

Building at Higher Green Hill Farm  
Salterforth, Lancashire:  
Archaeological Building Recording



April 2007

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## SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out for Gail Pinkney in April 2007 at a building at Higher Green Hill Farm, Salterforth, Lancashire (NGR: SD 886450), during its conversion to a dwelling. The building, which is probably of eighteenth century date, is stone-built, two storeys high and three bays long, and previously housed a shippon with loft over. Due to the advanced state of conversion recording was restricted but includes a floor plan, drawing of a roof truss, and external photographs.

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## **BUILDING AT HIGHER GREEN HILL FARM, SALTERFORTH, LANCASHIRE:**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

#### **LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

<b>Photo</b>	<b>Subject</b>
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a	The building from the north, before conversion
b	The building from the north-west, before conversion
c	The building from the south-west, before conversion
d	Roof trusses, before conversion
1	The building from the north-west, after conversion
2	Central doorway in front elevation, after conversion
3	The building from the south-west, after conversion
4	West gable of the building, after conversion
5	Rear elevation from the south, after conversion
6	East side of roof truss, after conversion

Photos a to d taken by Ray Cryer, of Allison & Macrae Architects

Photos 1 to 6 taken by the author



# **BUILDING AT HIGHER GREEN HILL FARM, SALTERFORTH, LANCASHIRE:**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a farm building at Higher Green Hill Farm, Salterforth, Lancashire, carried out in April 2007. The work was commissioned by the owner and developer Gail Pinkney, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Pendle Borough Council for the conversion of the building to a dwelling. The conversion was largely complete at the time of recording.
- 1.2 The building is of three bays and two storeys and probably dates to the eighteenth century and adjoins an earlier house, but was later heightened to its present level. Its external form suggests an original use as a small combination barn, housing a shippon with hay loft over. Records made include a floor plan, a drawing of a roof truss, external photographs, and a brief written account.
- 1.3 The recording was carried out in accordance with a brief agreed with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. This report will be submitted to the client, the planning authority, the County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record, while the project archive will be deposited at the Lancashire Record Office.

### **2 Location and current use**

- 2.1 Higher Green Hill Farm stands on the east side of Salterforth Lane about 400m south-west of its junction with the B6383 Kelbrook Road, in the civil parish of Salterforth, between Colne and Barnoldswick (Figure 1). Historically, the site lay in the West Riding of Yorkshire.
- 2.2 The present building stands at the south side of the farm group, forming the west end of a range of buildings which also includes Higher Green Hill Cottage, perhaps the predecessor to Higher Green Hill Farmhouse (dated 1768) (Figure 2). The building faces north towards the farmyard, the rear backing onto the garden of the adjacent cottage.
- 2.3 Conversion of the farm building began in 2006; previously it was used for farming. Another building at the site, to the north of this, was recorded in 2006 before conversion<sup>1</sup> (Haigh 2006).

### **3 Planning background**

- 3.1 The building is not listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning permission was granted by Pendle Borough Council on 3 October 2003 for its conversion to a dwelling (application no: 13/03/0437P), and a condition attached to the consent requires a detailed record of the building to be made before development, which this report is intended to be. This was not instigated until the conversion was largely complete however.

### **4 Historical background and architectural interest**

- 4.1 Traditional farm buildings are of historic interest because they contribute to an understanding of the vernacular architecture and past farming systems of the region. As a group they are under threat due to redundancy and neglect, as well as their potential for conversion, and records of them can help provide an understanding of this diminishing and irreplaceable stock.
- 4.2 Little is known of the history of Higher Green Hill Farm but Ordnance Survey maps contribute to an understanding, and show that the present building's outline has not changed since the mid nineteenth century. The first edition 6" to the mile map, published in 1853, shows the farm named "Higher Green Hill", with the present building standing to the south, with its present plain rectangular outline (Figure 3), and the 1896 map shows the building similarly (Figure 4); a larger scale 1:2500 map of 1909 shows it in more detail (Figure 5).

### **5 Recording methodology**

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place on 4 April 2007, to a brief agreed with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service. Given the advanced state of conversion it was limited in scope, and involved the production of a ground floor plan, with no internal detail, and a drawing of a roof truss, employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage<sup>2</sup>. The plan is based on a survey by the architects Allison & Macrae.
- 5.2 A photographic record was also made, using a medium format camera with shift and other lenses, and black and white film for the sake of archival permanence. Only a small number of external photographs were taken, in most cases using either a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations as a scale, and their locations are shown on a copy of the plan. The photographs have been printed to a size of 7" x 5", and are copied in this report, where they are referred

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<sup>1</sup> *Barn at Higher Green Hill Farm, Salterforth, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording* Stephen Haigh, October 2006

<sup>2</sup> English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

to by numbers in bold. Four digital photographs provided by the architect and taken before conversion began have also been included in this report.

## **6 Building description**

### **Exterior**

- 6.1 The building is built of roughly coursed gritstone rubble with stone slate roof and stone ridge, and is rectangular in plan, and butts up to the earlier cottage to the east. There is evidence in all three exposed elevations to show that the building has been heightened to its present size, as indicated by a change in the masonry about 1.5m below the present eaves, the diminishing courses of the former eaves line being overlain by later, deeper courses of larger stone.
- 6.2 The north front has a wide central doorway with steel lintel (now obscured by timber fascia), which otherwise appears to be an original opening and which is reported to have had an arched head previously, although this was removed several years ago. To either side are pedestrian doorways: that to the left has plain, square section monolithic jambs while that at the right-hand end is of older character, with chamfered, quoined jambs and lintel. The central, first floor doorway was present before the conversion of the building: photographs taken then show it to have been an insertion however, with brick jambs internally, and square-cut, monolithic external jambs. It would have provided a full-height taking-in doorway to the first floor of the building. The three other openings in this elevation are all insertions of 2006.
- 6.3 The west gable has a double plinth and a central window on the ground floor which pre-dates the conversion, but appears to be a nineteenth or early twentieth century window, perhaps created from an enlarged muck-hole. The first floor opening dates from 2006.
- 6.4 To the south, a doorway with chamfered, quoined jambs and four-centred arched head with sunken spandrels, occupies the approximate centre of the elevation. This had previously been blocked to form a window, and was partly re-used to create a new window in the 2006 conversion. There is a second opening at the right-hand end of the elevation, formerly a blocked doorway, and now a window with the secondary square-cut jambs which suggest nineteenth or twentieth century alterations. The first floor openings in this side of the building are all insertions of 2006. At the eaves is a row of plain stone gutter brackets, of the same form as those to the front elevation.
- 6.5 The only features of the interior to remain visible from before the redevelopment of the building are the two roof trusses. These are of bolted, square-sawn softwood with a pair of queen-posts supporting a collar. They bear Roman

numerals serving as assembly marks and no doubt are contemporary with the enlargement of the building, probably in the late nineteenth century. Photographs show the ground floor to have been a single open space with concrete floor, although the arrangement of doors suggests there would at one time have been two rows of stalls of a shippon, facing into the centre of the building, for which there may have been evidence within the soffits of the first floor timbers. The first floor formed a simple timber-floored hay loft, without subdivisions or other features, and open to the roof.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1 The present appearance of the building suggests it dates from the first half of the eighteenth century, but was later heightened and given a number of new openings, probably in the late nineteenth century. It was probably a small combination barn originally, with cart entrance in the north side and the central doorway in the south side serving as a winnowing doorway to the threshing floor; there would have been at least one shippon, in the west end of the building, that which is presumed to have occupied the east end is perhaps a later creation introduced when livestock farming grew more popular at the expense of arable cultivation. However the limited evidence recorded at the building, which had been much altered before the present conversion, is insufficient to draw firm conclusions about its history.

## Appendix 1: Contents of the project archive

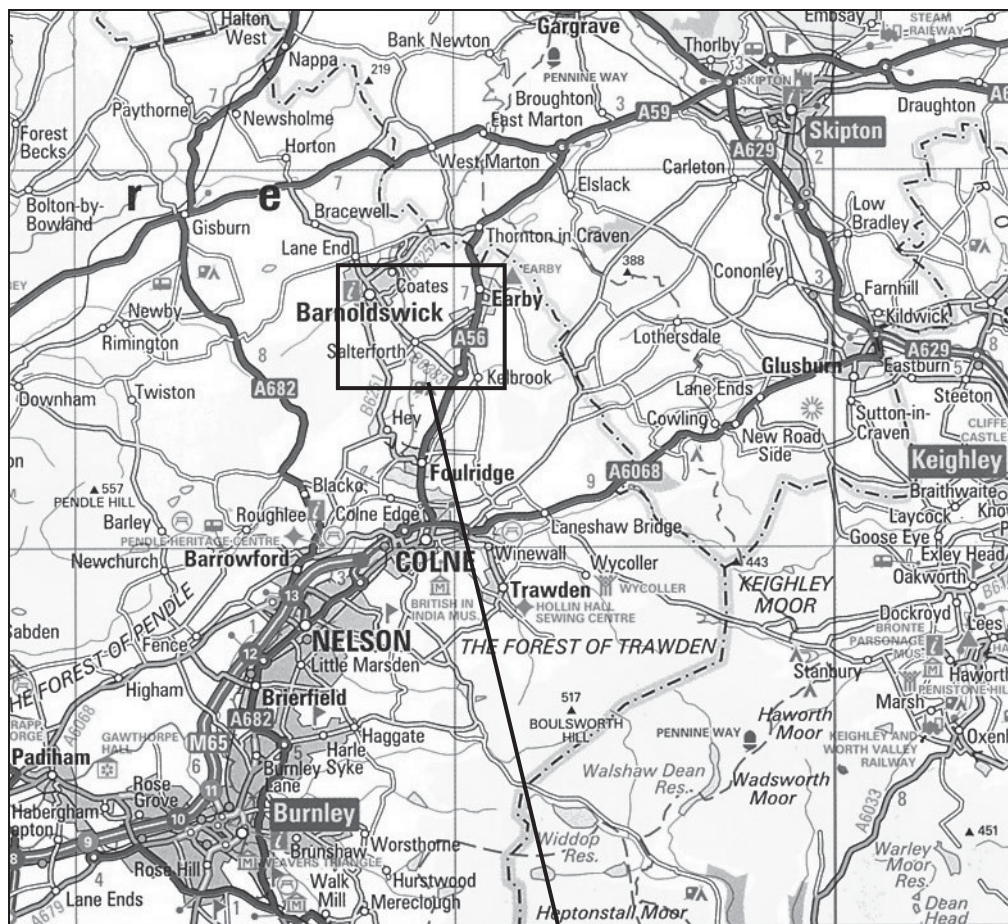
To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office, Preston  
1 file, containing:

- a copy of the report text & figures
- full set of labelled photographs
- photographic negatives
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

### Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
5	1	1	Rear elevation, from the south, after conversion
4	1	4	West gable of the building, after conversion
1	1	5	The building from the north-west, after conversion
2	1	6	Central doorway in front elevation, after conversion
6	1	8	East side of roof truss, after conversion
3	1	10	The building, from the south-west, after conversion



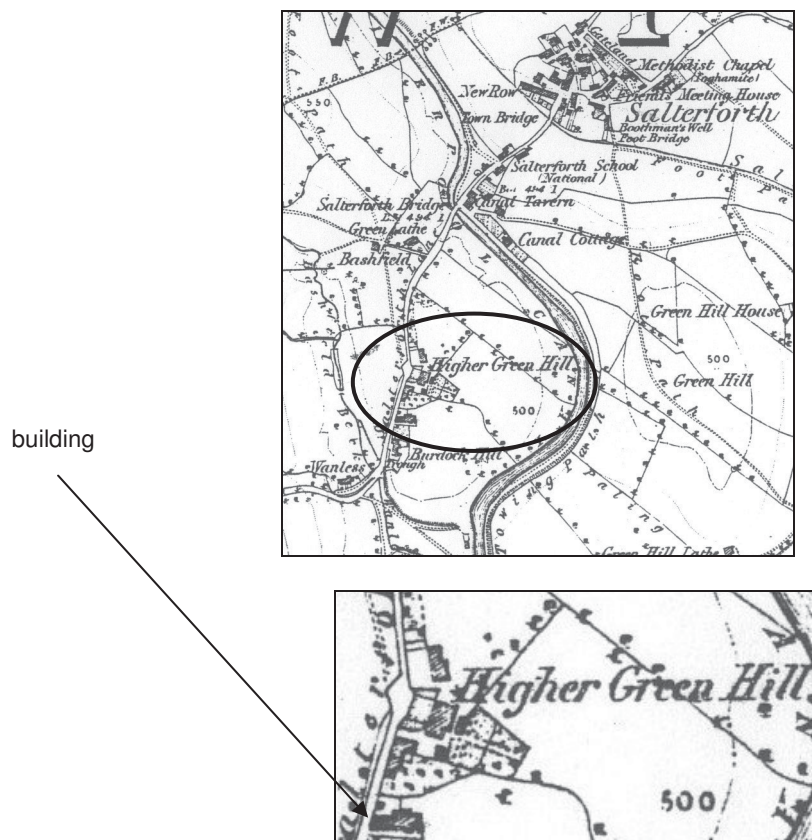


**Figure 1: Location maps**

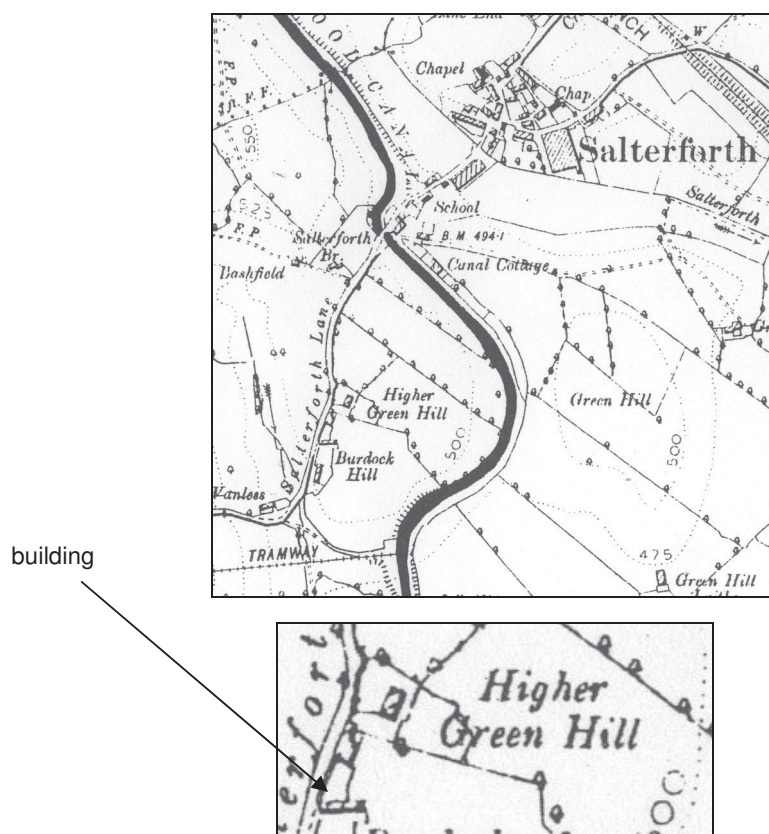
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*Building at Higher Green Hill Farm, Salterforth, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording*



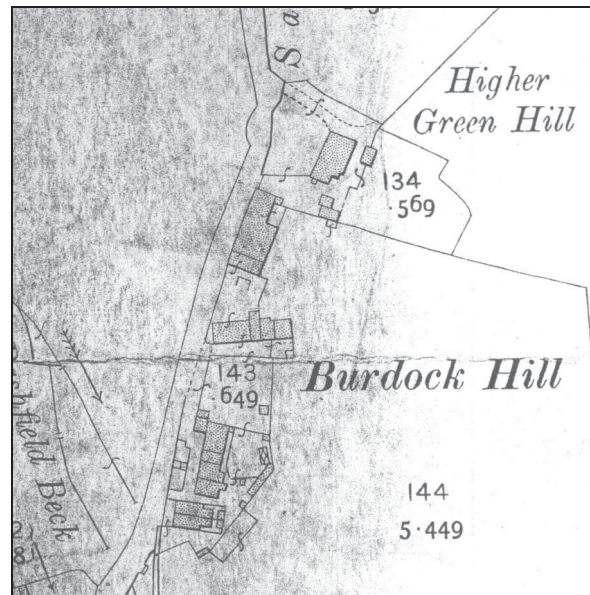


**Figure 2:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1853 6" to mile map (surveyed 1848-50)  
Sheet no: Yorkshire, 184

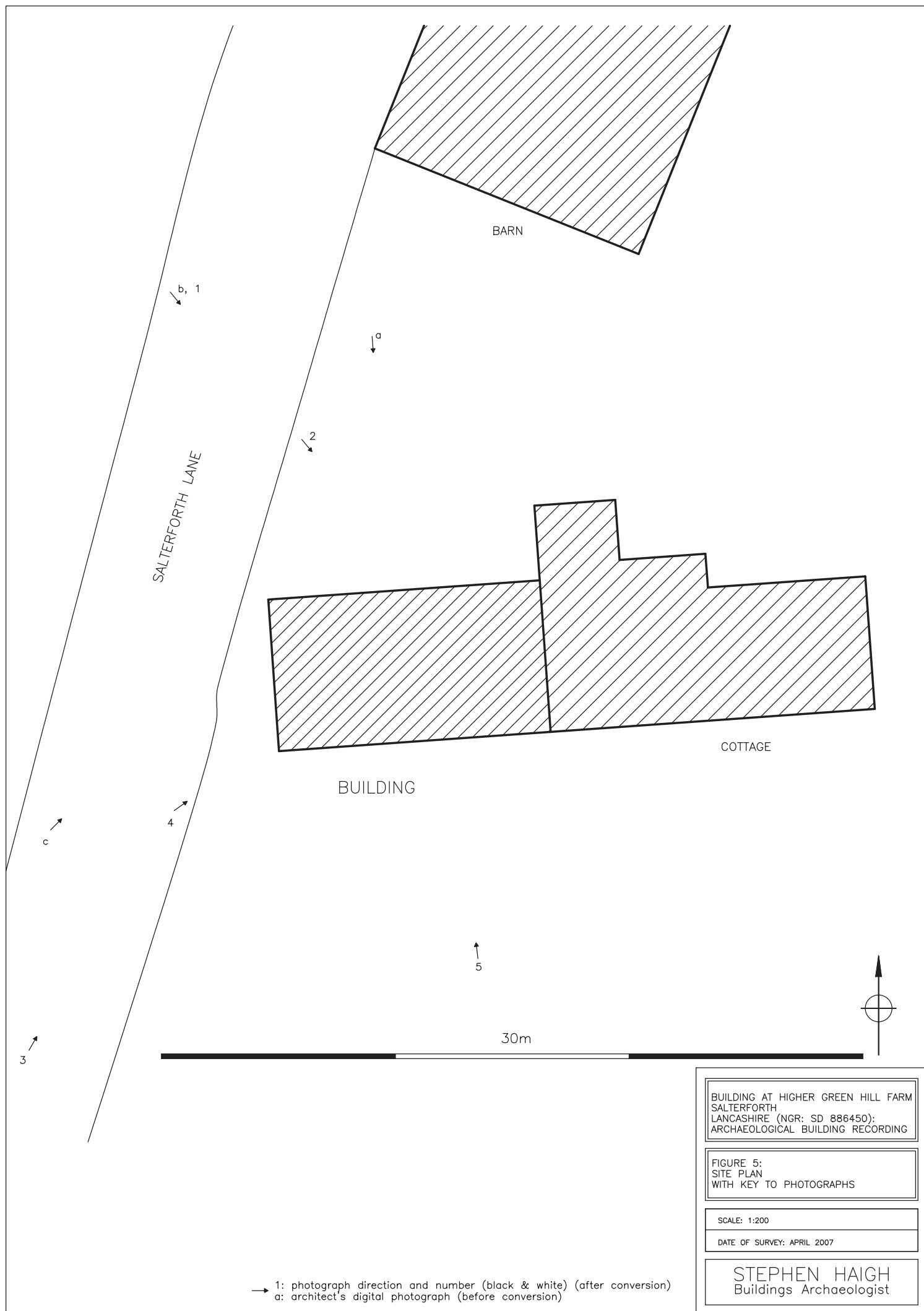


**Figure 3:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1896 6" to mile map (re-surveyed 1892)  
Sheet no: Yorkshire, 184NW

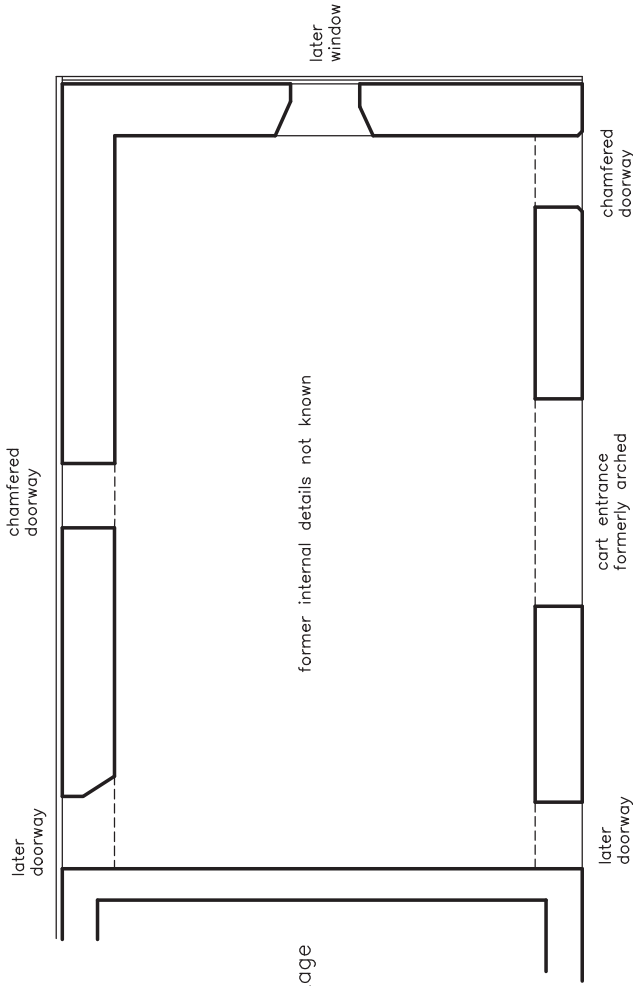




**Figure 4:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1909 1:2500 map (revised 1906-7)  
Sheet no: Yorkshire, 184.5



Higher Green Hill Cottage

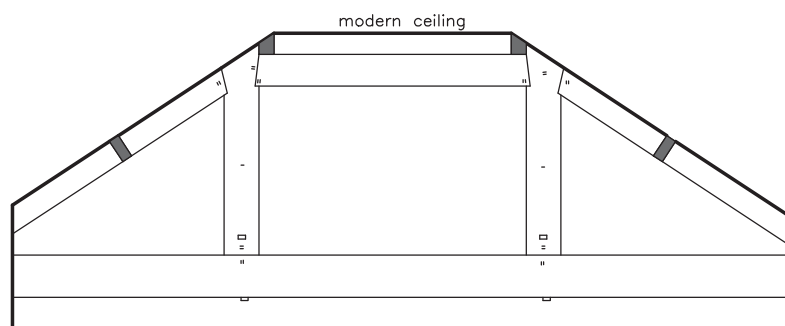


BUILDING AT HIGHER GREEN HILL FARM  
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FIGURE 6:  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
AS BEFORE CONVERSION

SCALE: 1:100  
DATE OF SURVEY: APRIL 2007

STEPHEN HAIGH  
Buildings Archaeologist



BUILDING AT HIGHER GREEN HILL FARM  
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FIGURE 7:  
DRAWING OF ROOF TRUSS

SCALE: 1:50

DATE OF SURVEY: APRIL 2007

STEPHEN HAIGH  
Buildings Archaeologist





Photo a: The building from the north, before conversion



Photo b: The building from the north-west, before conversion





Photo c: The building from the south-west, before conversion



Photo d: Roof trusses, before conversion





Photo 1: The building from the north-west, after conversion



Photo 2: Central doorway in front elevation, after conversion





Photo 3: The building from the south-west, after conversion



Photo 4: West gable of the building, after conversion





Photo 5: Rear elevation from the south, after conversion

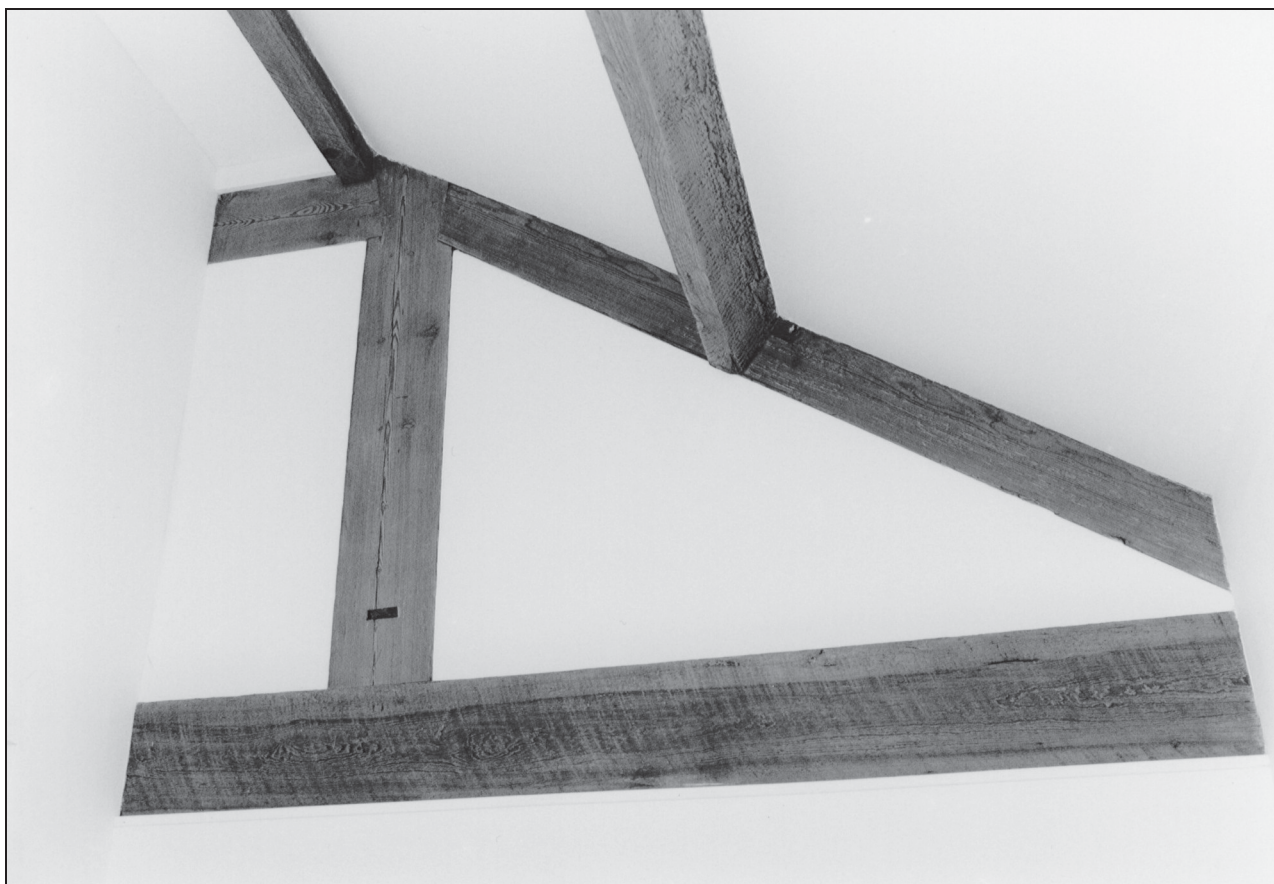


Photo 6: East side of roof truss, after conversion