

Shippon at 11 Lytham Road
Freckleton, Lancashire:
Archaeological Building Recording



March 2009

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Selected photographs

SUMMARY

The shippon at 11 Lytham Road (NGR: SD 42882903) is unusual as it survives as a largely unaltered cow-house which formerly served a smallholding in the village of Freckleton on the Fylde, and probably dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. Archaeological recording of the building was carried out in March 2009 for Mr & Mrs Salthouse to fulfil a condition of planning consent for its conversion to a dwelling, and this record includes measured drawings, photographs, and a written description.

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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
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1	View of the site from the north-west, across Lytham Road
2	View along Lytham Road, from the east
3	View of the shippon and house, from the south
4	North elevation, from across Lytham Road
5	Detail of north door
7	Rear elevation of the shippon
9	Detail of south door (internal face)
10	Rear of the shippon, from the south-west
11	The shippon, from the north-west
15	Remains of stalls, from the north-west
16	North part of shippon, from the east
17	Stalls, from the north-east
19	Detail of intact stall divider, from the north-west
20	Stalls and feeding passage, from the south-east
22	Hay loft, from the west
24	Hay loft, from the east
25	Roof truss, from the north-west
26	Roof truss, from the west

SHIPPON AT 11 LYTHAM ROAD, FRECKLETON, LANCASHIRE:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological building recording at a shippon or cow-house at 11 Lytham Road, Freckleton, Lancashire. The work was commissioned by the owners and developers Mr and Mrs Salthouse (via their agent Leeming Associates) , and carried out in March 2009, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Fylde Borough Council for the conversion of the building to a dwelling.
- 1.2 The building is brick-built, of two storeys and probably of late 18th or early 19th century date, although was later heightened to its present size. It contains the partial remains of timber stalls and cobbled floor, and two separate rooms at one end, while the upper floor forms a hay loft.
- 1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the standard brief from the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for recording historic farm buildings, and included a photographic record, the production of a measured survey annotated with archaeological information, and a study of historic maps. This report will be submitted to the client, Fylde 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 The building stands in the village of Freckleton, on the south of the Fylde some 10km west of Preston and on the north side of the Ribble estuary. Lytham Road is now the main road through the village and no 11 stands on the south side of it, immediately west of Holy Trinity Church (NGR: SD 42882903; approximately 15m above sea level). The shippon stands to the west of the house, on the same building line (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The building is now used only for storage and does not appear to have been in farming use for many years, but there have not been any major changes since.

3 Planning background

- 3.1 Planning consent was granted by Fylde Borough Council on 18 December 2008 for the conversion of the building to a dwelling (application no 08/0124). The consent includes a condition (no 4) that a record and analysis be made of the

building before development, which this report and the project archive are intended to provide. Although the condition was imposed by the local planning authority, the Lancashire County Archaeology Service is to be the principal recipient of the report.

4 Historical background

- 4.1 Traditional farm buildings are of historical 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 The shippon at 11 Lytham Road is an unusual survival in being a largely unaltered farm building in Freckleton village, and one which appears to have served a smallholding. It is probably of 18th century date, with later alterations, and contains some fixtures which are likely to be original.
- 4.3 In the 18th century Freckleton was a small village with a port on the estuary, whose economy was otherwise predominantly agricultural, and which mostly comprised small, individually owned farms. The largest herd of cattle numbered 14, and land was given over to both grass and arable, with oats, peas, wheat, barley and beans all being grown. From the 1840s there was an increasing emphasis towards dairy farming however, at the expense of crops¹.
- 4.4 Little is known of the history of 11 Lytham Road or the shippon but some evidence can be gleaned from historic maps. In the mid 19th century the site was at the western edge of the village, whose main street then ran south-east towards the estuary, and maps surveyed in 1838 and the 1840s (Figures 2 and 3) show the shippon and adjacent house as the end property on the south side of Lytham Road, next to the church (which was rebuilt in 1839²). The larger scale tithe map of 1838 appears to show the house as set back further than at present, and the accompanying award shows that the owner and occupier was Jane Goodshaw, who owned a total of just over 9 acres. The field to the south of the buildings (479 on Figure 2) was called Brickfield Pasture, indicative of a brick clamp having been sited in it.
- 4.5 By the 1890s the cotton mill (Balderstone Mill) which stood on the north side of Lytham Road appears to have led to the building of a long row of terraced houses to the west of the site, but the shippon remains unaltered in outline on the map of this date, and the house appears to have been extended or rebuilt to

¹ Shakeshaft, P 2001 *The History of Freckleton*

² Spencer, R 1982 *Freckleton in Old Picture Postcards*

its present size (Figure 4). At this date an orchard and small field or close still lay to the south, a situation which is shown to have persisted in 1909 and 1937 (Figures 5 and 6), although by the latter date some residential encroachment had taken place within the immediate vicinity.

5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological building recording took place on 4 March 2009, and involved photography, the production of measured drawings, and a written account.
- 5.2 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, generally 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**.
- 5.3 The drawn record comprises ground and first floor plans of the building and a cross-section, showing all significant archaeological detail, and employing conventions based on those specified by English Heritage³.

6 Description of the building

- 6.1 The shippon measures 9.5m long and 5.2m wide, and is separated from the house by a narrow passage (**1-3**). It is brick built: most of the walls are of hand-made bricks laid in English garden wall bond at a ratio of 1 row of headers to 4 rows of stretchers, but the top 1.5m or so of the long walls, and the tops of the gables, are of a more modern machine-cut brick, probably of late 19th or early 20th century date. External wall thickness varies from one to one-and-a-half bricks, a curious anomaly which is, however, not thought to indicate different construction phases.
- 6.2 The north elevation, facing Lytham Road, may be considered as the front of the building (**4**). It has a single doorway with sandstone lintel and hinge and latch stones, and the door, of three wide boards with heavy battens, is itself probably original to the building (**5,6**). A second doorway, in the rear elevation (**7**), is similarly constructed although the lintel is wedge-shaped, and the door is also of the same type (**8,9**). This side of the building also has a window, with timber lintel and brick sill.

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

- 6.3 The west gable (**10,11**) has a pair of doorways at ground floor level, slightly lower in height than the main openings, and these give access to two small rooms at this end of the building. The openings have thin stone lintels of inferior sandstone, but also have hinge and latch blocks (**12**), and appear to be original, but the upper floor opening in the middle of the gable has clearly been cut in, or enlarged to its present size. This wall and the east-facing gable both show the clear distinction between brick types, and thereby give a rough indication of the building's former height. The latter has a small ventilator near the ridge, in the newer fabric, created by gaps within the brickwork (**13**).
- 6.4 The shippon has a roof of blue slate with interlocking tile ridge; this covering is evidently of the same date as the late 19th or early 20th century brickwork, and it is possible that the building was thatched until then, although there is no evidence that the earlier roof pitch was steeper, as would be expected for a thatched roof (see notes on the roof truss, below).
- 6.5 The main room on the ground floor contains the remains of stalls for seven head of cattle: the ceiling height is too low for it to have been used for horses. The stalls face south onto a feeding passage, entered from the south-east doorway, and are divided into pairs by timber boskins, which also support the first floor beams (**14-17**). The cobbled floor surface survives in the lower, northern part of the shippon, with a stone kerb defining the rear of the animal standings, which are paved with brick (**18**) (although at the time of survey none of this was clearly visible, due to accumulated dirt). A shallow lamp hole in the north wall would have allowed the rather dark interior to have been illuminated.
- 6.6 Two boskins remain standing (only the heel post of the third still exists). They appear to be fashioned from oak or possibly pitch pine and have horizontal rails, with the panel filled with four wide, vertical boards, and have tethering poles attached (**19**); the present plank partition enclosing the feeding passage has been replaced however, and is of later softwood. The passage appears to have had a cobbled floor at one time, although this surfacing has been largely removed (**20,21**).
- 6.7 At the west end of the building the two small rooms are separated by a brick wall around 1.4m high; the south room has a brick floor while the other is of concrete. No fixtures indicate their former purpose but there is a small, inserted opening from each into the main room. They may have served as store rooms or perhaps housed pigs, poultry or other livestock.
- 6.8 The single hay loft which occupies the full length of the building has had its floor and joists replaced, and is accessible from the feeding passage by an opening cut into this floor. It is open to the roof and the former eaves levels can be seen clearly in the north and south walls (**22,23**), and with the exception of the roof

structure, the only feature of interest which is not visible from outside is a small area of infill in the brickwork to the south of the doorway in the west gable (24). A central brick pier in each side forms the base for the roof truss, which is simply formed from a tie-beam and a pair of principal rafters, halved at the ridge to form a “scissor” arrangement for the ridge, with an applied timber to hold this joint in place supplemented by a later vertical strut below it (25,26). The three main timbers forming the truss are of pitch pine but the other elements are of rougher softwood, which suggests that the truss was simply re-used when the building was heightened and re-roofed. As the building is thought to pre-date the common use of blue slate it is unclear what covering may have been used originally, as the roof pitch is too shallow for thatch, so this aspect of the building cannot be elucidated.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 It is clear that the shippon was built to serve a smallholding run from the adjacent house, and would have housed up to seven cows together with their winter feed. It is worth noting the absence of any other significant structures on the site in the mid 19th century, such as a threshing barn, and this implies that the holding was of very small size and primarily used for dairy production. On architectural and cartographic evidence the building is likely to date from the late 18th or early 19th century, and was certainly present by 1838, but it was subsequently heightened and re-roofed.

Appendix: Contents of the project archive

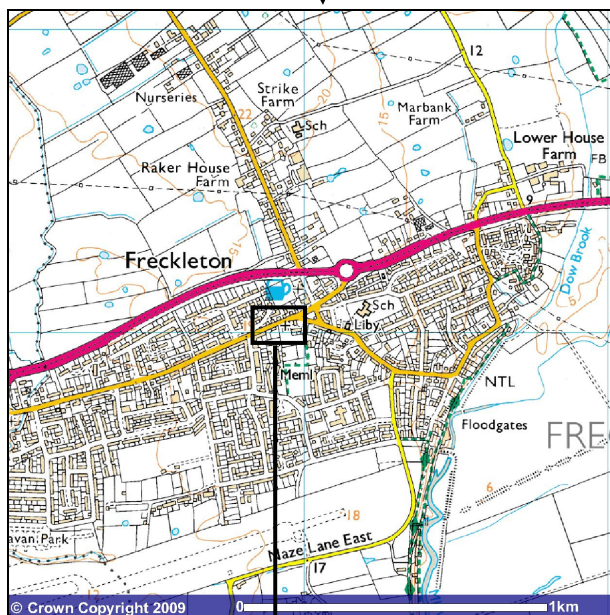
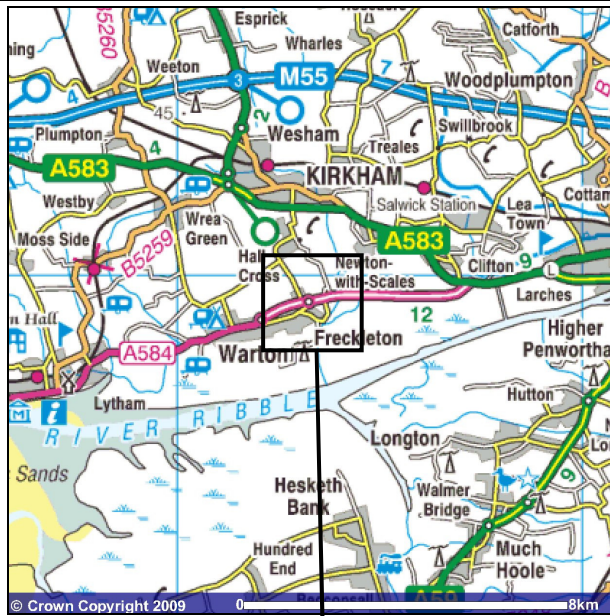
To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office

1 file, containing:

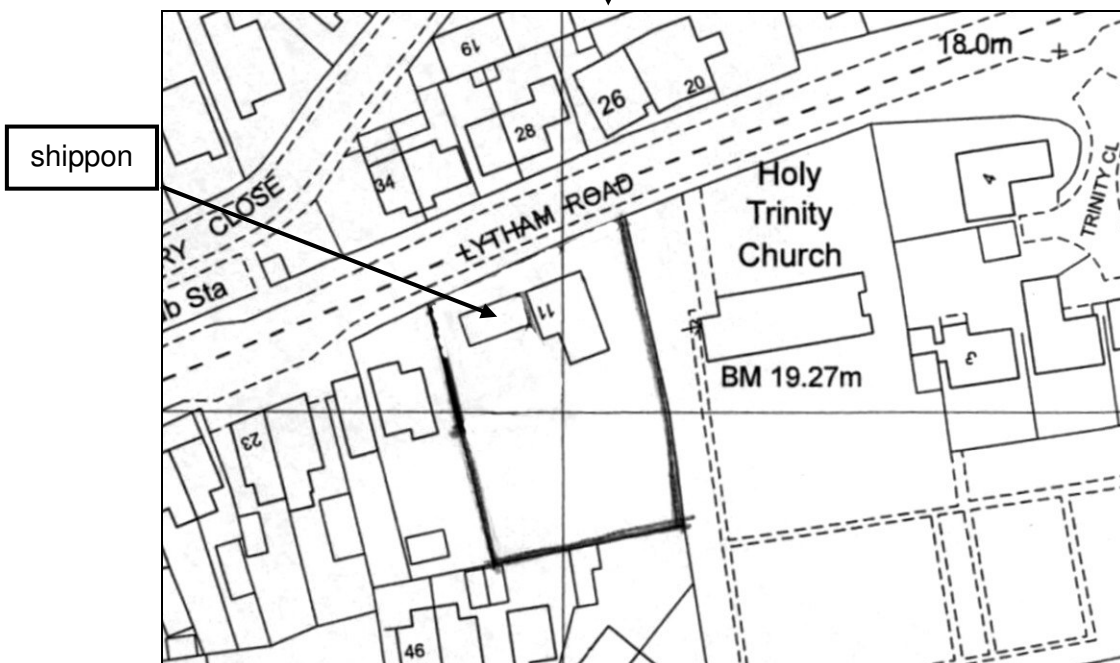
- a copy of the report
- full set of black and white photographs and negatives
- site notes (annotated plans etc)

Complete list of photographs taken, in film order

Photo	Film	Frame	Subject
7	1	1	Rear elevation of the shippon
3	1	3	View of the shippon and house, from the south
10	1	4	Rear of the shippon, from the south-west
11	1	5	The shippon, from the north-west
2	1	6	View along Lytham Road, from the east
13	1	7	Passage between shippon and house, from the south
8	1	9	Detail of south door
5	1	10	Detail of north door
12	1	11	Detail of door in west gable
20	1	13	Stalls and feeding passage, from the south-east
21	1	14	Remains of feeding passage, from the west
15	1	18	Remains of stalls, from the north-west
19	2	1	Detail of intact stall divider, from the north-west
16	2	3	North part of shippon, from the east
17	2	4	Stalls, from the north-east
18	2	5	Stone kerb in cobbled floor, from the west
14	2	6	North part of shippon, from the west
6	2	8	Detail of north door (internal face)
9	2	10	Detail of south door (internal face)
22	2	11	Hay loft, from the west
23	2	12	North side of hay loft, from the south-west
25	2	13	Roof truss, from the north-west
26	2	14	Roof truss, from the west
24	2	16	Hay loft, from the east
4	2	17	North elevation, from across Lytham Road
1	2	18	View of the site from the north-west, across Lytham Road



1:25,000



1:2500

Figure 1: Location maps

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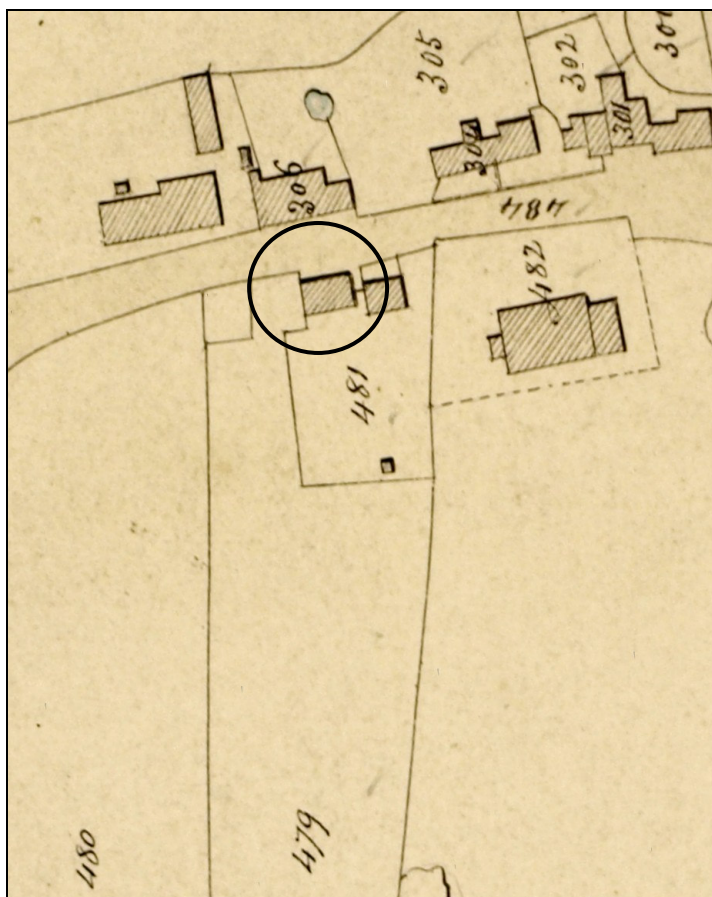
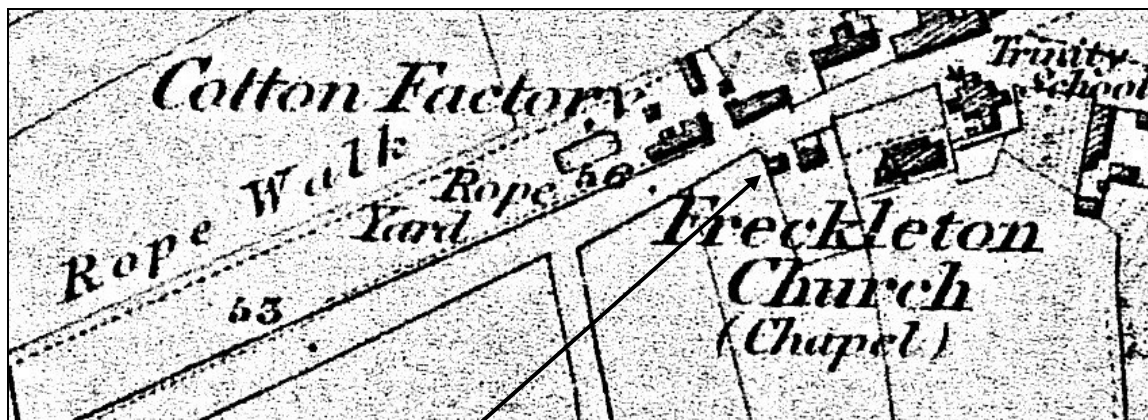
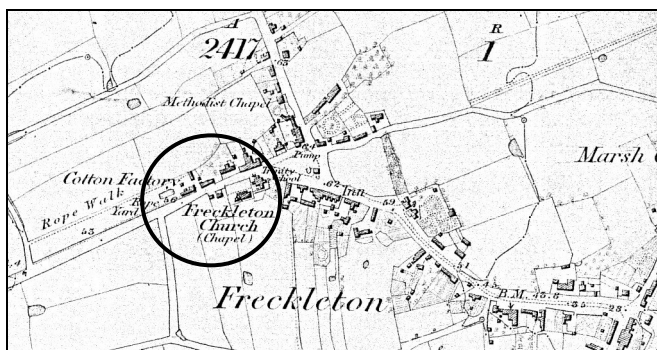


Figure 2: Freckleton tithe map, 1838, with the shippon circled
(Plan of the Township of Freckleton in the Parish of Kirkham and County Palatine of Lancaster; P Park, Surveyor, Preston, 1838; LRO DRB 1/82)



shippon

Figure 3: Ordnance Survey 1:10560/6" to mile map (lower extract enlarged)
Published 1848 (surveyed 1844-5); Lancashire sheet 60



Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 1:2500/25" to mile map (not at original scale)
Published 1893 (surveyed 1892); Lancashire sheet 60.13



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 1:2500/25" to mile map (not at original scale)
Published 1911 (revised 1909); Lancashire sheet 60.13

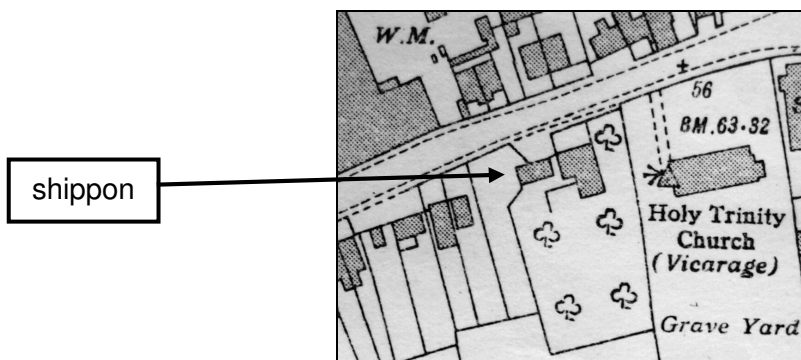


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 1:2500/25" to mile map (not at original scale)
Published 1937 (revised 1937); Lancashire sheet 60.13