

SHOBROOKE FARM, MORCHARD ROAD, MORCHARD BISHOP, DEVON

(NGR SS 75909 04640)

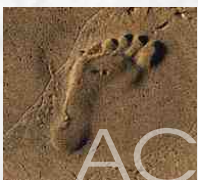
Results of historic building recording

Mid Devon Council planning reference 16/01885/FULL,
condition 4

Prepared by:
Stella De-Villiers
and
Lily Andrews

Document No: ACD2187/2/0

Date: February 2020



AC archaeology

SHOBROOKE FARM, MORCHARD ROAD, MORCHARD BISHOP, DEVON

(NGR SS 75909 04640)

Results for historic building recording

Mid Devon Council planning reference 16/01885/FULL, condition 4

Client	Private Owner
Report Number	ACD2187/2/0
Date	27 February 2020
Status	Version 1
Report Author(s)	Stella De-Villiers and Lily Andrews
Contributions	-
Checked by	Andrew Passmore
Approved by	Andrew Passmore

The recording was commissioned by the private owners, and managed for AC archaeology by Andrew Passmore. The fieldwork was carried out by Stella De-Villiers and Lily Andrews. The report illustrations were prepared by Stella De-Villiers.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Copyright

AC archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be freely copied for planning, development control, education and research purposes without recourse to the Copyright owner subject to all due and appropriate acknowledgements being provided.

CONTENTS

	Page no.
<i>Summary</i>	
1. Introduction	1
2. Historical background	1
3. Aim	3
4. Methodology	4
5. Building survey	4
6. Comments	9
7. OASIS entry and archive	10
8. Sources consulted	10

List of illustrations

- Fig. 1: Site location
Fig. 2: Extract from the First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1889
Fig. 3: Plan of Shobrooke Farm with surveyed historic buildings annotated
Fig. 4: Floor plans of surveyed historic buildings
Fig. 5: Elevations of surveyed historic buildings

List of plates

- Plate 1: General view of farm buildings, looking north
Plate 2: East elevation of the stables, looking west (1m scale)
Plate 3: West elevation of the stables, looking east (1m scale)
Plate 4: Internal view of north end of the stables, looking northwest (1m scale)
Plate 5: Internal view of south end of the stables, looking southwest (1m scale)
Plate 6: View of first floor in the stables, looking southeast
Plate 7: East elevation of top cattle building, looking west (1m scale)
Plate 8: West elevation of top cattle building, looking east (1m scale)
Plate 9: Internal view of top cattle building, looking north (1m scale)
Plate 10: Roof structure of top cattle building, looking northwest
Plate 11: West elevation of root house, looking east (1m scale)
Plate 12: Roof structure of root house, looking west
Plate 13: North elevation of far side cattle building, looking south (1m scale)
Plate 14: South elevation of far side cattle building, looking north (1m scale)
Plate 15: Internal view of far side cattle building, looking northwest (1m scale)
Plate 16: North elevations of the threshing barn, the far side cattle building and the root house, looking southwest (1m scale)
Plate 17: South elevation of the threshing barn, looking north (1m scale)
Plate 18: Internal view of threshing barn, looking west (1m scale)
Plate 19: East elevation of cart linhay and brick shed, looking west (1m scale)
Plate 20: North elevations of the bottom cattle building, the cart linhay, brick shed and store, looking southeast (1m scale)
Plate 21: West elevation of the bottom cattle building and the store, looking east (1m scale)

Summary

An historic building record of former agricultural buildings at Shobrooke Farm, Morchard Road, Morchard Bishop, Devon was prepared by AC archaeology in January 2020. The investigations were commissioned by the private owners prior to their conversion into three residential units. The surveyed buildings, which form the majority of the historic agricultural buildings at the farm, comprise two attached ranges of barns and a detached barn and cart linhay. Although the property has documented medieval origins, the majority of the existing (surveyed) agricultural buildings date from 1909 when George Wreford refurbished the farm. Parts of two barns retain earlier cob walls associated with buildings dating from at least the early 19th century. Later 20th-century alterations and repairs were recorded in most of the buildings.

1. INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

1.1 This document sets out the results of historic building recording carried out by AC archaeology in January 2020 of former agricultural buildings at Shobrooke Farm Morchard Road, Morchard Bishop, Devon (NGR SS 75909 04640; Fig. 1) prior to their conversion into three residential units. The investigations were commissioned by the private owners, and were required under condition 4 of the grant of planning permission (Mid Devon Council reference 16/01885/FULL) for ‘conversion of redundant barns to 3 dwellings’. Guidance on the scope of works was set out by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) in their consultation response to the application; no formal site-specific brief was provided.

1.2 Shobrooke Farm is located 1km east-southeast of Morchard Road, within the parish of Morchard Bishop. It is situated at a height of 110m above Ordnance Datum on the northeast side of, and just below the top of, a hilltop located between an unnamed tributary of the Knight Brook to the north, and the Knathorne (or Knathorn) Brook – historically the Shipbroc (or Sheep Brook) – to the south. The underlying geology consists of Carboniferous sandstone of the Bude Formation, with nearby deposits of contemporary mudstone and siltstone (British Geological Survey online viewer 2020).

The scheme

1.3 The scheme comprises the conversion of the L-shaped ranges of barns, along with a detached barn, into three residential dwellings. The scheme also includes associated car parking and landscaping. There will be no change to any other nearby building including the farmhouse (Higher Shobrooke) and Lower Shobrooke.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Figs 2-3)

History of Shobrooke Farm

2.1 The history of the farm, and the development of all the farm buildings (including those to be converted, and which were recorded), has been prepared by the current owner (Shapland 2019a; 2019b). The following is a summary of this research supplemented by additional information. Building names as used by Shapland have been retained during the survey and in this report.

2.2 In the Domesday Book Morchard Bishop is recorded as comprising three manors. Shobrooke – then Eschipebroc – was located within part of the Bishop’s Manor of

Crediton (Devon Historic Environment Record entry MDV15196). It was held by Britric and given to Walter of Claville after the conquest. There are later medieval and early post-medieval references to the property and owners – Thomas Lamprey in 1287, Nicholas de Shipbroc in 1332, Robert Pyne in 1581, and then various generations of the Mere (or Meare) family from 1581 until 1726 (see also Section 2.4 below).

- 2.3** At Shobrooke there are two historic properties – Higher Shobrooke and Lower Shobrooke. The pairing of two farmhouses (and the ‘higher’ and ‘lower’ placename elements) may indicate medieval origins for both, although Lower Shobrooke is only documented from the first quarter of the 18th century. (In the mid-19th century the house was subdivided into two dwellings, but was restored back to a single dwelling in the 1960s.) Although heavily modernised the character of the building indicates that it has origins as either a longhouse or a three-room and cross passage house.
- 2.4** Higher Shobrooke is documented from the 1780s onwards. However, the plan form of the farmhouse is indicative of a building of at least 17th-century origins. In the 1780s it was owned by George Gregory and occupied by Matthew Wreford. The Gregory family owned, or part owned, Higher Shobrooke until 1901 when the farm passed into the ownership of the Wreford family following the purchase by Miss Lillian Wreford. This family had purchased Lower Shobrooke in 1726, and from 1901 both properties were merged into one holding: ‘Shobrooke Farm’. In around 1909 the farmhouse was refurbished and a new set of farm buildings was erected by George Wreford for his daughter Lillian whom he expected would live at the property after her marriage. She was living elsewhere at the time and had been renting the farm out, which continued (after her marriage in 1914) until 1923 when the farm was purchased by Francis Shapland. The farm has remained in the ownership of this family until the present day.

The farm buildings

- 2.5** The earliest identified map to depict the farm buildings is the Ordnance Survey 2-inch to 1-mile map of 1805. The map shows an L-shaped range of buildings to the north of what was presumably the farmhouse but is of too small a scale to show any further detail. The 1841 Morchard Bishop tithe map also shows the same arrangement of buildings, with further buildings to the south, west and northeast of the buildings shown on the earlier map. The First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map published in 1889 records the farm in slightly more detail (Fig. 2). Some of the new buildings shown on the tithe map have been demolished. There are no changes recorded on the Second Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1905. These maps show the farm surrounded by orchards to the south, west and east.
- 2.6** The majority of the agricultural buildings were constructed in around 1909 by George Wreford (Fig. 3); there is a datestone on the granary with the inscription ‘G W 1909’. These buildings are of brick construction with slate roofs. Part of the earlier north range of buildings was retained and refurbished, and it appears as if the refurbishment was not fully completed. A summary history and description of the historic agricultural buildings is set out below.

The granary

- 2.7** This was built by George Wreford in 1909; it is not being converted and falls outside the scope of the survey. It is attached to the rear of the farmhouse and is of two-storey construction. It seems to have been designed as a first-floor granary with stable below, but may never have been used for this purpose. From the 1920s the building was used in the manufacture of cider, and in the 1960s to store corn.

The piggery
2.8 This is a single-storey building built by George Wreford in 1909; it is not being converted and falls outside the scope of the survey. The building has had several later agricultural uses.

The stables
2.9 This building is located at the south end of the west range, and was built by George Wreford in 1909. The ground floor contains stables and an integral trap house, and there is hayloft on the first floor.

Top cattle building
2.10 This is a cow house with hayloft over built by George Wreford in 1909, located within the west range north of the stables. It has a form similar to the traditional linhay, but the ground floor bays were fully or largely enclosed with wooden doors from the outset. The building was recently used for rearing chicken, and alterations have been made to the structure and internal fittings.

The root house
2.11 This is located in the northwest corner of the yard, at the junctions of the west and north ranges. It is a two-storey structure; the ground floor has been altered to allow access for modern machinery.

Far side cattle building
2.12 This is a cow house with hayloft over, located within the north range to the east of the root house. It was partly rebuilt by George Wreford in 1909, and is a traditional linhay with cattle housed on the ground floor and a hayloft over. The rebuilt west bay housed a water tank at first-floor level. The earliest element is of cob construction, partially repaired in brick, and originally had a thatched roof, now replaced with corrugated sheets.

The threshing barn
2.13 This is a former threshing barn, located at the east end of the north range. It is constructed of cob with extensive brick and corrugated plastic sheet repairs. The walls of the building have been lowered, and it now has a corrugated sheet roof replacing the original thatch.

Bottom cattle building and cart linhay
2.14 This is a detached building forming the east side of the yard. It was built by George Wreford in 1909. It partly comprises an open-fronted linhay with a cow house on the ground floor with hayloft over facing the yard; however, the form of the building is similar to the top cattle building, and it may have had an enclosed ground floor. There is a single-storey store attached to the north side, again opening onto the yard. To the rear is a tall, single-storey four-bay open-fronted cart and implement store.

3. AIM

3.1 The scheme involves internal and external alterations to the buildings which have the potential to remove historic elements of the structures (such as partitions and fixtures and fittings). The aim of the investigation was therefore to prepare an historic building record of the farm buildings prior to conversion.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AC archaeology (Passmore 2019) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (revised 2019), as well as the AC archaeology *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*.

4.2 A record of the building was prepared prior to works commencing, and was carried out to level 3 as set out in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016). The recording methodology comprised:

- A written description of the barns and their context in relation to each other and the farmyard;
- A colour digital photographic record with, where appropriate, all photographs including a photographic scale. Details of photographs taken were indexed on *pro forma* record sheets; and
- Updating of an existing architect's drawings (plans and elevations), annotated to show the location of observed historic fabric and fixtures and fittings, along with information on the phasing and development of the buildings.

4.3 The recording considered the following:

- Date/period of initial build and subsequent alterations;
- Materials and method of construction (and differences in material and construction techniques/architectural styles in each identified phase);
- Fenestration and the design of elevations in relation to the function of internal spaces;
- Internal arrangements including evidence for alterations;
- Original fixtures and fittings;
- Subsequent fixtures and fittings, and evidence for change of use; and
- Ephemeral evidence of occupation and use, for instance any evidence of historic graffiti or signage.

5. BUILDING SURVEY (Figs 3-5; Plates 1-21)

5.1 The surveyed buildings are located to the north of the farmhouse, with an L-shaped range arranged around a central yard with a further detached building to the east (Plate 1). The ground level slopes down from the west to the east, and the yard itself is concrete.

The stables

Exterior description

5.2 This building forms the south part of the west range, and is constructed of red brick laid in English garden wall bond with a straight gable to the north and half hipped gable to the south. The roof overhangs the east elevation (Plate 2). In the east elevation there are three doors on the ground floor. The southern opening is very wide and contains two pairs of doors under a large wooden lintel, whilst the pair of northern openings are of different widths, with bricked arched heads, and are fitted with single stable doors. At first-floor level there are two window openings, both with brick sills, fitted with wooden hornless sashes; these are in a poor condition missing

some glass and the whole upper frame in the southern window. The south elevation incorporates a central window opening with a brick arch and a brick sill; this has been blocked with brick laid in stretcher bond. In the west elevation there are no openings at ground floor level, but there are four brick piers that extend up to eaves level. The north end at this level is obscured by a later 20th-century extension (see Section 5.4 below). On the first floor there are four high-level square openings, one of which is larger than the other three and fitted with a shutter. There is also an inserted doorway fitted with a wooden door accessed via a flight of later 20th-century concrete block steps (Plate 3).

Interior description

- 5.3** The ground floor is divided into two rooms by a brick wall. The former stables in the north room has been further divided into livestock pens using concrete block walls incorporating a walkway to the west, with steps, leading to a door into the extension (Plate 4). Within this room the first-floor beams are supported on four wooden posts. The south room contains a roller mill that was formerly located within the threshing barn. It is supported on two concrete block walls laid onto a concrete floor (Plate 5). The remainder of the floor is earth except for a small patch of cobbles adjacent to the doors. In this room the first-floor beams are supported on two large posts. Due to the poor condition of the floor, the first floor was not accessible but was observed from the doorway. In the southwest corner is a hopper and in the floor alongside the west wall is a series of four trap doors (Plate 6). The roof is supported on four king-post trusses with mortice and tenon joints some of which are bolted. The purlins rest on the back of the trusses supported on cleats. These in turn support the rafters and battens.

The west extension

- 5.4** This is of late 20th-century date, and constructed of concrete blocks with a sloping corrugated asbestos sheet roof. In the south elevation there is a doorway and a metal-framed window, and there is a further doorway fitted with a wooden plank door in the north elevation. Internally, the extension has a concrete floor.

Top cattle building

Exterior description

- 5.5** This building forms the northern part of the west range, and is contemporary with the stables, with the same brick construction. The slate roof is slightly lower than the stables, and tied into the north gable of that building; the north end extends over the attached root house and terminates in a hip. The east elevation is divided into six bays by a series of five wooden posts that support the roof; these rest on low stone pads. The ground floor is enclosed by a series of timber plank doors (Plate 7). In the southern two bays there are pairs of double-width doors that do not extend to the first-floor level; in the next two bays there are similar doors with one in each being full height. In the fifth bay there is a pair of double-width doors, and in the northern bay a pair of lower and higher height doors. The first floor is open, but attached to several of the posts are brackets for removable safety bars. The west elevation incorporates five evenly-spaced projecting brick buttresses matching the position of the posts on the east elevation (Plate 8). At ground-floor level there is a pair of long, low rectangular window openings, and close to the eaves five small ventilation openings, created by the removal of single headers.

Interior description

- 5.6** On the ground floor there are no surviving internal fixtures or fittings; wooden partitions between bays have been removed. The floor is concrete and has been

laid in several sections (Plate 9). Use of the ground floor had been divided into housing for yearlings (southern two bays) and bullocks (northern four bays); the first-floor structure above the latter incorporates original trap doors adjacent to the yard elevation above the positions of removed hayracks and feeding troughs. In the mid 1920s these fittings were replaced with brick feeding troughs constructed against the west elevation. These had fallen out of use and been removed in the later 20th century when the building was used for rearing ducks and chickens. The first floor is accessed via a vertical wooden ladder attached to the north gable of the stables, and outside the line of the front elevation. The floor structure comprises beams, supporting joists, set into the west wall and into rebates on the inside of the posts. There is an additional row of thinner posts, also resting on stone pads, within the barn. The roof is supported on five king-post trusses with bolted mortice and tenon joints with purlins resting on the back of the trusses. These in turn support the rafters and batons (Plate 10). As in the stables, the roof oversails the east elevation.

The root house

Exterior description

- 5.7** This is located at the junction of the west and north range and its walls are contemporary with, and structurally integral to, the adjacent buildings. It shares a slate roof with the top cattle building. The west elevation incorporates a large central opening with a large concrete lintel, fitted with a pair of late 20th-century double doors. Above the opening is a small projecting brick buttress (Plate 11). The opening is an original feature, allowing mangolds to be tipped into the building from carts, but has been altered and increased in depth in the later 20th century to facilitate access by modern machinery. The north elevation is featureless, but is almost entirely obscured by a late 20th-century lean-to constructed from corrugated sheets attached to timber posts set on granite and concrete pads. In the south elevation of the root house, where this projects beyond the narrower top cattle building there is a wooden door attached to a pegged wooden frame.

Interior description

- 5.8** The building is open to the roof, and whilst the brick masonry of the north and east walls is thinner above 'first-floor level' creating ledges, there is no evidence that these ledges supported joists for a first floor. The space has a concrete floor. There are no fixtures or fittings. The roof is supported on a truss that supports the corner of the hipped roof (Plate 12). It has a mixture of pegged and bolted joints but no collar. The purlins rest on the back of the trusses which in turn support the rafters and battens.

Far side cattle building

Exterior description

- 5.9** This building forms the western half of the north range, and was partly reconstructed in 1909, but retains much fabric from an earlier building. The north elevation is largely constructed of cob laid on to a low rubble slate stone wall (Plate 13). The top section, within the western bay, has been rebuilt and partly heightened in brick with the same bond as the other buildings. Broadly at the lower level of this rebuilt is a break (or lift) in the cob, which may also have been heightened – probably at an earlier date. The positions of the bays (and associated beams) can be identified by patches of stonework set within the cob. Internally, a brick face was added, mainly at ground-floor level, when the building was updated in 1909. The east wall is constructed of stone and cob, with areas of brick repairs, and forms part of the earlier west wall of the threshing barn; the south end of this wall beyond the

south elevation of this barn has been underpinned using concrete blocks. It incorporates a high-level splayed ventilation slit at its north end. The south elevation is currently open with wooden posts resting on stone feet that support the roof and divide the building into four bays (Plate 14). However, as in the top cattle building, at ground-floor level there are fittings for doors suggesting the bays were at least partly, if not fully, enclosed at some point in the past.

Interior description

- 5.10** The ground floor has a concrete floor and is divided in two spaces by a timber partition (Plate 15). There is a concrete block trough running along the length of the north wall. Originally there would have been additional partitions but these have been removed. One beam has an empty socket which may relate to a former partition, but it seems more likely that it has been reused as partitions would probably have been nailed to the structure. The first floor was accessed via vertical ladder attached to the east gable of the root house outside the line of the front elevation. The floor is supported on beams set into the north wall and into rebates in the insides of the posts of the south elevation where they are fixed with bolts. The roof is supported on four trusses. The western truss is of a king-post design with bolted mortice and tenon joints. The two central trusses are A-frames with applied collars attached with bolts; the eastern truss is of a similar design but with an additional higher collar. In the western bay the purlins rest on the back of the trusses and in turn support the rafters, battens and a slate finish. The remainder of the roof covering is a 1960s replacement (of the original thatch) using corrugated sheets supported on new purlins attached to the backs of the trusses.

The threshing barn

Exterior description

- 5.11** This building forms the eastern half of the north range and pre-dates the 1909 rebuilding of the farm. It is constructed of cob with brick used in subsequent repairs. The north elevation is largely a brick rebuild in Flemish bond incorporating a central opening with a large wooden lintel and flanked by tall brick buttresses; it is fitted with pair of double wooden plank doors but has been blocked externally (Plate 16). The original cob wall survives at the northeast corner, as well as within the east elevation where it is constructed on a low rubble slate stone wall. This (east) elevation incorporates an inserted opening fitted with a wooden plank door (see also Section 5.12 below) along with two original high-level ventilation openings. The south elevation of the threshing barn is formed entirely from corrugated plastic and metal sheeting (Plate 17) added in the 1990s when the cob wall collapsed; there is some rubble stone, with concrete block and brick repair, surviving at the west end. There is a wide central opening fitted with a modern gate and plastic corrugated sheets, along with a single wooden plank door to the west of this opening. In front of the western half of the building is a late 20th-century ramp constructed of concrete blocks and concrete.
- 5.12** A modern open-fronted lean-to structure has been attached to the elevation, and is now partly ruined. This has a raised concrete floor at the level of the interior of the threshing barn. The threshold of the doorway is also concrete and has the date '1979' inscribed into the surface. The south wall of the lean-to is formed of rubble slate stone laid in rough courses with brick jambs at the southeast corner, and represents part of an earlier, now demolished, structure, possibly a wall across the a trackway. The other sides are/were of corrugated sheeting with a sloping corrugated sheet roof. There are has no internal fixtures or fittings.

Interior description

- 5.13 The floor is concrete, and there is no evidence for a threshing floor associated with the historic use of the barn. The only fitting is a series of metal brackets for supporting shelves; the shelves themselves have been removed (Plate 18). The original roof structure has been removed, and the walls of the barn at least partially lowered. The current roof finish is a single pitch of corrugated metal sheets sloping down to the yard, supported on a frame of late 20th-century battens.

The cart linhay

- 5.14 This building, along with the bottom cattle building, forms part of a larger detached structure, constructed in 1909, on the east side of the yard. As with the other contemporary buildings is it constructed of brick laid in English garden wall bond. The roof is half hipped and finished with slates. The west elevation forms a partition with the bottom cattle building and is constructed upon a stone plinth. Apart from three integral piers that support the roof and beams at first-floor level it is featureless. The south elevation also contains no openings or features. The north elevation incorporates a small high-level arched opening, fitted with a wooden shutter, which is partially blocked by the roof of a later brick shed (see Section 5.17 below). The east elevation is open fronted with the roof supported on three wooden posts that sit on stone pads (Plate 19). The posts are braced by beams at first-floor level, but there is no physical evidence (or historic photographic evidence) that these supported a first floor. Internally, the building has an earth floor; there are no fixtures or fittings. The roof structure comprises three-king post trusses with diagonal struts. The purlins rest on the back of the trusses and in turn support the rafters and battens. The roof oversails the east elevation.

The bottom cattle building

External description

- 5.15 As with the attached cart linhay, this building is constructed of brick. It also has the same style of half hipped roof finished with slates. The north and south walls are featureless. The west elevation is currently open with three posts resting on stone pads that support the roof (Plate 21). At ground-floor level two of these posts display regularly spaced sockets on their side elevations, and one has a single socket on its inside face. There are no sockets present at first-floor level, which indicates that the posts have not been reused, and these sockets represent evidence for original enclosure of the front elevation. The outer faces of the post have door fittings, most of which are of more recent date.

Internal description

- 5.16 The ground floor has a concrete floor, which although crudely laid is divided into lengths for troughs, stalls, a shallow drain and entrance passage. In the latter two areas there are three drains with grates situated behind the posts. A brick trough partially survives (at the north end of the building) along the east side of the wall (Plate 21). In addition to the posts in the west elevation, the first-floor beams were originally supported on a series of six smaller posts resting on pads, two of which have been removed; these are aligned in two rows. As in the top cattle building within each bay there are traps doors adjacent to the yard elevation to allow feed to be dropped down to the stalls. The roof is supported on three king-post trusses with mortice and tenon joints. The purlins rest on the back of the trusses and in turn support the rafters and battens.

Brick shed

- 5.17 This small structure is attached to the north elevation of the cart linhay, and is constructed of brick laid in stretcher bond. The eastern elevation incorporates a stable plank door at the south end but to the north a large part of the wall has partially collapsed leaving a large hole (Plate 19). The north elevation contains a wooden pegged window frame which is blocked with galvanised sheeting (Plate 20). Due to its condition the structure was not accessible but has a concrete floor and a secondary internal north-south aligned concrete block partition. The floor steps up at the west end with a trough running the length of the western wall and a small manger at the southwest corner.

Store

- 5.18 This is contemporary with the bottom cattle building, and is attached to its north elevation. It is constructed of brick and had a single pitch roof, which has collapsed and been removed. The north and east elevations are featureless, whilst the east elevation is fully open but with posts and fittings for a removed door (Plate 20). Internally, there is a concrete block trough along the east wall.

6. COMMENTS

- 6.1 The majority of the surveyed agricultural buildings date to the 1909 refurbishment of the farm by George Wreford (Shapland 2019b, 11). However, the evidence from the far side cattle building appears to indicate this work ceased before the farm was fully refurbished. The far side cattle building and the adjacent threshing barn both pre-date 1909 and were retained, as was possibly part of a boundary wall reused as the base of the partition between the bottom cattle building and cart linhay.
- 6.2 The layout of the farm before 1909 was not dissimilar to after that date, and may have evolved over time (see Fig. 2). From the standing buildings it is clear the threshing barn is earlier than the attached far side cattle building. However, both buildings have been significantly altered – the far side cattle building (was significantly rebuilt) in 1909, and the threshing barn during the later 20th century – and there are no diagnostic original dating features surviving within either building. Prior to 1909 the far side cattle building was probably a traditional linhay with an open front (as after 1909) to the yard.
- 6.3 The 1909 refurbishment of the farm is historically interesting, as there is a specific documented context for the works – rebuilding by a father for his daughter who owned the farm, but was at the time living and working at another property. The works fall right at the end of period of major farm rebuilding, including the introduction of model farms, often on large estates (Wade Martins 2002), and at a time when many new or rebuilt farm buildings in Mid and East Devon were constructed of brick. The quality of the rebuilding reflects the private nature of the farm, and does not incorporate innovative building techniques and fixtures and fittings found on estate farms (*ibid.*, 170-197). Additionally, the design with lincays is outdated for the period when new cow houses were generally fully enclosed structures. That said, the use of versions of the traditional linhay with enclosed yard elevations reflects changes in design of this building type introduced in the 19th century (Alcock 1963, 125).
- 6.4 The form of the 1909 buildings indicates a significant emphasis on pastoral practices, but with some land under arable cultivation. The latter may have been largely for the production of feed for animals housed and reared at the farm (horses

and cattle/pigs respectively). In this respect, the provision of storage (and space for processing) of animal feed was well catered for, with the specific provision of a granary and a root house. The emphasis on cattle was typical of the period locally (see Child 1991, 72). This might be associated with the proximity of the farm to the railway stations at Morchard Road and Copplestone (both of which had goods storage facilities), where goods would be transported out from local farms onto wider (local and national) markets. This may account for the provision of dedicated stables with trap house, and a cart/implement shed.

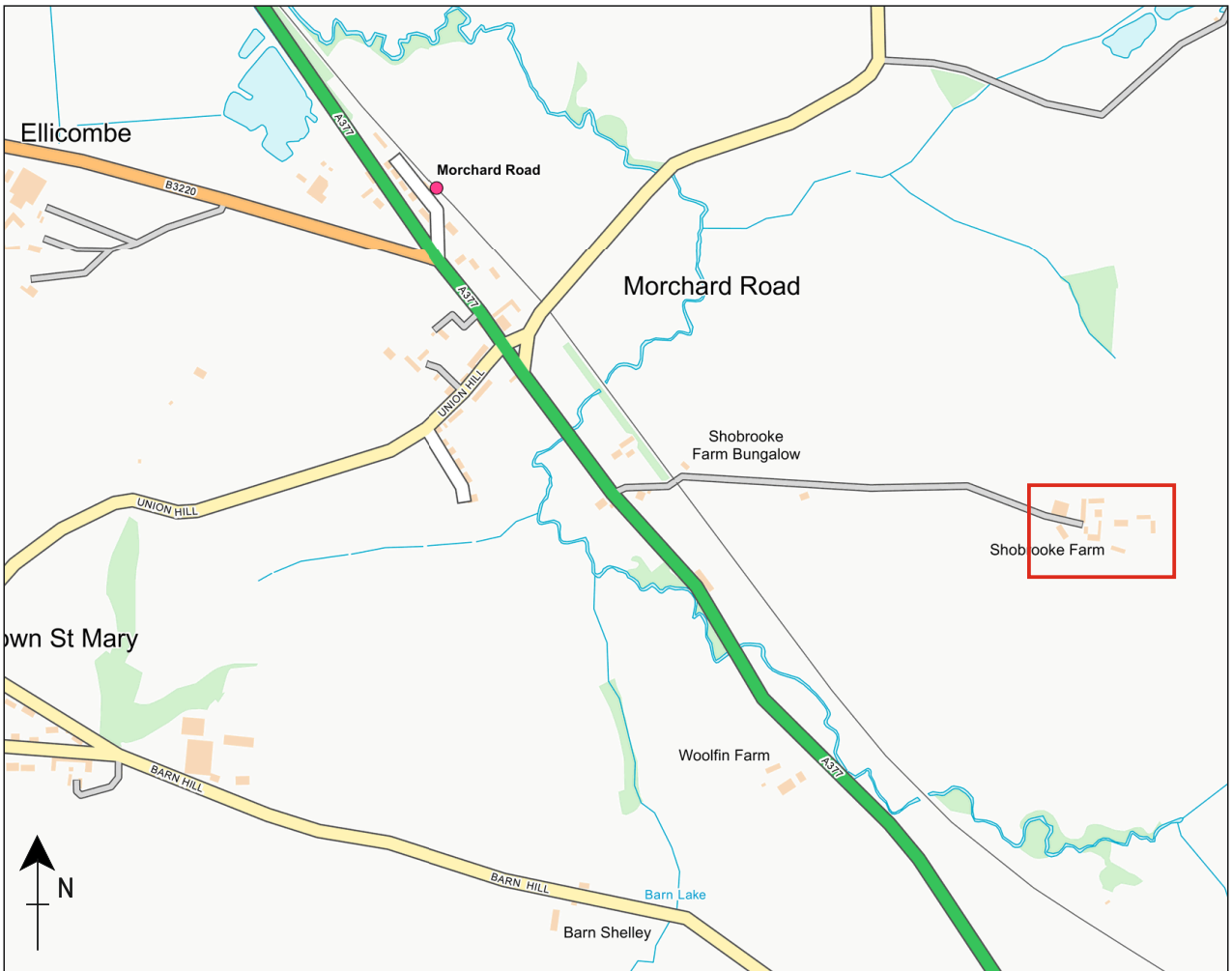
- 6.5** There is both physical and historic evidence for changes of use of the buildings in the later 20th century, along with upgrading of the buildings such as the provision of new troughs. In part this may reflect government recommendations on hygiene at the end of the Second World War, but they also provide evidence for changes in practices at the farm (for example with the threshing barn going out of use, the use of the top cattle building for chicken and duck rearing, and the change of use of the stables trap house where the stables were converted to pig pens and the layloft was used for in the 1960s for egg production (and oat storage in the 1970s) and served by the new flight of steps attached to the west elevation), along with repairs to the earliest buildings, and changes in transport and mechanisation.

7. OASIS ENTRY AND ARCHIVE

- 7.1** An OASIS entry has been created using the unique identifier 380086, and includes a digital copy of this report.
- 7.2** An archive of relevant born-digital data has been compiled in accordance with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) standards and guidelines, and will be deposited with the ADS within three months of acceptance of this report.

8. SOURCES CONSULTED

- Alcock, N.W., 1963. 'Devonshire Linhays: a vernacular tradition', *Rep. Trans. Devon. Assoc.* **XCV**, 117-130.
- British Geological Survey on-line viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk
- Child, P., 1991. 'Farm Buildings', in Beacham, P. (ed) *Devon Building, an introduction to local traditions*, 61-94. Exeter, Devon Books.
- Morchard Bishop tithe map, 1840
- Ordnance Survey 25-inch Devonshire map sheet LIV.11
First edition, surveyed 1886, published 1889
Second Edition, revised 1904, published 1905
- Passmore, A., 2020. *Shobrooke Farm, Morchard Road, Morchard Bishop, Devon (SS75909 04640) Written Scheme of Investigation for historic building recording, Mid Devon Council planning reference 16/01885/FULL, condition 4, AC archaeology document no ACD2187/1/1.*
- Shapland, B.J., 2019a. *Historical Report and Documentation of the Barns at Shobrooke Farm*. Privately printed.
- Shapland, B.J., 2019b. *Shobrooke Farm, A Historical Report and Documentation of the Barns*. Privately printed
- Wade Martins, S., 2002. *The English Model Farm, Building the agricultural model 1700-1914*. Oxford, Windgather Press.



0 250m
 Scale 1:10,000@A4

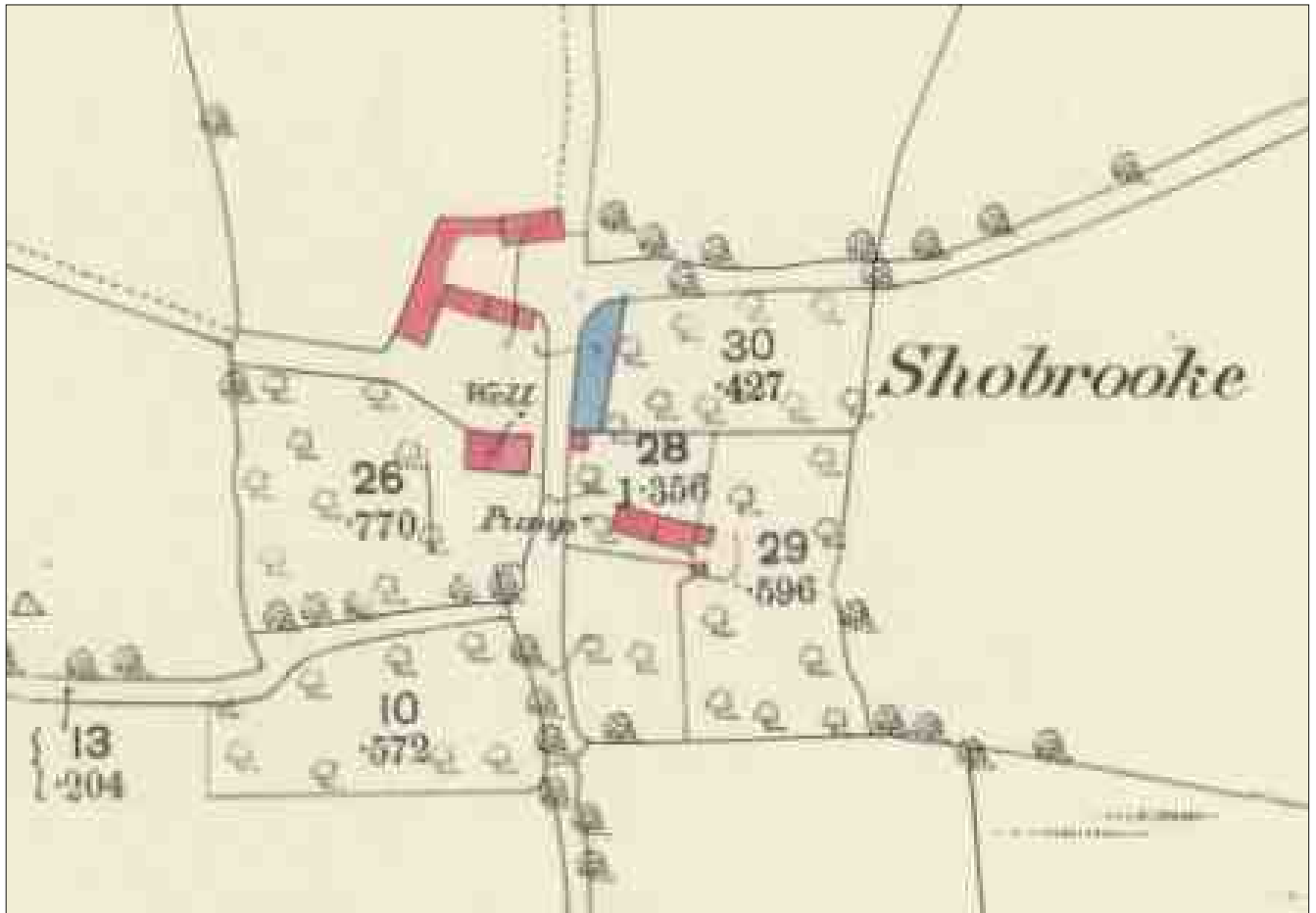
Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432

PROJECT
 Shobrooke Farm, Morchard Road,
 Morchard Bishop, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location






PROJECT

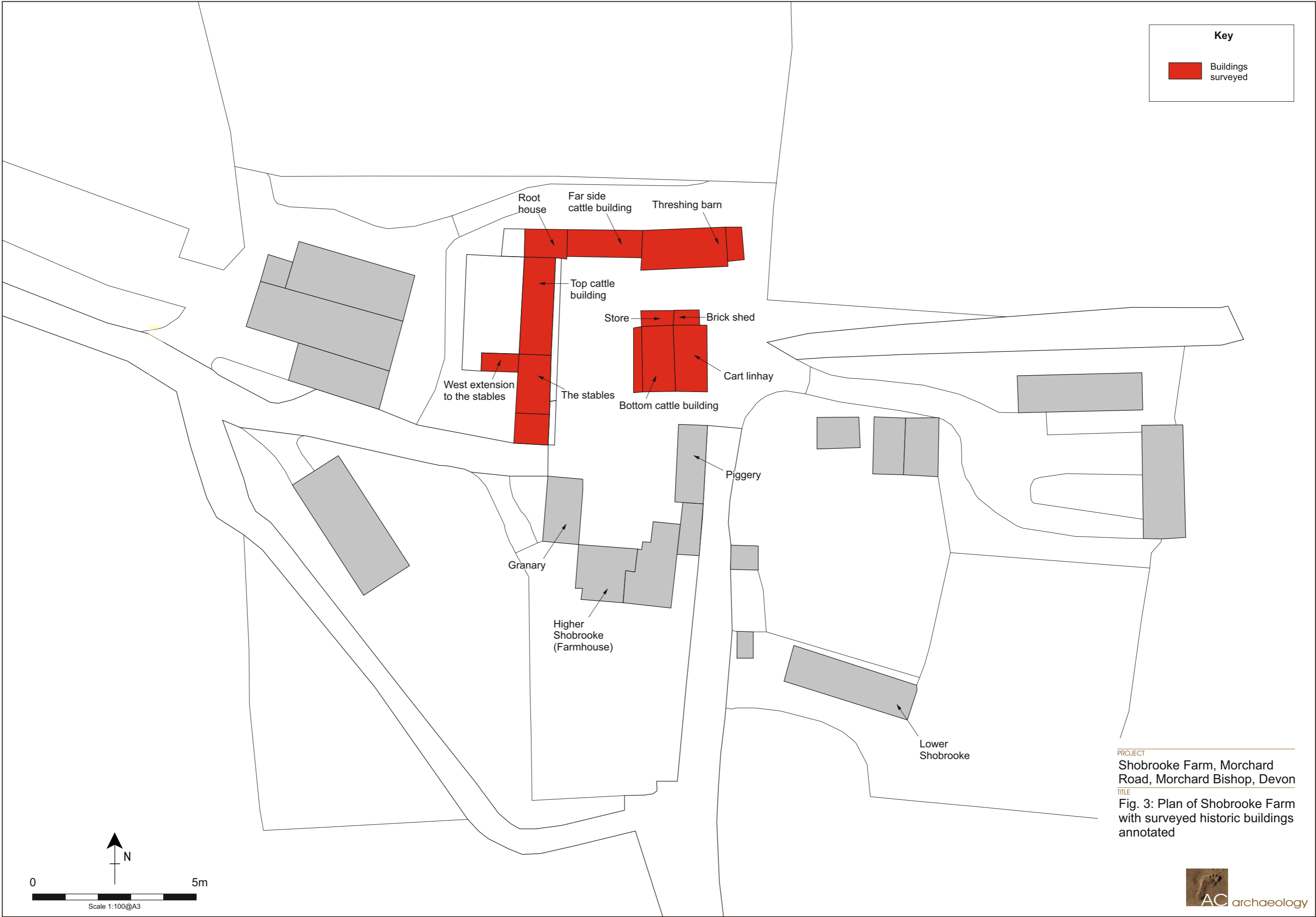
Shobrooke Farm, Morchard Road,
Morchard Bishop, Devon

TITLE

Fig. 2: Extract from the First
Edition 25-inch Ordnance
Survey, 1889

Key

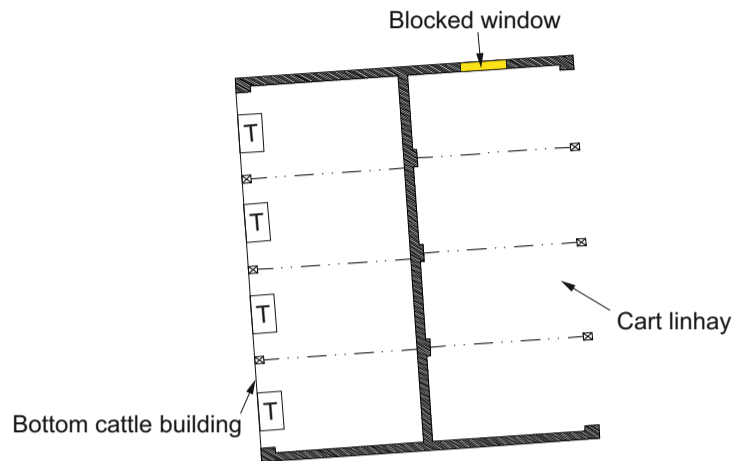
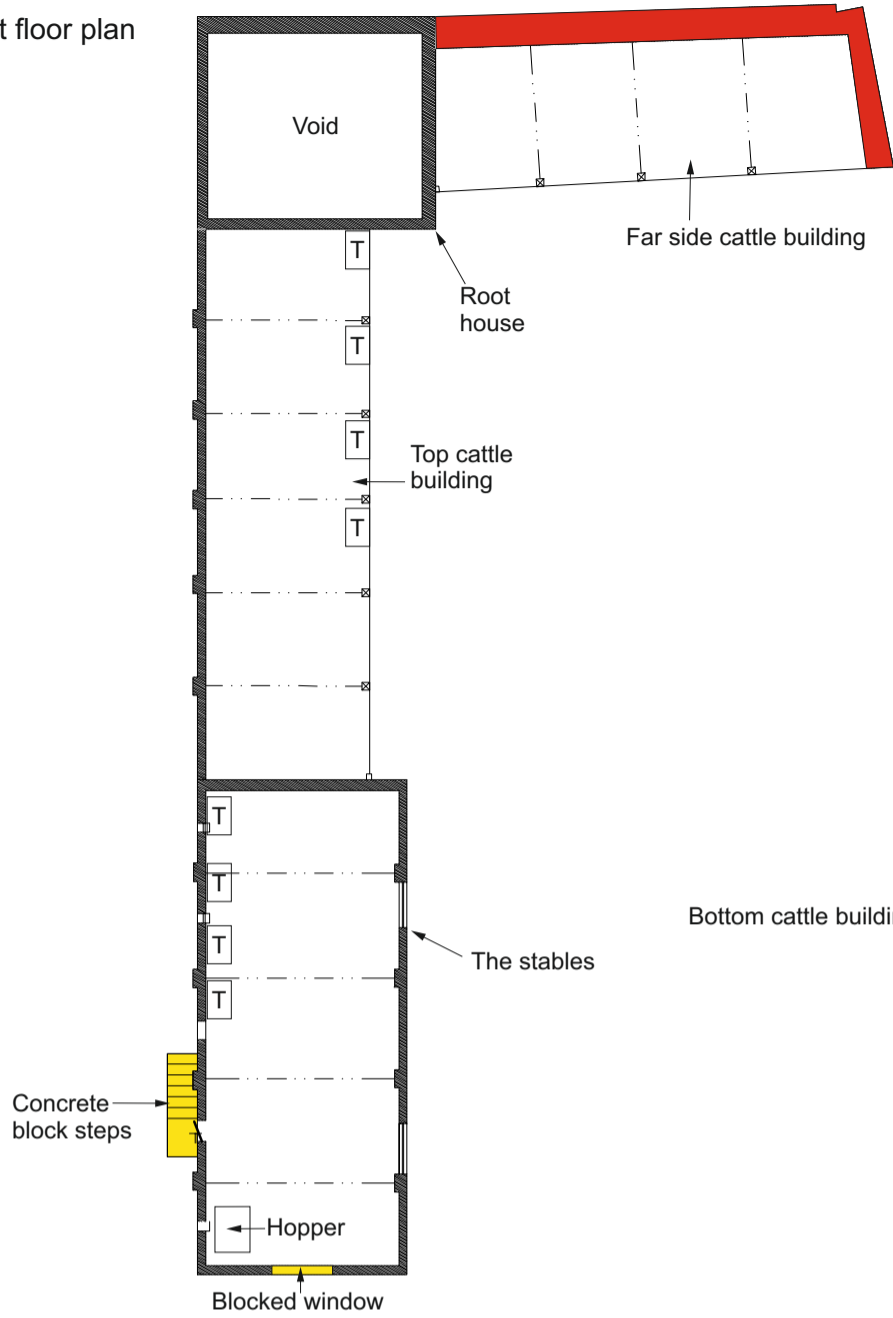
 Buildings surveyed



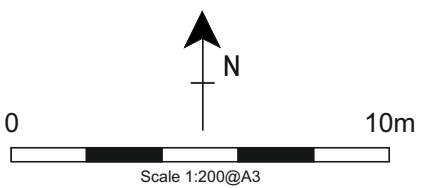
PROJECT
Shobrooke Farm, Morchard
Road, Morchard Bishop, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 3: Plan of Shobrooke Farm
with surveyed historic buildings
annotated

First floor plan



Ground floor plan



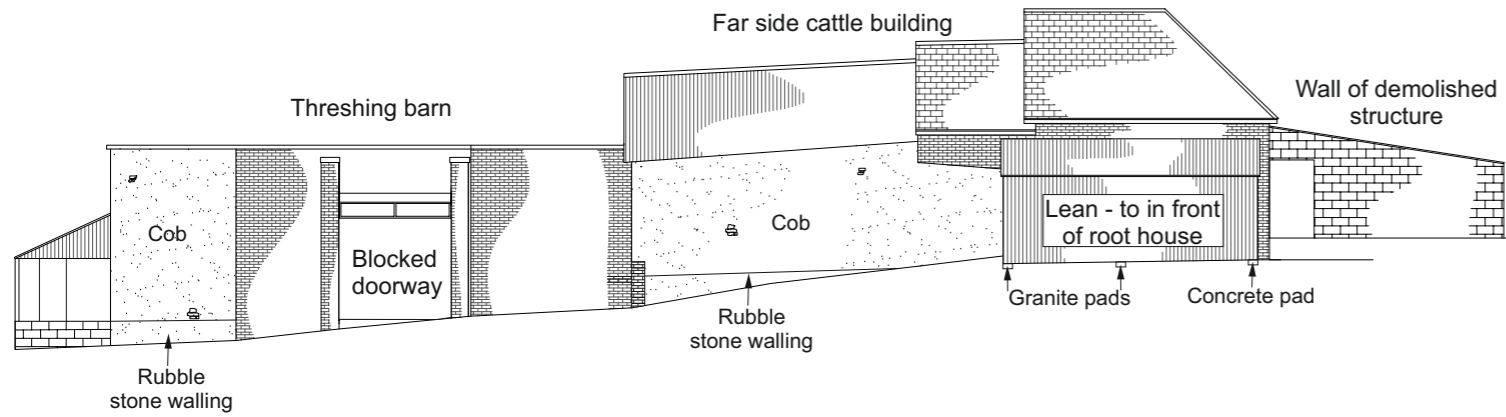
- T Trap door
- 18th century or earlier
- 1909
- Later 20th century



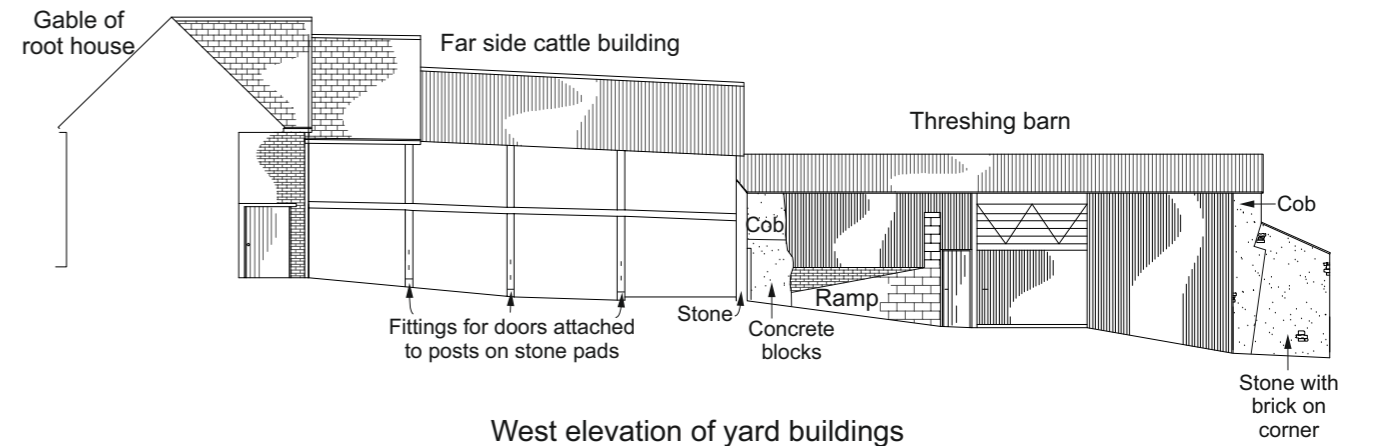
PROJECT
Shobrooke Farm, Morchard Road,
Morchard Bishop, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 4: Floor plans of surveyed historic buildings

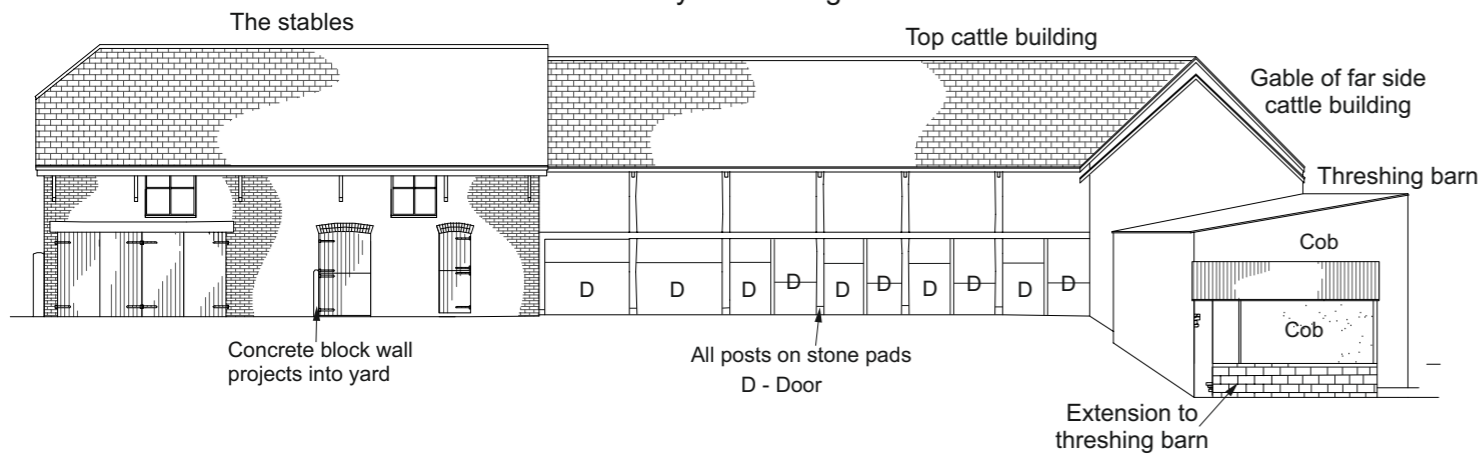
North elevation of yard buildings



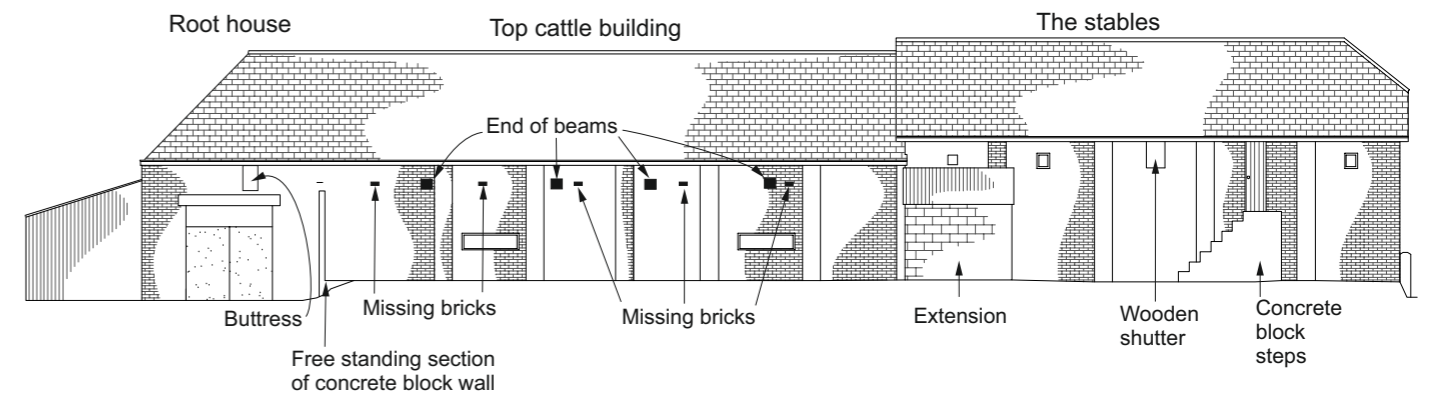
South elevation of yard buildings



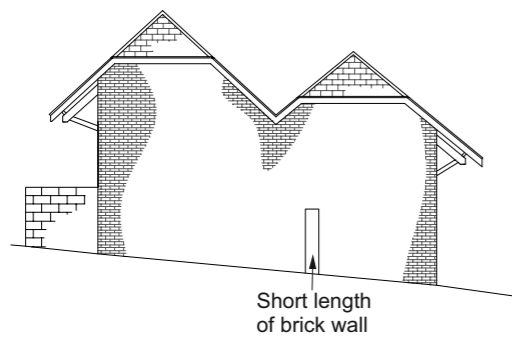
East elevation of yard buildings



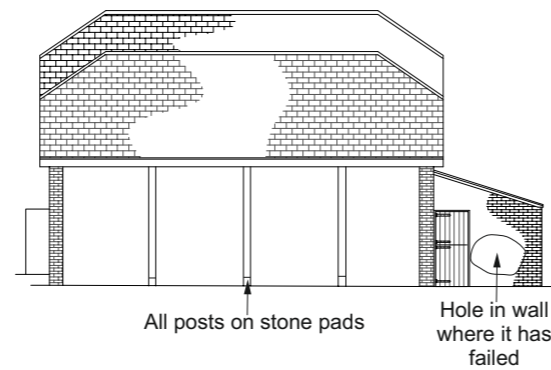
West elevation of yard buildings



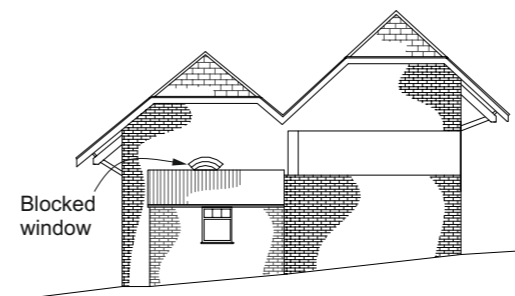
South elevation of bottom cattle building and cart linhay



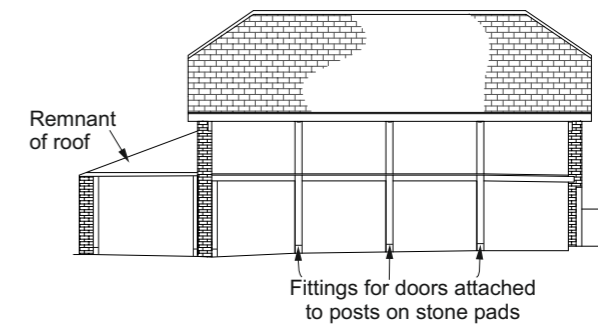
East elevation of cart linhay and brick shed



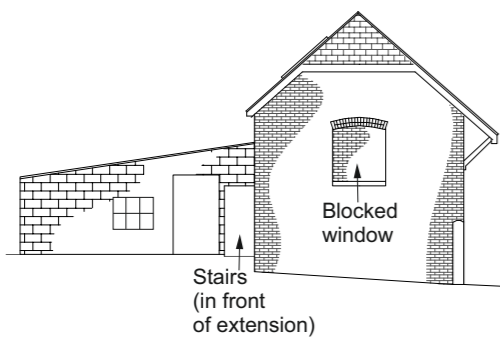
North elevation of bottom cattle building, cart linhay, brick shed and store



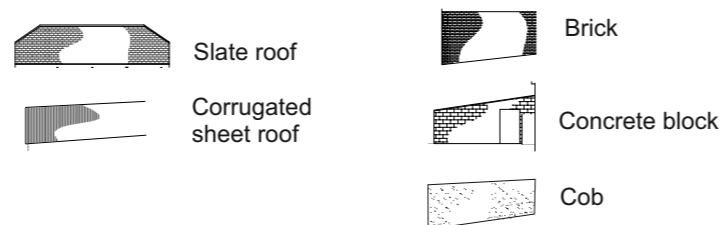
West elevation of bottom cattle building and store



South elevation of the stables



Key to materials



PROJECT
Shobrooke Farm, Morchard
Road, Morchard Bishop, Devon

TITLE
Fig. 5: Elevations of surveyed
historic buildings





Plate 1: General view of farm buildings, looking north



Plate 2: East elevation of the stables, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 3: West elevation of the stables, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 4: Internal view of north end of the stables, looking northwest (1m scale)



Plate 5: Internal view of south end of the stables, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 6: View of first floor in the stables, looking southeast



Plate 7: East elevation of top cattle building, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 8: West elevation of top cattle building, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 9: Internal view of top cattle building, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 10: Roof structure of top cattle building, looking northwest



Plate 11: West elevation of root house, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 12: Roof structure of root house, looking west



Plate 13: North elevation of the far side cattle building, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 14: South elevation of far side cattle building, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 15: Internal view of far side cattle building, looking northwest (1m scale)



Plate 16: North elevations of the threshing barn, far side cattle building and the root house, looking southwest (1m scale)



Plate 17: South elevation of the threshing barn, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 18: Internal view of threshing barn, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 19: East elevation of cart linhay and brick shed, looking west (1m scale)



Plate 20: North elevations of the bottom cattle building, the cart linhay, brick shed and store, looking southeast (1m scale)



Plate 21: West elevation of the bottom cattle building and the store, looking east (1m scale)

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk