ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS REPORT:

HISTORIC BUILDING SURVEY AND WATCHING BRIEF, TEDNAMBURY FARM,

SPELLBROOK, HERTFORDSHIRE

Planning Reference: 3/15/0831/FUL NGR: TL 4910 1686 AAL Site Code: SPTF 15 OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-242451



Report prepared for Newton Associates

By Allen Archaeology Limited Report Number AAL 2016025

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Cover image: Internal shot of the barn, looking northwest

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Newton Associates to undertake an archaeological scheme of works comprising both an historic building survey and an archaeological watching brief to monitor building works taking place in a derelict cow shed at Tednambury Farm, Spellbrook, Hertfordshire.
- The cow shed is a 19th-century five bay, timber framed building which has been repaired a number of times. The building is dilapidated and in need of repair. It has been preserved by record through a photographic survey and analysis.
- The watching brief revealed a sequence comprising a modern concrete floor surface for the barn, constructed of two layers of concrete with a plastic membrane between the two layers, overlying a series of dumped deposits used to make up the ground level for the concrete floor, as well as a cross wall and an earlier perimeter wall which displayed some evidence of later rebuilding.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by Newton Associates to undertake an archaeological scheme of works comprising an historic building survey and an archaeological watching brief to monitor building works taking place in a derelict cow shed. This work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent for the replacement of the cow shed at Tednambury Farm, Spellbrook, Hertfordshire.
- 1.2 The historic building survey follows the recommendations of the English Heritage document 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice' (2006), guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures' (2014a), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2015).
- 1.3 The monitoring, recording and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014b), and the regional guidelines in 'Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England' (Medlycott 2011). All relevant English Heritage guidelines on archaeological best practice have also been followed and the work has been undertaken in accordance with the specification prepared by this company (AAL 2015).
- 1.4 The documentary and physical archive will be deposited with Hertford Museum within six months of the completion of the report. A copy of the archive listing will also be submitted to the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Team. A summary account on the results of the evaluation in the form of an OASIS form will be forwarded to the ADS in York following the completion of the works.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The development site (hereafter referred to as 'the site') is located in the civic parish of Sawbridgeworth. The farm is found just to the southeast of the hamlet Spellbrook, 1 mile to the south of Bishop's Stortford. The site is located on a farm and is occupied by a number of buildings associated with this use.
- 2.2 The site is located on a margin of bedrock geology comprising of Thanet sand formation and Lambeth group overlying Lewis nodular chalk formation and Seaford chalk formation; both deposits contain superficial glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel from the mid Pleistocene (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted to East Hertfordshire District Council for 'Replacement of existing structure with new, to include retaining as much of the original frame as possible' (Planning Application Reference 3/15/0831/FUL).
- 3.2 The relevant planning policy which applies to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage and built heritage is Chapter 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).
- 3.3 NPPF Chapter 12, paragraph 135 states that:

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

3.4 Paragraph 141 states that:

Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.30 However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A search of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record centred on the development site and covering a 500m radius has revealed evidence for activity dating from the Iron Age to the modern period. The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) has also been consulted as the border between the two counties runs within 500m of the east of the site.
- 4.2 Approximately 1km to the north of the site is Wallbury Camp Iron Age hillfort, a ditched enclosure with double rampart, enclosing *c*.12.5ha and bordering the River Stort to the west. Excavations have identified early and late Iron Age phases of development at the site (HHER Reference 16). A late Iron Age silver coin has also been found nearby.
- 4.3 Just outside of the search region, 500m to the south of the site, is Little Hallingbury Roman villa, first identified in 1950 and subject to exploratory investigations soon after. These investigations exposed plastered and painted walls, floor surfaces and extensive scatters of building material, pottery and coins (EHER Reference 3589). Other Roman finds include scatters of building material, coins and pottery at Spellbrook Farm (HHER Reference 6581); and a fragment of possible Roman tombstone (HHER Reference 11813) and a sherd of Roman amphora, found somewhere on the east side of the River Stort, the precise location of which is not known (EHER Reference 45612).
- 4.4 Neither Spellbrook nor Tednambury appear in the Domesday Book of 1086. Tednambury is believed to have been a medieval estate, its name deriving from the former owner; the abbey of St. Edmundsbury (HHER Reference 13019). Until recently a medieval aisled barn stood on the site.
- 4.5 The current farmstead is located within a loop of the River Stort Navigation. A lock directly to the east of the farmstead (approximately 200m away) links the river to the canal system at this point (HHER MHT5857). The farmstead is largely post-medieval and represents elements of a 19th century, designed farm. Access is provided via a Road Bridge (HHER MHT5135) which does not appear on the 1839 tithe map of the area.
- 4.6 The site is currently occupied by a number of listed buildings: these include an 18th century farm house, which was remodelled in the 19th century (List ID: 1101655), and two timber framed stable blocks (List ID: 1347829 and 1101656).

5.0 Methodology

Historic Building Survey

- 5.1 The works described below are based on the guidance set out in the Historic England document: *Understanding Historic Buildings, A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage 2006). The building survey was undertaken by an experienced buildings archaeologist on 20th August 2015.
- 5.2 Photographs were taken of the following:
 - All external elevations
 - All internal elevations, including internal walls and subdivisions
 - The roof structure of the buildings, internally and externally, where visible
 - The relationship of the structures to their surroundings
 - Architectural details, i.e. windows, doors, decorative brickwork, and other significant features, fixtures or fittings
 - A general internal photographic record of the building
- 5.3 Metric scales of appropriate length and a tripod were used as required, with all photos annotated and linked to a floor plan. In addition to the photographic record, a full written description and programme of analysis was undertaken of the structure.

Watching Brief

- 5.4 The scheme of archaeological works involved monitoring all ground disturbances, with the ability to stop and fully record archaeological features. All monitoring was undertaken by an experienced field archaeologist over a period of three working days, on the 10th, 11th and 15th September 2015. The archaeologist acted strictly in accordance with the project specification set out by this company (AAL 2015), as well as to national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects.
- 5.5 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn in plan and section at an appropriate scale (1:20 and 1:50), with Ordnance Datum (OD) heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, with photographs incorporating scales, an identification board and directional arrow as appropriate.

6.0 Results

Historic Building Survey

- 6.1 An account of the exterior of the cow shed is given below, before commenting on the interior of the structure. A selection of photographs taken during the survey are presented here and the location of each of the photographs is shown on Figure 3 and Figure 4. The photographs can be cross referenced by shot number with the photographic archive list in Appendix 1.
- 6.2 The shed is orientated northwest to southeast. It is a 19th century, five bay, timber framed building of box frame, principal rafter, truss construction. The building is weatherboarded and has a, now

derelict, corrugated iron roof. It is attached to second smaller barn to the southeast which in turn links to the farmhouse.

Exterior

6.3 Each of the bays can be seen in the sections of weatherboarding on the southwest-facing elevation. There are two doorways: one located in the second and one in the fourth bay. The doorway in the second bay is a stable door with a transom window above which has been partially covered up. Situated slightly to the south within the same bay is a casement window with two vertical panels. Two more of these windows are located in the fourth and fifth bays. The second doorway also has a transom window above it (Plate 1).



Plate 1 (shot 3): Southwest-facing elevation, looking northeast

6.4 The northeast facing elevation is more consistently boarded with one doorway, (now boarded up) with a transom window above it, and a pair of three fixed panel windows, one either side of the doorway (Plate 2).



Plate 2 (shot 55): View of the northeast facing elevation, looking west

6.5 The northwest-facing elevation has one, two panel window, one panel of which is barred. To c.1 metre above ground level is a panel of corrugated metal sheeting (Plate 3).



Plate 3 (shot 52): Northeast facing elevation, looking southeast

6.6 The southeast-facing elevation is largely obscured by the second barn which runs to the southeast and was not part of this survey. A small window can be seen at the apex of the roof (Plate 2).

Interior

6.7 It is apparent that the whole structure is racking. The floor is of concrete with a raised plinth in the centre of the building (Plate 4).



Plate 4 (shot 16): The internal frame is visibly racking. Posts appear to be supporting replacement tie beams, looking northwest

6.8 The northwest-facing elevation links to another stable to the south, which is not accessible internally (Plate 5). The weatherboarding is in poor repair and in places boards are missing or have been supplemented with corrugated iron sheets and panels of vertical boards. Some of the weatherboards have been painted white. Underlying the weatherboarding the vertical studs can be seen. The wall plate is supported by a central post and supports a series of modern floor beams.



Plate 5 (shot 21): Northwest-facing internal elevation, looking southeast

6.9 Above the floor beams, older studs and the collar can be seen. The wall is of lath and plaster, which is missing in places. The interior of the adjacent stable can be seen through breaks in the laths (Plate 6).



Plate 6 (shot 23): Northwest-facing internal elevation, within in the roof, looking southeast

6.10 The racking is very apparent in the centre of the southeast facing elevation where vertical weatherboards have been used instead of horizontal ones (Plate 7). The lower levels of the weatherboarding are painted white and conceal any supporting posts. The central window appears to be an insertion into the weatherboarding. The wall plate is original and is visibly crucked, which supports a series of studs, some of which have been replaced. The weatherboarding within the roof is not painted and there are a number of gaps.



Plate 7 (shot 39): Southeast facing elevation, looking northwest

6.11 The southwest elevation is less deteriorated than the other elevation, the weatherboarding is largely painted black, with some white boards. The wall plate and wall posts appear to be original and appear to be in good condition. A trough runs the length of the building except for a gap for a doorway to the south (Plate 9 and Plate 10).



Plate 8 (shot 45): Southwest-facing elevation, looking east



Plate 9 (shot 25): Trough to the south of the doorway, looking east



Plate 10 (shot 26): Doorway in the southwest-facing elevation, looking northeast

6.12 The weatherboarding on the northeast elevation is in the worst condition. The most northerly bay is missing the lower boards and the studs can be seen (Plate 11). Further to the south other materials have been used to patch the weatherboarding.



Plate 11 (shot 38): Northern bay of the northeast-facing elevation, studs are visible beneath the weatherboarding, looking southwest

- 6.13 Towards the southern end of the building a number of posts are situated, but do not appear to have supported a screen or partition. Instead they may have been added to support the modern replacement tie beams from these two trusses (Plate 4).
- 6.14 The tie beams further to the north of the building appear to be original. Both are crucked and are likely to have been reused; as can be seen by the slots visible in the timber (Plate 12). The wall plate

appears to be mostly original but the posts have been reinforced a number of times (Plate 13). Many of the common rafters have been replaced.



Plate 12 (shot 43): Tie beams at the north end of the building, both are clearly crucked, looking southeast



Plate 13 (shot 46): Original tie beam joint to post and wall plate. The joint has been reinforced in a number of places, looking east

6.15 The building has been repaired in many places and as a whole is deteriorating. There are few original timbers surviving in the basic frame, though it is unclear what survives between the weatherboarding.

Watching Brief (Figure 5 and Figure 6)

- 6.16 The watching brief revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising modern structural remains associated with the cow shed, over a loose brown, silty sand, 06, which has been interpreted as the natural geology of the site, into which the archaeological features were cut.
- 6.17 The latest feature encountered was a concrete surface, which covered the entirety of the barn floor, and was constructed of two layers of concrete separated by a plastic membrane and totalling 0.18m thick. This sealed a loose, sandy silt dumped deposit with frequent flint inclusions, 01 and 02, which had been used to make up the ground level for the concrete floor.
- 6.18 A wall, 03, around the perimeter of the barn was constructed of three courses of mortared, hard, red, handmade unfrogged bricks, each measuring approximately 0.22m long x 0.1m wide x 0.07m high in English Garden Wall bond. The wall encloses an area measuring 18.25m long x 5.6m wide x 0.2m high and it was 0.23m wide. It displays some evidence of later rebuilding, 08, using a mixture of red frogged and unfrogged bricks each measuring approximately 0.22m long x 0.1m wide x 0.07m high (Plate 14).



Plate 14: Northeast facing section of walls 03 and 08, scale 0.5m

6.19 To the centre of the barn was a northeast to southwest oriented cross-wall, 04, measuring 4.8m long x 0.23m wide x 0.15m high. It was constructed of two courses of mortared, hard, red, handmade unfrogged bricks and abutted the earlier perimeter wall, 03 (Plate 15).



Plate 15: North-facing section showing cross-wall 04 abutting perimeter wall 03, scale 0.5m

6.20 The area to the west of cross-wall 04 was stripped to c.200mm deep in order to further assess the surviving archaeological remains. A linear feature, [11], was revealed in this area of the barn, measuring 0.23m wide x 4.1m long x 0.04m deep and containing a single fill, 12. It has been interpreted as the cut of a probable robber trench targeting a former sill beam, and produced no dating evidence.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The historic building survey has made a permanent record of the structure in its current form. It is a 19th century, timber framed building of box frame and principal rafter truss construction, within which some of the timbers may have been reused from earlier buildings. The building has been repaired in a number of places and is deteriorating badly. This programme of building survey will ensure the preservation of the building by record and the intended reuse of the building is encouraged.
- The archaeological watching brief has recorded evidence of an earlier phase of construction within the barn, comprising a perimeter wall, 03, which displays evidence of rebuilding, 08, and an abutting cross-wall, 04. Overlying these features are dumped deposits, 01 and 02, used to make up the ground level, and a modern concrete floor surface constructed of two layers of concrete separated by a plastic membrane.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The archaeological monitoring methodology was appropriate to the nature and extent of the works being carried out, and has identified the underlying stratigraphy and depth of overburden in the areas specified in order for the current structure to be replaced. The programme of building recording has allowed a record to be made of the structure prior to its replacement.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology would like to thank Newton Associates for this commission, and the groundworkers for their cooperation during the watching brief.

10.0 References

AAL 2015, Specification for an archaeological scheme of works: Tednambury Farm, Spellbrook, Hertfordshire, Unpublished client document

ClfA, 2014a, Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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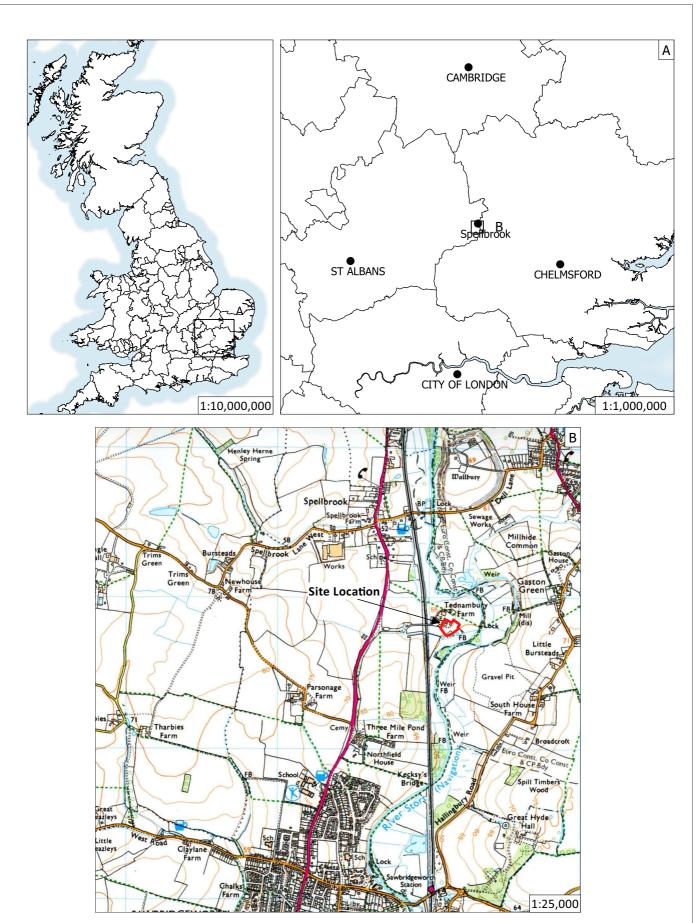
Appendix 1: Historic Building Photographic Archive

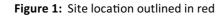
Shot No	Facing	Interior/ Exterior	Туре	Description	
1	NE	Exterior	General	overall shot of SW side of barn	
2	NE	Exterior	General	overall shot of SW side of barn	
3	NE	Exterior	General	overall shot of SW side of barn	
4	NE	Exterior	General	overall shot of SW side of barn	
5	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of door	
6	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of window	
7	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of window	
8	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of door fixtures	
9	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of building construction	
10	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of window	
11	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of window	
12	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of doorway and window	
13	NE	Exterior	Detail		
14	NE	Exterior	Detail	detail of window	
15	NE	Exterior	Detail	remnant of pitch still surviving outer boards	
16	NW	Interior	General	internal shot along barn	
17	NW	Interior	General	internal shot along barn	
18	SW	Interior	Detail	internal shot of window	
19	SW	Interior	Detail	internal shot of window	
20	SW	Interior	Detail	internal shot of window	
21	SE	Interior	General	internal detail of SE end wall - ground floor	
22	SE	Interior	General	internal detail of SE end wall - ground floor	
23	SE	Interior	General	internal detail of SE end wall - 1st floor	
24	SE	Interior	General	internal detail of SE end wall - 1st floor	
25	E	Interior	General	internal shot - detail of breeze block wall and main wall	
26	NE	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of part covered door	
27	NE	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of door furniture	
28	NE	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of door hinge	
29	W	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of air vent controls	
30	SW	Interior	Detail	Internal shot of window	
31	S	Interior	Detail	internal shot of lighting switched and fuse box	
32	SW	Interior	General	internal shot - detail of wall	
33	SW	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of window	
34	SW	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of door	
35	SW	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of door	
36	W	Interior	Detail	internal shot - ?truss/ support for horizontal beam	
37	W	Interior	Detail	internal shot - ?truss/ support for horizontal beam	
38	SW	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of wall	
39	NW	Interior	General	internal shot - detail of end wall	
40	NW	Interior	General	internal shot - detail of end wall	
41	NW	Interior	General	internal shot - detail of end wall	

Shot No	Facing	Interior/ Exterior	Туре	Description	
42	NW	Interior	General	internal shot - detail of end wall	
43	SE	Interior	General	internal shot through barn	
44	SE	Interior	General	internal shot through barn	
45	E	Interior	General	internal shot of horizontal beam and support	
46	E	Interior	General	internal shot of beam support wall and light fittings	
47	E	Interior	General	internal shot of beam support wall and light fittings	
48	SE	Interior	Detail	internal shot - detail of beam fix	
49	Е	Interior	General	internal shot - fixed beam (original beam above with additional nailed on and two others below)	
50	SE	Exterior	General	External shot of NW end of barn	
51	SE	Exterior	General	External shot of NW end of barn	
52	SE	Exterior	General	External shot of NE side of barn	
53	SW	Exterior	General	NE side of barn	
54	WSW	Exterior	General	NE side of barn with detail of metal fence post and end of barn	
55	WSW	Exterior	Detail	NE side of barn with detail of metal fence post and end of barn	
56	SW	Exterior	Detail	detail of window	
57	SW	Exterior	Detail	detail of boarded up door	
58	SW	Exterior	Detail	detail of wall and window	
59	ENE	Exterior	General	shot of building in landscape	
60	ENE	Exterior	General	shot of building in landscape	

Appendix 2: Context Summary List

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
01	Layer	Loose yellowish brown medium sandy slit with	Dump deposit made up
	,	frequent rounded and sub-angular flint and occasional	to support the concrete
		rounded flint cobbles, 4.75m wide x 8.75m long x 0.1m	barn floor
		thick	
02	Layer	Loose yellowish brown medium sandy slit with	Dump deposit made up
		frequent rounded and sub-angular flint and occasional	to support the concrete
		rounded flint cobbles, >3m x 5.5m x ,0.1m thick	barn floor
03	Structure	SE-NW oriented wall constructed of hard red	Lower part of perimeter
		handmade unfrogged bricks each measuring	wall
		approximately 0.22m long x 0.1m wide x 0.07m high.	
		The wall encloses an area measuring 18.25m long x	
		5.6m wide x 0.2m high and is 0.23m wide and 3	
		courses high;	
04	Structure	NE-SW oriented wall constructed of hard red	Cross wall
		handmade unfrogged bricks each measuring	
		approximately 0.22m long x 0.1m wide x 0.07m high.	
		The wall measures 4.8m long x 0.23m wide x 0.15m	
		high and was made up of a double course of mortared	
		stretcher bricks	
05	Layer	Loose dark yellowish brown silty sand with frequent	Subsoil
		small sub-angular and rounded flint fragments; 5.1m	
		wide x 18.25m wide x 0.13m thick	
06	Layer	Loose brown silty sand with frequent small sub-angular	Natural Underlying
		flint fragments and rounded flint cobbles;	geology
07	Structure	Organic decayed wood, laid over 3 and under make up	Part of perimeter wall
		for repair to barn wall 8. Horizontally laid. Timber is	
		soft, decayed organic rotten wood reduced to a silt like	
		material, >1m long E-W x 0.05m high x wider than 5cm	
08	Structure	SE-NW oriented wall constructed of a mixture of red	Upper part of perimeter
		frogged and handmade unfrogged bricks each	wall, repair carried out
		measuring approximately 0.22m long x 0.1m wide x	on wall 3
		0.07m high	
09	Structure	Concrete layer >5m w x >5m long x 0.08m thick	Lower concrete floor
10	Layer	Loose light grey silty sand with small rounded and sub-	Dump deposit made up
		angular flint and frequent small to medium concrete	to support floor 9
		fragments, >5m w x >5m long x 0.08m thick; sealed by	
11	Cut	NE-SW oriented Linear feature in plan with steep sides	Cut of robber trench for
		and a flat base, measuring 0.23m wide x 4.1m long x	sill beam
		0.04m deep; sealed by XX, filled by 12	
12	Fill	Loose brown silty sand with frequent small sub-angular	Backfill of [11]
		flint and dumped modern glass fragments, 0.23m wide	
		x 4.1m long x 0.04m deep; fill of [11]	





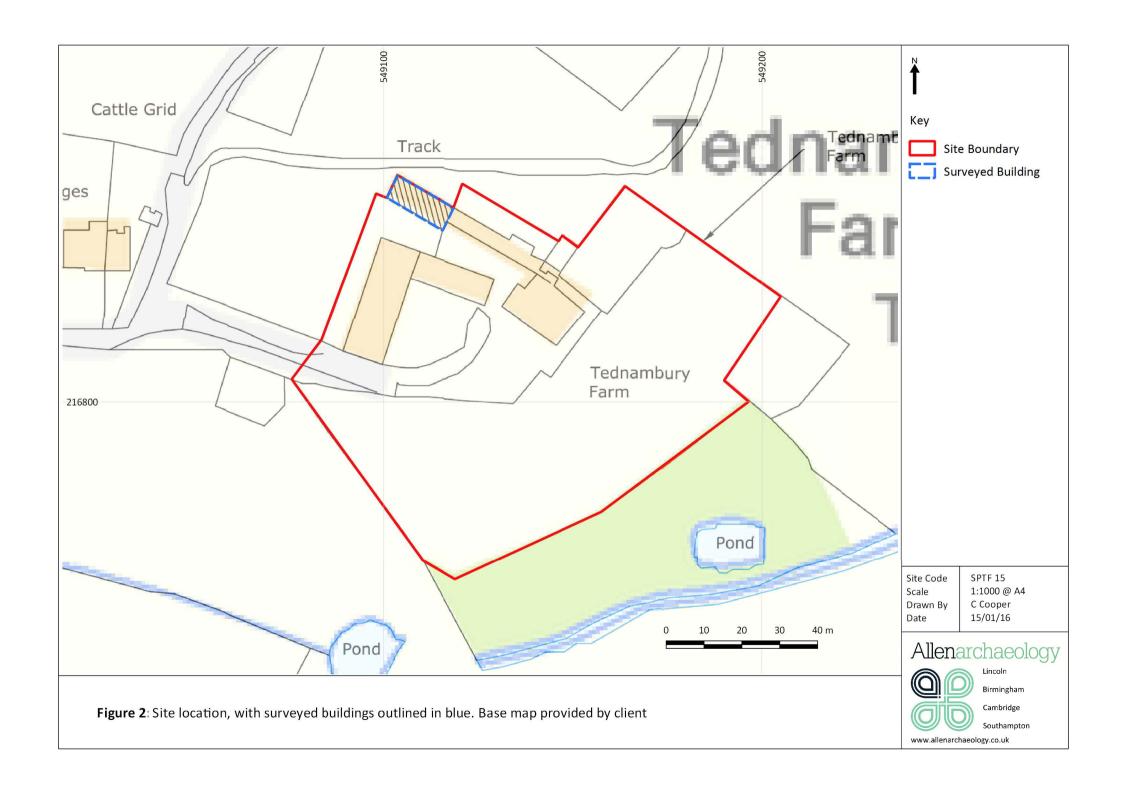
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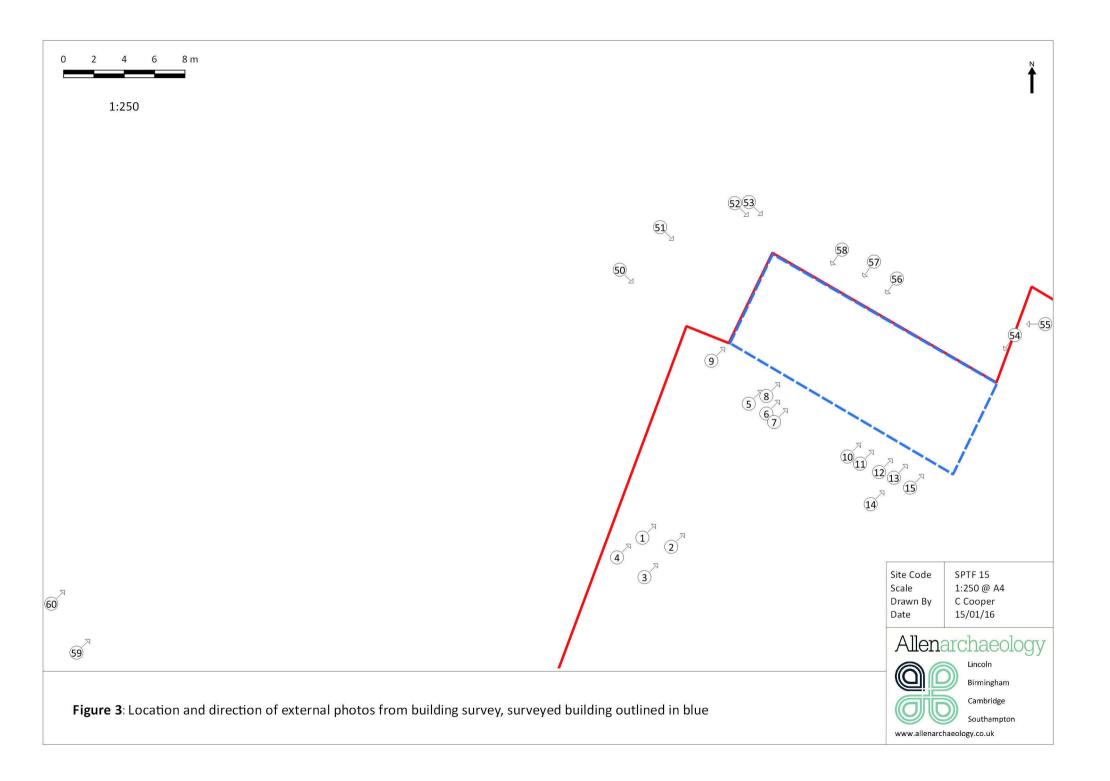
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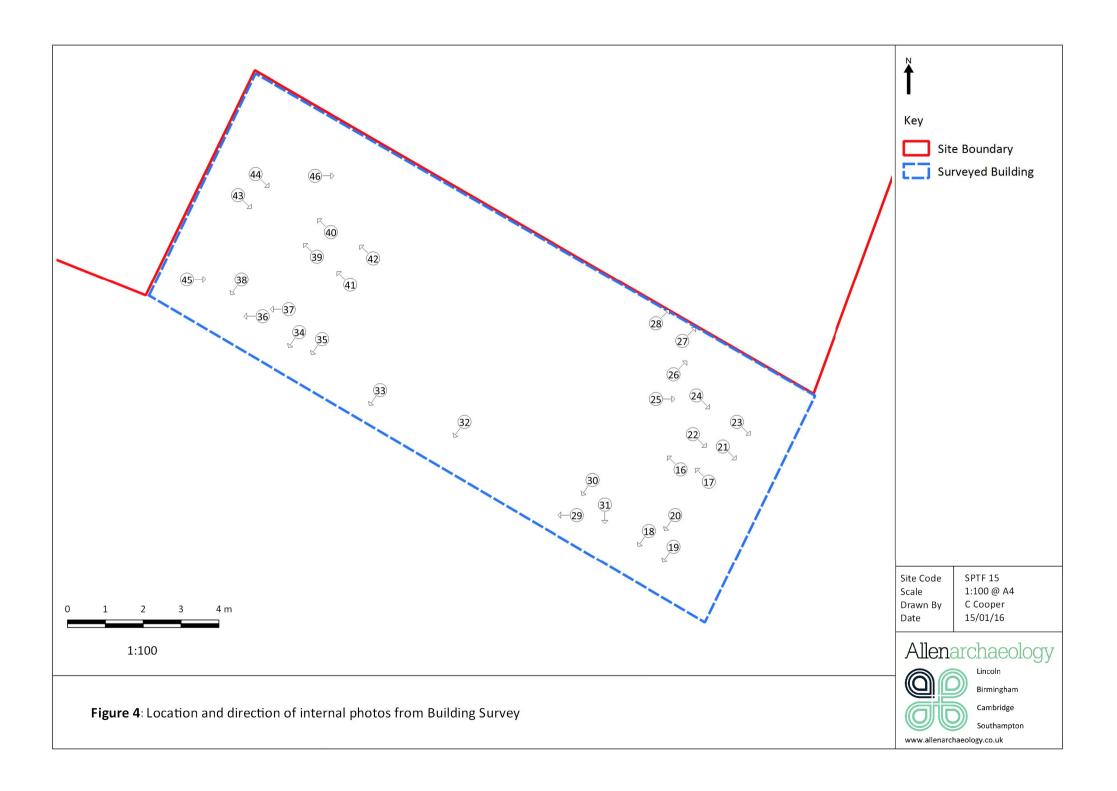
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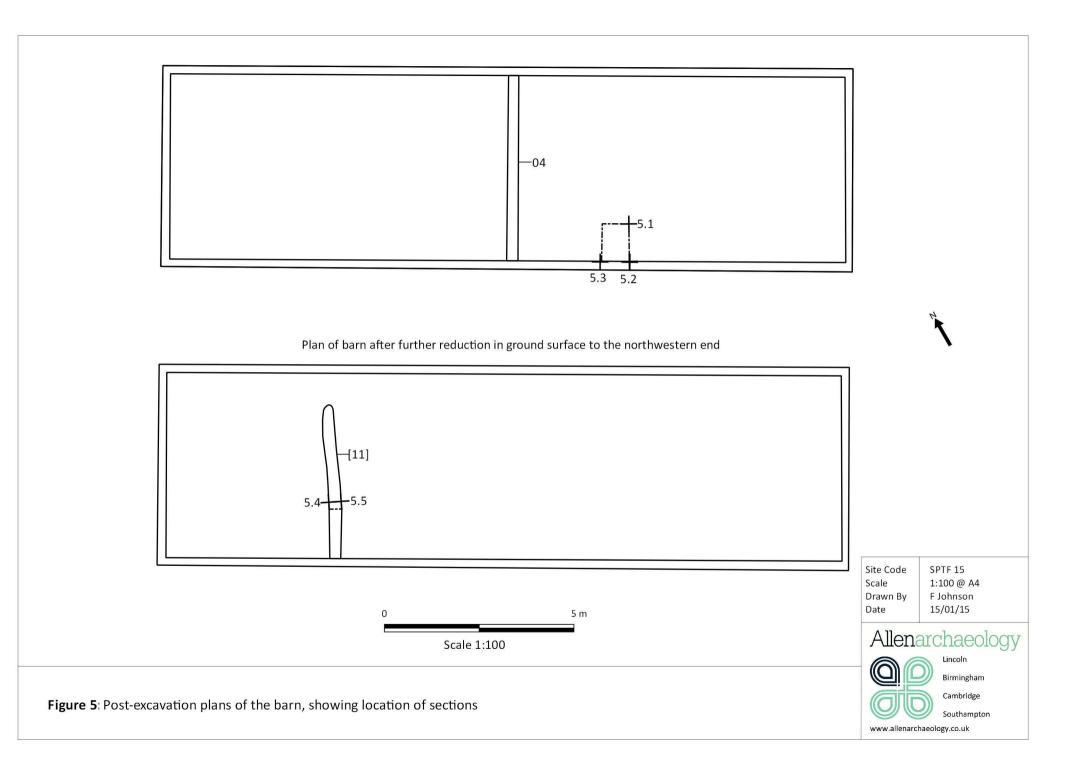
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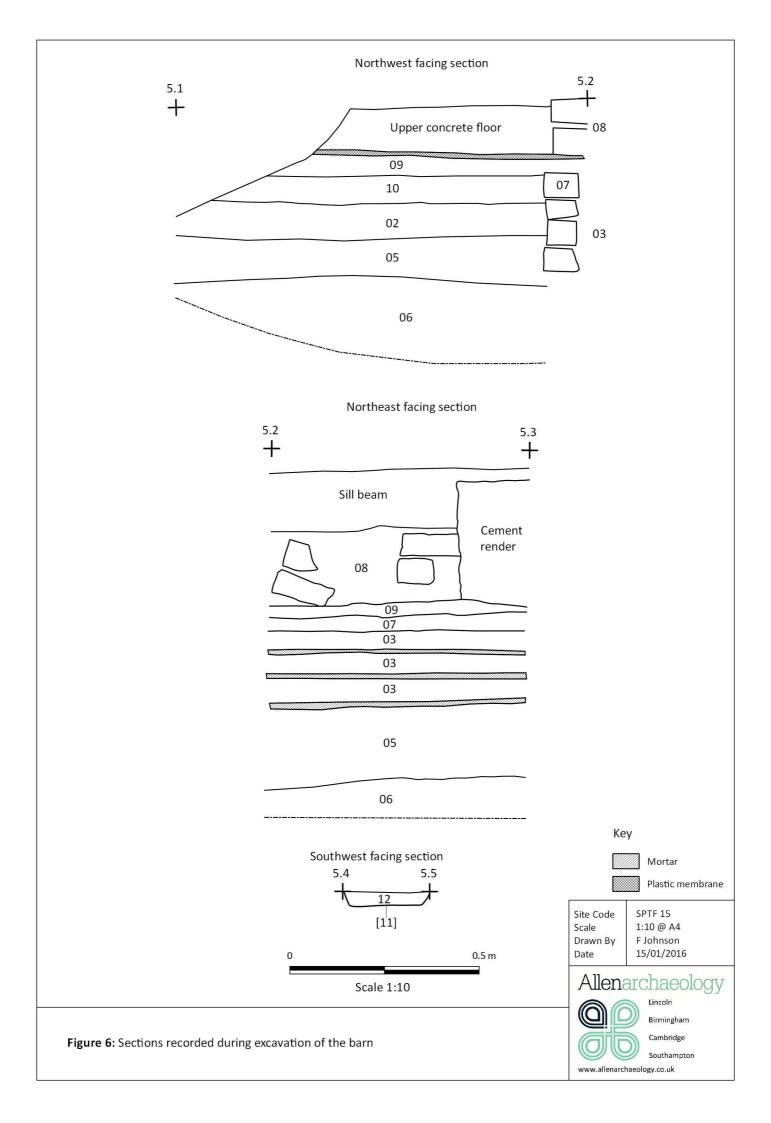














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