less space than hand-threshing. Recent alterations to and partitions within the barn were noted, and it may have been recently used as kennels. An eaves scar noted at the north of the barn may represent a now-

demolished building, apparent on an Ordnance Survey map of 1890 and a 1946 aerial photograph. A possible eaves scar on the west wall of the barn may also reflect a former building depicted on the 1890 map. Cross tie plates were present in each gable end of the barn, each end featuring the initials 'I.P.'. It is probable that this relates to the initials of the individual who commissioned the barn.

A flint cobble and brick building most recently used as animal accommodation, at the south of the barn, was almost certainly originally built as a stable, its layout and internal features being typical of stables in the region. Analysis of cartographic sources, the brickwork used in its construction and its layout all point to a later 18th century or slightly later date for its construction. A date stone '1710' used within the walling of the building is reused, although this may derive from former buildings on the same site or in the immediate vicinity. Cartographic sources indicate a further building at the south of the barn was demolished at some time after 1890 and before 1946, and brickwork of the upper part of the south wall of the barn may have been inserted at this time.

Although the suggested dates of both the threshing barn and stables are late 18th century, slight angling of the brickwork of the barn wall at the join between the two buildings suggests that the stable post-dates the barn. Both buildings apparently make some use of residual materials, particularly in the lower areas of the corner quoins of each building.

A modern breeze block extension serving as further animal accommodation abutted the southern end of the stable building.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Parsons and Whittleby Ltd who commissioned the work.

Thanks also to David Hale. The project was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. David Start kindly permitted access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Building Recording: Vicky Mellor
Photographic reproduction: Vicky Mellor
CAD Illustration: Vicky Mellor
Analyst: Vicky Mellor

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

IfA Institute of Field Archaeologists, (since renamed Institute for Archaeologists)

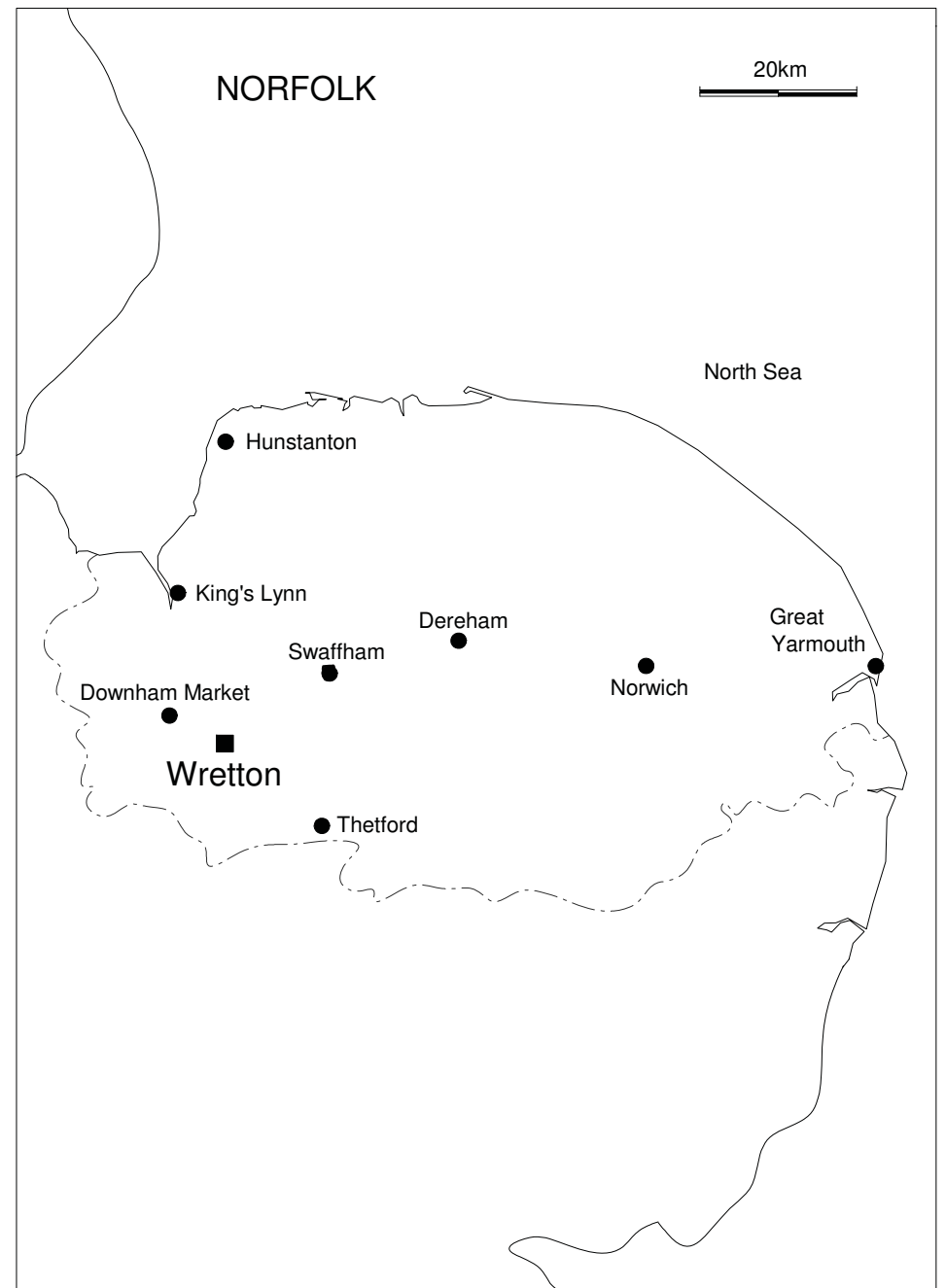


Figure 1 General location map

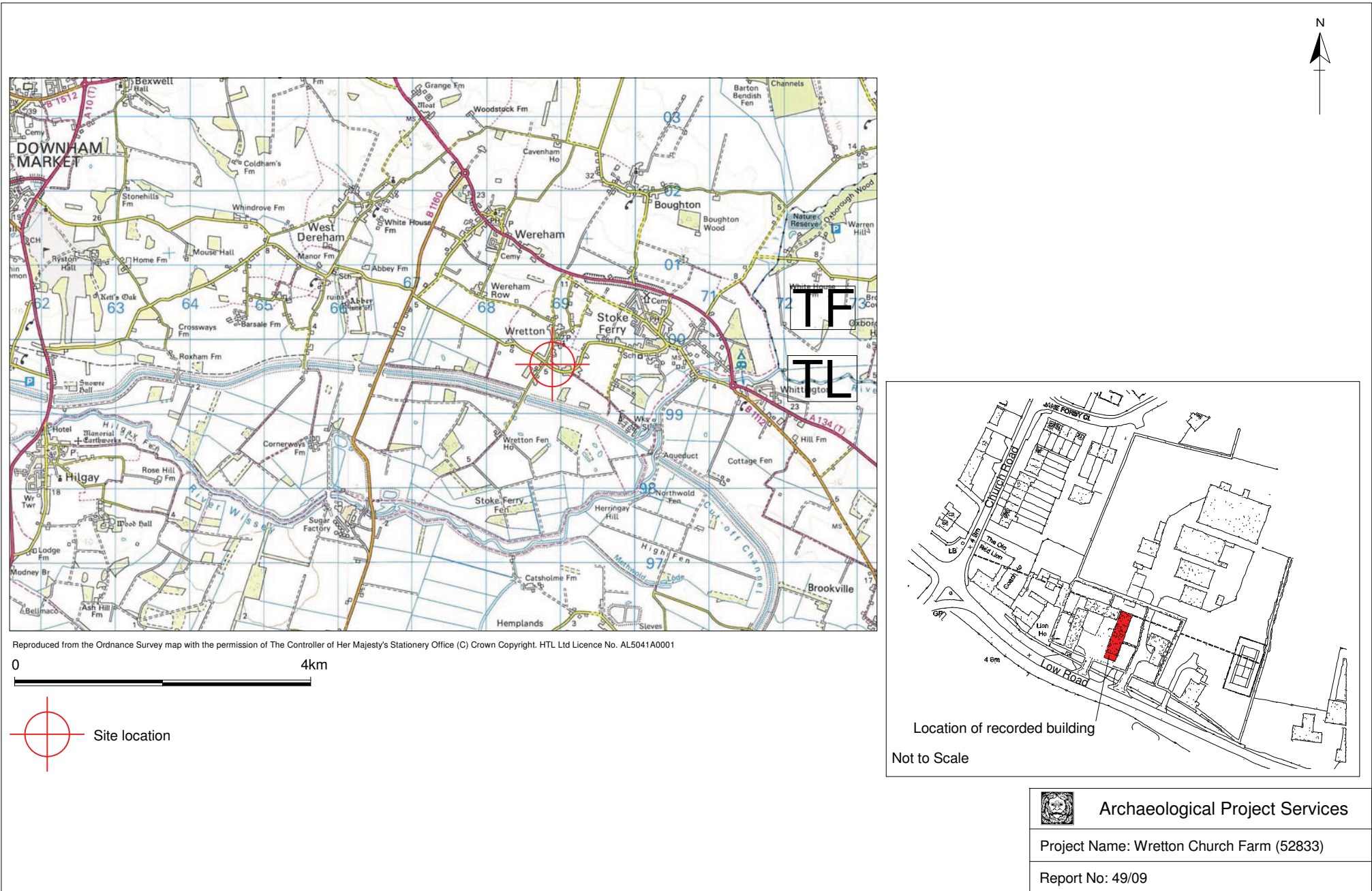


Figure 2 Site location map

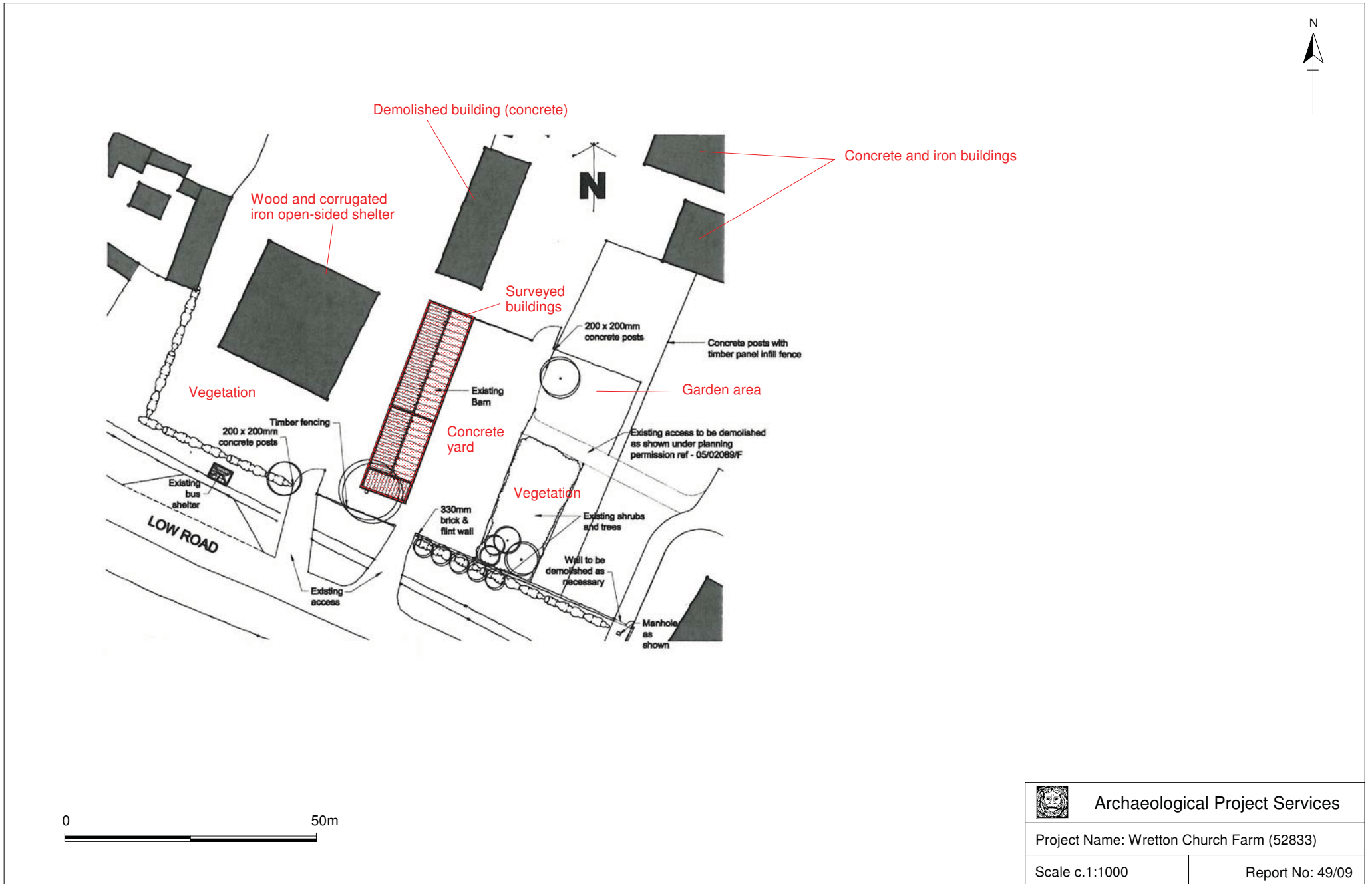


Figure 3 Extract from site plan provided by client showing present layout of buildings

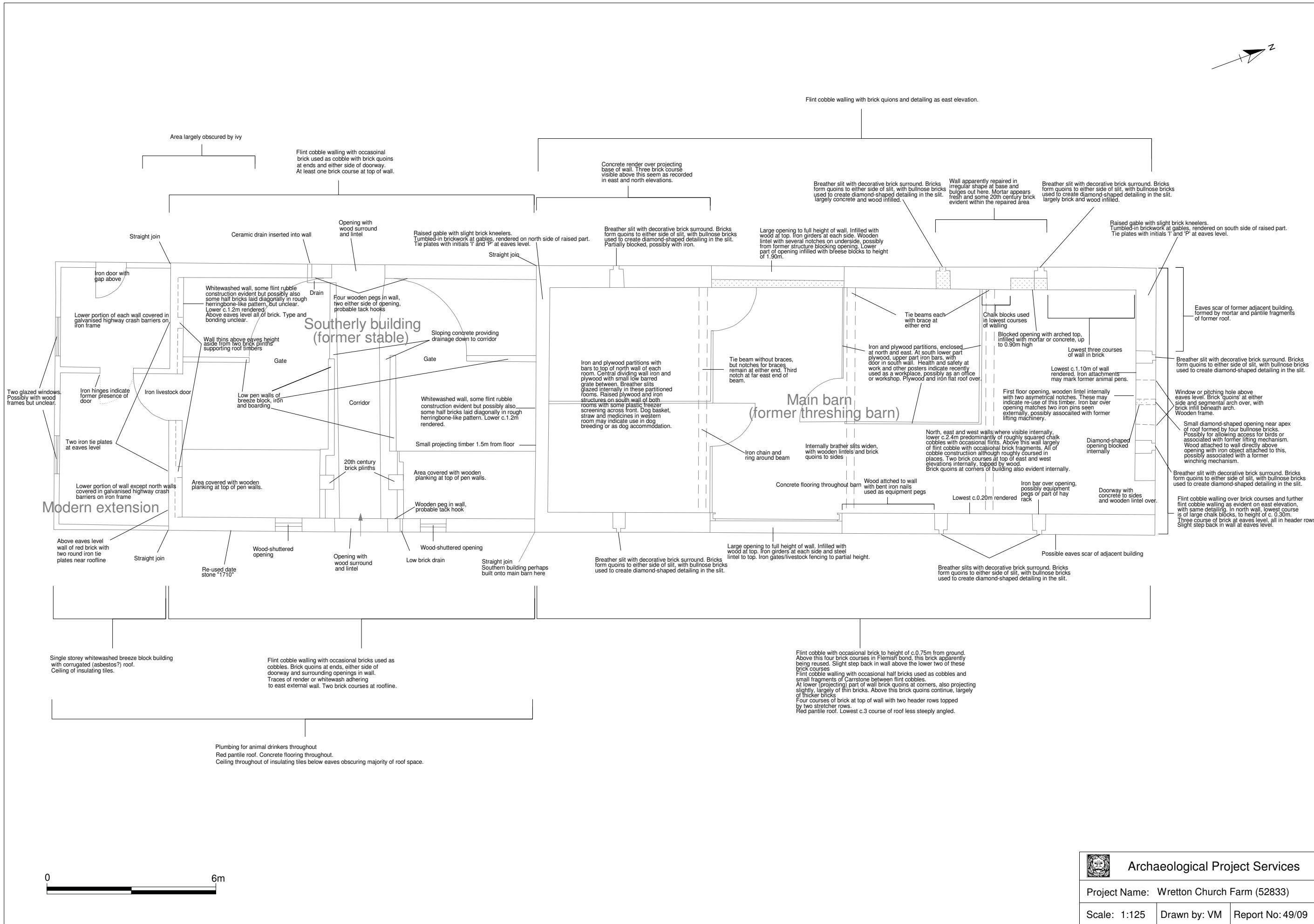


Figure 4 Plan of recorded buildings

	Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Wretton Church Farm (52833)			
Scale: 1:125	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 49/09	



1838 Tithe map



1946 aerial photograph



1890 England - Norfolk: 069/SE OS 1:10,560 - Epoch 1



1988 aerial photograph



Approximate extent and location of recorded buildings



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Ancaster Ermine Street

Not to scale

Report No: 49/09

Figure 5 Extracts from old maps and aerial photographs showing site location from www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk



Figure 6 Plan indicating direction and location of plates



Plate 1 General view of the recorded buildings from Low Road, looking north



Plate 3 General view of the recorded buildings, looking south



Plate 2 General view of the recorded buildings, looking west



Plate 4 General view of the recorded buildings, looking east



Plate 5 East elevation of recorded barn, looking west



Plate 6 Detail of breather slit, main barn,
looking west



Plate 7 Detail of walling and join
between main barn (at right) and
adjacent building (at left), east
elevation, looking west



Plate 8 East elevation of southerly building, looking west



Plate 9 Detail of east elevation of southerly building showing re-used date stone in walling, looking west



Plate 10
North gable
end of main
barn, looking
south



Plate 11
Detail
showing
construction
of north
gable end of
main barn,
looking south



Plate 12 West elevation of main barn, showing infilled
area, looking southeast



Plate 13 Interior of main barn, looking north



Plate 14, Interior of main barn, showing breather slit and low blocked opening, looking west



Plate 15 Interior of main barn showing chalk and flint construction, looking southeast



Plate 16
Central
partitioned area
inside main
barn, looking
northwest



Plate 17
Southern
partitioned
areas inside
main barn,
looking
southwest



Plate 18
Easternmost of
southern
partitioned
areas inside
main barn,
looking
southeast



Plate 19 Corridor through southerly building, looking west



Plate 20 Pens within southerly building, looking south



Plate 21 Pegs flanking doorway in western wall of southerly building, probably tack hooks, looking north



Plate 22 Interior of southerly modern building, looking west

Appendix 1

SPECIFICATION FOR BUILDING RECORDING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A programme of building recording is required at Church Farm, Low Road, Wretton, Norfolk.*
- 1.2 *The barn to be surveyed is of historic interest and appears on the early 19th century tithe map and 1st Edition Ordnance Survey maps of Wretton.*
- 1.3 *The building recording will be undertaken prior to any development works on the structure. The building, floor plans, external elevations and internal details will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically. A brief programme of historic research will also be undertaken in order to determine the date, development and associations of the building.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for historic building recording prior to redevelopment of a barn at Church Farm, Low Road, Wretton, Norfolk.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
 - 2.2.1 Overview.
 - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
 - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
 - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

3 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1 Wretton is located approximately 8km east-southeast of Downham Market in the borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Church Farm is in the southern part of the village, north of Low Road, at National Grid Reference TL 6893 9958.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application (08/01745/F) was submitted to King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for the redevelopment of the barn. Permission is subject to conditions including the implementation for a programme of archaeological works involving building recording prior to the development works.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The barn at Church Farm is recorded on the 1838 tithe map and 1st edition Ordnance Survey plans. Agricultural buildings such as this are a disappearing resource and have been identified as a priority in the regional archaeological research frameworks (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The aims of the work will be to provide a record of the standing building on the site prior to redevelopment.
- 6.2 The objectives will be to establish:
 - 6.2.1 The form of the building;

6.2.2 the date of the building and features of special interest;

6.2.3 the state of preservation of the buildings and any features of special interest present.

7 BUILDING RECORDING

- 7.1 Building Investigation will be undertaken prior to the demolition of the existing buildings. A Level 2 survey in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (2006) will be undertaken on the standing building. Subject to accessibility and Health and Safety considerations, the record will include:
- 7.2 Details of the precise location, status, description of the building's type, materials, possible date, plan, form, function, development sequence, history in terms of architects, builders, patrons and owners if identifiable, and comments on the building's past and present relationship to its setting.
- 7.3 A photographic survey showing the building in its context, details of the exterior, interior views of the principal rooms, circulation areas and details. The survey will use black and white print film, supplemented by colour print and digital photography.
- 7.4 Measured plans at appropriate scales of all main floors incorporating details of the form and location of any structural features of historic interest.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

- 8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.
- 8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIfA). Archaeological Project Services is IfA registered organisation no. 21.
- 8.1.3 All work will be carried out in accordance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, 2003* (Gurney 2003).
- 8.1.4 The building recording would be undertaken by staff with appropriate building recording experience.
- 8.1.5 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

9 REPORTING

- 9.1 On completion of the fieldwork, a report detailing the results of the building recording will be prepared. This will consist of:
 - 9.1.1 A summary of the survey results.
 - 9.1.2 A description of the historical setting of the building.
 - 9.1.3 A text describing the results of the building survey.
 - 9.1.4 Location plans of the site and building.
 - 9.1.5 Plan of the main floors of the building.
 - 9.1.6 Interpretation of the development and use of the building.
 - 9.1.7 Appropriate photographs of all elevations, general interior views and specific features.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client; Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (3 copies, 2 for Norfolk Historic

Environment Record, one for the Local Planning Authority); and NCC Heritage and Landscape division.

11 ARCHIVE

- 11.1 The documentation, finds, photographs and other records and materials generated during the evaluation will be sorted and ordered in accordance with the procedures in the Society of Museum Archaeologists' document *Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums* (1994), and any additional local requirements, for long term storage and curation. This work will be undertaken by the Finds Supervisor, an Archaeological Assistant and the Conservator (if relevant). The archive will be deposited with the receiving museum as soon as possible after completion of the project, and within 12 months of that completion date.
- 11.2 The archive will be microfilmed. The silver master will be transferred to the RCHME and a diazo copy will be deposited with the Norfolk Sites and Monuments Record.
- 11.3 Prior to the project commencing, Norfolk Museums Service will be contacted to obtain their agreement to receipt of the project archive and to establish their requirements with regards to labelling, ordering, storage, conservation and organisation of the archive.

12 PUBLICATION

- 12.1 A report of the findings of the investigation will be presented to the editor of the journal *Norfolk Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals, *Post-medieval Archaeology* and *Vernacular Architecture*.
- 12.2 Details of the investigation will also be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological/historical importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator.
- 14.3 Where important archaeological/historical remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 15.1 The building recording will be undertaken prior to the development and is expected to take a day. The background research is expected to take about half a day.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor and assistant with experience of building recording will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from an illustrator.

16 INSURANCES

- 16.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

17 COPYRIGHT

- 17.1 Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports 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 as described in the Project Specification.

17.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

17.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

17.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

18 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds), 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **8**

English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice*

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Gurney, D, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, ALGAOEE
Specification: Version 1, 20-05-09

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Bay	Regular structural subdivision of a building; the bays may be marked by roof-trusses, beams <i>etc.</i>
Breather slit	Narrow vertical slit to provide ventilation.
Bullnose brick	Brick with one, or occasionally two, rounded edges, used where a sharp edge would be inconvenient or liable to damage.
Kneelered gable	Gable with horizontal projections at the base of each side of the roof to support the coping stones.
Mono-pitched	Roof having only one side sloping.
Pitching hole	Unglazed, shuttered window-like hole at first floor level to ease unloading of an unprocessed crop into the building from a cart outside.
Quoins	Angular courses of stone at the corner of a building.
Raised gable	A gable that rises above the roof line.
Segmental heads/arches	Arch with its centre below the springing-line, thereby forming a very gentle arc compared to the width of the opening it spans.
Straight join	Regular vertical junction between two sections of walling that shows one part was butted against the other.
Tumbled gable	Gable in which bricks by the eaves are laid at 90 ⁰ to the slope of the roof line, forming a pattern of a sequence of triangles where these bricks taper into the horizontal courses.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

2	Photographic record sheets
7	Sheets containing annotated plans and notes
1	Daily record sheet
1	Building recording sheet

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Norfolk Museums Service
Union House
Gressenhall
Dereham
Norfolk
NR20 4DR

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled County Standards for Field Archaeology in Norfolk, produced by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WRCF09

Norfolk Museums Service Site Code: 52833

OASIS reference number archaeol1-60429

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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