

Barn at Higher Side Beet  
Rishton, Lancashire:  
Archaeological Building Recording



November 2006

---

STEPHEN HAIGH

B u i l d i n g s   A r c h a e o l o g i s t

11 Browcliff   Silsden   Keighley   West Yorkshire   BD20 9PN

Tel/Fax: 01535 658925   Mobile: 07986 612548

[stephenhaigh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stephenhaigh@tiscali.co.uk)

---



# Barn at Higher Side Beet Rishton, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording

## CONTENTS

### List of photographs

1	Introduction .....	1
2	Location and current use .....	1
3	Planning background.....	1
4	Historical background and architectural interest .....	2
5	Recording methodology.....	2
6	Building description .....	3
7	Conclusion .....	4
	Appendix 1: Contents of the project archive .....	6

### Figures

1: Location maps	6: Ground floor plan
2: Site plan	7: Cross-section
3: Extract from OS 1848 map	8: Site plan with key to photos
4: Extract from OS 1893 map	9: Ground floor plan with key to photos
5: Extract from OS 1931 map	

### Photographs

## SUMMARY

Archaeological building recording was carried out for Sammon Estates Ltd in October 2006 at a barn at Higher Side Beet, a farm near Rishton, Lancashire (NGR: SD 708300), before its conversion to residential use. The building comprises a large stone-built nineteenth century barn, with a small adjoining shippon. The records made include a floor plan, section drawing and photographs, as well as a written account.

November 2006

---

STEPHEN HAIGH  
Buildings Archaeologist

11 Browcliff Silsden Keighley West Yorkshire BD20 9PN  
Tel/Fax: 01535 658925 Mobile: 07986 612548  
[stephenhaigh@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stephenhaigh@tiscali.co.uk)

---

## **BARN AT HIGHER SIDE BEET, RISHTON, LANCASHIRE:**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

#### **LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT**

<b>Photo</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1	Front elevation, from the south-west
3	Front elevation of the barn, from the west
4	Detail of kneeler at south-west corner of barn
5	West elevation of the shippon
7	South gable of the shippon
8	The barn and shippon, from the south-east
12	East elevation of the barn
15	The barn, from the north-west
18	Interior of barn, from the south-west
19	Cobbled and flagged floor in threshing bay, from the north
21	Interior of barn, from the north
22	Roof trusses over barn, from the south-east
24	Interior of shippon, from the south-east
25	Interior of shippon, from the east
27	Roof structure and loft over shippon, from the south

A complete set of photographs forms part of the project archive (see Appendix 1)



## **BARN AT HIGHER SIDE BEET, RISHTON, LANCASHIRE:**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING**

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a barn at Higher Side Beet, near Rishton, Lancashire, carried out in October 2006. The work was commissioned by the owner Sammon Estates Ltd, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Hyndburn Borough Council for the conversion of part of the building to residential use.
- 1.2 The barn is thought to be of nineteenth century date, and it has a single storey shippon adjoining at its south end. Records made include a ground floor plan, a section drawing, photographs, and a written account.
- 1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the standard specification for the recording of agricultural buildings issued by 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, Preston.

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

- 2.1 Higher Side Beet is an outlying farmstead lying 1.5km west of Rishton and 3km north-east of Blackburn, situated on the east side of Side Beet Lane, in Hyndburn District, Lancashire (Figure 1). The farm is located on a relatively level area of land to the south-east of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, at NGR 708300 and at an altitude of 140m AOD.
- 2.2 The farmstead has a rather dispersed character (probably resulting from the merging of two separate farms) and comprises the farmhouse, a detached barn to the north, a brick building to the south, and the barn which is the subject of this report, lying some 30m to the south-east of the house (Figure 2).
- 2.3 The site is now disused but appears to have been a working farm until recently, and several modern farm buildings and other structures have evidently been demolished in the last few years.

#### **3 Planning background**

- 3.1 The barn is not listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning permission was granted by Hyndburn Borough Council in 2001 for its conversion

to residential use (application no: 11/01/0137), 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.

## **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 Side Beet, but the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile map, surveyed 1844 - 1846, appears to show two farmsteads at the site, one named Side Beet, the other Higher Side Beet, with some seven or more buildings in total (Figure 3). The 1893 1:2500 map shows only "Higher Side Beet", with a reduction in the number of buildings to five or six (Figure 4), suggesting that the two farms had been merged, perhaps with the loss of a farmhouse; confusingly however, that now standing and known as Higher Side Beet, is that shown on the 1840s map as Side Beet. There is little overall change between the 1893 and 1931 editions of the 1:2500 map (Figure 5).
- 4.3 The barn which is the subject of this report is shown on the 1848 map as an L-shaped building, but on the 1893 map as a rectangle with an irregular east side. It is shown with a slightly different profile on the 1931 edition, but in both cases the building is wider than the present structure, although of the same length.
- 4.4 The listed building information for the farmhouse notes that the site was once known as Higher Sidebight.

## **5 Recording methodology**

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place on 9 October 2006, and in accordance with the standard specification issued by the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for agricultural buildings. It involved the production of a ground floor plan and cross-section drawing of the building, showing all significant archaeological detail, and employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage<sup>1</sup>. The plans are based on a survey by the Campbell Driver Partnership.

---

<sup>1</sup> English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

- 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. External and internal 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 copies of the site and floor plans. The photographs have been printed to a size of 7" x 5", with one print at 10 x 8", and a selection are copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in bold. A small number of 35mm colour slides was also taken.

## 6 Building description

### Exterior

- 6.1 The building has a rather rough appearance with little in the way of architectural embellishment, and has clearly been much altered. It faces west (1), with the division into two parts clear from the change in roof line, the lower shippon being at the south end (2). The main part of the building (3) is of random rubble including gritstone and fine-grained sandstone, but the top 1m or so is only of the latter stone and has plain stone eaves brackets and shaped kneelers of late nineteenth century appearance (4), which hint that the building has been heightened to its present level, above the roof of a formerly adjoining building whose roof line is obvious. The historic 1:2500 maps appear to show both buildings, as they depict the building as some 15m wide, compared to the present 9.5m; the demolished building was presumably of lean-to construction. The large doorway in this elevation has a steel lintel but appears to be unaltered otherwise, while the roof is covered with blue slate and tile ridge, and supports the idea that that element at least is of a nineteenth century date.
- 6.2 The west side of the shippon (5) is built from different stone: it is of neatly coursed, watershot sandstone and incorporates three blocked breathers in the lower part, but also appears to have been heightened by approximately 1m, in poorer quality masonry. The watershot masonry runs up to the south jamb of the main doorway, indicating rebuilding or re-facing, and it is therefore thought that the shippon is earlier than the barn. The shippon roof is covered with late twentieth century concrete tiles.
- 6.3 The south end of the building has an asymmetric gable (6,7), of random gritstone rubble: different masonry again. It incorporates three blocked ground floor doorways in the typical arrangement which indicates a central feeding passage and two outer doors to cattle standings. The asymmetric profile is thought to result from the taking-down of part of the building, which was then re-roofed.
- 6.4 At the rear of the building (8,9) the east side of the shippon has clearly been altered, with the two windows having been inserted into the much weathered

random rubble (10). To the north of here (11,12), the barn is faced with random rubble similar to that on the front elevation, and has a large doorway with quoins, flat, softwood lintel and sliding door, the latter characteristic of the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. There are also similar eaves brackets and kneelers, but no suggestion that this elevation has been raised. What may be a blocked opening is suggested by two vague straight joints near the north end.

- 6.5 The north gable of the barn is built from similar material, and has also had an adjoining building demolished (13-15). Both this and the barn's south gable have dressed stone coping, matching the kneelers, and likewise of a similar date.

### **Interior**

- 6.6 The interior of the main part of the building forms a large single space open to the roof, with no evidence for former partitions or lofts (although there may have been timber divisions which have left no trace), suggesting that the barn was intended for crop or hay storage, rather than a number of different purposes (16-19). The floor is mostly of earth except for the space between the two doorways, which may have been a threshing floor: this is surfaced with a mixture of cobbles and flags. There are no features in the west, north or east sides but the south wall, dividing the barn from the shippon, has a ground floor doorway which has been narrowed, and a first floor doorway to a loft in the shippon (20,21). The barn roof has three softwood trusses with an iron tie in place of a king-post, and two raking struts (22); the form of the roof is indicative of a late nineteenth or even early twentieth century date.
- 6.7 The shippon has been fitted with concrete boskins, the lower parts of the walls rendered, and the floor surfaced with concrete in the mid or late twentieth century, but the arrangement of three pairs of standings to each side, facing onto a central feeding passage, has been retained (23-24). There are two recesses in the west side, probably lamp holes which may have been matched in the east side before the insertion of the windows there (25-26). Overhead is a hay or feed loft with plank floor, and a single softwood roof truss of late nineteenth or early twentieth century date.

## **7 Conclusion**

- 7.1 There has clearly been a lot of building activity at the barn which is not well understood, but the earliest parts of the building are probably at the south end, where the shippon may represent the remains of an eighteenth century barn, extensively altered and truncated at the north end, and vertically. The main building, ie the four bay barn, is probably of late nineteenth century date and appears to have been built as a hay barn or perhaps to store crops, but was not

a combination barn of the form more commonly found in the upland parts of the region, a consequence perhaps of its relatively late date and the nature of farming at the site.

## 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
- 35mm colour slides
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

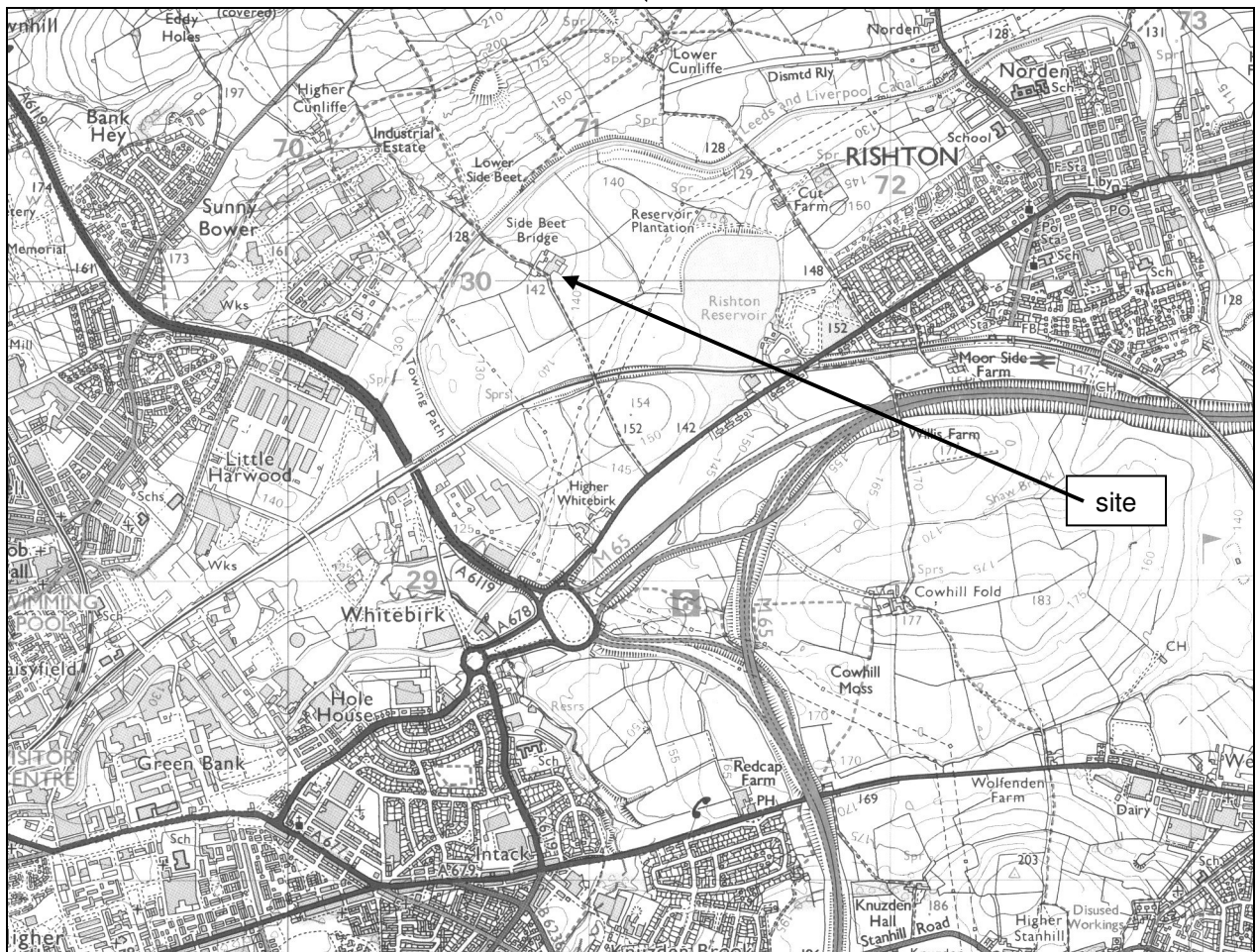
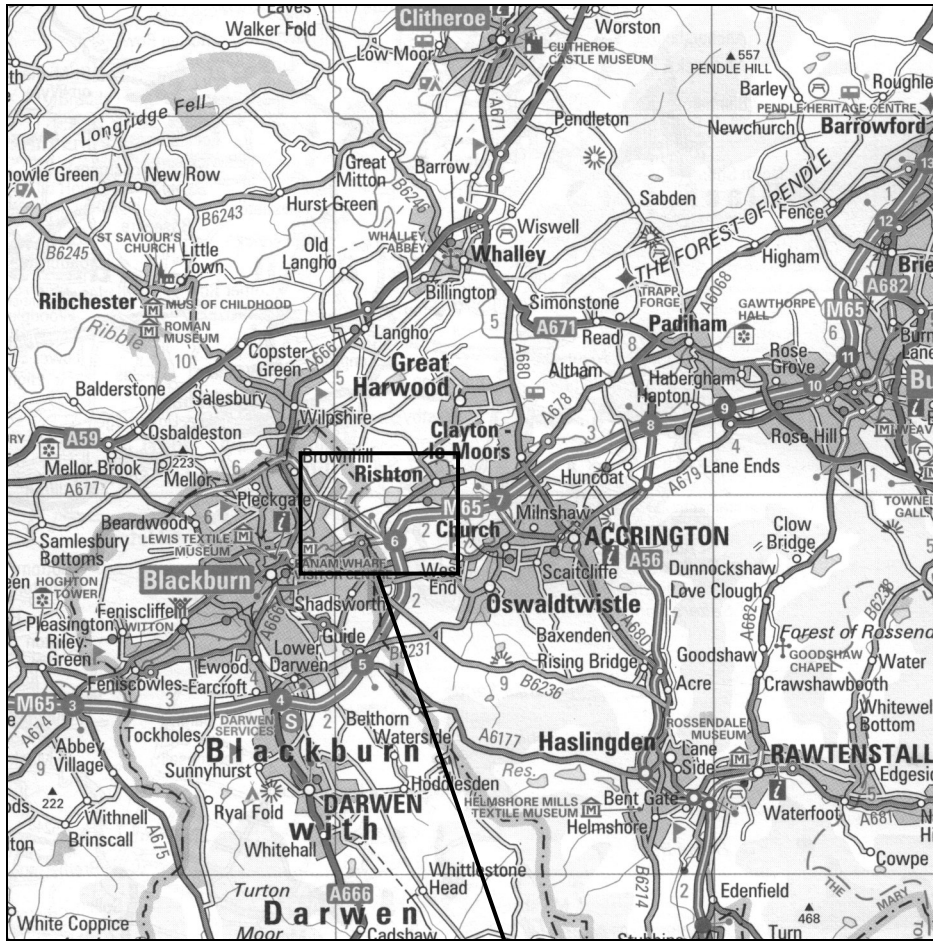
### Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
18	1	1	Interior of barn, from the south-west
16	1	2	Interior of barn: north end
17	1	4	Interior of barn, from the south-east
21	1	5	Interior of barn, from the north
20	1	6	Interior of barn: south-east corner
22	1	7	Roof trusses over barn, from the south-east
2	1	8	Front elevation of the barn and shippon, from the west
19	1	10	Cobbled and flagged floor in threshing bay, from the north
3	1	11	Front elevation of the barn, from the west
5	1	12	West elevation of the shippon
1	1	13	Front elevation, from the south-west
7	1	14	South gable of the shippon
6	1	16	Shippon and barn, from the south
8	1	17	The barn and shippon, from the south-east
10	1	18	East elevation of the shippon
12	2	1	East elevation of the barn
9	2	2	Barn and shippon, from the east
11	2	4	The barn, farmhouse and other barn, from the south-east
14	2	5	North gable of barn
13	2	6	The barn and shippon, from the north-east
15	2	7	The barn, from the north-west
4	2	8	Detail of kneeler at south-west corner of barn
23	2	10	Interior of the shippon, from the north-west
25	2	11	Interior of shippon, from the east
24	2	12	Interior of shippon, from the south-east
26	2	13	Interior of the shippon, from the south-west
27	2	14	Roof structure and loft over shippon, from the south

### LIST OF COLOUR SLIDES

#### Slide Subject

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | Front elevation, from the south-west                   |
| 2 | Front elevation of the barn and shippon, from the west |
| 3 | The barn and shippon, from the south-east              |
| 4 | Barn and shippon, from the east                        |



**Figure 1: Location maps**

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey© on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.  
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence no: AL100034008

OUTBUILDING

BARN

FARMHOUSE

BARN RECORDED

BRICK BUILDING

SIDE BEET LANE

BARN AT HIGHER SIDE BEET  
RISHTON  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 708300):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 2:  
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:500

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2006

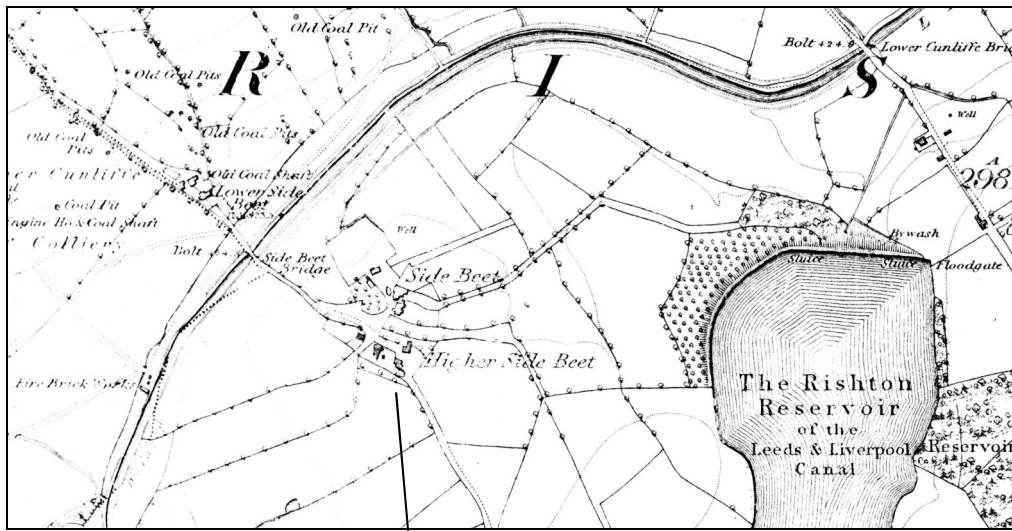
STEPHEN HAIGH  
Buildings Archaeologist



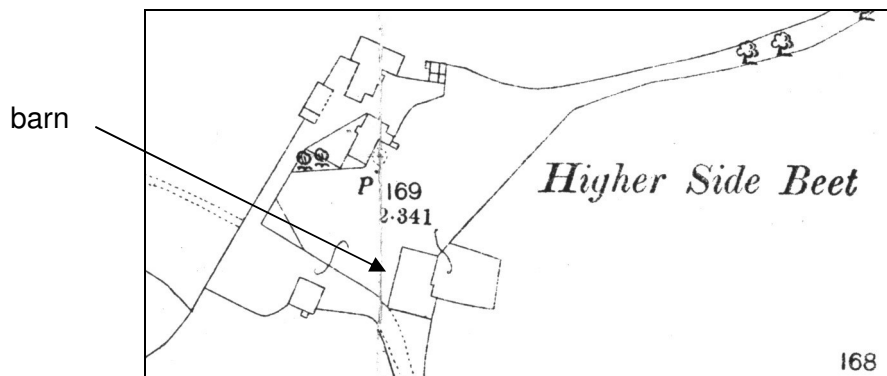
50m



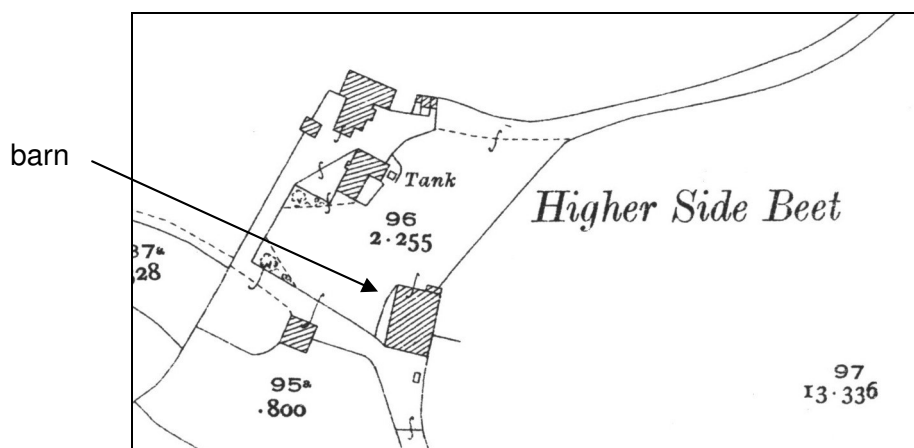




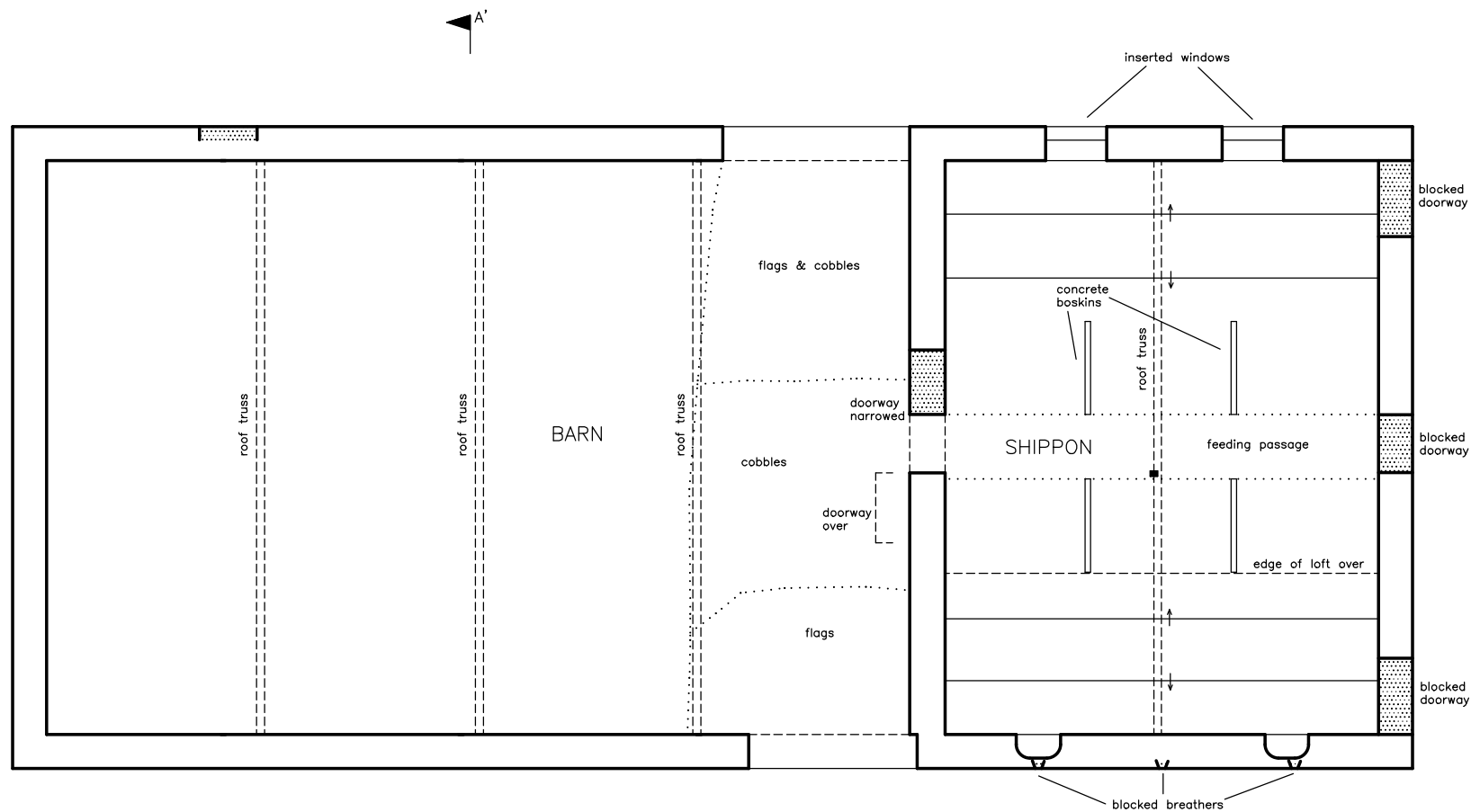
**Figure 3:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1848 6" to mile map (surveyed 1844-6)  
Sheet no: Lancashire, 63



**Figure 4:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1893 1:2500 map (re-surveyed 1891)  
Sheet no: Lancashire, 63.9



**Figure 5:** Extract from Ordnance Survey 1931 1:2500 map (revised 1928-9)  
Sheet no: Lancashire, 63.9



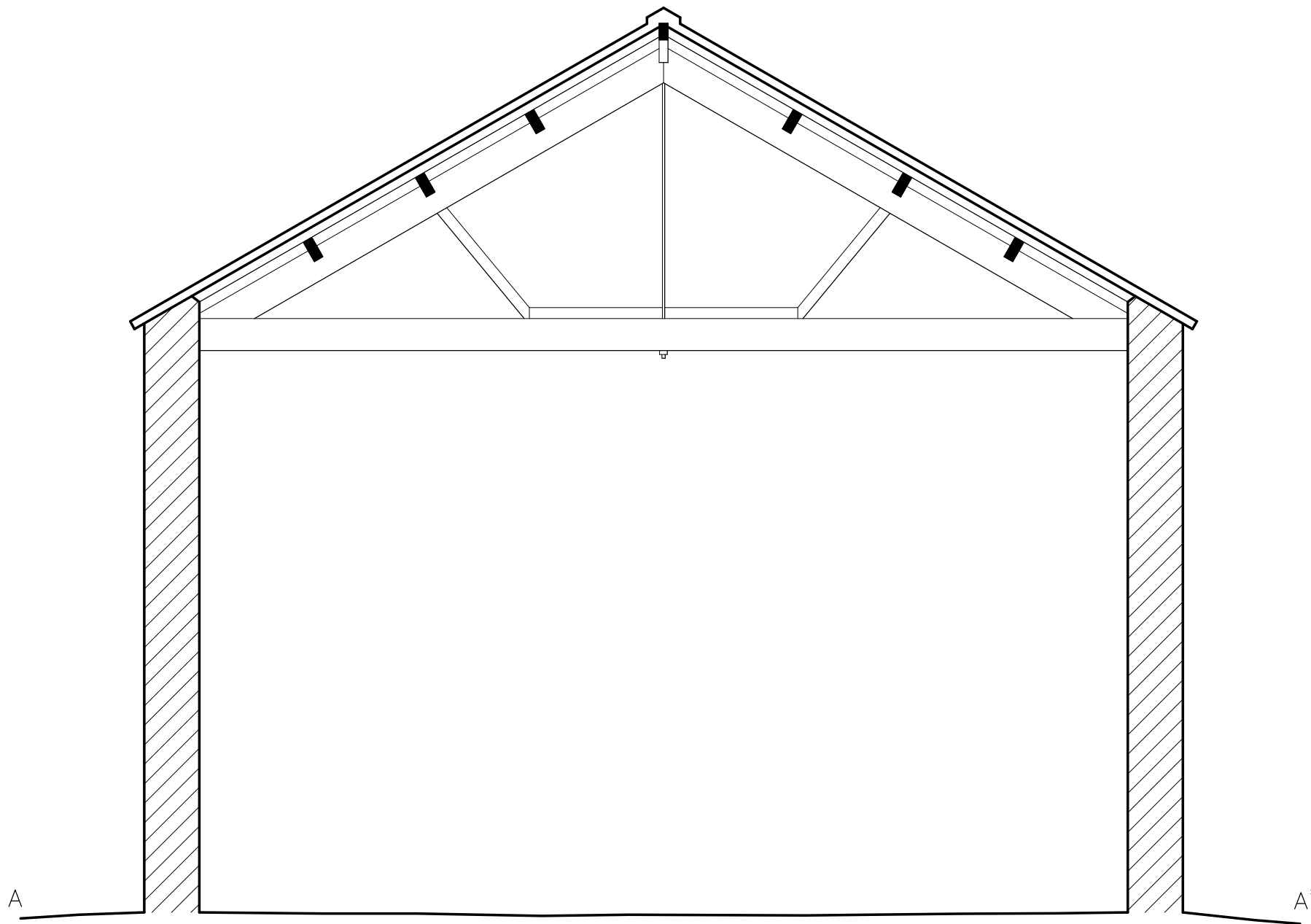
BARN AT HIGHER SIDE BEET  
RISHTON  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 708300):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 6:  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2006

STEPHEN HAIGH  
Buildings Archaeologist



5m

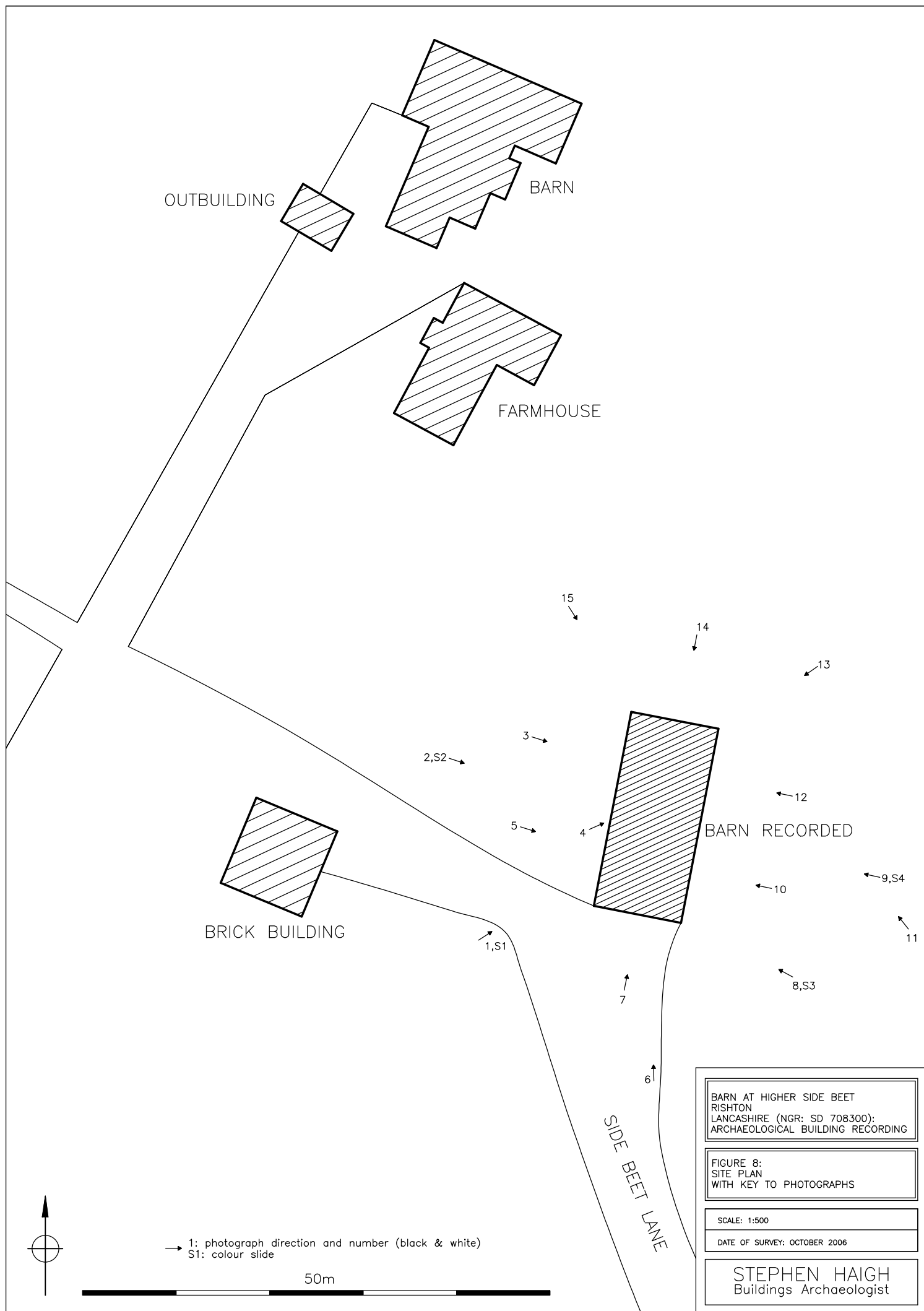
BARN AT HIGHER SIDE BEET FARM  
RISHTON  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 708300):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

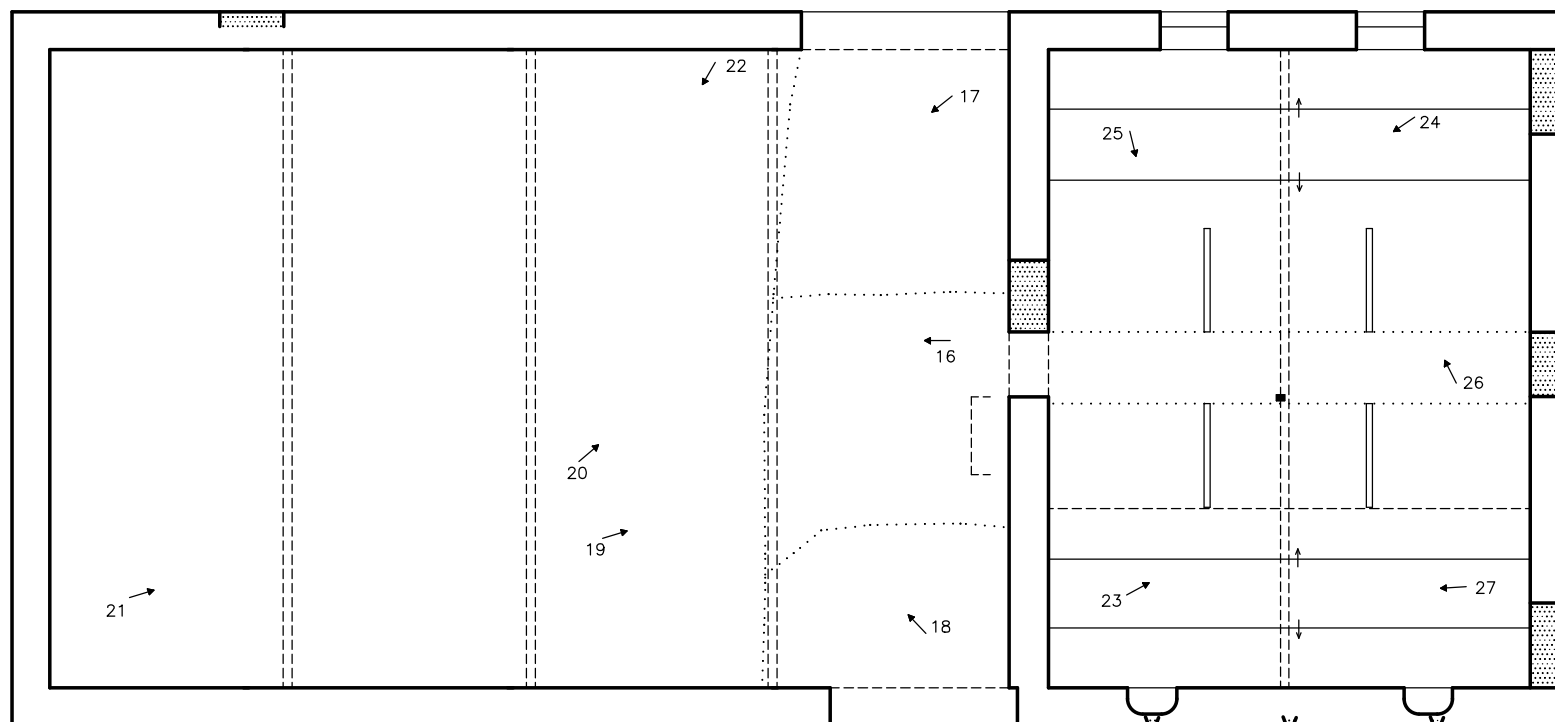
FIGURE 7:  
CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1:50

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2006

STEPHEN HAIGH  
Buildings Archaeologist





BARN AT HIGHER SIDE BEET  
RISHTON  
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 708300):  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

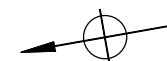
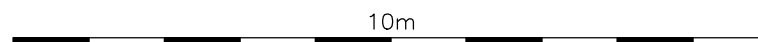
FIGURE 9:  
GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2006

STEPHEN HAIGH  
Buildings Archaeologist

→ 1: photograph direction and number (black & white)



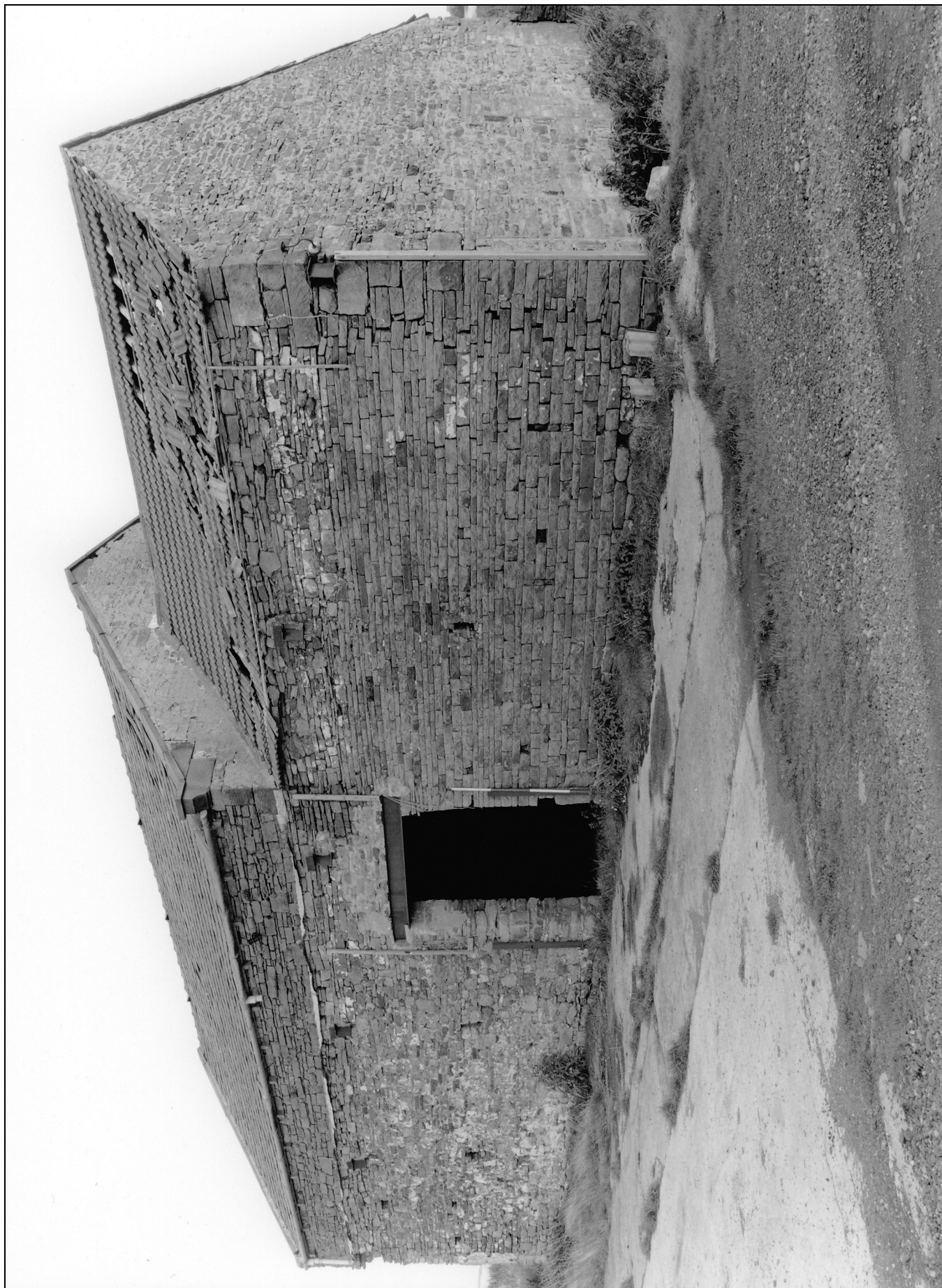


Photo 1: Front elevation, from the south-west



Photo 3: Front elevation of the barn, from the west



Photo 4: Detail of kneeler at south-west corner of barn



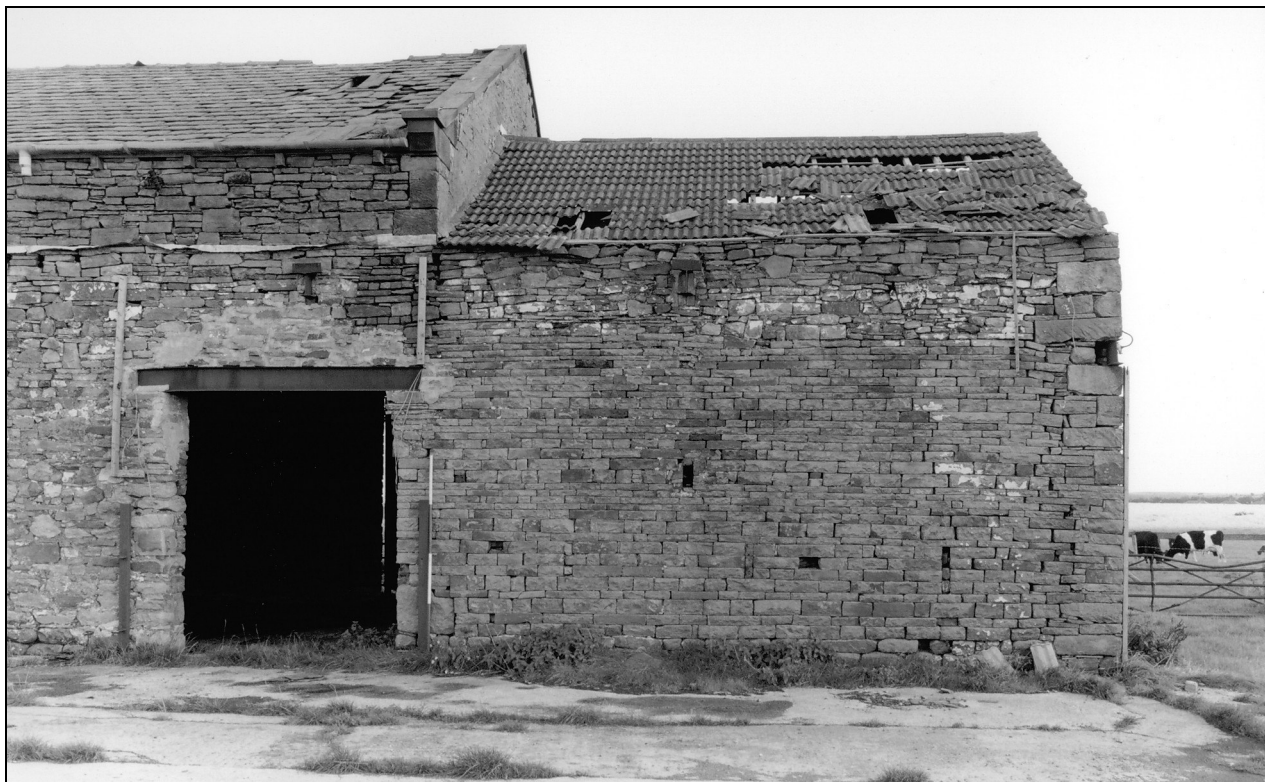


Photo 5: West elevation of the shippon



Photo 7: South gable of the shippon





Photo 8: The barn and shippon, from the south-east



Photo 12: East elevation of the barn



Photo 15: The barn, from the north-west



Photo 18: Interior of barn, from the south-west



Photo 19: Cobbled and flagged floor in threshing bay, from the north



Photo 21: Interior of barn, from the north





Photo 22: Roof trusses over barn, from the south-east



Photo 24: Interior of shippon, from the south-east



Photo 25: Interior of shippon, from the east



Photo 27: Roof structure and loft over shippon, from the south