

Stable at Lane Side
Grindleton Road, West Bradford, Lancashire:
Archaeological Building Recording



October 2008

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6: Ground floor plan	

Selected photographs

SUMMARY

The stable at Lane Side (NGR: SD 74864486) dates from around 1800 and is a small three-bay structure of two storeys, attached to the farmhouse. On the ground floor it contains stalls for four horses but these have been altered, and this area was last used to house cattle. There is also a small granary on the first floor reached by outside steps, as well as a loft over the stable. Archaeological building recording was carried out for W & M Horner Ltd in October 2008 before the conversion of the building to a holiday cottage, and this record includes floor plans, a section drawing, photographs, and a written description.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS REPRODUCED IN THIS REPORT

This is a selection illustrating the key points of the report; a complete set of photographs forms part of the project archive (see Appendix).

Photo Subject

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | General view of Lane Side, from the east |
| 2 | House and stable, from the south-west |
| 3 | Front elevation, from the south-west |
| 4 | Front elevation, from the east |
| 5 | Front elevation of the stable |
| 7 | Detail of entrance to granary in front elevation |
| 8 | Detail of forking hole and gutter in front elevation |
| 10 | East gable of the stable |
| 12 | Stable and house, from the north-east |
| 13 | Stable and house, from the north-east |
| 14 | Rear elevation, from the north-west |
| 15 | Ground floor openings in rear elevation |
| 16 | Door to stable and adjacent keep-hole |
| 17 | Modern cattle stalls (boskins) along south side of stable, from the west |
| 19 | View down centre of stable, from the east |
| 20 | Altered stable divisions (boskins) along north side of stable, from the south-east |
| 22 | View of stall in north side of stable |
| 23 | Detail of altered stable division (boskin), from the south-east |
| 24 | Small ground floor room in west end of stable, from the south |
| 26 | Internal view of forking hole in front elevation |
| 27 | Inserted doorway through dividing wall at first floor level |

STABLE AT LANE SIDE, GRINDLETON ROAD, WEST BRADFORD, LANCASHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a disused stable at Lane Side, a farm at West Bradford, near Clitheroe in Lancashire. The work was commissioned by the developers W & M Horner Ltd and carried out in October 2008, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Ribble Valley Borough Council for the conversion of the building to a holiday cottage.
- 1.2 The stable dates to the late 18th or early 19th century and was added to the earlier farmhouse at Lane Side. It is stone-built, three bays long, with a masonry wall dividing the west bay from the main rooms, of which that on the ground floor was used as a stable for four horses. The building has been re-roofed recently and contains few intact fixtures, the surviving original stall dividers being in poor condition, and the main room converted to house cattle in the mid 20th century.
- 1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the standard requirements of the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for recording historic farm buildings, and involved drawn, written, and photographic recording, with historic maps being incorporated. This report will be submitted to the client, Ribble Valley Borough Council, the Lancashire County Archaeology Service and the English Heritage National Monuments Record, and published on the internet via the Oasis Project. The project archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office.

2 Location and current use

- 2.1 Lane Side is a farmstead on Grindleton Road, about 500m north-east of the centre of West Bradford, a small village 2km north of Clitheroe and on the north-west bank of the River Ribble (NGR: SD 74864486; Figure 1). The site lies at 80m above sea level, 500m from the river, and the surrounding area is mostly occupied by permanent and improved grassland. The house and stable form a single range on the north side of the road (the stable at the east end), and there is a large barn on the south side; other minor, domestic outbuildings stand to the west of the house (Figure 2).
- 2.2 West Bradford is now in the Ribble Valley District of Lancashire, but historically lay within the West Riding of Yorkshire.
- 2.3 The stable has been disused for several years, but was formerly used to house cattle.

3 Planning background

- 3.1 None of the buildings at Lane Side are listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning consent was granted by Ribble Valley Borough Council on 21 January 2008 for the conversion of the building to a holiday cottage (application no 3/2007/1109), with a condition (no 10) that a record is made of the building prior to development, which this report and the project archive are intended to provide.

4 Historical background

- 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 Lane Side, which by the 19th century appears to have been a farm typical for the area (when livestock and dairy farming predominated, and there was little arable cultivation), and a directory records that in 1876 and 1885 Joseph Oddie was a farmer living there¹. The family of the present owners have occupied it since the end of the 19th century, and recall the stable being used in the mid 20th century for work horses, and there is also a tradition that the house once served as an inn², although no documentary record of this is known.
- 4.3 The first edition Ordnance Survey 6" to the mile map, surveyed in 1847, shows the group of buildings at Lane Side with its present outline (Figure 3), and the more detailed map of the 1880s shows the same arrangement in more detail (Figure 4), including the outside steps to the stable. Thirty years later there were few changes to the outlines of the buildings (none at all to the stable), although one outbuilding to the west of the house had been demolished and a new one had been built to the south of the large barn, to the south of the road (Figure 5).

5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The building was recorded on 20 October 2008, and in accordance with the standard requirements of the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for recording historic farm buildings. It involved drawn, photographic and written records of the stable, but did not include an investigation of the house or the other buildings on the site.

¹ *Slater's Directory of Lancashire 1876 & 1885*

² Mrs Horner, pers comm

- 5.2 The drawn record comprises new floor plans of the stable together with a cross-section, all produced by hand measurement. The drawings show all significant archaeological detail, and employ conventions based on those specified by English Heritage³.
- 5.3 The photographic record was made using a medium format camera with perspective control and other lenses, and black and white film for its archival qualities. External and internal photographs were taken, mostly using either a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations as a scale, and the locations of the photographs are shown on a site plan and copies of the floor plans. All the photographs have been printed to a size of 7" x 5" or 10 x 8", and form part of the project archive; a selection are also copied in this report, where they are referred to by numbers in **bold**.

6 Description of the site and building

- 6.1 The house and stable at Lane Side stand back a few metres from Grindleton Road (**1,2**), their front elevations forming a continuous building line broken only by the outside steps to the stable (**3,4**). Both buildings were rendered until recently, but their masonry is now fully exposed to the front south elevation; it is not known whether the render was historic or modern. The stable (**5**) is built from random rubble, mostly limestone, but with a significant proportion of sandstone, gritstone, and shale, particularly in the case of repairs or infill (all these stone types are available locally either from quarries or fieldstone). The roof is covered with local stone slate with stone ridge (re-laid in the last decade or so), with a carved stone gutter or eaves trough, confined to the front of the building (**6**). The front elevation has no true quoins, and at the west end clearly butts up to the earlier house. Most of the openings in the front elevation have sandstone dressings: the two doorways have monolithic jambs and plain lintels (**7**), and the forking hole is similar but its lintel forms a flat arch cut from a single stone (**8**). To left of centre is a wide doorway, now blocked with a window incorporated in the infill, and its size indicates that it was probably meant for use by carts, although the absence of a corresponding doorway in the rear elevation shows the building was not intended to be used as a threshing barn. The other ground floor doorway, at the east end, is evidently for pedestrian or equestrian use, while the first floor opening, reached by the stone steps, leads to the first floor granary in the west end of the building. There is a space beneath these steps, open to the west, and a small window or ventilation opening within it serves the small room at the west end of the building.

³ English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

- 6.2 The stable's east gable has no openings and is generally of random rubble containing a much higher proportion of sandstone cobbles than the front elevation, although there is some variation within it. The north corner has been rebuilt with some large rectangular sandstone blocks apparently in an attempt to stabilize the structure, but the crack near the south corner probably just indicates settlement within the original building (9-11).
- 6.3 The rear elevation is of mixed (but predominantly sandstone) rubble and incorporates two courses of projecting throughstones (12-14). At ground floor level two openings serve the small room in the west end: an original one, probably for ventilation, and a slightly larger, inserted opening which was probably created to enable mucking out, when this room was converted to house young cattle in the mid 20th century (15). Higher up and to the east are two narrow "arrowlit" breathers serving the loft over the stable.
- 6.4 The entrance into the stable, at the east end of the building, has a heavy plank and batten door of 19th century date, with large strap hinges (16): this entry has a cobbled floor, in contrast to the rest of the ground floor which is of concrete, and near it are two small keep-holes in the east wall, probably used to hold lamps (17,18). Beyond here, the ground floor room has a central group or muck channel which divides the area into two rows of stalls of unequal size: those to the south, which run across the large blocked doorway, have small dividers or boskins, of softwood of 20th century date, and built to tie young cattle (19). Those on the north side are more substantial, although these have been altered, partly for repair but also perhaps to allow their use by cattle rather than horses. These boskins are predominantly of oak, and appear originally to have run right up to the rear wall, where a narrow feed drop has been created running the full length of the room to allow hay to be dropped straight down from the loft. The boskins are constructed from vertical head and heel posts, with two curving rails between, the panel between the rails filled with wide boards. All are in poor condition however, and have been repaired with later timber (20-23).
- 6.5 At the west end of the stable a doorway cut through the dividing wall gives access into the small room, formerly domestic in nature (perhaps a large pantry) - previously the only access to it was through a doorway in the east side of the house, now blocked. The room has oak beams carrying the first floor over it at a lower level than the loft over the stable, but no fixtures or fittings of interest. As noted previously it was altered to form livestock housing in the mid 20th century and now has a concrete floor (24,25).
- 6.6 The dividing wall rises to the roof and also forms a division on the first floor. The loft over the stable is in very poor and unsafe condition, and no access to it is possible, but the space can be viewed from below. It is open to the roof, and hay and other feed were evidently taken in through the forking hole in the front

elevation (26), while the two breathers in the rear provided ventilation. An opening cut through the dividing wall provides access into the smaller room in the west end of the building (27); it is notable that both this and the forking hole have timber lintels bearing the marks of earlier use (eg a mortice and halving). (Before the insertion of this internal doorway, access to the hay loft must have been either through the forking hole, or by a ladder and trap door inside the building, although none is now evident.) This smaller room, normally reached through the front doorway via the stone steps, is a former granary, but more recently was used for general storage. The doorway is sealed from the inside and given the parlous state of the timber floor access into it from the stable loft is not possible.

- 6.7 The recent re-roofing of the barn included the replacement of the single truss together with all the purlins and rafters with modern timbers. The nature of the former roof structure is not known.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 It is likely that the stable at Lane Side was built in the late 18th or early 19th century to house four horses with their feed, and also to provide a domestic store and granary in the west end of the building, while the large barn on the south side of the road would have housed the majority of the farm's livestock and crops. It is characteristic for a stable to be placed close to the house, and although there is a tradition that the building formed equestrian accommodation for a coaching inn, the fact that the stable held four horses suggests it was in fact used only for the farm's horses, four being a common number for the family farms of the district where there was little arable cultivation necessitating large teams of plough horses. It is not clear why the building should have incorporated a large doorway in the front elevation but it is possible that it allowed a cart or trap to be brought into the building, although there is only limited space inside. The only features which recall the building's original purpose are the three boskins or stall dividers on the north side, which are in poor condition and appear to have been altered.

Appendix: Contents of the project archive

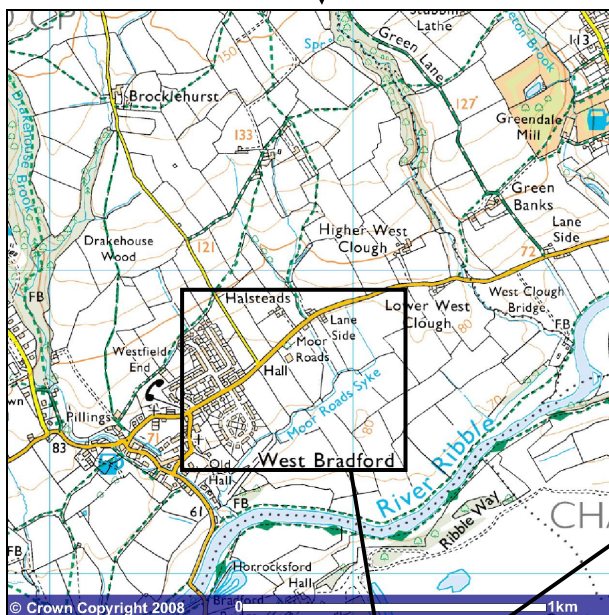
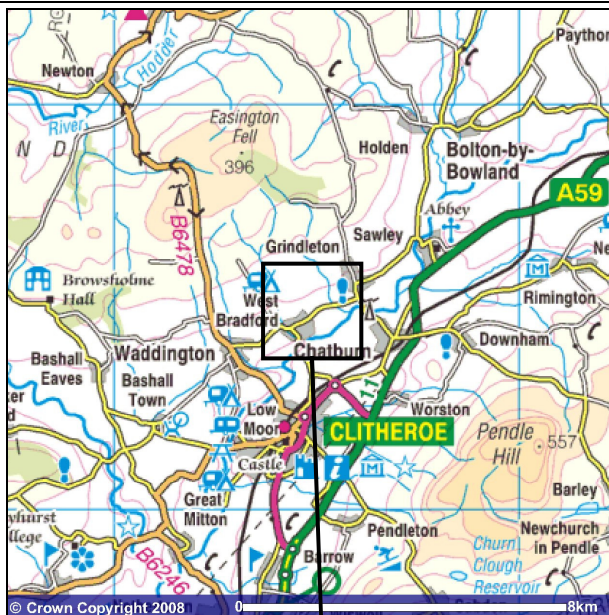
To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office

1 file, containing:

- a copy of the report
- full set of black and white photographs
- site notes (dimensioned and annotated plans etc)

Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
5	1	1	Front elevation of the stable
2	1	2	House and stable, from the south-west
3	1	4	Front elevation, from the south-west
4	1	5	Front elevation, from the east
9	1	6	Front elevation and east gable of the stable
15	1	7	Ground floor openings in rear elevation
14	1	8	Rear elevation, from the north-west
8	1	10	Detail of forking hole and gutter in front elevation
7	1	11	Detail of entrance to granary in front elevation
6	1	12	Detail of forking hole and gutter in front elevation
11	1	13	General view of the stable, from the north-east
	1	14	Same as 1/16
13	1	16	Stable and house, from the north-east
12	1	17	Stable and house, from the north-east
1	1	18	General view of Lane Side, from the east
10	2	1	East gable of the stable
24	2	2	Small ground floor room in west end of stable, from the south
25	2	4	Small ground floor room in west end of stable, from the north
16	2	5	Door to stable and adjacent keep-hole
18	2	6	Keep-hole and corbels in east end of stable
17	2	7	Modern cattle stalls (boskins) along south side of stable, from the west
21	2	8	Altered stable divisions (boskins) along north side of stable, from the west
20	2	10	Altered stable divisions (boskins) along north side of stable, from the south-east
19	2	11	View down centre of stable, from the east
23	2	12	Detail of altered stable division (boskin), from the south-east
22	2	13	View of stall in north side of stable
	2	14	Same as 2/16
27	2	16	Inserted doorway through dividing wall at first floor level
	2	17	Same as 2/18
26	2	18	Internal view of forking hole in front elevation

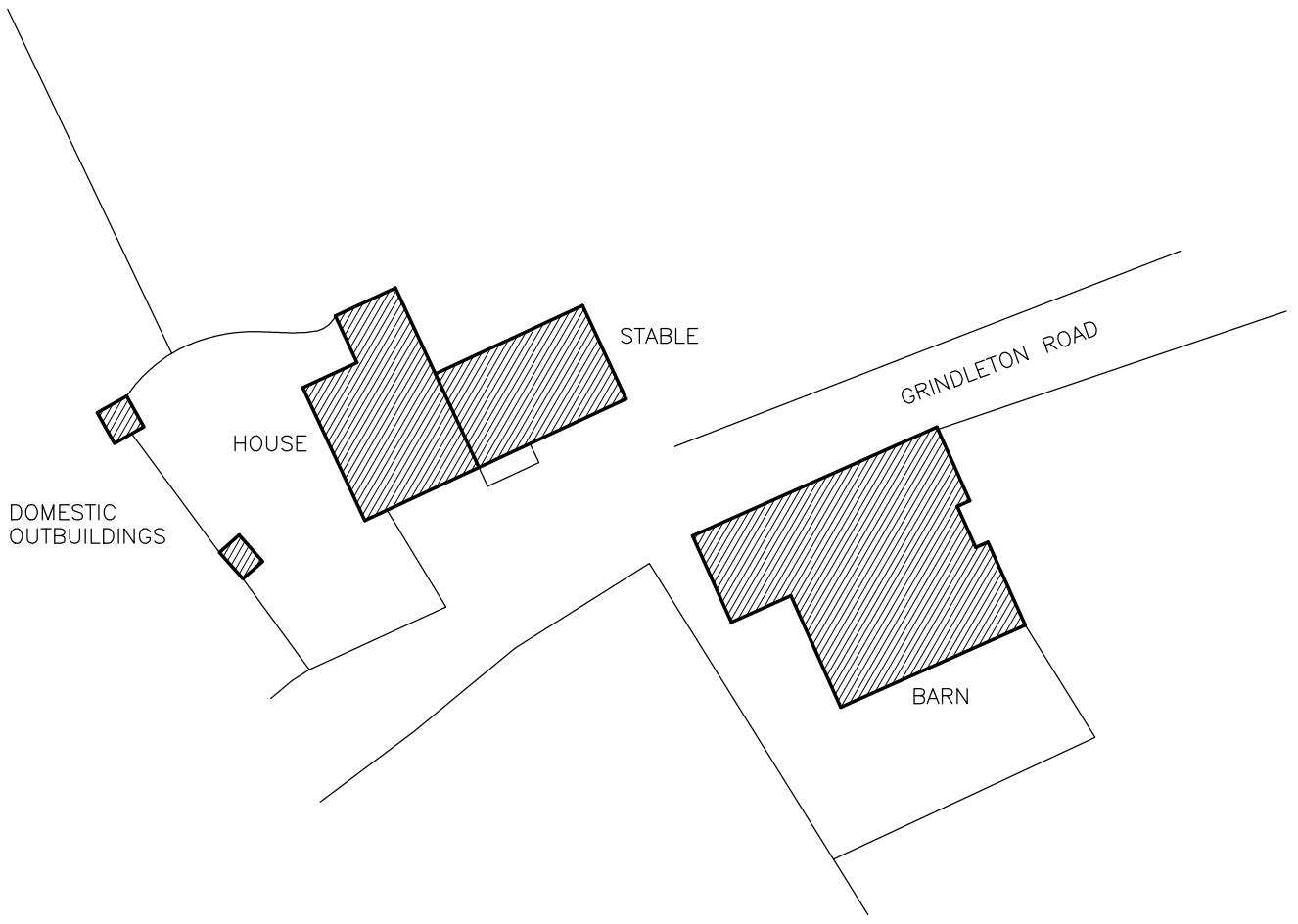


site



Figure 1: Location maps

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50m



STABLE AT LANE SIDE
GRINDLETON ROAD
WEST BRADFORD
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 74864486):
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 2:
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:500

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2008

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Figure 3: Ordnance Survey 6" to mile map (lower extract enlarged to 1:2500) published 1850 (survey date: 1847) Sheet no: Yorkshire [West Riding], 187

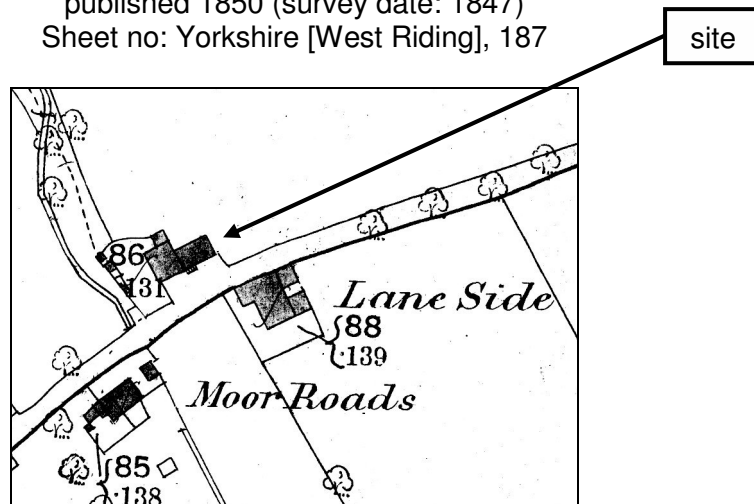


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, published 1886 (survey date: 1884) Sheet no: Yorkshire [West Riding], 187.7

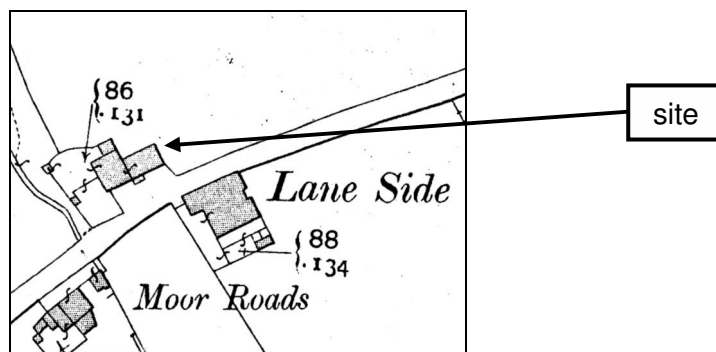

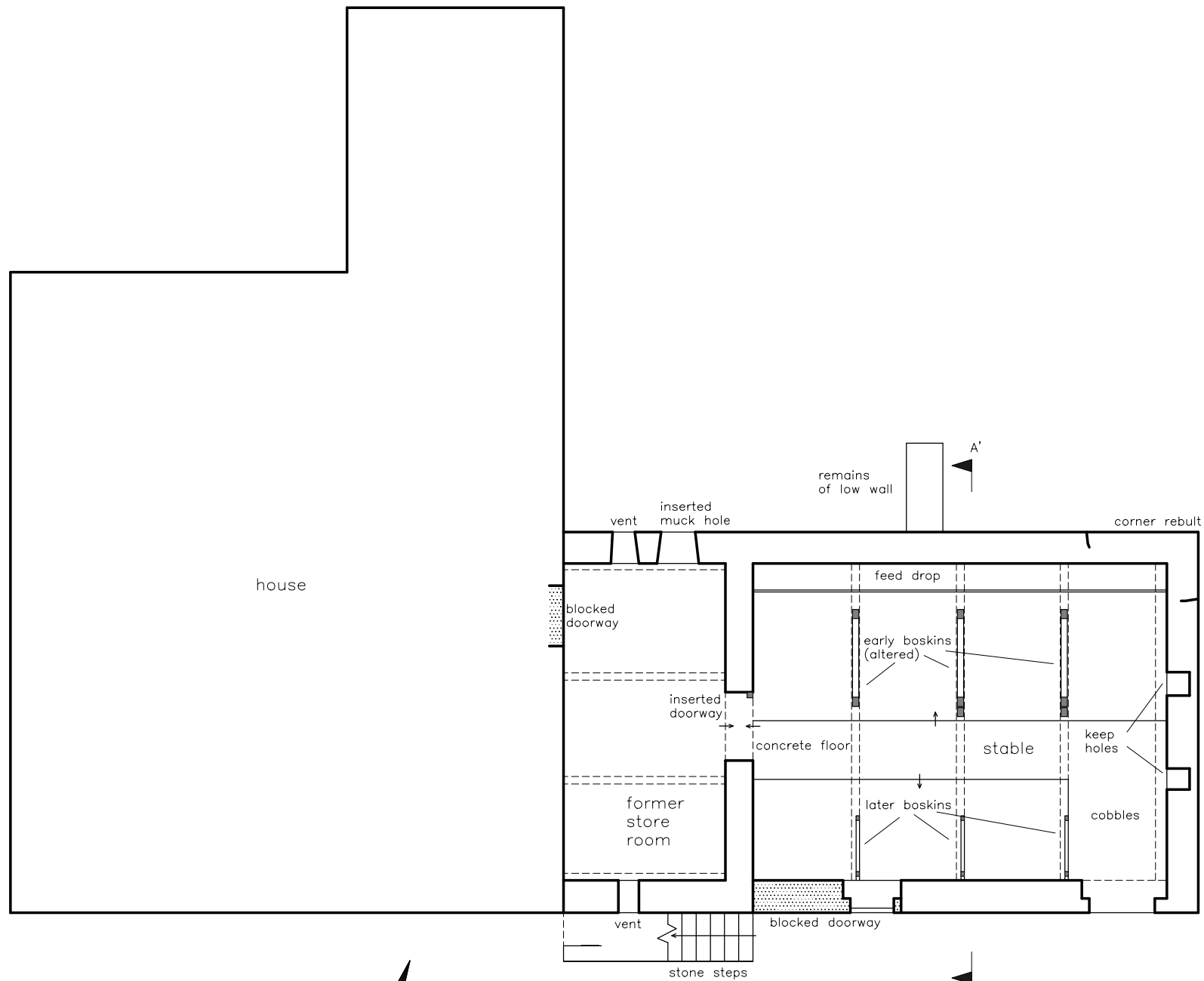


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, published 1908 (revision date: 1907) Sheet no: Yorkshire [West Riding], 187.7

— floor detail
 blocking or infill

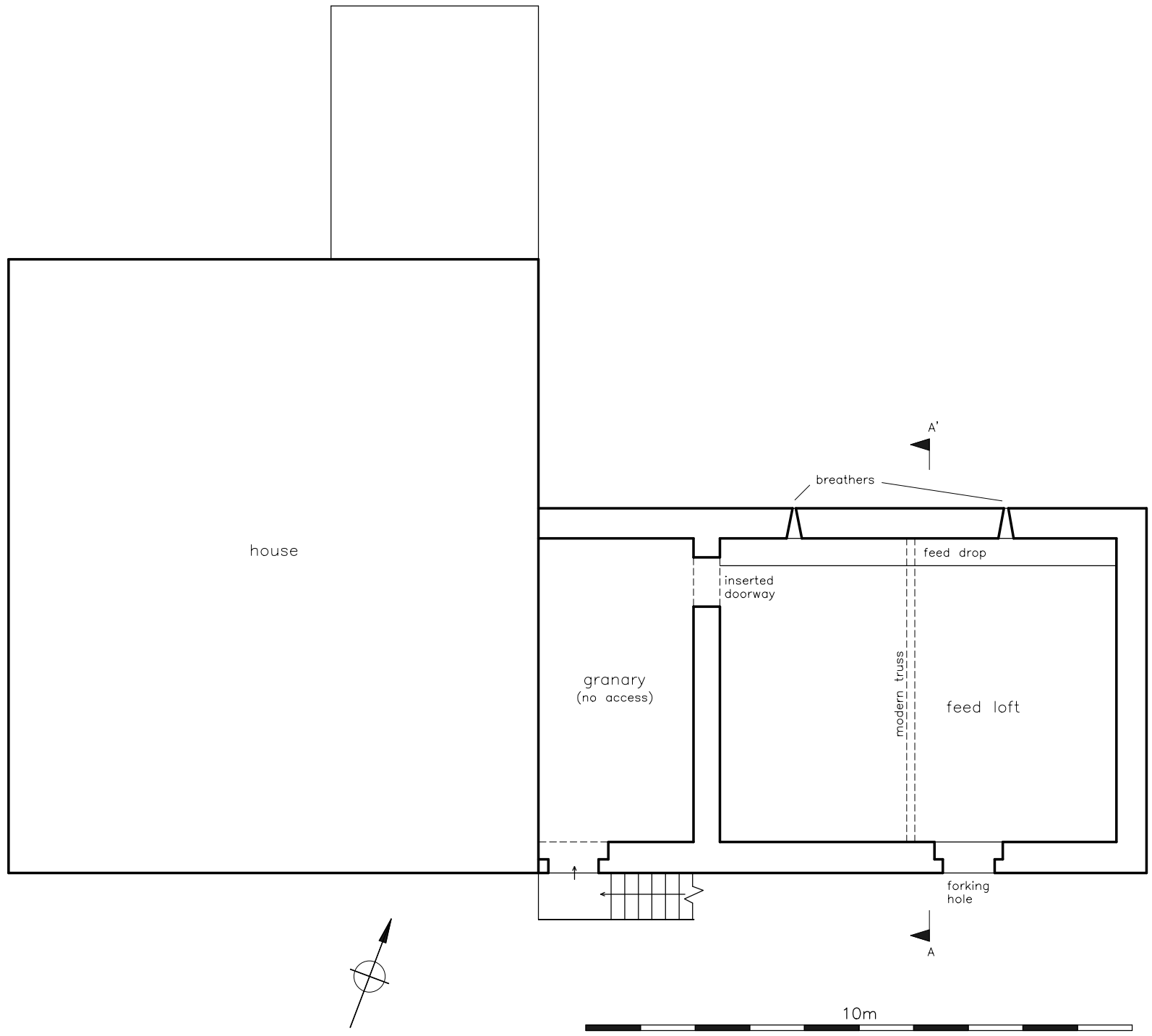


STABLE AT LANE SIDE
 GRINDLETON ROAD
 WEST BRADFORD
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 74864486):
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 6:
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100
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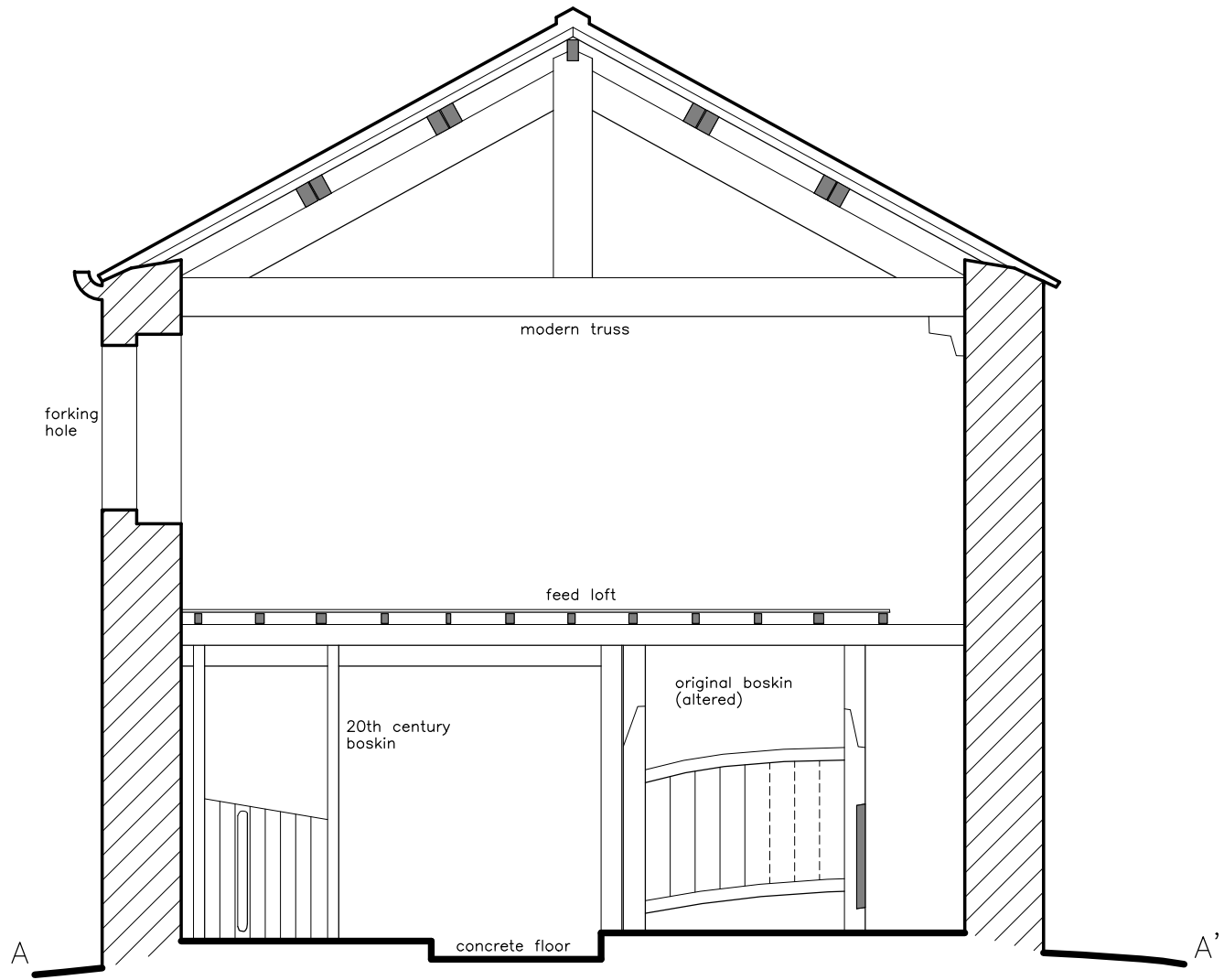


STABLE AT LANE SIDE
 GRINDLETON ROAD
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FIGURE 7:
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100
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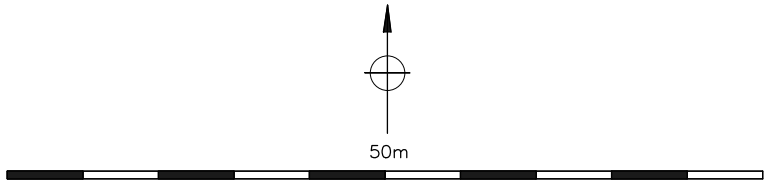
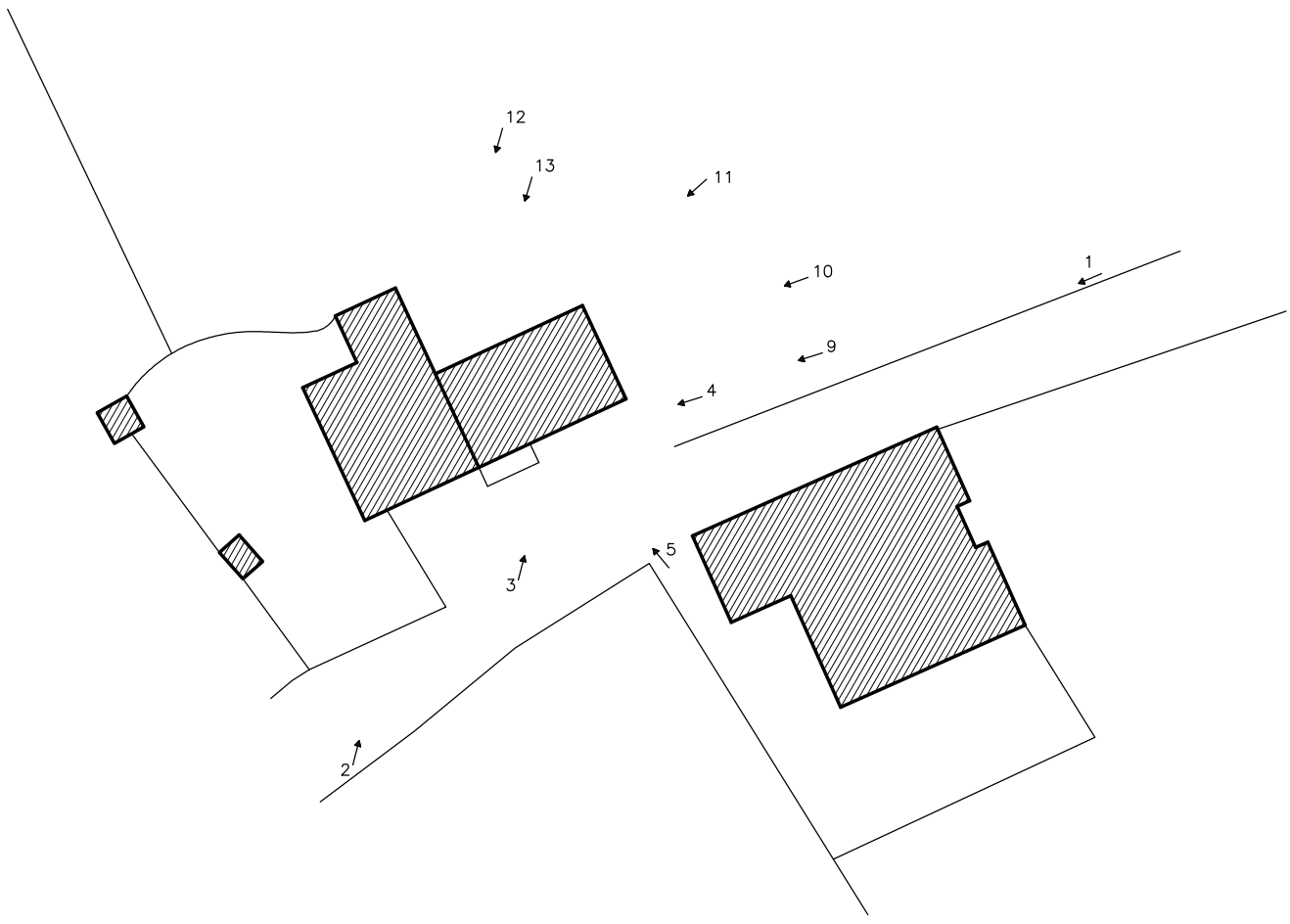
STABLE AT LANE SIDE
 GRINDLETON ROAD
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FIGURE 8:
 CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1:50

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➔ 1: photograph direction and number

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 GRINDLETON ROAD
 WEST BRADFORD
 LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 74864486):
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 9:
 SITE PLAN
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:500

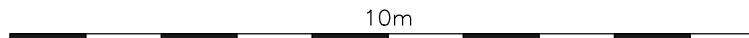
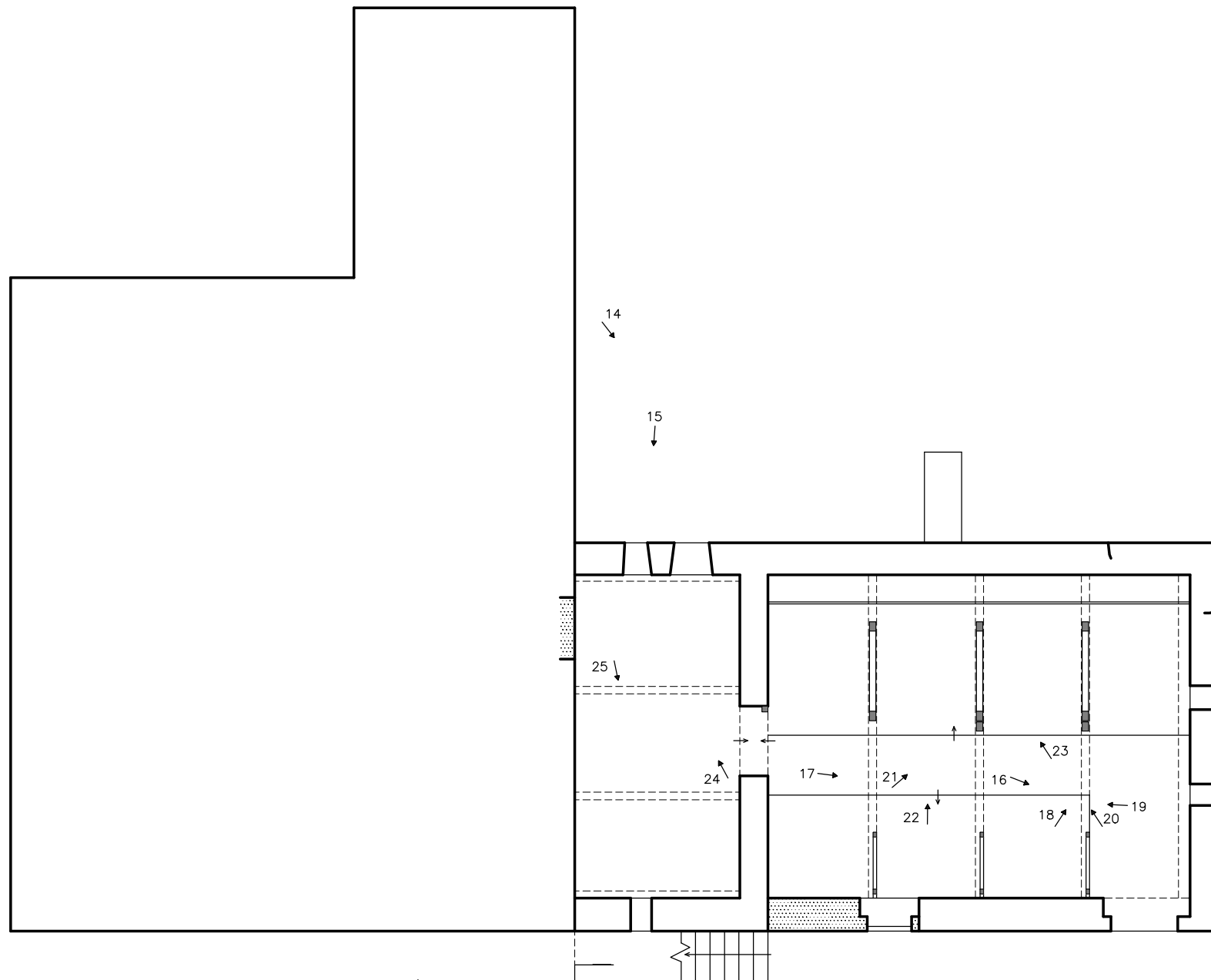
DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2008

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— floor detail

▨ blocking or infill

→ 1: photograph direction and number



STABLE AT LANE SIDE
GRINDLETON ROAD
WEST BRADFORD
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 74864486):
ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

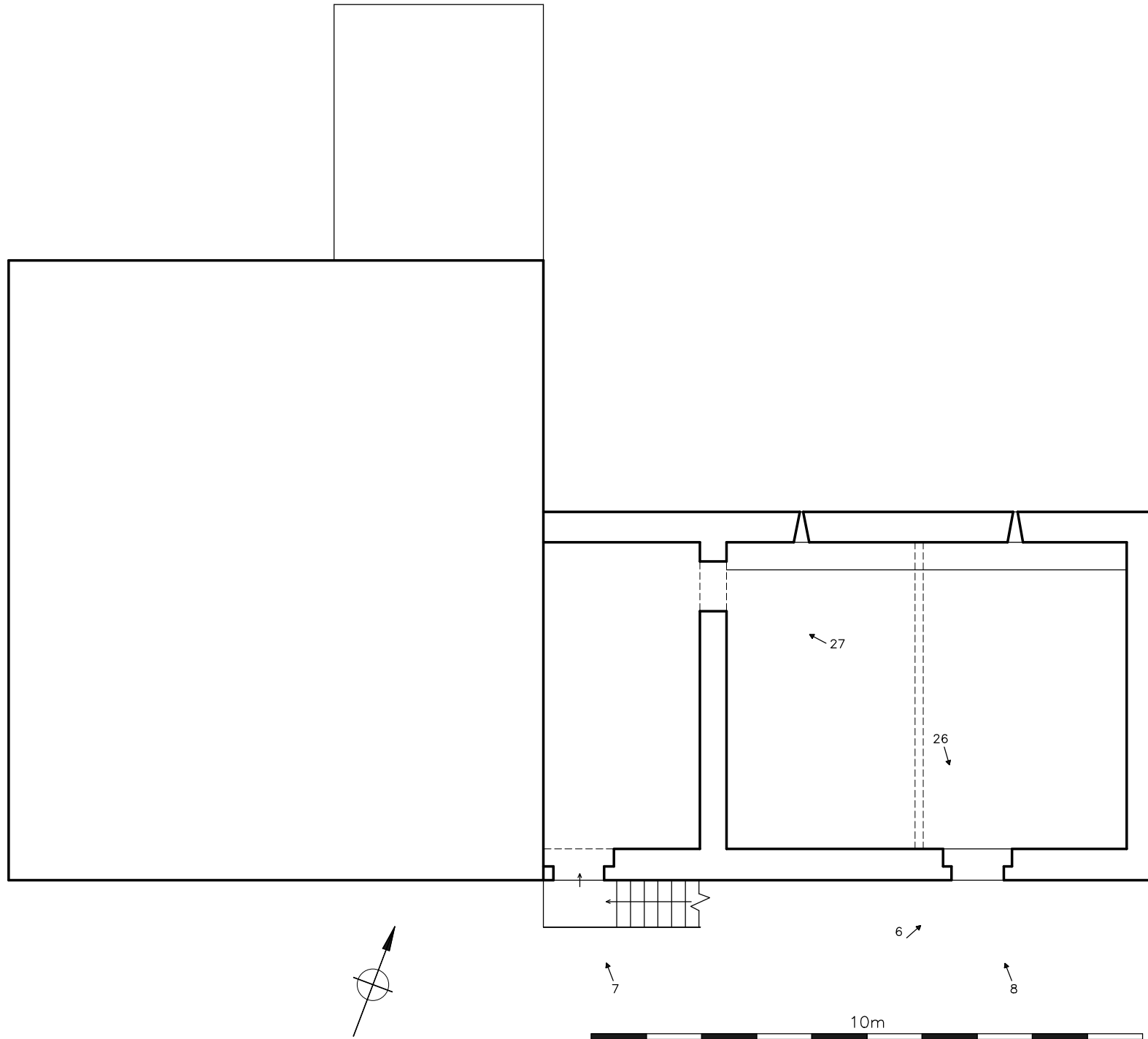
FIGURE 10:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2008

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→ 1: photograph direction and number



STABLE AT LANE SIDE
GRINDLETON ROAD
WEST BRADFORD
LANCASHIRE (NGR: SD 74864486):
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FIGURE 11:
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100

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