WADDETON BARTON BARNS, STOKE GABRIEL, DEVON

(NGR SX 87268 56951)

Results of historic building recording

South Hams District Council planning reference 52/1249/10/F, Condition 20

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> On behalf of: Mr Russell Slowley

> > Document No: ACD845/2/0

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	CONTENTS	
	Summary	
1.	Introduction	1
2.	The site	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Building survey	2
6.	Comments	7
7.	Archive and OASIS entry	8
8.	Acknowledgements	8
9.	Courses consulted	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1: Location of site
- Fig. 2: Extract from the 1888 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map
- Fig. 2: Plan of the barns

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1: Building 1, northwest elevation showing raised rooflines, viewed from the northeast. 1m scale.
- Plate 2: Building 1, southwest elevation, north end, showing raised rooflines and altered openings, viewed from the southwest. 1m scale.
- Plate 3: Building 1, interior, viewed from the southeast.
- Plate 4: Building 1, detail of the first-floor structure, viewed from the northwest.
- Plate 5: Building 2, southwest elevation viewed from the northwest. 1m scale.
- Plate 6: Building 2, interior, viewed from the southeast.
- Plate 7: Building 3, southeast and northeast elevations, viewed from the southeast. 1m scale.
- Plate 8: Building 3, southwest elevation (north end) and northwest elevation, showing later extension, viewed from the west.
- Plate 9: Building 3, the roof structure, viewed from the northwest.
- Plate 10: Building 4, southeast elevation showing alterations, viewed from the southeast. 1m scale.
- Plate 11: Building 4, northeast elevation showing alterations, viewed from the northeast. 1m scale.
- Plate 12: Building 4, first floor showing roof timbers and break in northeast elevation, viewed from the southeast

Summary

An historic building record of a group of farm buildings at Waddeton Barton Barns, Stoke Gabriel, Devon (NGR SX 87268 56951) was prepared by AC archaeology in February 2014. The work was required prior to their conversion into accommodation.

Three of the barns were constructed in the mid-late 19th century, with two functioning as cowhouses with laylofts over. They formed an extension to the existing farm complex and were associated with diversification into the rearing of cattle. In the late 19th- or early 20-century they were altered and a new combination barn with a stable, card sheds and hayloft/threshing floor constructed. In the later 20th century this building was extended and partially converted into a dairy. Alterations were also made to the other buildings.

1. **INTRODUCTION** (Fig. 1)

1.1 This report outlines the results of historic building recording of four barns at Waddeton Barton Barns, Stoke Gabriel, Devon (NGR SX 87268 56951; Fig. 1), carried out by AC archaeology on 10 February 2014. The work was commissioned by Russell Slowley, and was required under condition 20 of South Hams District Council planning reference 52/1249/10/F for "Conversion of redundant barns to four permanent and one holiday/ancillary dwellings, car parking, access improvements and associated works".

2. THE SITE (Fig. 2)

- 2.1 The site lies within the hamlet of Waddeton (in the parish of Stoke Gabriel), which is situated between the larger settlements of Galmpton, Goodrington and Stoke Gabriel. It lies at a height of around 60m aOD. The underlying geology comprises interbedded mudstone and limestone of the St Mary's Bay member.
- 2.2 Waddeton Barton is one of a number of farms situated within the hamlet. It is located on an unnamed highway between Waddeton Road and Stoke Road. To the south of Stoke Road are the remains of the 16th-century Waddeton Manor (National Heritage List no. 1147699) and a 19th-century chapel on the site of a 13th-century chapel (Devon Historic Environment Record MDV39408). To the south of these is Waddeton Court, a grade II listed country house constructed in 1829 (MDV39285).
- 2.3 The farm is depicted on the 1840 Stoke Gabriel tithe map as a farmhouse fronting the highway, with two ranges of buildings to the rear, aligned at right angles forming a yard (plot 680). The northern building turns to the south, partially enclosing the western side of the yard. A garden is depicted south of the house (plot 681). Associated farmland comprised seven fields located to the north of the farm, either side of the highway. These were described as orchards and arable land. The recorded farm buildings had not been constructed by 1840; they occupy land that formed part of the house plot and an orchard in 1840. The farm was owned by Henry Studdy and occupied by William Blight.
- 2.4 Three of the four buildings are depicted (as two barns) on the 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Fig. 2). The other barn, located to the northwest of the others, had been constructed by 1906 when the mapping was revised.

3. AIMS

3.1 The aim of the work was to prepare a record of the historic barns prior to works commencing, and if necessary carry out recording during conversion to record any newly exposed fabric or architectural features.

4. METHODOLOGY

- **4.1** All works were undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AC archaeology (Passmore 2014).
- **4.2** A rapid desk-based appraisal was undertaken to inform the results of the project. It comprised a review of:
 - Archaeological and historical data held by Devon County Historic Environment Record (DCHER), and;
 - Historical, cartographic and documentary information at the Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter.
- 4.3 The barns were recorded to Levels 2/3 as set out in *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006), and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*. The investigations comprised a full written description of the building, annotated architect's as existing drawings, and a colour digital photographic record. The recording took into account architectural styles and construction methods, the development of the barns and their place in the layout of the farmyard, and the surviving historic fixtures and fittings.

5. BUILDING SURVEY (Fig. 3; plates 1-12)

5.1 The range of farm buildings forms, along with the earlier and more recent farm buildings along the south and north side respectively, a long rectangular courtyard. These other buildings lie outside the development area. The earlier buildings to the south are built in a similar style and may be of a similar, although clearly from the cartographic evidence slightly earlier, date as the buildings investigated. There are the remains (floors and the bases of walls) of other structures in the courtyard and to the west.

5.2 Building 1 – external elevations

Northwest elevation (Plate 1)

This is constructed of rough rectangular blocks of limestone with occasional red sandstone, laid in rough courses bonded with hard, light pinkish-white, cement mortar containing common sub-angular gravel inclusions. It has quoins on the west corner, whilst the north corner is rounded, with a projecting rounded buttress forming its lower part. The roof level has been raised twice. The first phase is represented by masonry containing a higher concentration of red sandstone. Within this masonry is a first-floor central opening with a wooden frame set below a brick arch; it has some red sandstone jambs. The opening has been partially blocked with bricks that are set back from the wall face. The roofline was subsequently raised with red bricks laid in English and stretcher bond.

Northeast elevation

This elevation faces the road and consists of the same three phases of masonry recorded on the northwest elevation. The lower courses of the primary masonry contain some large red sandstone blocks measuring up to 0.90m long. The heightening can be seen more clearly than in the North West facing elevation – here there are one to two courses of red sandstone masonry. Above this, the brickwork is laid in stretcher bond. There is a primary narrow rectangular opening roughly in the centre of the lower part of the wall. The elevation also incorporates two inserted square openings. These have concrete sills and wooden lintels covered by pieces of asbestos sheet, with cement render forming the sides of the openings.

Southwest elevation (Plate 2)

This elevation consists of the same three phases of masonry as recorded on the other elevations. At the north end of the building, the primary masonry is lower than to the south, and the building may have comprised two elements – a single-storey structure to the north and a two-storey structure to the south – although it is possible that the north end has been more heavily rebuilt. There are some patches of repair to the mortar in this elevation in a hard, yellow cement mortar.

At ground-floor level there are seven low openings, two larger openings and a central opening with a loading door above. All appear to be primary doorways. The five shorter openings have wooden lintels. A total of four have been partially infilled to create windows using concrete blocks and bricks and then rendered. These have wooden frames but no glass is present. The two taller openings have been raised into the second phase of masonry using brickwork, and have wooden lintels that have been covered with parts of a sheet of asbestos. They retain wooden doors. The ground-floor central opening has also been heightened using bricks and has a wooden lintel covered with cement. It also has a wooden door. Above this is a wider loading doorway that has been partially blocked with bricks set back from the wall face. Parts of a wooden frame survive, on which are metal pintles to hang a door or shutter.

5.2 Building 1 – internal description

Ground floor (Plates 3-4)

This area contains stalls for animals in the centre of the room with passageways against the long elevation. There is access to building 2 at the south end. The floor is concrete finished with an inlaid grid pattern. The floor level is highest on the northeast side within the feeding passage and it steps down in the stalls and again in the walkway on the southwest side. The stalls are formed from wooden posts and planks, along with metal posts to hang the doors on, although none of the latter remain. There is a feeding trough on the northeast side of the stalls built of breeze blocks and bricks.

The vertical posts to which the stall dividers are attached rise to the base of the first floor planks. They do not seem to support this floor, although some of the posts are fixed to the bridging beams with small pieces of timber. There is scissor bracing between some of the beams. There is a hay feeder in the stall at the south end. Other fittings include galvanised steel water pipes fed by plastic pipes.

The lower halves of the walls are finished in cement render, with painted masonry above. The first-floor structure and upper parts of the vertical posts are also painted white.

First floor

This floor was used as a hay loft, and has most recently been used for general storage. It has wooden floorboards. The top of the first phase of the heightening of the external walls is visible, as is the later brickwork, which is not as thick as the earlier masonry. The roof trusses are modern and are sat on dwarf brick piers laid on top of the first phase of wall heightening. The roof is covered with corrugated iron sheeting, which sits on a layer of wooden tiles on the east pitch.

The only historic feature on this floor is a hatch in the floor with a ladder leading down to the feeding passage below.

5.3 Building 2 – external elevations

Northeast elevation

The masonry of this building is continuous with that of the primary construction of building 1, comprising rough rectangular blocks of light grey limestone with occasional red sandstone, bonded in hard, light pinkish-white, cement mortar. There are some large blocks of sandstone near the base of the wall measuring up to 1m long. Within this elevation there are six original square window openings with wooden lintels and patches of cement repairs.

Southeast elevation

The masonry of the northeast elevation originally turned 90° to form the southeast elevation. The majority of this wall has been rebuilt in breeze blocks incorporating a doorway, although the quoins at the corner survive. At road level, the masonry continues to the south but the lower quoins above have been rebuilt. There is a large height difference between the road level and the ground floor inside the building, and it appears that there was an external staircase or flight of steps at this end of the building.

Southwest-facing elevation (Plate 5)

This elevation is constructed of the same masonry as the northeast elevation. There are some patches of repair to the mortar using in a hard, yellow cement mortar. It incorporates 10 low openings with wooden lintels, some of which retain metal pintles for hanging doors. Towards the north end of the elevation there is a full height opening with a wooden lintel and metal pintles for a door. One of the doorways has a square opening above it with a wooden frame and door. It has been partially blocked with breeze blocks set back from the wall face.

5.4 Building 2 – internal description

Ground floor (Plate 6)

At the northwest end, the inserted division with building 1 is a brick wall with doorways on either side. The internal faces of the walls are whitewashed. This building was used for housing livestock. It has a concrete floor. There is a feeding passage on the northeast side, adjacent to which is a row of feeding troughs constructed from breeze blocks and bricks lined in concrete. There is an individual pen at the northwest end, otherwise the stalls are largely open but partially divided by vertical posts supporting horizontal planks and beams. The posts do not support the first floor, although some of the posts are fixed to the bridging beams. Some of the bridging beams supporting the first floor are unshaped tree trunks.

First floor

Only part of the building has a first floor consisting of wooden boards, with the north end being open to the roof. The floor was used as a hay loft. There are no historic

fixtures and fittings at this level. The roof trusses are all modern and are racking, and comprise simple A-frames most having several applied collars. The timbers are a mixture of unshaped tree trunks, crudely shaped reused beams, and industrially produced planks, all fixed with nails and bolts, although some earlier pegs are present. The corrugated metal roof is supported on wooden purlins set onto the roof trusses.

5.5 Building 3 – external elevations

This building is a bank barn whose ground floor opens onto the farmyard on its southwest side. The ground level on the southwest side is at the level of the first floor.

Southeast elevation

This is constructed of rectangular blocks of grey limestone, laid in rough courses, with hard, light grey, cement mortar containing common sub-angular gravel inclusions. At first-floor level there is a central square loading doorway with a concrete sill and brick arch forming its head. It has a wooden frame and a pair of doors. Above the doorway is a central, tall, narrow rectangular ventilation slit. The masonry above the and below doorway is failing and there are some large cracks.

Northeast elevation (Plate 7)

The masonry of the southeast end of the elevation is a continuation of that in the southeast elevation. On the ground floor there is a doorway with a wooden frame and door, under an arched stonework head. There are single windows on both floors, each with concrete sills, wooden frames and shutters. The ground-floor window has an arched stonework head.

The remainder of the elevation is of completely different, later masonry. The ground floor is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond with projecting brick pillars extending to the eaves level. Within each bay there are doorways with concrete lintels and wooden frames and doors. There are six wooden-framed windows. Most are divided into 10 glass panes, although two contain wooden ventilation slats. The first floor is timber framed supporting weatherboarding.

Northwest elevation and north extension (Plate 8)

This is constructed from the same limestone masonry as described above. It is largely obscured by a later extension, although a central, tall, rectangular ventilation slit is visible in the gable. The extension is constructed of red brick laid in English bond. It has been extended to the east using red bricks laid in stretcher bond and concrete blocks. The pitch of the roofline has been heightened to cover this masonry. The roof is covered with corrugated asbestos sheets. The southwest elevation incorporates a projection with a blocked window. The northwest elevation incorporates a doorway leading into a passage to the main barn, and a window in the later extension. There is a large opening in the northeast elevation, and doorways in the southeast return.

Southwest-facing elevation (Plate 8)

This is constructed from the same limestone masonry as described above. At either end of the elevation there are large doorways with concrete lintels. The doorframe and door in the southern opening is modern. To the north there is an area of smaller, less well-defined masonry that might represent a blocked opening. Further north there is a small window opening under the eaves.

5.6 Building 3 – internal description

Ground floor

In the southeast room there are wooden chutes for transferring grain down from the first floor. These have been constructed onto a concrete floor.

The northwest part of the building was last used as a milking parlour. It has a split level concrete floor with drainage channels at the lower yard level. The upper level is divided into 'stalls' using galvanised steel tubing, and here much of the milking equipment, including pipes and glass vessels, survive. Other fittings including slate chalk boards, heaters and a paper towel dispenser. The lower parts of the walls are rendered in cement, with the remainder, along with the ceiling joists, being painted white.

The northern extension is divided into two corridors and a larger room containing the vestiges of further milking equipment.

First floor (Plate 9)

A stone wall incorporating a wide central doorway divides a smaller southern room from the larger northern area. There are three large steel grain hoppers within the southern room. The northern room was last used to store grain. A number of galvanised steel pipes are also currently stored in the room, and must have been formerly used in association with the hoppers. Both rooms have wooden floorboards. Other than some later 20th-century electrical equipment there are no fixtures and fittings *in situ*. The barn has a king post roof with diagonal struts. The trusses are supported on the side elevations including the brick piers on the front elevation. The roof covering (corrugated metal sheeting on the southwest side and slates on the northeast side) is supported on wooden rafters and purlins slightly trenched into the trusses.

5.7 Building 4 – external elevations

Southeast elevation (Plate 10)

This is constructed of rough rectangular blocks of light grey limestone with occasional red sandstone, laid in rough courses bonded in a hard, light pinkish-white, cement mortar with common sub-angular gravel inclusions.

At ground-floor level there are doorways at either end. The northern opening has been raised and has a concrete lintel. This alteration is contemporary with the rebuilding of the northeast corner forming a 45° angle. This work was undertaken using red bricks and limestone. Between the doorways are two inserted small square windows with concrete sills, wooden lintels and frames, although neither have glass. Some of the jambs are brick, but some stonework is visible, and these may have been widened from narrower ventilation slits. Between these openings is an external staircase constructed of breeze blocks with a metal hand rail. This leads to an earlier first-floor doorway with a wooden frame and door. Given the early age of the door the external staircase may replace stone stairs as present on the building to the south (not within the present site).

There is a rough break in masonry at the southwest end and to the south, there is a slight change in the stonework with more red limestone used, bonded in a hard, yellow-grey mortar with common sub-angular gravel inclusions. The southwest corner has quoins of large sandstone blocks up to 0.90m long.

Northeast elevation (Plate 11)

The southeast corner of this elevation has been rebuilt as discussed above. There is a vertical break approximately 1.5m from the west corner, almost down to the ground level, where it turns 90° horizontally. This divides the two types of masonry observed in the southeast-facing elevation, and from this elevation it is clear that the southeast side of the building has been rebuilt. The whole elevation has been heightened with the gable formed from brickwork laid in an irregular bond. The only opening is a narrow rectangular window or vent with breeze blocks forming its sides.

Southwest elevation and extension

The majority of this elevation is obstructed by an extension. As observed on the northeast elevation, the gable has been heightened using brickwork laid in an irregular bond. In the stone masonry there is an inserted square opening with concrete blocks forming its sides. There is a second, high-level, window, now obscured by the extension, which has concrete blocks and bricks forming its sides.

The extension is constructed of coursed grey limestone. It is single storeyed with a pitched roof covered with corrugated metal sheeting. It has a window in its southwest elevation containing a wooden frame but no glass. There is has a doorway in its southeast elevation with a wooden frame and lintel with metal pintles for a door. The lower parts of the walls have been rendered with cement, with the reminder whitewashed. There are the remains of a partially demolished feeding trough in the southwest corner. The floor surface has been removed. The roof is supported on wooden purlins and rafters.

5.8 Building 4 – internal description

Ground floor

This area formerly contained modern stall fittings, which had been stripped out, along with the concrete floor surface. Part of the northwest wall retained its cement render. Above this the walls and floor joists are whitewashed. The only features are 20th-century electric lights.

First floor (Plate 12)

This was probably used as a hay loft, but had been cleared ready for use during the conversion of the barns. It has wooden floor boards, and there are no historic fixtures and fittings. The breaks defining the rebuilt east side of the barn are very clear internally. Within the northwest elevation, which could not be inspected externally, two narrow, splayed rectangular ventilation slits are present. The brickwork used to heighten the building is not as thick as the original stone walls.

The principal rafters of the roof trusses appear to date to the period of the heightening of the gables, and have halved apexes. All of the other timbers and the corrugated metal sheeting covering is modern.

- **6. COMMENTS**, with a contribution by Andrew Passmore
- 6.1 The documentary appraisal has identified that by the mid 19th century Waddeton Barton was a small farm surrounded by orchards and arable land. Three of the recorded buildings (nos 1, 2 and 4) were constructed in the mid-late 19th century, and from their form it is clear that agricultural practices had changed dramatically.
- **6.2** Buildings 1 and 2 originally formed part of the same barn, and have the distinctive yard fenestration indicating that it was constructed a long cowhouse with a central cart shed. It originally included a low hay loft, the height of which has been retained

- in building 2. The large number of doorways is unusual for a cowhouse, although not rare. This type of accommodation has been classified as 'looseboxes' by English Heritage (2006, 59), and was provided where beef stock were housed to fatten up. The building (being enclosed) would have been warm but was also provided with ventilation. The changes in agricultural practices as identified from this building are typical of the region at this period when cattle numbers rose. The original function of building 4 is unknown since it has been extensively rebuilt. It was two storeyed but there is no surviving evidence for access to the first floor it was presumably in the southeast elevation.
- 6.3 The barns underwent extensive alterations in the late 19th- or early 20th-century. Barn 3 was also constructed at this time. The barn forming buildings 1 and 2 must have been subdivided and in the northern half, the height of the first-floor level was raised to provide additional storage capacity. This was accessed by new loading doors. The original lower first floor was retained in building 2. The southeast elevation and most of the northeast elevation of building 4 was rebuilt, and it may have been reconstructed to accommodate cattle. Given its relatively small size, it may have had a specific use such as a bull's house. Again it was provided with a hayloft above, entered via a single doorway on the southeast elevation. Barn 3 was originally constructed as a rare type of combination barn, with a stable and cart sheds on the ground floor and a hayloft or threshing floor above. The provision for a large number of carts may indicate that the farm was supplying a wider market (perhaps via the railway network) and that produce needed to be transported in large quantities. It is possible, although there is no evidence, for this that more dairying was taking place. This could account for the alterations to building 1.
- The farm buildings underwent further alterations in the 20th century, most of which appear to date to the second half of this period. The farm was also extended to the north and west outside the present site. In building 1, the roofline was raised further, providing additional storage space, and on the ground floor some of the doorways were converted into windows. In common with then current practices and government guidance, the inside of buildings 1 and 2 were refitted with modern stalls, floors and feeding troughs. In building 3, the cart sheds were converted to a dairy; the open front was infilled and a new extension added to the north side. The first floor was still utilised for storage, and new grain hoppers were added to the room above the former stable that now contained grain bins. Building 4 was also altered, and new windows and openings added. These give the impression of being converted to stable, which is a possible use, although the barn was last used as a cowhouse, and the windows may simply have provided ventilation like the openings in buildings 1 and 2.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY

7.1 A digital archive, consisting of all relevant born-digital data, and a copy of the report will be deposited with the archaeology data service. An Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS (OASIS) entry has been completed under the unique identification number 176324.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 This report was commissioned by the landowner Russell Slowley, and was managed for AC archaeology by Andrew Passmore. The fieldwork was carried out by Stella de-Villiers, with the documentary research by Paul Rainbird. The report was written by Stella De-Villiers, with a contribution by Andrew Passmore, and the illustrations

doc. no. ACD845/2/0

prepared by Elisabeth Patkai. Thanks are due to Marrina Neophytou for providing information from the Devon County Historic Environment Record.

9. SOURCES CONSULTED

Devon Heritage Centre

Stoke Gabriel tithe map 1840 and apportionment 1839

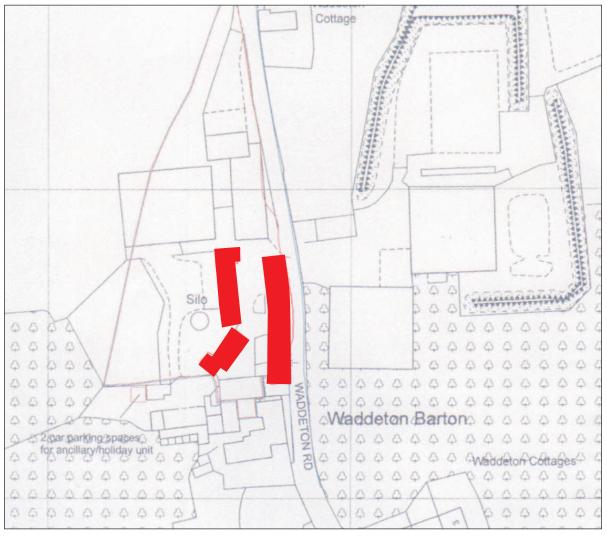
English Heritage, 2006, *Historic Farmsteads, Preliminary character statement, South West Region*.

Passmore, A., 2014, Waddeton Barton Barns, Stoke Gabriel, Devon (NGR SX 87268 56951), Written Scheme of Investigation for historic building recording, South Hams District Council Planning reference 52/1249/10/F, AC archaeology document No. ACD845/1/0.

doc. no. ACD845/2/0



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PROJECT

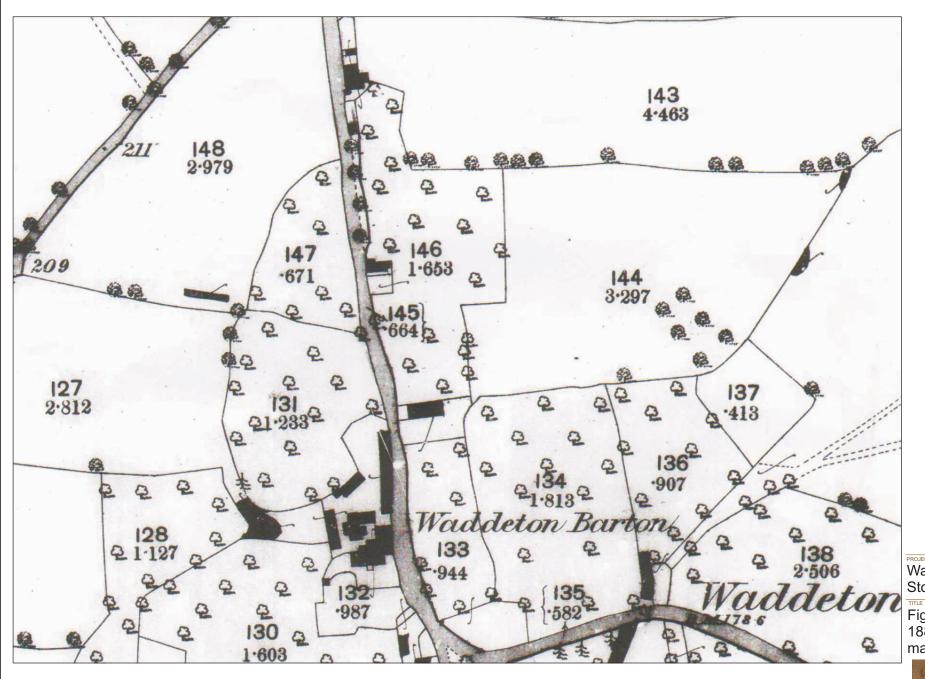
Waddeton Barton Barns, Stoke Gabriel, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



Buildings recorded



Waddeton Barton Barns, Stoke Gabriel, Devon

Fig. 2: Extract from the 1888 Ordnance Survey map



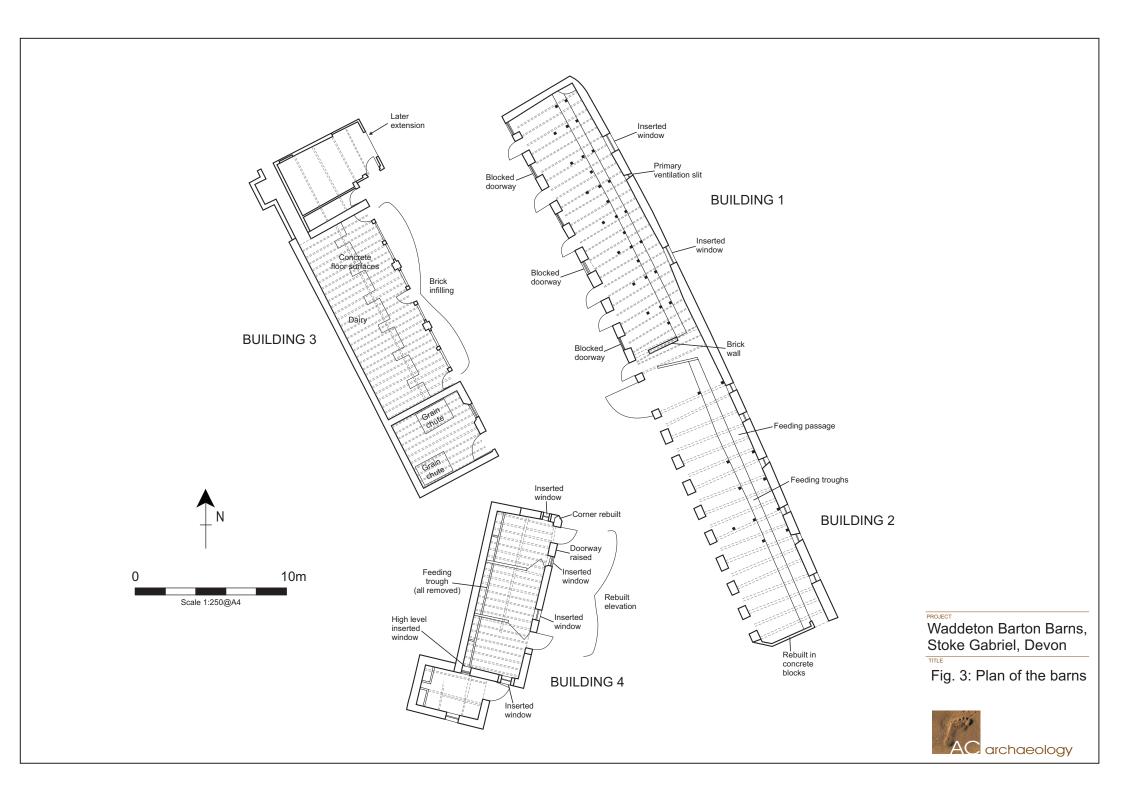




Plate 1: Building 1, northwest elevation showing raised rooflines, viewed from the northeast. 1m scale.



Plate 2: Building 1, southwest elevation, north end, showing raised rooflines and altered openings, viewed from the southwest. 1m scale.



Plate 3: Building 1, interior, viewed from the southeast.





Plate 4: Building 1, detail of the first-floor structure, viewed from the northwest.

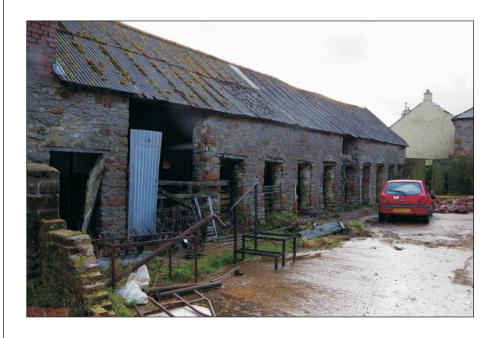


Plate 5: Building 2, southwest elevation viewed from the northwest. 1m scale.

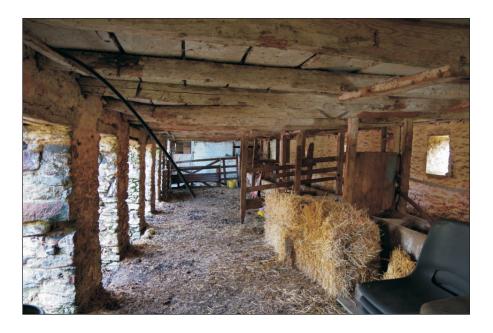


Plate 6: Building 2, interior, viewed from the southeast.





Plate 7: Building 3, southeast and northeast elevations, viewed from the southeast. 1m scale.



Plate 8: Building 3, southwest elevation (north end) and northwest elevation, showing later extension, viewed from the west.



Plate 9: Building 3, the roof structure, viewed from the northwest.





Plate 10: Building 4, southeast elevation showing alterations, viewed from the southeast. 1m scale.



Plate 11: Building 4, northeast elevation showing alterations, viewed from the northeast. 1m scale.



Plate 12: Building 4, first floor showing roof timbers and break in northeast elevation, viewed from the southeast



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