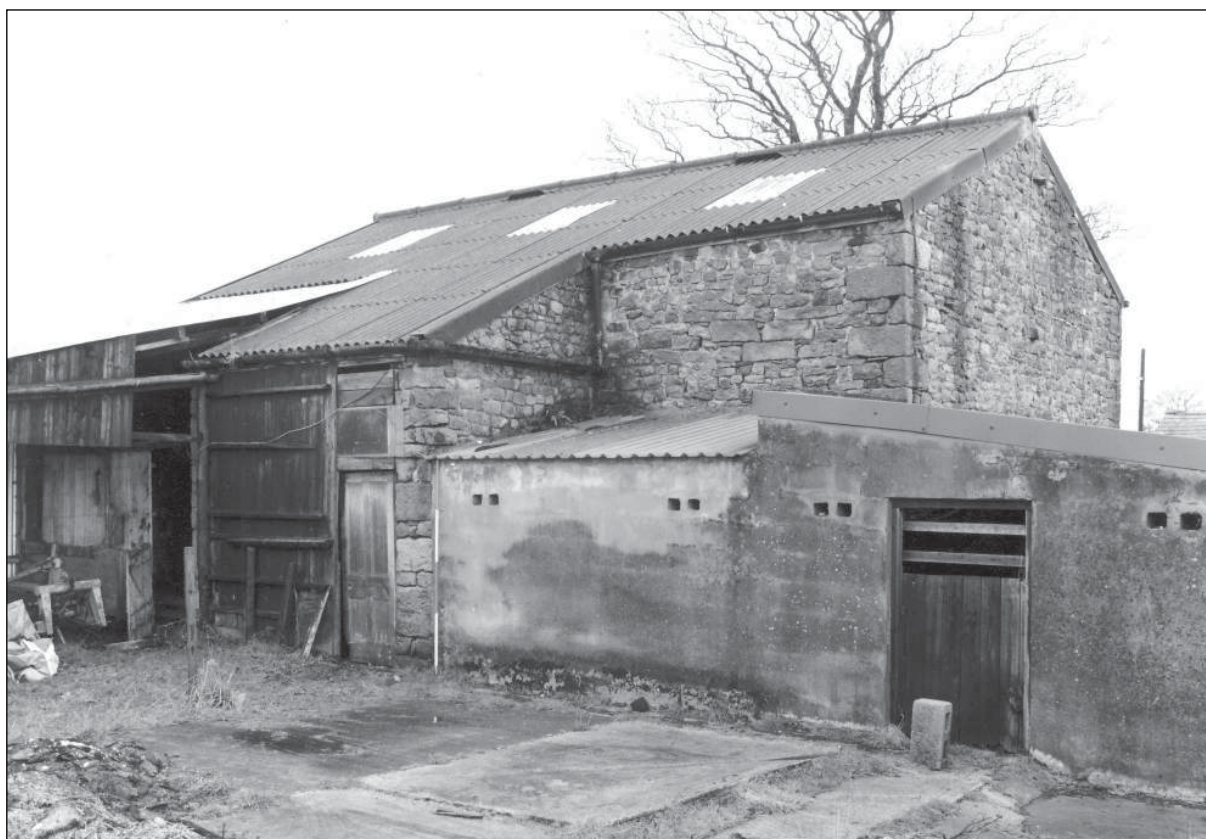


Barn at Harrop Gate
Grindleton, Lancashire:
Historic Building Recording



April 2010

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Selected photographs

SUMMARY

This report concerns a barn at Harrop Gate, a former farmstead near Grindleton in Lancashire (NGR: SD 75074962). The barn is a small, stone-built, three-bay combination barn typical of the district, with a central threshing or unloading bay and a shippon in the lower end, the latter rebuilt in the 20th century. Historic building recording was carried out in March 2010 for the owner and developer Grindleton Consolidated Charities, as a condition of planning consent for the conversion of the building, and this record includes measured drawings, photographs, and a written description supplemented by the results of brief historical research.

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BARN AT HARROP GATE, GRINDLETON, LANCASHIRE:

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS REPRODUCED IN THIS REPORT

Most of the photographs taken during the recording are reproduced at the end of this report; however for a full set of photographs please consult the project archive (see Appendix 1).

Photo Subject

1	The barn, from the south
5	View of the barn, from the north-west
7	Muck hole and blocked breathers in east gable of barn
9	The barn, from the north-east
12	North elevation of the barn
15	Re-used timber (elbowed principal rafter), over main doors
18	Interior view of main doors, from the north
21	Interior of the barn, from the north-west, showing main entrance and modern shippon
22	Interior of the barn, from the south-west
24	The shippon, from the north-east
25	The shippon, from the south-west
27	The east roof truss, from the west

BARN AT HARROP GATE, GRINDLETON, LANCASHIRE: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of historic building recording at a barn at Harrop Gate, near Grindleton, Lancashire. The work was commissioned by the owner and developer, Grindleton Consolidated Charities, and carried out in March 2010, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Ribble Valley Borough Council for the conversion of the barn to residential use.
- 1.2 The barn recorded is a small, three-bay combination barn built of stone, which probably dates from the early 19th century, but which was altered in the 20th century by the replacement of the roof covering and the original shippon, and by various extensions.
- 1.3 The recording work was carried out in accordance with the standard specification 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, Ribble Valley Borough Council, the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, 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 Harrop Gate is a former farmstead, in Grindleton civil parish, which lies at NGR: SD 75074962, and some 190m above sea level, on the lane leading to Harrop Fold, a small settlement 0.5km to the south-west, lying on the north-east flank of Easington Fell (Figure 1). It falls within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the surrounding area is dominated by permanent pasture, used mostly for grazing livestock, and is drained by the Fell Brook, a tributary of the River Ribble.
- 2.2 The buildings at Harrop Gate include the house itself, on the north side of the road (which was renovated in 2009), and has a small granary and modern garage adjacent. The barn stands on the south side of the road (Figure 2) and has a number of modern farm buildings surrounding it; it was used until recently for housing livestock.

3 Planning background

- 3.1 The barn is not listed as having special architectural or historic interest. Planning consent was granted by Ribble Valley Borough Council in February 2010 for its conversion to two low cost dwellings (application no 3/2009/0513), and the consent includes a condition (no 13), requiring a programme of building recording and analysis, which this report and the project archive result from. This condition was imposed on the advice of the Lancashire County Archaeology Service which is to be a principal recipient of the report.

4 Historical background

- 4.1 Little is known of the history of Harrop Gate, which takes its name from its location on the road to Harrop Fold, or perhaps from its position at the boundary between Grindleton township and the detached part of the Forest of Bowland in which Harrop lies. It should be noted that until 1973 this formed part of the West Riding of Yorkshire.
- 4.2 Historic maps show that the barn was extant in 1846 when it was included on the Grindleton tithe map (Figure 3), and the Ordnance Survey first edition 6" to the mile (1:10560) map, surveyed in 1847, also shows it (Figure 4). The tithe schedule recorded enclosure number 701 as "Buildings, Fold etc" owned by "Poor of Grindleton", and occupied by John Tomlinson, who farmed a 21 acre holding, all of which belonged to the charity, the predecessor to the present owners. It has not been established when this charity was founded, but these circumstances suggest that it was formed by a legacy from a previous owner of the property. A larger scale (1:2500) Ordnance Survey map, revised in 1907, shows the barn largely as it is now, without the 20th century additions (Figure 5).
- 4.3 Although little is known of the history of the barn, such traditional farm buildings are of historical interest because they contribute to an understanding of the vernacular architecture and past farming systems of the region, and 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.

5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 The recording was carried out in accordance with the standard Lancashire County Archaeology Service specification for historic farm buildings, and involved photography, the production of measured drawings, and a written account. The site visit was made on 30 March 2010.

- 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 of the barn, 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 plan. All the photographs have been printed to a size of 7" x 5", 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 a ground floor plan and a cross-section, which show all significant archaeological detail, and employ conventions based on those specified by English Heritage¹.

6 Description of the building

- 6.1 The barn faces south-south-east and is T-shaped in plan, in essence a rectangle measuring 11.4m by 7.7m wide, with a central porch projecting to the front, now hemmed in by modern accretions to a large degree (**1,2**). The walls are of local sandstone rubble, 0.55m thick and roughly coursed or random, bedded on lime mortar, with edge-laid, squared quoins, while the roof, which was no doubt of stone slate originally, has been replaced with asbestos cement sheets.
- 6.2 To either side of the main doorway in the front elevation are shippons within the later lean-tos on the outside of the barn: there are no openings in the south wall in that to the west of the porch (**3**), but to the east is a small opening with dressed surrounds, which has been inserted, either to provide a window or a mucking-out hole (**4**). The west gable is rendered (but is thought not to have any apertures in any case) (**5**), as is part of the east side which is now within the later lean-to (**6**). However, a number of openings can be identified here, including a central square one, now glazed but probably a mucking-out hole originally, flanked by at least three blocked breathers which had narrow slits to the exterior, splaying to wider openings within the building (**7,8**). At the north-east corner of the barn is an entrance to the shippon (**9,10**), and at the apex of the east gable is a small rough ledge close to the ridge, which may represent the base of a former owl-hole. To the rear (the north), the doorway to left of centre might be termed a "winnowing doorway", and would have allowed a draught through the building during threshing; to the east of it is a window which has been inserted, or perhaps enlarged from a smaller opening, in the 20th century (**11,12**).
- 6.3 The porch on the front elevation is now enclosed by modern boarding to create a small shippon and would have been simply a covered entry formerly, but its original appearance is readily discerned: it has a floor of pitched stone (where

¹ English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice*

not overlain by concrete), with small square recesses in the flanking walls (13), and a loft overhead. The latter has modern, replacement softwood boards but the oak joists on which they rest appear original; the two outer ones bear halvings, mortices and peg holes which indicate that they have been re-used, and that over the inner doorway was clearly a principal rafter with elbowed lower end (14,15). The doors within this porch appear to be original to the barn and are harr-hung, with an asymmetrical arrangement and off-centre post between the two leaves (16-18). They are constructed from wide boards, and one of the rails bears graffiti which is only partly legible, but which appears to read "PROVE ..." (19), the meaning of which is obscure.

- 6.4 The interior of the barn proper, which has three bays, is given over to a shippon in the lower (east) third, a central "threshing" bay, and a mewstead at the west end, where crops and perhaps other material or implements would have been stored: the last is characterised by an absence of fixtures or openings in the walls (20). This, and the central bay, appear to have stone floors, although not fully visible at present. The central bay, between the two doorways, may have been used for threshing (although very few arable crops would have been grown here in the 19th century), but more importantly perhaps as a means of bringing a loaded cart or sled into the building for unloading hay onto the loft over the shippon (21,22). The rear doorway appears too small for a horse to exit, so was probably simply pedestrian access, or perhaps used to create the through draught when threshing. The door itself appears more modern than the main doors, but this opening also has a lintel of re-used oak timber (23).
- 6.5 The eastern third of the barn is occupied by a shippon for six animals in three pairs of standings, and although its structure is mid 20th century (concrete floor and boskins, and steel beams supporting a softwood loft) (24), no doubt it is a fairly close re-creation of the previous arrangement, which would have been timber-framed. The shippon has two recesses and a window in the east side (25,26), the former apparently created within the blocked, splayed breathers observed on the exterior.
- 6.6 The two roof trusses over the barn are of king post design with raking struts, and clearly pre-date the present asbestos roof covering, as they have redundant trenchings for purlins, and the present purlins are seated lower down the principal rafters (27). These trusses are fashioned from sawn softwood (as far as can be determined from floor level), and have bolted king posts in a very common design which suggests that they are early 19th century, or possibly late 18th century.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Architectural features and the character of the barn suggest that it was built in the early 19th century to be used as a combination barn or multi-purpose farm building, for the occupier of Harrop Gate, a small farm of only some 21 acres which may have been established around that time or earlier, perhaps on land which was newly enclosed. The barn is very typical of the district and period, in its arrangement of central bay with small adjacent shippon, and its primary role would have been to overwinter cows, and store hay for their fodder, but also perhaps to store and process a small grain crop. Modern alterations detract from its significance but nevertheless it remains a valuable part of the local historical landscape.

The author would welcome any relevant additional information or notice of inaccuracy in this report.

Appendix: Contents of the project archive

To be deposited with the Lancashire Record Office

Archive contains:

- 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
12	1	1	North elevation of the barn
11	1	3	View of the barn, from the north-east
5	1	4	View of the barn, from the north-west
9	1	5	The barn, from the north-east
6	1	6	The barn, from the east
2	1	7	The barn, from the south-east
1	1	9	The barn, from the south
4	1	10	Inserted opening at south-west corner of barn
7	1	11	Muck hole and blocked breathers in east gable of barn
8	1	12	Muck hole and blocked breathers in east gable of barn
10	1	13	Entrance to shippon at north-east corner of barn
26	1	16	The rear of the present shippon, from the north-west
25	1	17	The shippon, from the south-west
24	1	18	The shippon, from the north-east
20	2	3	View into the south-west corner of the mewstead
22	2	4	Interior of the barn, from the south-west
23	2	5	Interior view of north door, with mortice in re-used lintel
21	2	7	Interior of the barn, from the north-west, showing main entrance and modern shippon
27	2	9	The east roof truss, from the west
19	2	12	Graffiti on rail of main doors (thought to read "PROVe.....")
18	2	13	Interior view of main doors, form the north
16	2	15	Exterior view of main doors, within porch
13	2	16	Recess in east side of porch, and pitched stone floor
15	2	17	Re-used timber (elbowed principal rafter), over main doors
14	2	18	Re-used timber over main entrance
3	3	1	Later shippon at south-west corner, from the south-east
28	3	3	The house at Harrop Gate
17	3	4	Doors within south entrance, from the west

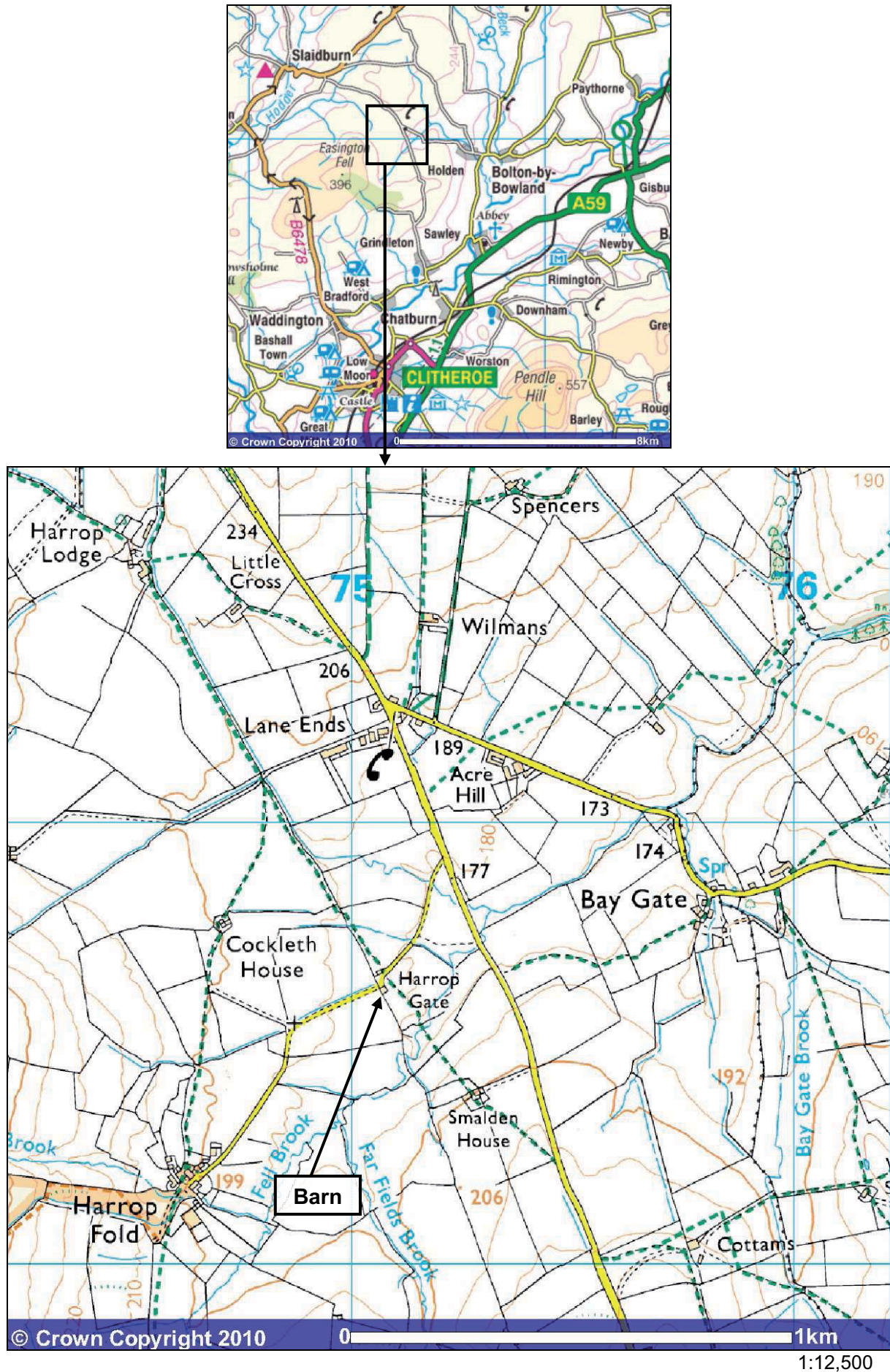
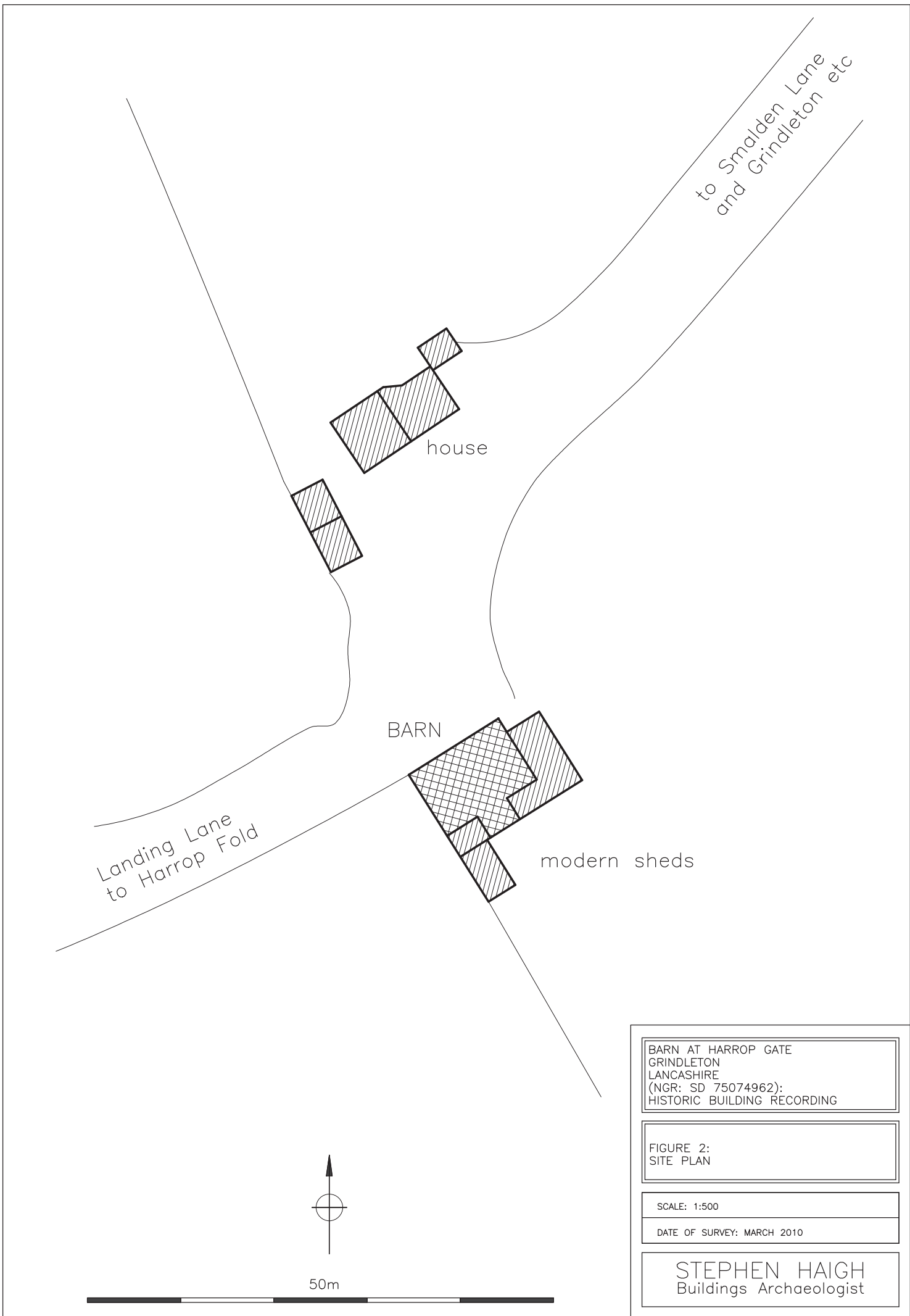


Figure 1: Location maps

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to Smalden Lane
and Grindleton etc

house

BARN

modern sheds

Landing Lane
to Harrop Fold

BARN AT HARROP GATE
GRINDLETON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 75074962):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 2:
SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1:500

DATE OF SURVEY: MARCH 2010

STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist



50m



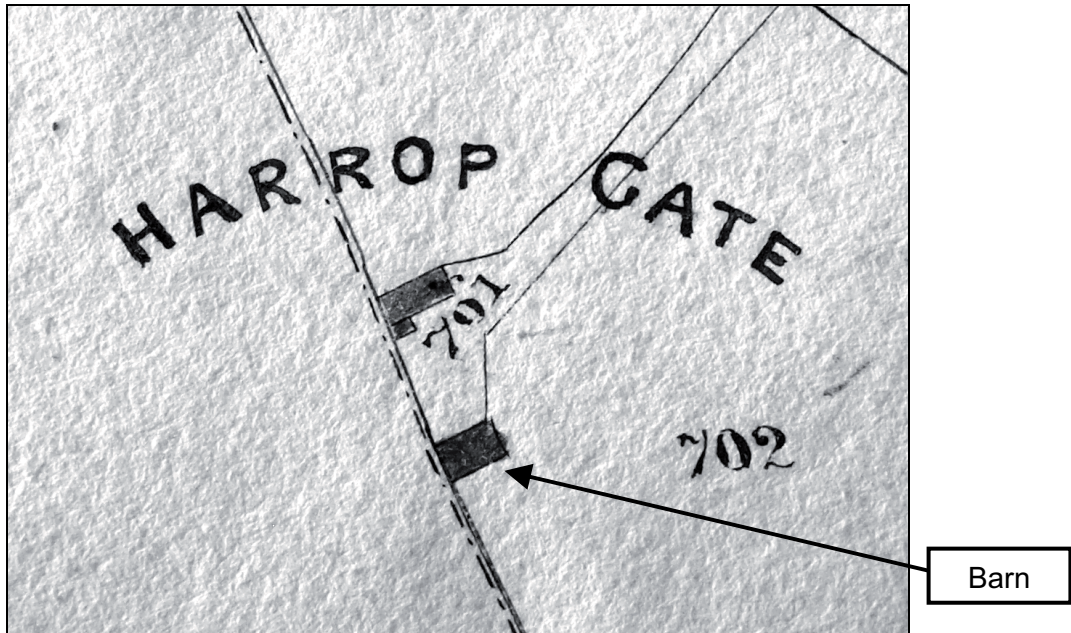


Figure 3: Extract from the Grindleton tithe map (plan no 2), 1846
(Lancashire Record Office: PR3031/4/3)

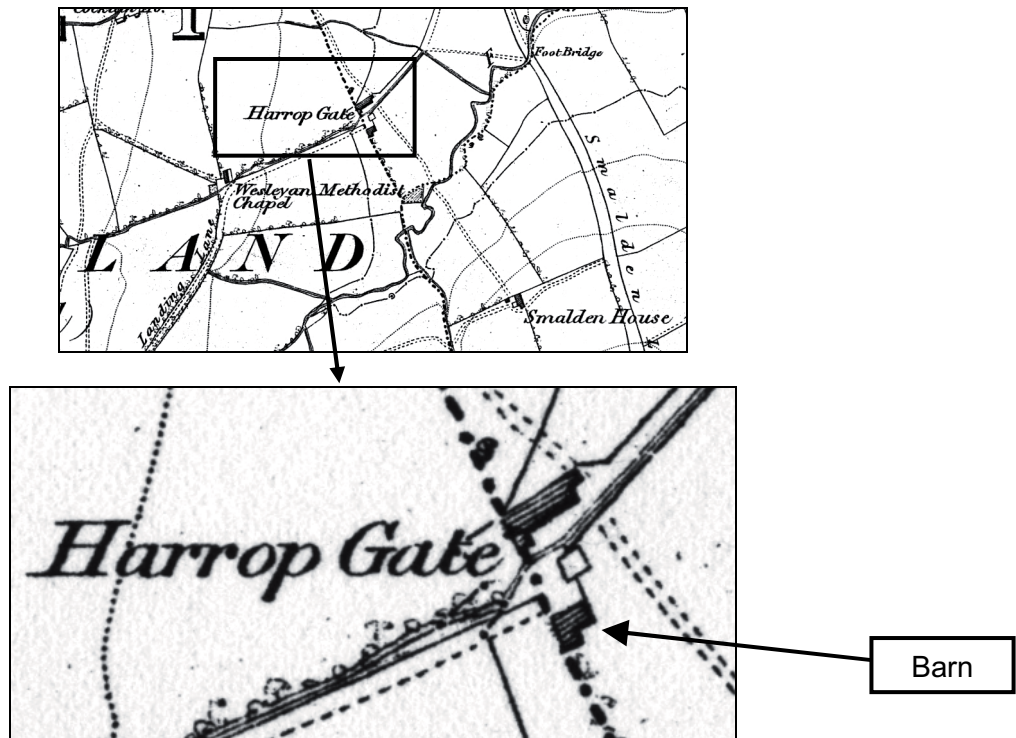


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map (lower extract enlarged to approx 1:2500)
Published 1850 (surveyed 1847)
Sheet no: Yorkshire [West Riding] 165

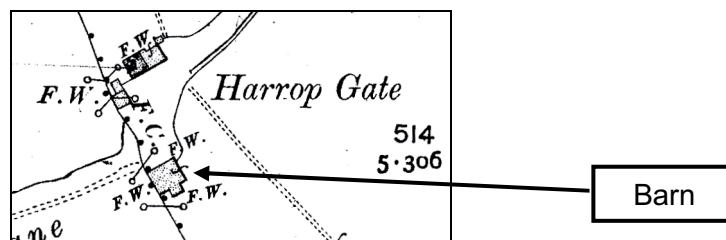
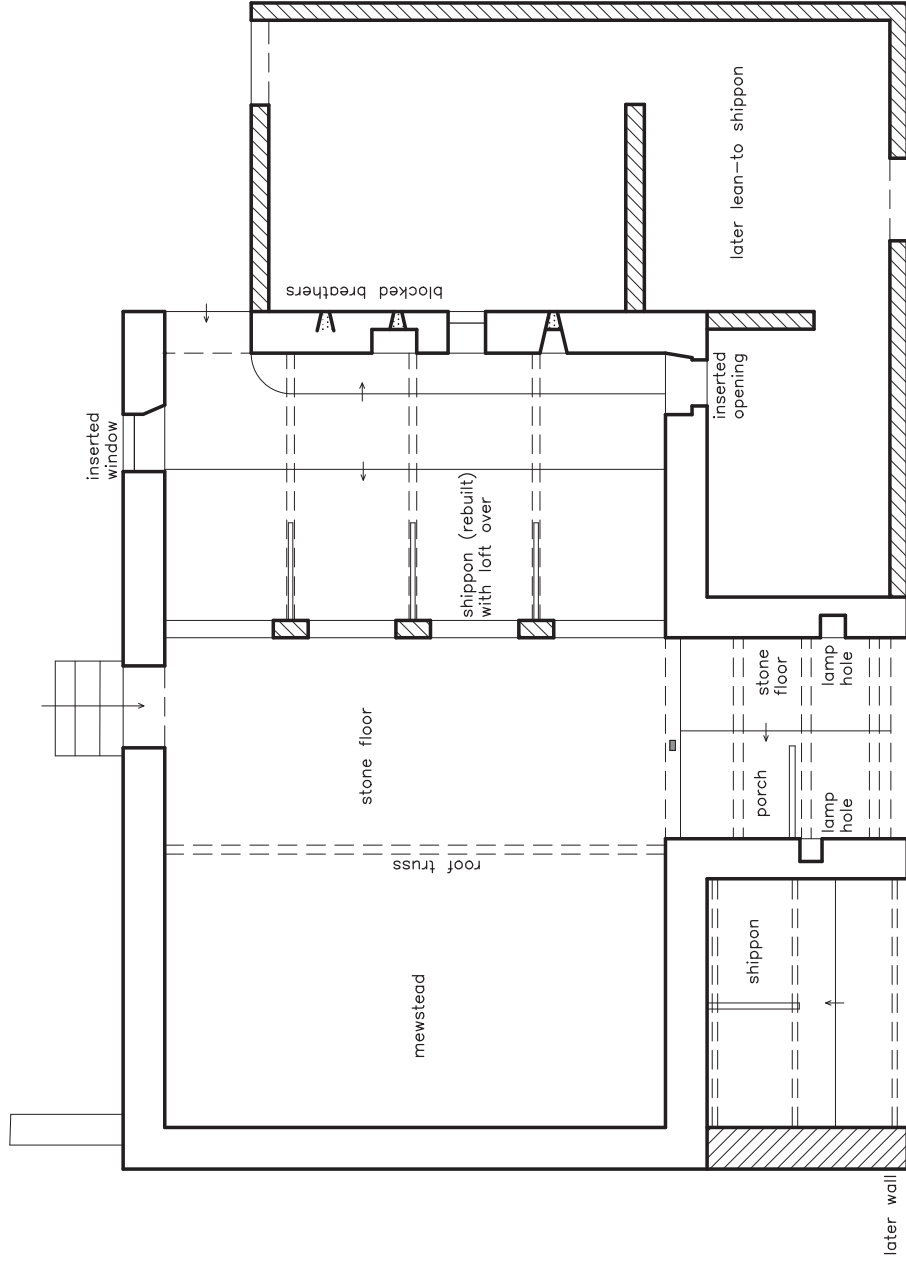


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map
Published 1909 (revised 1907)
Sheet no: Yorkshire [West Riding] 165.11



BARN AT HARROP GATE
GRINDLETON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 75074962):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 6:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: MARCH 2010

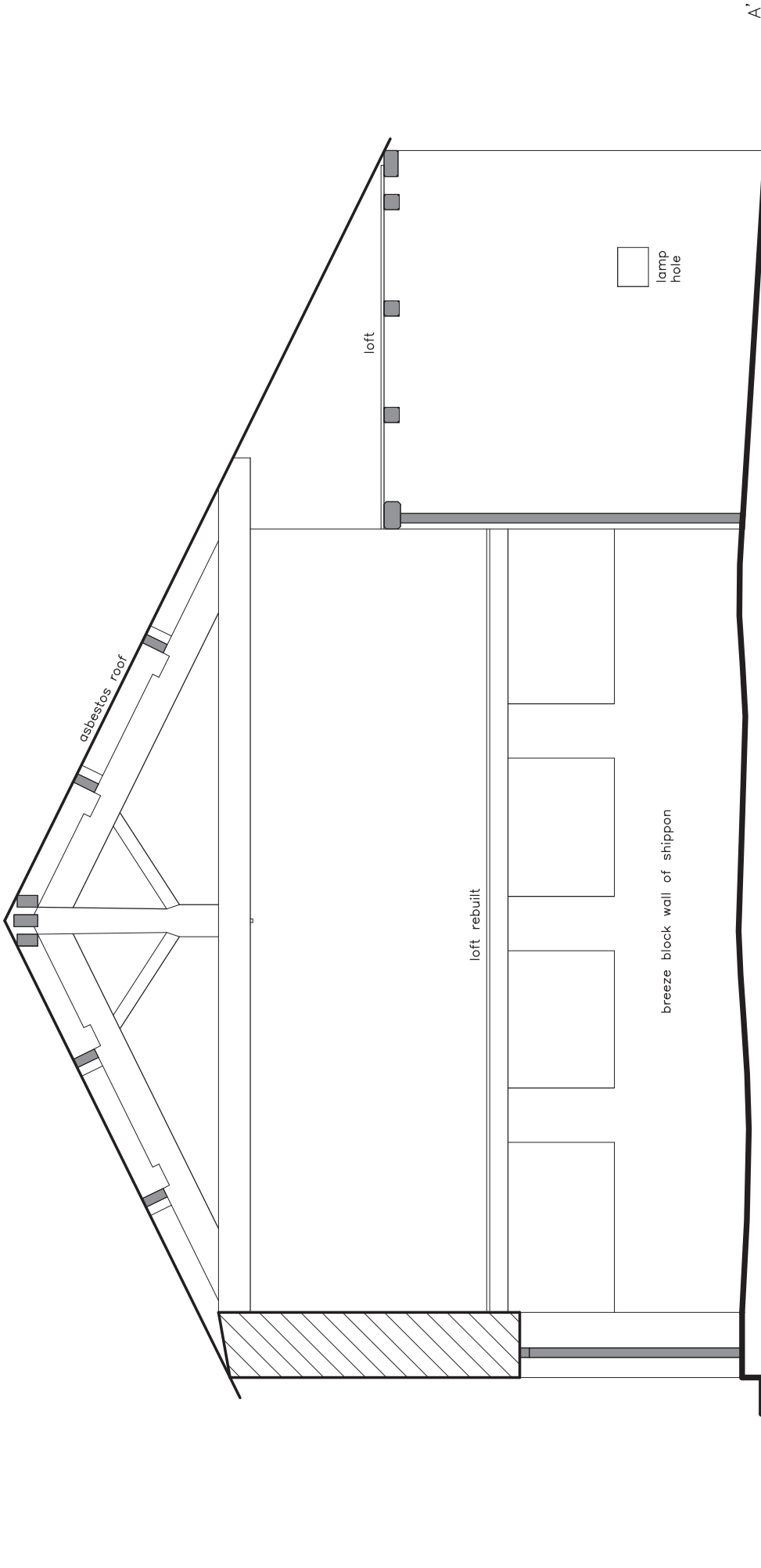
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Buildings Archaeologist

↑ step up

▒ blocking or infill

10m

BASED ON ORIGINAL SURVEY BY JEFF MARSHALL & ASSOCIATES



BARN AT HARROP GATE
 GRINDLETON
 LANCASHIRE
 (NGR: SD 75074962):
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

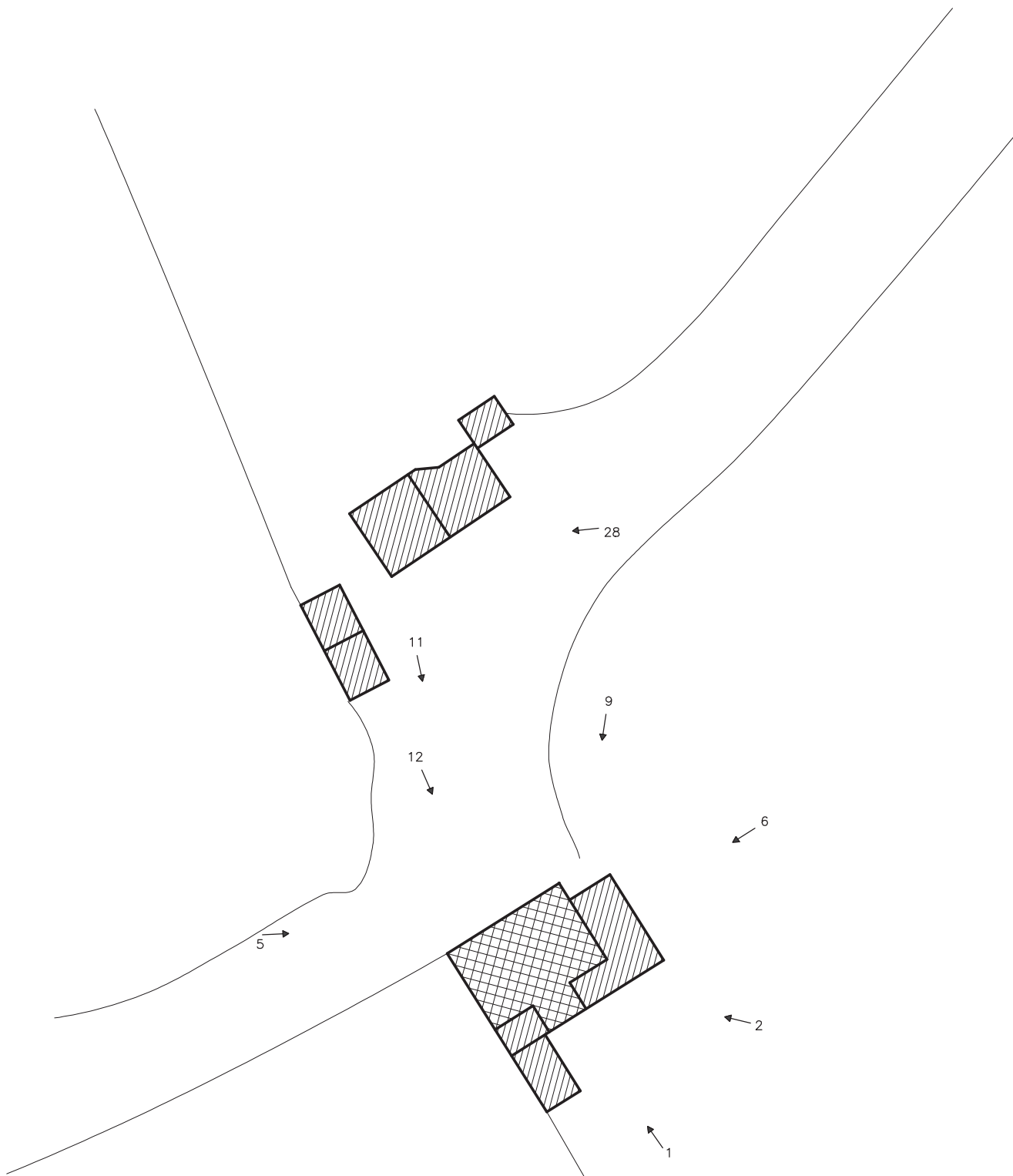
FIGURE 7:
 CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1:50

DATE OF SURVEY: MARCH 2010

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↗ 1: photograph direction and number

BARN AT HARROP GATE
GRINDLETON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 75074962):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 8:
SITE PLAN
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:500

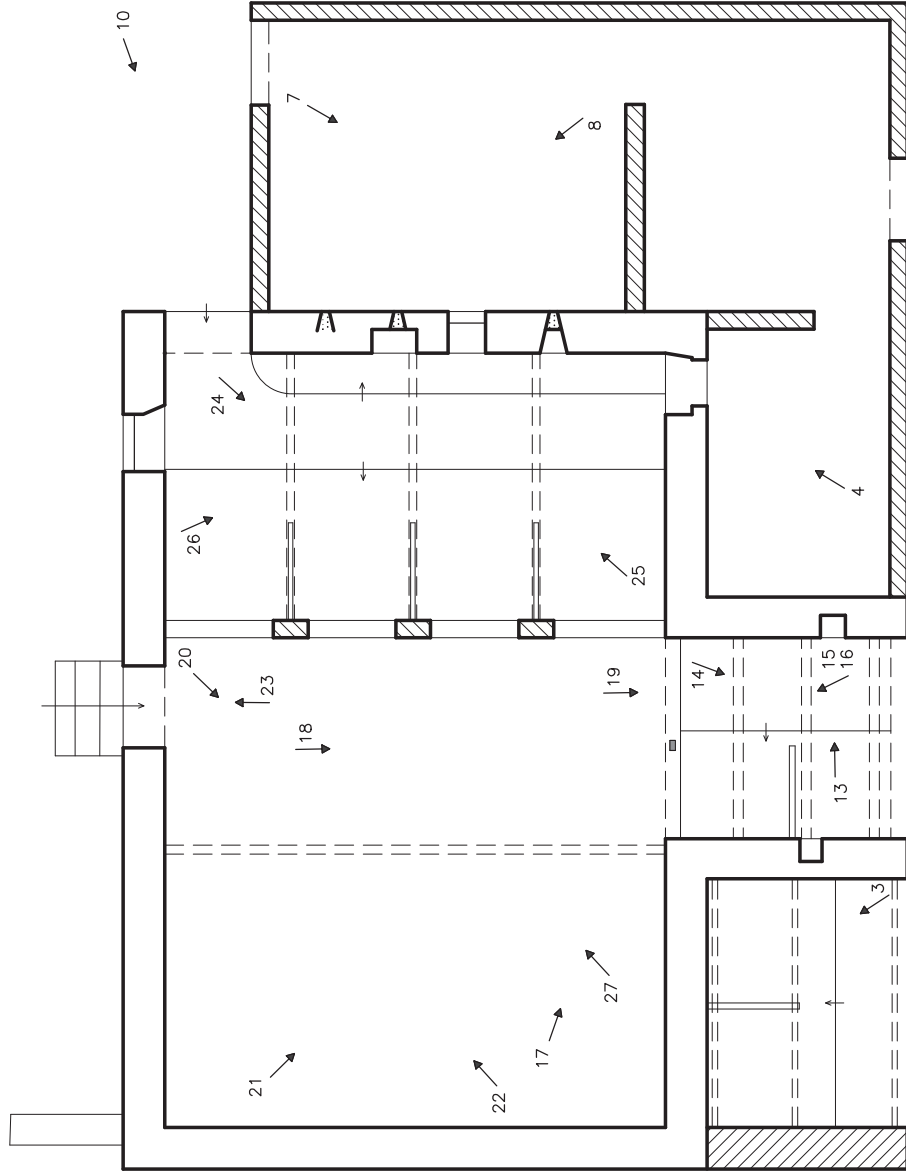
DATE OF SURVEY: MARCH 2010

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50m





↗ 1: photograph direction and number

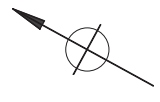
BARN AT HARROP GATE
GRINDLETON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 75074962):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

FIGURE 9:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100

DATE OF SURVEY: MARCH 2010

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Buildings Archaeologist



10m
BASED ON ORIGINAL SURVEY BY JEFF MARSHALL & ASSOCIATES



Photo 1: The barn, from the south



Photo 5: View of the barn, from the north-west



Photo 7: Muck hole and blocked breathers in east gable of barn



Photo 9: The barn, from the north-east



Photo 12: North elevation of the barn



Photo 15: Re-used timber (elbowed principal rafter), over main doors



Photo 18: Interior view of main doors, from the north



Photo 21: Interior of the barn, from the north-west, showing main entrance and modern shippon



Photo 22: Interior of the barn, from the south-west



Photo 24: The shippon, from the north-east



Photo 25: The shippon, from the south-west



Photo 27: The east roof truss, from the west