

# TOWNSIDE FARM PILLING LANCASHIRE



## Archaeological Building Investigation



**Oxford Archaeology North**

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**Mr Winder**

Issue No: 2005-6/444

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## SUMMARY

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Mr P Winder proposed the redevelopment of the barn and cow sheds at Townside Farm, Pilling, Lancashire (SD40362 48390). In response, Lancashire County Archaeological Service recommended the undertaking of a building investigation of RCHME level II standard, prior to the commencement of work at the site.

The investigation comprised a detailed survey of the building in order to provide an outline of its form, development, and phases of alteration. A limited amount of historical research was carried out into the building, principally comprising a map regression. This allowed an outline history of the development of the building to be established, which would aid phasing and dating of any periods of alteration and construction.

The results of the investigation and cartographic sources revealed that there were five main phases in the development of the existing structures. The date of the original stone structures on the site is unknown, but they must predate 1734. Although these structures are no longer extant, parts of their cobbles walling still appear within the elevations of the present brick structures. This second phase of building using brick occurred in or immediately before 1845. It is likely that the barn was built slightly earlier than the cow sheds, although in general, the type of building material is very similar. Within this second phase, the north and south bays of the barn were divided off, probably to be used as shippons, an external horse-gin for a threshing machine was constructed, and the granary was built. By 1893, a third phase of alterations had been undertaken, in which the small extension to the north-west corner of the barn was added, presumably to enlarge the associated shippon, and the window and doors were also probably inserted during this time. The penultimate phase of alterations occurred shortly afterwards, around the turn of the twentieth century, and included the construction of a lean-to outshut and a new hay-loft. In addition, the stalls in the shippon and cow sheds were also improved with the addition of concrete partition walls, floors and wall finishes. The final phase is a broad period of *ad hoc* alterations undertaken since the early twentieth century. One of the most notable changes has been the insertion of a large gate into the west of the cowsheds, which presumably compensated for the blocking of a similar sized door on the east side of the building. In addition, the roof structure at the north end of the building has received attention, with some of the repairs evidently have taken place within recent years.

There are no recommendations for further work, following the completion of the archaeological building investigation and map regression.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Mr Peter Winder for commissioning project, and for his help and information. Additional thanks are also due to the staff of the Lancashire Record Office for their help.

Daniel Elsworth and Chris Ridings undertook the building investigation and wrote the report. Mark Tidmarsh produced the illustrations. Daniel Elsworth carried out the background research. Alison Plummer managed the project and edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Mr P Winder requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertake an archaeological investigation at Townside Farm, Pilling, Lancashire (SD 40362 48390) (Fig 1), following a recommendation by Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS). The LCAS had been consulted by Wyre Borough Council regarding a planning application (02/03/00471) to redevelop the barn and cow sheds to resident accommodation. Subsequently, an archaeological building recording programme of RCHME Level II-standard was recommended by LCAS, in order to assess the significance of the building, and provide a permanent record of the structure prior to redevelopment. Historical research aimed at providing better understanding of the development of the building was also recommended.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 A verbal brief was issued by the LCAS and OA North was commissioned to carry out the work, which was undertaken in October 2005.

### 2.2 HISTORICAL RESEARCH

- 2.2.1 A limited amount of historical research was carried out into the building, principally comprising a map regression. This allowed an outline history of the development of the building to be established, which would aid phasing and dating of any periods of alteration and construction.

### 2.3 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

- 2.3.1 A Level II-type investigation (RCHME 1996) was carried out. This was principally a descriptive record with a limited interpretation of the results, and comprised three main forms of documentation.
- 2.3.2 Written descriptions of all parts of the building were compiled on standard OA North *pro forma* record sheets; these detail elements of the construction and use of the building, as well as phases of alteration and significant architectural features.
- 2.3.3 A photographic record of the structure was also compiled using 35mm film and comprising both black and white prints and colour slides. In addition, digital photographs were also taken for illustrative purposes. Photographs were taken of all of the principal parts of the building in addition to areas showing structural alterations and elements of architectural importance.
- 2.3.4 Plans of all of the principal floors and a single cross-section of each building are also produced. These were achieved by hand annotating as-existing architect's plans. These too were intended to show areas of alteration to the building, its arrangement and areas of architectural interest.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current Institute of Field Archaeologists and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston (LRO(P)) on completion of the project, and a copy of the report will be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER).

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## 3. BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The background is intended to put the results of the investigation into context, as well as potentially provide evidence for phases of alteration, building and rebuilding. It is not intended to be exhaustive, or to be a history of the wider area, and it concentrates particularly on the development of Townside Farm. Much of the general background information has been taken from an early report from a project near Pilling (OA North 2003).

### 3.2 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.2.1 Townside Farm is situated approximately east of the centre of the village of Pilling (SD 40362 48390). As with most of the general area it is below 10m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002), and in an area of flat to gently rolling plain (Countryside Commission 1998, 86). The underlying solid geology comprises Permo-Triassic red mudstone, siltstones and sandstones, but this is rarely evident on the surface as it is covered by a thick layer of glacial and post-glacial deposits, primarily a boulder clay till (*op cit*, 87-8).

### 3.3 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

3.3.1 **Prehistoric – Romano-British:** the area around Pilling is relatively rich in archaeological remains when compared to other parts of North Lancashire, particularly those of prehistoric date. Prior to the Neolithic the area had been heavily influenced by the changing sea level, which has led to large deposits of clay and peat developing (Middleton *et al* 1995, 32). This has had a two-fold affect on the survival of earlier archaeological remains, firstly obscuring them and making them difficult to identify, and secondly making the area less inhabitable at the time. The remains of red deer and elk have been discovered in the underlying clays and peat (Sobee 1997, 15), which probably survive from the post-glacial period, but they are not especially informative about human activity at the time. Polished stone axes of Neolithic date have been discovered at Cogie Hill Farm and Bone Hill, to the south-east (*op cit*, 18).

3.3.2 A number of artefacts of Bronze Age date have also been found in the same area, although the exact circumstances are often unclear (Middleton *et al* 1995, 66). Structural remains comprising a bank and ditch and timber poles have also been discovered, as well as a preserved head found in Pilling Moss, which are both likely to be of similar date (*op cit*, 68). Fewer objects of Iron Age date have been discovered, but these include a bronze scabbard also found in Pilling Moss (Sobee 1997, 22), which perhaps demonstrates that some continuity of settlement took place. The remains of a timber trackway, known as Kate's Pad, which was originally thought to be Iron Age, have recently been dated to the late Neolithic – early Bronze Age (Middleton *et al* 1995, 62).

3.3.3 The Roman period is not well represented in this part of Lancashire. Numerous finds are known from across the general area, but most were found



in the early nineteenth century and lack context (*op cit*, 70-1). There is certainly enough evidence to suggest that the Romans had a presence in the area, but how extensive this was is difficult to establish. A gravel track, known as the Dane's Pad, was thought to have been Roman in origin, but this was dismissed subsequently (Mawson 1937, 15-6). The early medieval period is equally poorly represented, with place-name evidence giving only slight clues to the extent of settlement during the centuries following the collapse of Roman administration (Sobee 1997, 31). An initial Anglo-Saxon influence is apparent, and this is further supported by the discovery of a glass bead of Anglo-Saxon style, found in the general vicinity (*op cit*, 31-2), perhaps one of those found close to Town Side Farm near the old chapel (*op cit*, 62). The area later came under the influence of the Norse, which is mainly apparent in place-name evidence (*ibid*, 33-4).

- 3.3.4 **Medieval – post-medieval:** the majority of settlements in the general area probably have medieval origins, and although Pilling itself is not included in the Domesday Book, other nearby villages were (*op cit*, 39). Cockersands Abbey, under whose influence much was done to improve drainage and productivity (Middleton *et al* 1995, 72-3), controlled much of the land. The process of reclaiming moss for its use for both agriculture and fuel was also begun in earnest at this point, as a result of the activities of the Abbey, as was a certain amount of enclosure (*op cit*, 73-4). Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries much of the land around Pilling was sold to John Kitchen of Cockersand (*op cit*, 73).
- 3.3.5 A short distance to the south of Town Side Farm is the Chapel of St John the Baptist, which was built in 1717 (Sobee 1997, 71). This replaced an earlier chapel, which was certainly medieval in origin and may have established during the Anglo-Saxon period (*op cit*, 62).
- 3.3.6 The post-medieval development of the area is dominated by further agricultural developments, in particular land reclamation, and peat extraction on a large scale (Middleton *et al* 1995, 75-83). Many of the villages and farms were still very isolated at this time, and the area was described as '*perhaps the loneliest part of that great secluded Lancashire plain known as "The Fylde Country"*' (Waugh *c* 1874, 94). During the nineteenth century it was a relatively peaceful place (*op cit*, 95), but even then major changes in the landscape were taking place. Drainage and reclamation were major undertakings, with massive numbers of pipes being made (Rothwell 1976, 10). Some industrial action did take place in the area, in particular clay digging, and there are many disused clay pits in the general area. The whole area continued to be affected by occasional flooding due to high seas throughout this period and even up to the present day (Watson and McClintock 1979, 9), making agricultural and economic growth difficult. During the eighteenth century it remained dependent on agriculture, while the rest of Lancashire was embracing the Industrial Revolution, and even into the nineteenth century transport and communication were so difficult that it remained relatively cut-off and backward (*op cit*, 11-12).

### 3.4 TOWNSIDE FARM

- 3.4.1 It is not known when Townside Farm first came into existence, and as the scope of the investigation did not allow for detailed analysis no documentary sources were identified which elucidated this matter. Similarly, it seems to have merited no mention in any of the general historical accounts of the area. The cartographic sources (see *Section 3.5* below) demonstrate that it was present by 1734, but it is not known who owned it at this time, or whether it was even known as Townside. The Tithe Map and apportionment give the first known occupier, a farmer called Robert Alty (see *Section 3.5.3* below). The owners at this time are listed as Edward Hornby and John Gordon.
- 3.4.2 A brief examination of selected directories reveals that Richard Alty and a Robert Alty, both farmers, are resident, at different locations in Pilling (Kelly and Co 1858, 173). Neither farm is named however, although Edward Hornby is listed as a farmer at 'Skronka' farm (*op cit*, 174). In subsequent directories Robert Alty is still listed (Slater 1869, 257; 1882, 264) but again no farm is named, so it is not certain he was still resident at Townside at this time. By 1905 Robert Winder, presumably the ancestor of the current owners, is resident at Townside Farm (Kelly's Directories Ltd 1905, 768).

### 3.5 MAP REGRESSION

- 3.5.1 ***Map of Part of Pilling, 1734***: Pilling is fortunate in having such an early map showing a large part of the township and the main parts of the village. Townside Farm is visible, but not named, and is shown to comprise a farmhouse to the south, another large building to the north of this (presumably an earlier barn) and a smaller building to the north of this (Fig 3). The L-shaped block of cowsheds was clearly not built by this time. The presumed barn is roughly rectangular in plan, with a projecting section on the south-east side giving it a squat L-shape. This would appear to give it the standard form of a 'Lancashire barn', a type of combination barn, generally thought to date from between 1750 and 1850 (Brunskill 1987, 111-113).
- 3.5.2 ***Yates' Map of Lancashire, 1786***: this map is the first map of the county to show a great deal of detail, although it is not as detailed as the plan of 1734. Buildings are only shown as blocks and while it would appear that Townside Farm is shown, it is again not named.
- 3.5.3 ***Tithe Map 1845 (LRO(P) DRB 1/150)***: this is the most detailed map prior to the Ordnance Survey following the plan of 1734 (Fig 3). The same basic arrangement is present as that in 1734, with the farmhouse, barn and small building to the north. Again, the L-shaped block of cow sheds has not been built by this stage, and the barn has a squat L-shape. The Tithe apportionment (DRB 1/150 1844) lists the farm as owned by Edward Hornby Esq and John Gordon Esq, and occupied by Robert Alty. A house, barn, fold and yard are listed among the elements of the property.
- 3.5.4 ***Ordnance Survey 1848***: despite being surveyed between 1844 and 1845 there are some noticeable differences between this map and the Tithe map. By this date the L-shaped block of cow sheds has been constructed, although it has a

small outshut on the south end (Plate 1). The barn is shown as a much more rectangular block, also with a small outshut on its south end, but it is not clear whether it has taken on its present form by this date or not.

3.5.5 **Ordnance Survey 1893:** this is the first 25": 1 Mile map and shows the building in considerably more detail (Plate 2). By this date the barn has taken on its present form, and most of the details such as the steps leading to the outshut at the south end are visible. In addition, a circular structure, almost certainly a horse-gin, is positioned against the west side. The L-shaped block of cow sheds are little different, although the outshut on the south end is not present while additional structures are attached to the west side.

3.5.6 **Ordnance Survey 1912 and 1932:** the form of the both the barn and cow sheds has changed very little by this time, although the horse-gin is no longer present. An additional outshut has been constructed against the south-west corner of the barn and a small detached building is situated to the north of the of cow sheds.

### 3.6 CONCLUSIONS

3.6.1 It is clear from the map regression that the present barn has replaced a structure of similar size on the same site, presumably an earlier, 'Lancashire', barn. Similarly, the cow sheds are evidently built on the site of an equally early building. The date of construction of these earlier buildings is not known, except that they must pre-date 1734.

3.6.2 By approximately 1845 the barn had clearly been altered, although it is not clear how much of its present form it had taken by this date and at the same time the L-shaped block of cowsheds was also built. By 1893 the complex had certainly reached its current size and the barn was further augmented by a horse-gin on the west side, although this had apparently been removed by 1912.

3.6.3 The directories demonstrate that during the last *c* 150 years Townside Farm has probably been occupied by only two families: the Altys followed by the Winders. During the earlier part of this period it was owned by others, at least one of whom also appears to have been a local farmer. As it is not known when the farm was built or who for it is not known how this arrangement came about.

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## 4. RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 As per the specifications of a Level II-type investigation (RCHME 1996) the results are largely descriptive. For ease of organisation the descriptions of the building are broken into external and internal details, with details of the general fabric and arrangement kept separate.

### 4.2 SITE ARRANGEMENT

4.2.1 The site comprises two buildings: the barn to the south, which is roughly rectangular, and the cowsheds to the north, which form an L-shaped block. The barn is divided into four main parts, the barn itself, which was originally a three-bay threshing barn with loft(s), an additional bay at the north and south ends and a small two-storey addition to the south end of the extra bay. In addition, there is a small annex on the west side of the main barn, and a small outshut added to the extra bay at the north end.

4.2.2 The cow sheds are divided into two parts; the south end, which comprises four small bays, and the north and east end, which is divided into four separate boxes. The four bays at the southern end and all of the individual boxes making up the northern and eastern sections are individually accessed.

### 4.3 FABRIC

4.3.1 Both buildings are mainly built of brick, although in both cases there are extensive areas where cobbles are used. These tend to be earlier, however, and it is evident that the brick represents a later period of rebuilding. The majority of the bricks are a uniform mid-reddish orange in colour, hand-made and mould-thrown, and measure 0.23m (9") long, 0.11m (4¼") wide and 0.07m (2¾") thick. These are typical of late eighteenth to early nineteenth century date (Harley 1974, 76). An off-white lime mortar bonds the early brickwork with numerous gritty inclusions including shell, and they are generally laid in English Garden Wall bond, at a ratio of one row of headers to four or five rows of stretchers. The stone-built sections typically survive as the lower part of the walls, and consist of rough courses of cobbles bedded in a thick lime mortar. Within the barn some jambs are finished with dressed red sandstone and limestone quoins, the origin of which is uncertain. These may have been robbed from the nearby chapel.

4.3.2 In both cases the roof structure is timber and of a king-post design (although there are significant differences between the style of these in the barn and the cow sheds). The roofs themselves are finished with slate. Timber is also used for most of the internal structures within the buildings, although concrete has latterly been used in the construction of stalls, floors and dung channels. Concrete blocks and modern machine-made bricks, which are a uniform dark red in colour, have also been used in more recent repairs. The north, south and

east elevations of the barn, some of the west, and all of the elevations of the cowsheds are finished with a roughcast render.

#### 4.4 BARN: EXTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.4.1 **East (Front) elevation:** (Plate 3) there are two rows of diaper-pattern ventilation slots across the elevation; the higher level comprising four holes, the lower nine. The north-east corner has ashlar-effect quoins constructed within the render. To the south of this is a large wagon doorway with a timber lintel evidently made of two pieces of re-used timbers: there are groups of relict peg-holes in each piece that suggest these are former cruck blades. To the south there are two pedestrian doorways, the northern one with a stone lintel and the southern, which may be inserted, with a concrete one. At the south end the elevation is continued by a small two-storey outshut. This has a small ground floor doorway in its east elevation, and a partially hipped roof. There is a plastic gutter attached to the whole elevation.
- 4.4.2 **West (Rear) elevation:** (Plates 5 and 6) the majority of this elevation is rendered, mostly with a smooth finish, apart from a small section at the far south end, which is roughcast as per the rest. The exposed section between, which was clearly left unrendered because of an outshut that formerly stood against this part of the wall, is a mix of brick and cobbles, which evidence of considerable rebuilding. A return in stone, with dressed quoins, denotes the north side of a pedestrian doorway at the south end. South of this is another pedestrian doorway and above is a small window. The area between the two doorways has been substantially rebuilt, the original build apparently being a mix of bricks and rounded cobbles, which was built on top of in the standard brick seen elsewhere in the building. North of this is a small low-level window with a sliding shutter, immediately to the north of which is a low doorway with a rough limestone lintel. North of this the wall returns to the west and there is another large pedestrian doorway, the jambs of which are finished with a concrete skim. North of this the wall returns to the west again where there is a small monopitch outshut attached to the north-west end of the barn.
- 4.4.3 **South elevation:** (Plate 4) this forms the gable end of the building, to which is attached the two storey outshut. The outshut has a four-light window on the west side, and the west end return has ground floor and first floor doorways, the latter accessed by a flight of yellow sandstone steps attached to the south end of the barn. Above these steps, but on the ground floor is a small window looking into shippon at the north end of the barn.
- 4.4.4 **North elevation:** (Plate 7) this forms the opposing gable end. The upper part has five diaper pattern ventilation slots, each of nine bricks, in two rows above three. Below these is a shallow plinth, beneath which are three slit ventilators. At ground level there is a central pedestrian doorway, either side of which are small windows. The west end of the gable has been extended by the outshut, which houses another small window. The west end of the outshut is finished with dressed stone quoins that are visible through gaps in the render, while the false quoins of the east elevation continue around the north-east corner.

## 4.5 BARN: INTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.5.1 **Barn:** the majority of the building comprises what was originally a large threshing barn of three bays, which is built upon the remains of an earlier, stone structure. It has two suspended king post trusses, the king posts of which are elaborately shaped in a 'turned baluster' style (Plate 8). The heads of the king posts are square, with the ridge purlin housed, while the bases are joggled (probably to complete the baluster effect) but have raking braces attached with simple joints below (Fig 5). There is an additional queen post at both the east and west ends. There are three purlins per pitch, plus a central ridge purlin. All of the timber is very neatly hand-finished with a slight chamfer, apart from a row of purlins in the centre of the east side, which are more rough and probably re-used. The northern truss has chiselled carpenter's marks (I and II) corresponding to matching joins, but the southern truss does not appear to have similar marks. It does, however, have an ornate Roman-style 'I' (Plate 9) cut into the south face of the tie beam, with additional marks to the west, which may be the remains of a date. The tie beams sit on brick buttresses on the east side and returns in the wall on the east. A recent timber hayloft has been added on the south side, although this probably replaces an earlier one or possibly two, one at either end.
- 4.5.2 The majority of the floor of the barn is earth, or at least earth-covered. However, the northern section, between the wagon doorway in the north-east corner and the large pedestrian doorway opposite, is concrete.
- 4.5.3 The north (Plate 11) and south internal elevations of the barn are entirely brick, and both have two large openings (presumably pitching holes for the rooms beyond) at first floor level, one above the other. These both have re-used timber lintels/sills with relict peg holes and joist slots. The north elevation also has four small windows within it at ground floor level, probably inserted, and between the central two an area has been relatively recently rebuilt in modern brick. The east elevation is unremarkable, although the lower c 0.9m is built of cobbles. The lower part of the west elevation is similarly built of cobbles, to a height of up to 1.2m. The wall returns at the north and south ends, at the south end forming the jamb of a doorway, and at the north to form an opening into a short extension, also built of brick on cobbles (Plate 10). The extension butts a quoined jamb, presumably the flanking wall for a former wagon doorway, and there are further quoins forming the inner doorway, although on the south side this has been truncated and rebuilt. A large pedestrian doorway is now situated within this outshut, with dressed stone surrounds.
- 4.5.4 On the west side of the barn there is a small box effectively contained within it, beneath the western pitch of roof. It is principally built of brick, although the west side is built onto the lower, cobbled part of the wall, and is on two, very low, floors. On the first floor there is a doorway in the north side allowing access from the hay loft, with a chamfered timber lintel and sill. On the ground floor there is a very low aperture/doorway on the west side and another similar doorway, blocked with stone to the north of this. Internally, the first floor walls are entirely whitewashed. On the ground floor the walls are cobble on the west side, with two narrow alcoves between the low doorways.

The north and south walls are half cobble and half brick. Within the east elevation there are two or three iron rods passing through the wall into the barn beyond. One of these still has a piece of chamfered timber attached to it, and these presumably represent the remains of the drive shafts for a threshing machine. The ceiling is very low, and the joists are all re-used timbers with numerous relict peg holes, joists slots and so forth. Similarly, some of the floorboards on top of these are also re-used and have evidently been painted, although all of them are wide and hand-finished.

- 4.5.5 **Northern shippon:** (Plate 12) the single bay to the north of the barn forms a shippon. The floor is finished with a concrete skim incorporating a dung channel, and the walls are finished in a similar manner. The ceiling comprises machine-cut timber joists and floorboards forming the floor of the loft above. There are three concrete stall walls along the south wall. The western end has been extended into a small outshut, which is finished in the same way and continues the same finish, including the dung channel. There are four windows in the south elevation, and two windows and a doorway in the north, all of which appear to have been inserted or rebuilt. Those to the north have concrete lintels.
- 4.5.6 Within the western extension there is another window in the north elevation, with a stone lintel, and an inserted window in the south, above which is a plinth within the build of the wall. The extension is beneath a monopitch roof, with two purlins, one of which is very roughly finished and probably re-used. The walls of the extension are probably mostly brick-built, although the east elevation is certainly stone.
- 4.5.7 Above the shippon the walls are not covered. A large part of the north wall, corresponding to the visible fabric externally, is evidently built of cobbles, with slit vents with dressed red sandstone jambs. The roof is similar construction to the barn proper, but the timbers are much less well finished.
- 4.5.8 **Southern shippon and stable:** (Plate 13) this is situated within the single bay at the south end of the barn. The floor is part cobbled, part concrete, the ceiling forms a half or three-quarter loft over the shippon and is supported by upright posts attached to which are timber walls of a row of stalls. Both the ceiling and stalls are built of machine-cut timber and appear relatively modern. The walls on the ground floor are finished with a thin skim of concrete. The south elevation, which is mainly built of stone, has two small apertures in the centre, both blocked with stone and with stone and timber lintels. At either end of the elevation the wall is recessed and built of brick; the west end has a small window with a re-used timber lintel. The east and west elevations both have pedestrian doorways on the south side with stone lintels. On the first floor the brickwork of the walls is exposed. There is evidence for rebuilding on the west side of both the north and south elevations; perhaps representing blocked apertures and a possible return for an internal wall.
- 4.5.9 **Granary:** attached to the south end of the barn is a small two-storey structure. It is divided into two rooms on the ground floor: the western room is small, with a very low ceiling comprising narrow timber joists and boards and a concrete floor. The south, east and west walls are brick-built, while the north

is stone, with a narrow aperture (a ventilation slot) with red sandstone jambs blocked with stone (Plate 14). The eastern room is slightly larger, but the walls are finished with a concrete skim and the ceiling covered by plasterboard.

- 4.5.10 The first floor is accessed by a flight of steps on the west side. It has a relatively modern roof with chamfered battens and rafters. The walls are brick, finished with rough plaster and the east and west walls butt the south elevation. The window in the south elevation has a machine-cut timber lintel, and the floor comprises timber boards, which are raised on the east side.

## 4.6 COW SHEDS: EXTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.6.1 ***East elevation of the north south axis:*** (Plate 15) the brick wall is finished in a roughcast render and dressed with rough quoins at the north end. There is a small casement window in the centre of the elevation, whilst to the north, there is a large aperture, which has been partially covered with timber slats. The cracks in the rendered wall beneath this opening suggest that this was once a doorway. In addition, there are two small square air vents below the gutter at the south end.
- 4.6.2 ***East elevation of the east west axis:*** (Plate 16) this elevation is constructed from rough courses of cobbles dressed with rough quoins. The stonework has been re-pointed with cement mortar and there are brick repairs towards the apex of the gable, within which, there is an air vent or beam slot.
- 4.6.3 ***South elevation of the north south axis:*** (Plate 17) the south gable end has a roughcast render with a smoother finish towards the base of the wall. There is a small casement window, originally a door, towards the east end, and a doorway with a stone lintel and timber gate at the west end.
- 4.6.4 ***South elevation of the east west axis:*** (Plate 18) in keeping with the character of the east elevation, and indeed the rest of the structure, the walls are roughcast rendered with quoins to the east end. In addition, there are three matchboard doors, the two end doors are dressed with quoins and feature stone lintels, whilst the central door differs in its concrete lintel.
- 4.6.5 ***North elevation of the east west axis:*** (Plate 19) the north elevation of the east/west axis lies within the garden of the adjacent property. It is similar in character to the east elevation of the east/west axis. It has the same unrendered stone walls and is dressed with similarly exposed quoins. There is a blocked aperture very reminiscent of the opening in the centre of the long east elevation, and there are four vent holes underneath the guttering.
- 4.6.6 ***East elevation of the north south axis:*** (Plate 20) the elevation is smoothly rendered, but this is in a poor condition, despite several patches of cement repairs. At the south end, there is evidence of rough courses of the familiar weatherworn cobbles, whilst towards the centre of the elevation, there is bare brick. The north end of the building lies on the adjacent property and consists of unrendered stone dressed with bare quoins. There is a blocked aperture, possibly a hog hole or similar, which features a substantial stone lintel and quoins. Towards the centre of the elevation, there is an inserted or enlarged



gateway, with ash block repairs to the surrounds. In a similar fashion to some of the other elevations, there are four small square air vents along the underside of the guttering.

#### 4.7 COW SHEDS: INTERNAL DETAILS

- 4.7.1 **Box One:** (Plate 24) the walls are finished with a rough plaster finish, which has been whitewashed. On the north elevation, there is an inserted brick wall featuring six square air vents and a hatch with matchboard door and timber lintel. In addition, there is a brick-blocked window on the west elevation, whilst on the south elevation there is a truncated doorway, which now has a casement window and timber panels below. The floor is concrete with a drainage channel along the east wall, whilst the partitions for the three pens and their respective feed-troughs are also concrete. The roof, which appears to include several phases of *ad hoc* repairs, is a monopitched roof with one purlin per pitch, a ridge purlin, and three trusses. The most southerly of these is simply a cross beam with two braces that entrench the purlins. In contrast the central truss is constructed in the 'straight head' king post style (Plate 21), and features trenched purlins, a supplementary vertical brace at the east end, and Baltic timber marks on the underside and south faces of the truss (Plate 22). The north truss is similarly constructed and differs only in the presence of back instead of trenched purlins.
- 4.7.2 **Box Two:** (Plates 25-26) the walls are stone, although the south elevation is brick, being the obverse of the north elevation in *Box One*. The hatch on this wall is revealed as a truncated door, with ash blocks used to infill the base of the opening. In addition, there are cinder block repairs around the widened or inserted gateway on the west elevation, and they are also located beneath the aperture on the east elevation, thus confirming that the opening was originally a doorway. At present, the aperture features a sandstone lintel and timber sill. The roof has three purlins on the west pitch and two on the east and a ridge purlin. There is a single truss at the south end of the box, which is of straight head king post construction with trenched purlins and ridge purlin, and a chamfered tie-beam.
- 4.7.3 **Box Three:** (Plate 27) the walls are stone, which is covered in whitewashed plaster, with an inserted brick wall on the east elevation. As in the previous rooms, the floor is concrete with a concrete feed trough on the south elevation. In addition, the roof is hipped to accommodate the join between the two axis of the building. Its north side is very modern with narrow machine-cut timbers serving as rafters and a purlin running east to west (Plate 23). There is a single beam running north to south, which supports a diagonal tie beam and king post. The two purlins which run north to south, appear to butt against the truss, whilst the ridge purlin is trenched within the king post. In addition, four narrow modern timbers run across the roof space, whilst the remains of early beam slots are evident on the east and west walls.
- 4.7.4 **Box Four:** (Plate 28) the external walls are stone covered in whitewashed plaster, with brick repairs above the door on the south elevation. The internal partition walls on the east and west elevations are again brick, with the former

appearing to have been constructed in at least two stepped phases. The roof as in *Box Three* is a mixture of phases, with the modern elements clearly visible on the southern pitch. There is no truss to speak of and support is offered primarily through four narrow machine-cut timbers that run north to south. In addition, the beam slots on the east and west elevations are again present, with the remains of a timber protruding from the former.

- 4.7.5 **Box Five:** (Plate 29) the east elevation, which comprises the gable end, has substantial brick repairs towards the apex of the facade, and there are also brick repairs above the door on the south elevation. Similarly, on the north elevation, there appears to be an earlier stone build overlain with a later brick phase. Moreover, this is also evident on the west wall and clarifies the reason for the step in the build of the wall. The floor is again concrete, with a feed trough attached to the south wall. The roof has one purlin per pitch and the ridge purlin, but there is no evidence of a truss or principal rafters. Instead, there is merely a small crossbeam, which is trenched within the purlins, and resembles an A-frame arrangement. In addition, there is a beam, which extends from beneath the ridge purlin on the east elevation and runs through the west wall into the adjacent stall.

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## 5. DISCUSSION

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### 5.1 TOWNSIDE FARM

- 5.1.1 It is evident from the cartographic sources that the current barn and cow sheds were both built in or immediately before 1845. It is likely that the barn was built slightly earlier, although in general the type of material is very similar. The barn was built with two relatively unusual king-post trusses, with 'baluster'-style king posts. This coupled with the remarkably archaic 'I' carved into the tie beam of the northern-most truss suggests either that the timber was all re-used, or that a particularly old-fashioned decorative techniques (perhaps deliberately so) were being used.
- 5.1.2 A number of phases of building and rebuilding are evident within the barn and cow sheds:
- 5.1.3 **Phase 1:** prior to the present buildings being constructed there were evidently earlier structures on the site. These are represented by the 'Lancashire' barn and the small building to the north shown on the early plans (Fig 3), and are almost certainly represented within the standing buildings by the cobble-built sections of walling. The plan of these sections is very similar to those of depicted on the early plans, and demonstrate that a relatively large amount of the former buildings was used. The date of these buildings is not known, but must predate 1734. It is likely that the sandstone blocks present within the Phase I fabric were taken from the former chapel (see *Section 3.3.5*), which would mean that Phase I probably dates to approximately 1717; the point at which the old chapel was demolished and the new one built.
- 5.1.4 **Phase 1a:** it is probable that the small extension to the north-west corner of the barn had occurred prior to the first depiction of it as this seems to be shown. The use of cobbles in building this addition would also suggest it is of an early date.
- 5.1.5 **Phase 2:** it would appear that the next major phase of alteration was taking place as the Tithe Map (published 1845) and first edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1844-5) were being produced. This apparently involved the construction of first the present barn and then the cow sheds. These were evidently built of brick but re-used much of the earlier stonework as a foundation. The north and south bays were divided off at this time, but it is not clear what they were used for. They may have formed shippons from this date, with storage above, perhaps on two levels.
- 5.1.6 It is not certain at what point the horse-gin was built, but it is likely that it was constructed as part of this phase; the evidence within the building suggests that it was contemporary with the brickwork. Threshing machines were first invented at the end of the eighteenth century and they were described as recent introductions to Lancashire in 1795 (Holt 1795, 34). A date of *c* 1845 is not, therefore, unlikely in such a remote area. It is possible that the granary on the south end of the barn is a slightly later addition, but it was probably built at the same time that the other alterations were taking place. This led to the original

ventilation slots being blocked, perhaps suggesting that the southern shippon went out of use for a while. Curiously the archaic 'I' scored into the southern truss of the barn (Plate 9) is of a much earlier style, typically of the late seventeenth century (see examples in Garnett 1994). It is not clear whether this means that this timber was also re-used or that the mark was simply using a very old-fashioned style. The baluster-style king posts are also anachronistic, and suggestive of a late seventeenth century date (Alcock and Hall 2002), that might suggest that a deliberately antiquated style was being used.

- 5.1.7 **Phase 3:** at some point prior to 1893 a small extension was added to the north-west corner of the barn, presumably to enlarge the associated shippon. Probably at the same time windows and a doorway were added to this part of the building in order to allow more light and ventilation. This was common practice during the second half of the nineteenth century, as it was believed to be beneficial to the animals (Brunskill 1987, 66).
- 5.1.8 **Phase 4:** between 1893 and 1912 the horse-gin was removed and some of the adjoining space used for the construction of a lean-to outshut. The threshing machine was apparently steam-powered within living memory (Peter Winder pers comm), and this is a likely explanation for the removal of the horse-gin. At approximately the same time the stalls in the shippons and cow sheds were also improved with the addition of concrete partition walls, floors and wall finishes. The buildings have remained in much this condition ever since.
- 5.1.9 **Phase 5:** since 1912, there have been a number of *ad hoc* repairs and alterations to the cow sheds, including the insertion of the large gateway in the west elevation. This was presumably undertaken to compensate for the blocking of a similar sized door on the east, which was converted into a slat-covered window. At a similar time, the door in the brick partition between *Boxes One* and *Two* was truncated to its present size, in order to create a hatch. The roof at the north end of the cow sheds has also received some attention, particularly during the last few years, when the machine-cut cross beams and rafters, purlins were added in *Boxes Four* and *Five*.

## 5.2 DISCUSSION

- 5.2.1 It is evident that the buildings at Townside Farm have retained some very early fabric from preceding structures. Although these early buildings cannot be dated they are at least early eighteenth century in origin, and may be seventeenth century. The re-used timber within the barn and possible fragments of cruck blades are indicative of a building tradition recorded throughout the Fylde region and dating from at least the beginning of the seventeenth century (Watson and McClintock 1979, 15-19). The re-use of timber is known to have taken place from at least the seventeenth century in some areas (Tyson 2000, 41), however, which could make them even earlier. While it is impossible to be certain, it is likely that these earlier buildings performed similar functions to those that replaced them.
- 5.2.2 The apparently deliberately anachronistic style of elements of the barn is a particularly curious feature, and one that is worthy of note. It would be

particularly interesting to discover the identity of the carpenter, and any similar examples of work in the immediate or wider area.

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## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1.1 There are no recommendations for further work, following the completion of the archaeological building investigation and map regression. It would be worthwhile publishing a short note about the unusual king post in a suitable Journal in order to allow it to be compared with similar examples.

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## 8. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 8.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Location plan

Figure 2: Site plan

Figure 3: Tracing of the plans of 1734 (DDX 2320/1) and 1845 (DRB 1/150)

Figure 4: Ground floor plan of the barn

Figure 5: North-facing cross-section of the barn

Figure 6: Ground floor plan of the cow sheds

Figure 7: South-facing cross-section of the cow sheds

### 8.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 showing Townside Farm

Plate 2: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 showing Townside Farm

Plate 3: The east external elevation of the barn

Plate 4: The south external elevation of the barn

Plate 5: The south end of the west external elevation of the barn

Plate 6: The north end of the west external elevation of the barn

Plate 7: The north external elevation of the barn

Plate 8: The southern truss within the barn

Plate 9: Carved 'I', possibly part of a date, in the tie beam of the northern truss

Plate 10: The north-west corner of the barn showing phases of cobbles and brick building

Plate 11: North internal elevation of the barn

Plate 12: General view of the northern shippon

Plate 13: General view of the southern shippon

Plate 14: Blocked ventilation slot enclosed by the granary

Plate 15: The east elevation of the north/south axis of the cow sheds

Plate 16: The east elevation of the east/west axis of the cow sheds

Plate 17: The south elevation of the north/south axis of the cow sheds

Plate 18: The south elevation of the east/west axis of the cow sheds

Plate 19: The north elevation of the east/west axis of the cow sheds

Plate 20: The west elevation of the north/south axis of the cow sheds

Plate 21: North-west-facing view of the central king post truss in *Box One*

Plate 22: Detail of the Baltic timber marks on the central truss

Plate 23: Detail of the recently replaced ceiling in *Box Three*

Plate 24: North-facing view of *Box One*

Plate 25: East-facing view of *Box Two*

Plate 26: South-facing view of *Box Two*

Plate 27: North-west-facing view of *Box Three*

Plate 28: North-west-facing view of *Box Four*

Plate 29: North-facing view of *Box Five*





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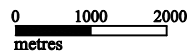


Figure 1: Location Map

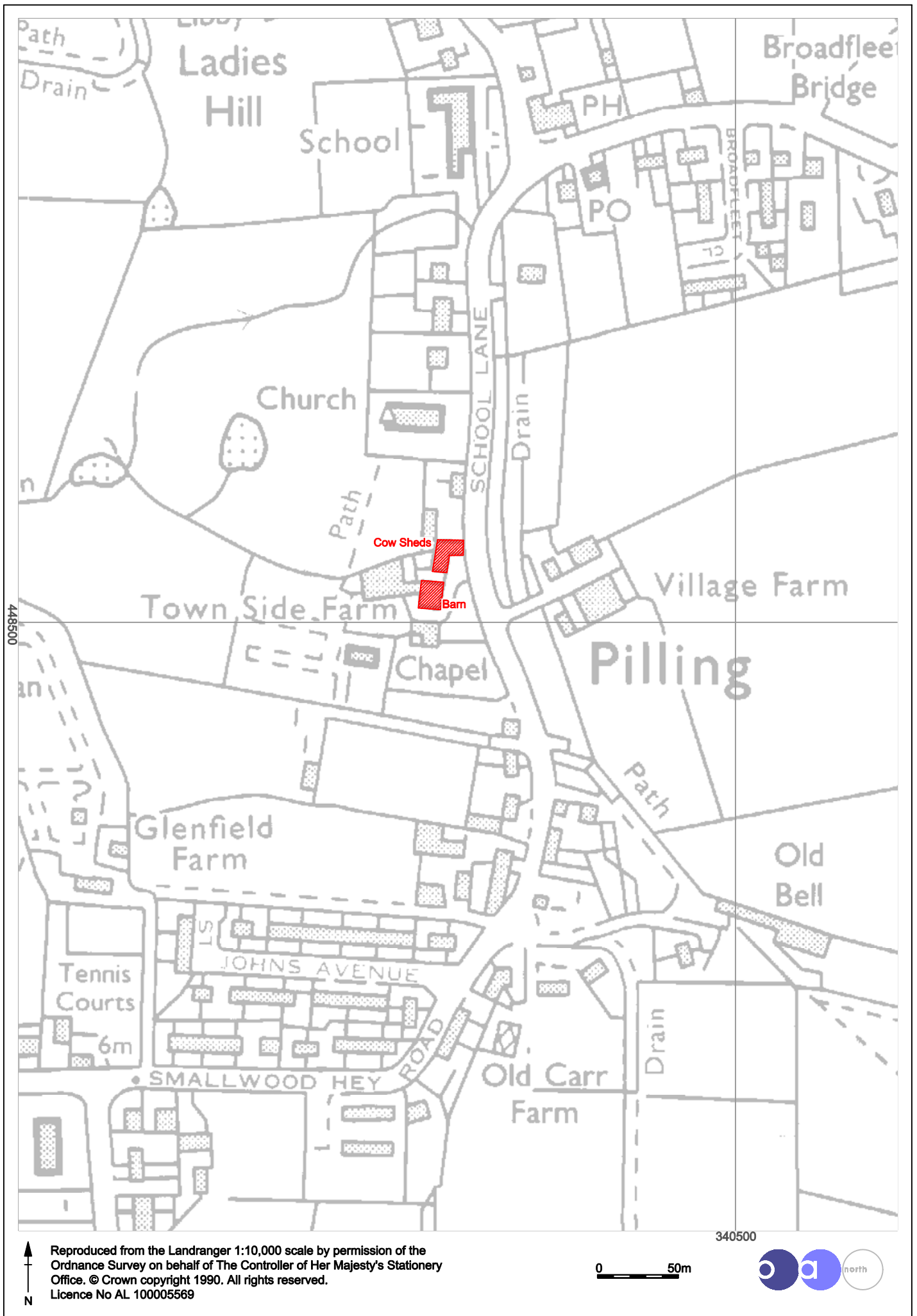
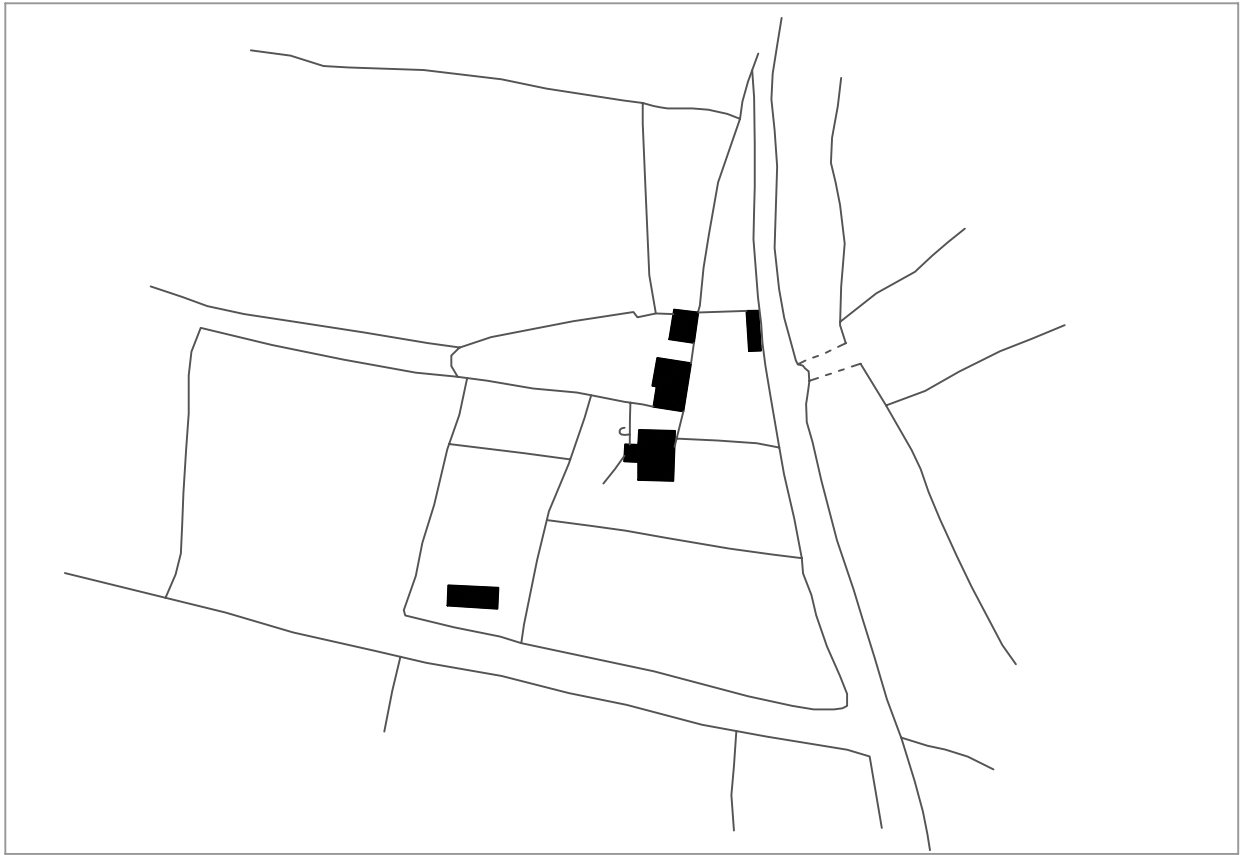
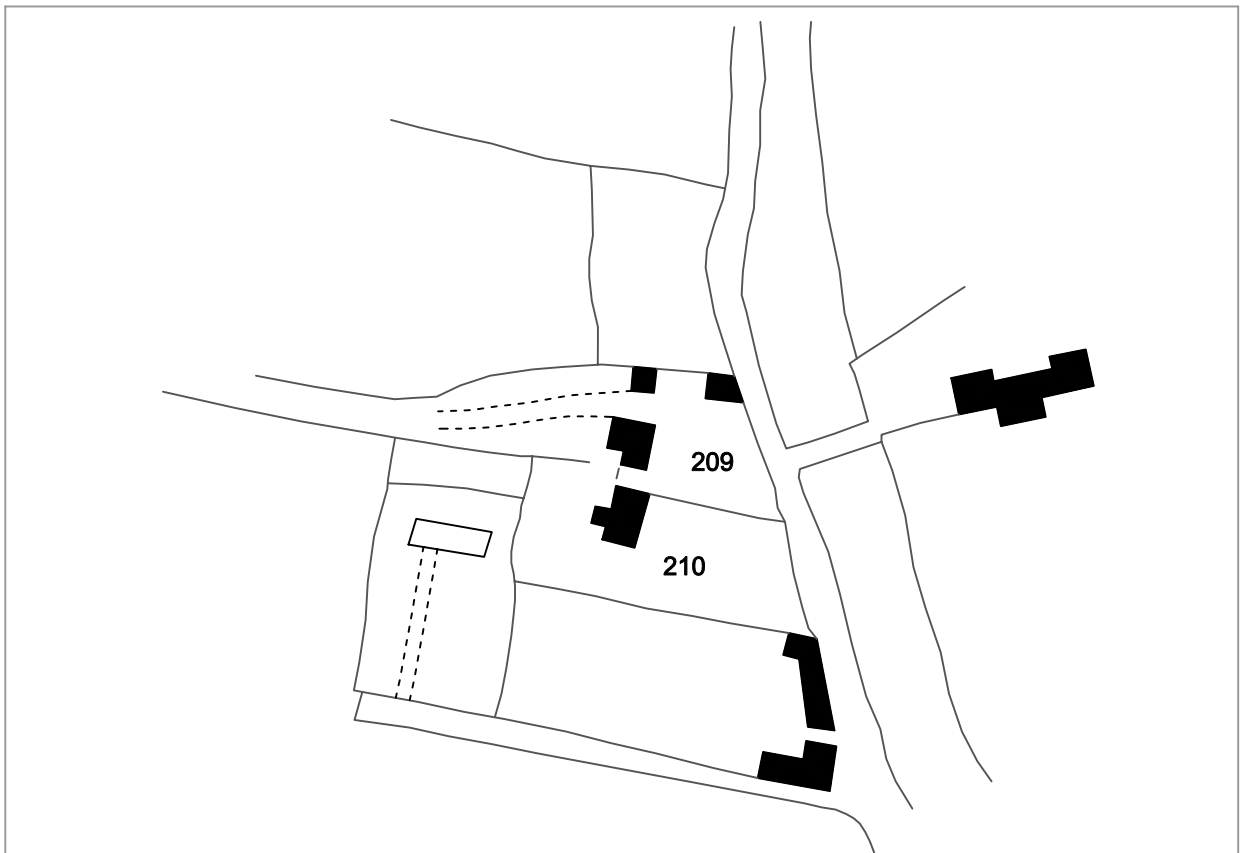


Figure 2: Site Plan



Tracing of the plan of 1734 (DDX 2320/1)



Tracing of the plan of 1845 (DRB 1/150)







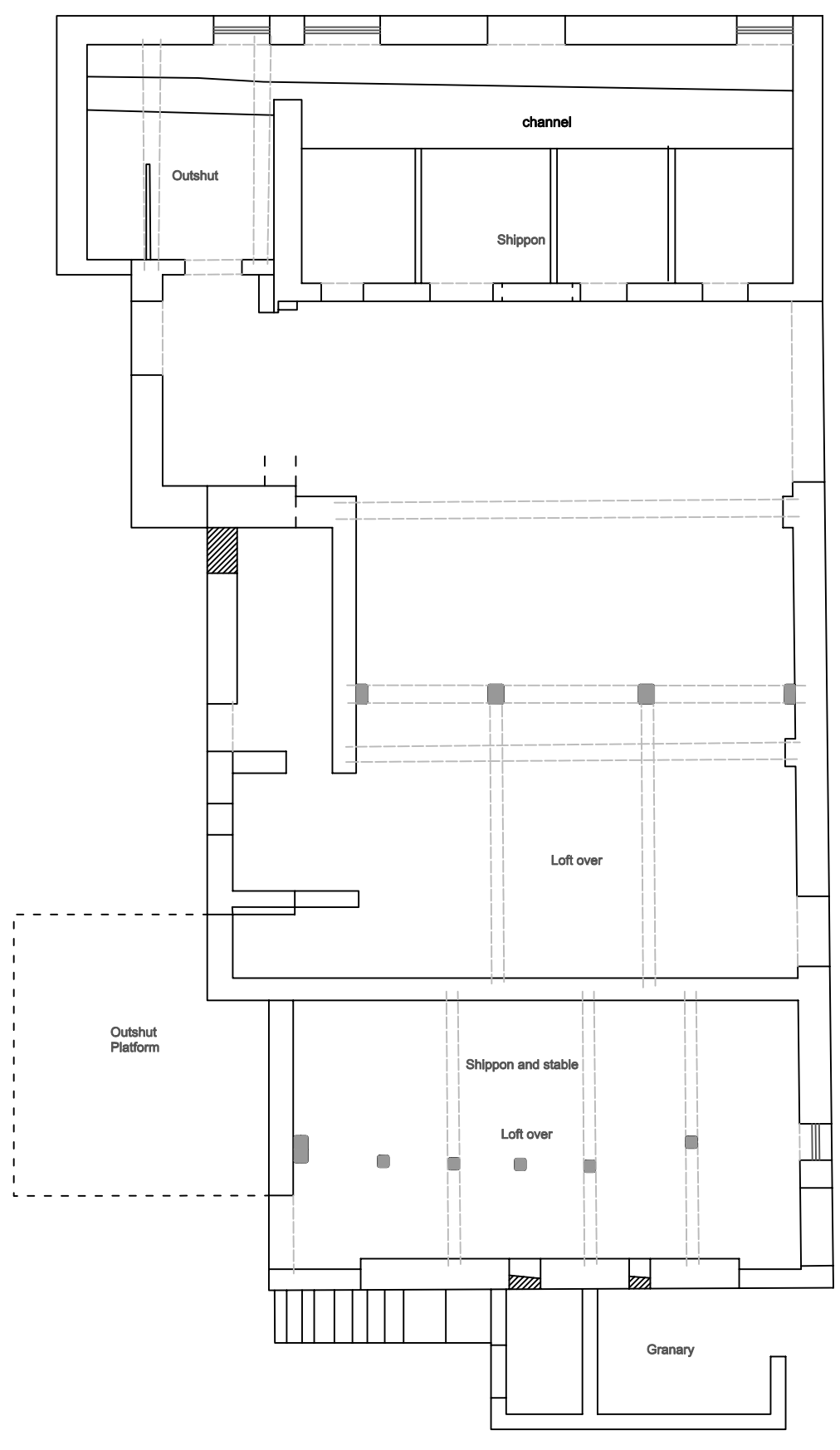
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Figure 3: Tracing of the plans of 1734 (DDX 2320/1) and 1845 (DRB 1/150)

**Key**

-  blocking
-  rebuild/repair
-  beam over
-  sectional timber



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metres  
Scale 1:100 @ A3



Figure 4: Ground floor plan of the barn

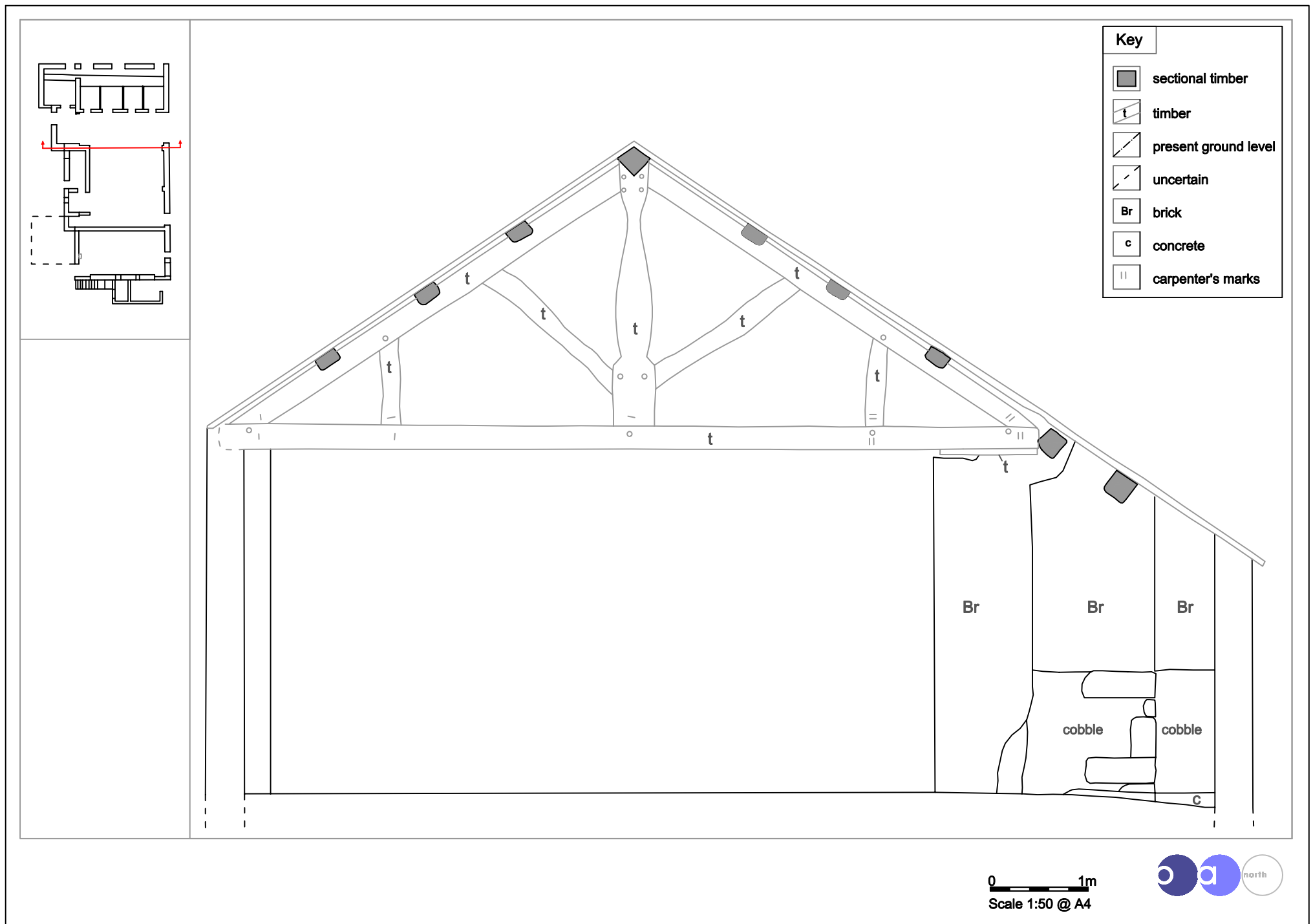




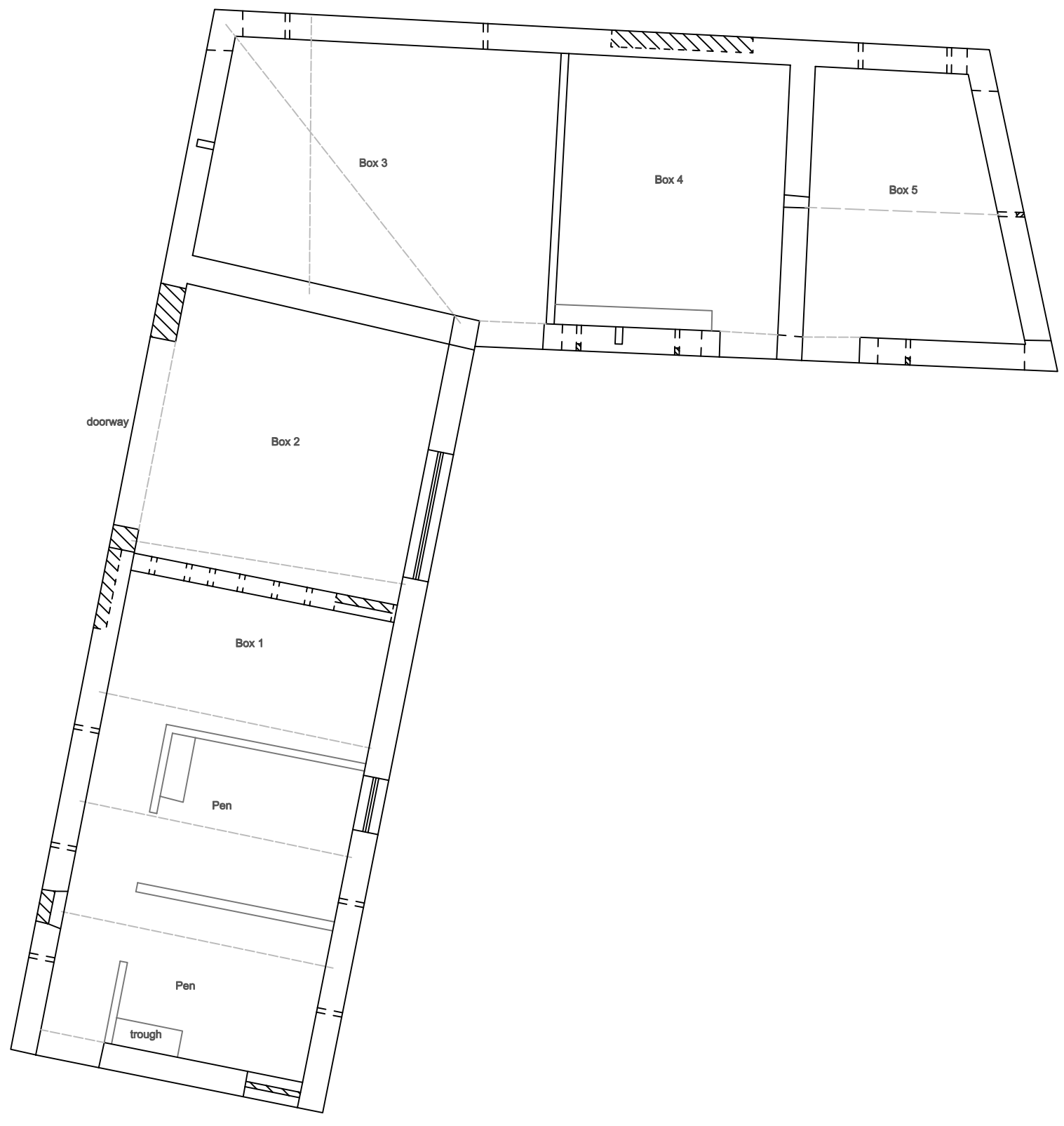


Figure 5: North-facing cross-section of the barn



Key	
	blocking
	rebuild/repair
	beam over
	sectional timber



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Scale 1:100 @ A3



Figure 6: Ground floor plan of the cow sheds

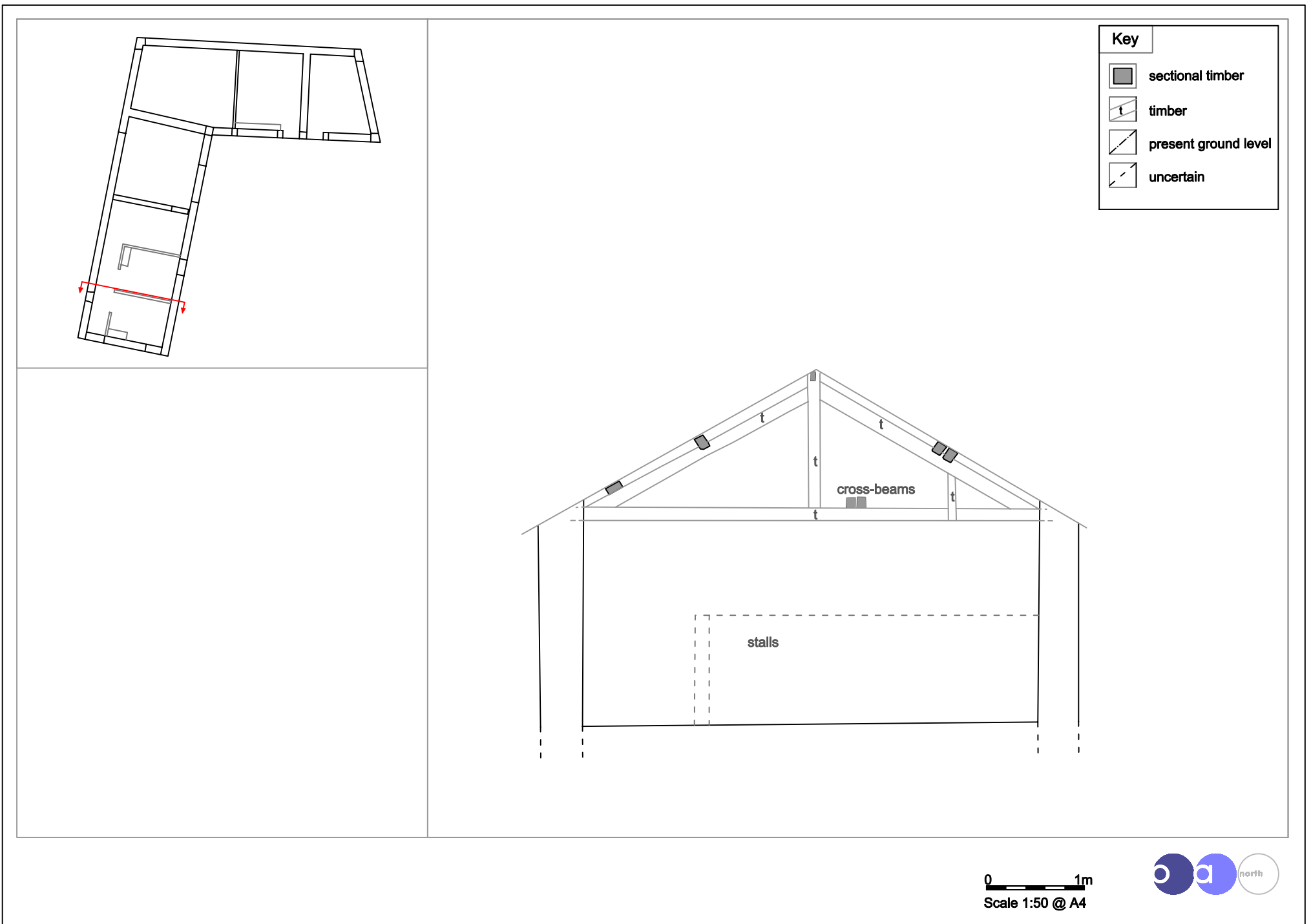


Figure 7: South-facing cross-section of cow sheds



Plate 1: Part of the Ordnance Survey of 1848 showing Townside Farm

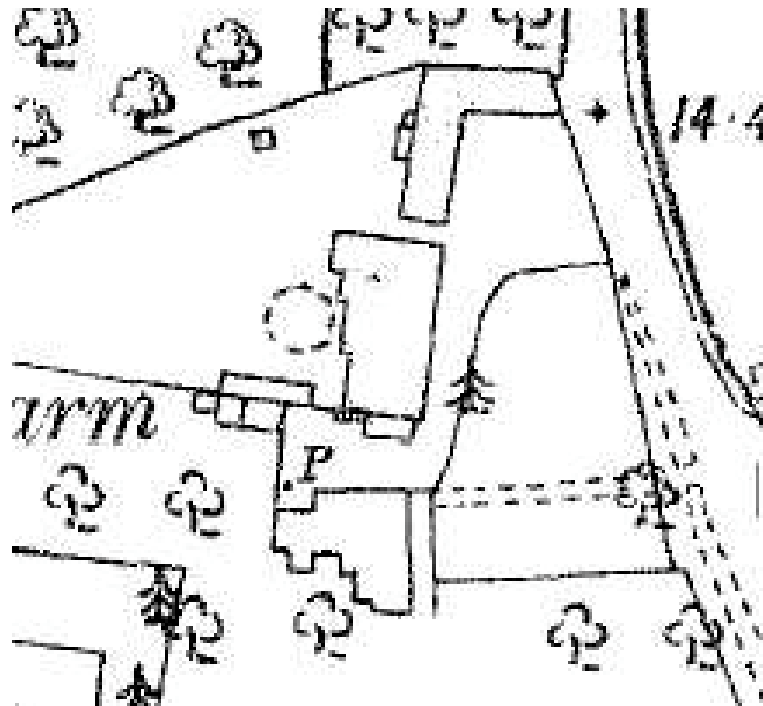


Plate 2: Part of the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 showing Townside Farm



Plate 3: The east external elevation of the barn



Plate 4: The south external elevation of the barn





Plate 5: The south end of the west external elevation of the barn



Plate 6: The north end of the west external elevation of the barn



Plate 7: The north external elevation of the barn



Plate 8: The southern truss within the barn





Plate 9: Carved 'I', possibly part of date, in the tie beam of the northern truss



Plate 10: The north-west corner of the barn showing phases of stone and brick building



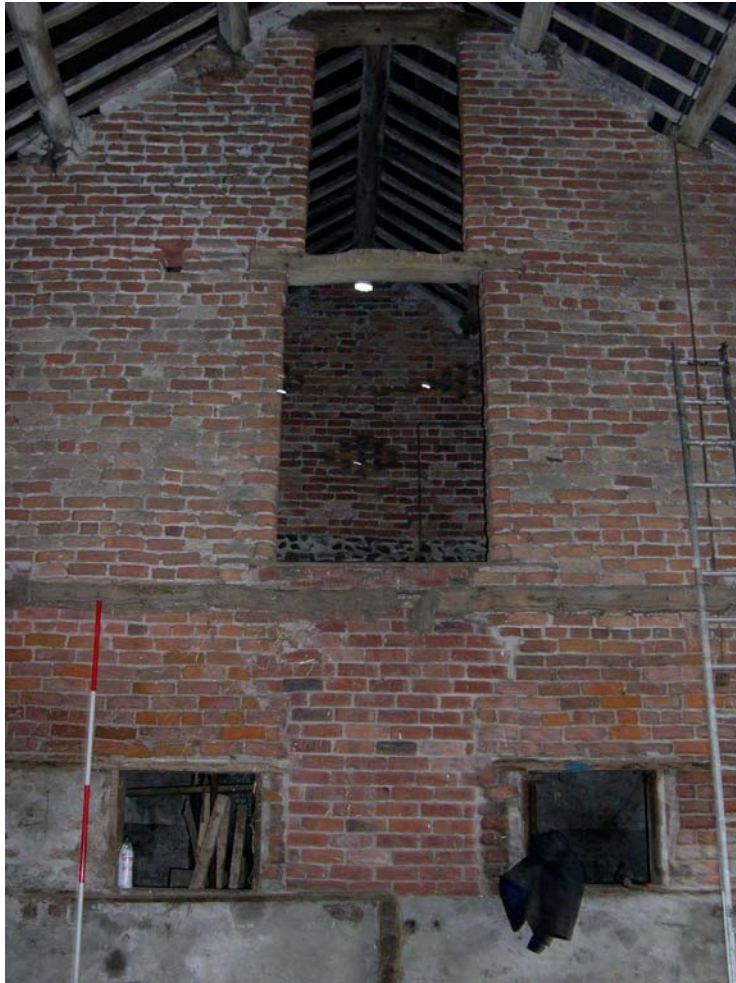


Plate 11: North internal elevation of the barn



Plate 12: General view of the northern shippon



Plate 13: General view of the southern shippon



Plate 14: Blocked ventilation slot covered by the granary





Plate 15: The east elevation of the north/south axis of the cow sheds



Plate 16: The east elevation of the east/west axis of the cow sheds



Plate 17: The south elevation of the north/south axis of the cow sheds



Plate 18: The south elevation of the east/west axis of the cow sheds





Plate 19: The north elevation of the east/west axis of the cow sheds



Plate 20: The west elevation of the north/south axis of the cow sheds



Plate 21: North-west-facing view of the central kingpost truss in *Box One*



Plate 22: Detail of the Baltic timber marks on the central truss





Plate 23 Detail of the recently replaced ceiling in *Box Three*



Plate 24: North-facing view of *Box One*