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# Great Barn Farm, Gayton Thorpe, Norfolk



**Historic Buildings Recording** 



January 2011

Client: Julian Kerkham of W.H.Kerkham (Rhoon) Ltd.

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# Great Barn Farm, Gayton Thorpe, Norfolk

Historic Building Survey

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# Summary

Oxford Archaeology East has been commissioned by Julian Kerkham of W.H.Kerkham (Rhoon) to undertake the historic building recording of a number of redundant farm buildings in the village of Gayton Thorpe, approximately 6 miles east of Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The work took place in late September 2010 and was carried out in accordance with a Brief issued by James Albone of Norfolk County Council Landscape Archaeology and a Specification prepared by Oxford Archaeology East (Fletcher 2010).

The project required the survey of six disused farm buildings, including a Grade II Listed barn prior to conversion into residential dwellings and holiday lets.

The survey revealed that the main Grade II listed barn was a threshing barn and comprised two main phases of construction dating to the 18th and 19th century. The remaining buildings dated to the early-late 19th century and were most likely built to accommodate cattle and horses.

Although much original building material survives in all the buildings, most have been re-roofed and original fixtures and fittings removed. Many phases of alteration and repair have taken place in order for the buildings to survive and continue to function, reflecting the changes in agriculture and subsequent use of the farm buildings over the past two centuries.

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### 1 Introduction

# 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An historic building recording survey was conducted at Great Barn Farm in Gayton Thorpe, Norfolk. The site is located on an unnamed road leading east out of the village of Gayton Thorpe, approximately six miles east of Kings Lynn (Figure 1). Great Barn Farm forms part of the West Acre Estate and comprises a farmhouse to the west with L-shaped buildings attached to the north and an extensive complex of farm buildings situated to the east of the house. The proposed application relates to the farm buildings and the survey has targeted those of historic interest.
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by James Albone, Archaeological Planning Officer for Norfolk County Councils Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Planning Application 09/01843/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Fletcher 2010).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to adequately record the structures in their current state before the alteration work begins.

The specific aims outlined in the Brief were:

- 1) To adequately survey the buildings in their current state before conversion.
- 2) To carry out a Level 2 survey (as defined by English Heritage 2006) including a sketched plan of the structures, a photographic record of the inside and outside of the structures, together with any structural details, fixtures or fittings that may be relevant to the history of the building or lost through the planned development.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the Norfolk Museum and Archive Service in due course.

# 1.2 Historical background

### Gayton and Gayton Thorpe

- 1.2.1 There is a chalk hill approximately two miles to the east of Gayton and about 300 feet above sea level which is part of a chalk belt about 20 miles wide (the only formation of this kind in England) which stretches continuously from the Yorkshire Wolds to Salisbury Plain (Anon 2006).
- 1.2.2 There is little written about the history and development of Gayton Thorpe. However, it does boast the site of a substantial Roman Villa (NHER 3743). The Roman villa was originally excavated in 1922 and forms the southern-most of a chain of villas spaced approximately 1.5 miles apart extending north towards Snettisham (Anon 2006).
- 1.2.3 The layout of the villa, a possible boundary ditch and access road joining the site to the nearby Icknield Way (NHER 1398) could be clearly seen as parch marks in the hot summer of 1976. Fieldwalking in the 1980s uncovered evidence of further buildings on the site including a detached bath house with a mosaic and tessellated floors and another building with decorated painted wall plaster. Pottery recovered suggests the villa was in use between 125 and 360 AD. Fragments of Iron Age pottery and a brooch

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- also recovered suggest the site was occupied during this earlier period too. In 2006 parts of the villa were re-excavated (www.heritagegateway.org).
- 1.2.4 The villa represents the only known mosaic of geometric design to have been excavated and recorded *in situ* in Norfolk. The main building of the villa is of a wing-corridor design with most of the floors being tessellated (www.heritagemp.com/gaytonthorpe.asp).

### Great Barn Farm

- 1.2.5 Little historical information was found about the farm or farmhouse itself during the background research for this report. Most of the analysis of the development of the site comes from physical and cartographic evidence.
- 1.2.6 One of the buildings (Building 1) is currently a Grade II Listed Building. The listed buildings register describes the site as follows:

LBS Number 221954 BARN AT GREAT BARN FARM CIRCA 60 METRES EAST OF GREAT BARN FARMHOUSE

"Two barns under continuous roof, C18. Brick, pantiles with gable parapets. 9 steads, continuous outshut to west. East façade with first barn of 6 steads in English bond brick, oversailing cornice. 3 stead barn to right of English bond with vertical join. 3 large openings with wooden lintels and flanking brick buttresses. Left and right gable returns in English bond, south return with base of flint, dressed limestone and carstone. Rear outshut of brick of various ages in English bond, some carstone to south; various openings. External wall of second barn with outshut of chalk, diagonal brick headers and flint. Interior: first barn to south with 3-tier butt purlin roof, second tier braced; massive ties with struts to purlins. Second barn to north with C19 king post roof, interior of chalk, flint and brick. Brick internal wall between barns. Farmhouse not listed" (www.lbonline@english-heritage.org.uk)

1.2.7 The barn was listed in 1988 as "barn at Great Barn Farm". Cartographic evidence (see Section 3) shows the farm was called Great Farm until sometime between 1958 and 1981 when its name was changed to Great Barn Farm.

# 1.3 Acknowledgements

1.3.1 The author would like to thank Julian Kerkham for commissioning the work and to staff at the Norfolk Heritage Centre, Kings Lynn Library and Norfolk Records Office for their assistance with the cartographic sources. The author carried out all on-site recording, photography and background research. Thanks also to Daniel Bashford for preparing all the illustrations and plates, Jon Gill of Oxford Archaeology for assisting with interpretation and to Rachel Clarke for editing the report.

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# 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aim of this investigation was to carry out a historic building survey to English Heritage Level 2 (English Heritage 2006).
- 2.1.2 This survey focusses on the six redundant brick and flint buildings which, according to the planing application, are due to be demolished/renovated (Buildings 1-6, Figure 2). It does not consider the modern vehicle sheds and stores constructed sometime after 1958.

# 2.2 Site Conditions

- 2.2.1 Conditions within the buildings were generally good, allowing measured and photographic survey to take place. Most of the buildings were empty and access was possible to all but part of Buildings 2 and 4. Roof structures were visible and accessible, however lone working conditions and the height of Building 1 made close inspection impossible.
- 2.2.2 Weather conditions were good with only occasional light drizzle on the first day.

# 2.3 Methodology

- 2.3.1 The measured survey was carried out using basic equipment including: a distometer, tower tape, 30m tapes, hand tapes and a 30cm ruler.
- 2.3.2 Photographic survey (at Level 2) was carried out by the author using a 35mm camera (monochrome and colour slide) with additional digital photographs using a high resolution Canon PowerShot Pro90 IS digital SLR camera. Extra lighting was necessary in most of the barns which was achieved using halogen lamps, however this was only used where there was a safe electricity supply.
- 2.3.3 All building recording work carried out complied with standards and guidance set out in by the IFA (2001) and was undertaken by an experienced archaeologist. Scaled architects drawings, supplied by the client were used for field notes and were annotated and amended on site as necessary.

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# 3 CARTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A number of maps were consulted as these can often be one of the most useful sources when researching the development of a building or group of buildings. The earliest available map was from Bryant's Map of Norfolk; unfortunately, this area does not seem to have an Enclosure map. However, the maps remain a good resource for this investigation and each are summarised below.

# **3.1** Bryant's Map of Norfolk, 1826 (1.25" to 1 mile) Figure 3

- 3.1.1 Bryants map of the county of Norfolk was published in 1826 from a previous series of surveys carried out between 1824 and 1826 and was the earliest cartographic source used for this study. This was one of twelve county maps published and his work overlapped with the early Ordnance Survey work. The maps were produced at a scale of 1.25 inches to 1 mile (Barringer 1988).
- 3.1.2 The Map of Gayton Thorpe (Figure 3) shows a number of pit, brick and kiln sites suggesting the underlying gravels and clay may have been suitable for extraction for use in building construction.
- 3.1.3 This map shows buildings on the site of Great Barn Farm, however, the shape and form makes it difficult to say with much certainty which building is which. Orientated at a right angle to the road on a north-south alignment would appear to be the Great Barn (Building 1). The farm house is also featured, however it appears to be on a slightly different layout at this time suggesting alterations since the date of this map as well as expansion of the farm as a whole.

# **3.2 Tithe Map, 1840** Figure 4

- 3.2.1 A tithe map was drawn up for almost all rural parishes in Norfolk between 1836 and 1850. This was necessary because the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 asked that payments of tithe in the form of farm produce should be replaced by a money payment. Tithe was a tax, which was paid to the local church.
- 3.2.2 When colour has been used on the maps, inhabited buildings are shown in red and uninhabited buildings in black. This colour map shows the farmhouse in red and the remaining farm buildings in grey and shows more detail than most tithe maps. It shows some of the buildings surveyed are present by this time, these are Buildings 1, 3b and 5. This is also the first map to show buildings and other features of the site in detail. In addition to the buildings, this map shows internal boundaries (walls/fences), a pond and carriageway within the grounds.
- 3.2.3 However, tithe maps were not created to provide an accurate survey of the area. The aim was to show the boundaries of all areas for which tithe was owed, usually fields. The amount of other information given varies from map to map. If something does not appear on a map, it does not mean that it did not exist.

# 3.3 Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition, 1884 (6" to 1 mile) Figure 5

3.3.1 The Ordnance Survey map from 1884 (Figure 5) provides a more detailed and reliable plan of the site. This map shows buildings in the locations of all six which are the subject of this study. Buildings 3, 5 and 6 appear to be narrower, suggesting they have been extended or rebuilt. Building 1 has narrow additions on the southern and north-eastern sides. The house and associated barns and features (not included in the survey) appear to be n the same layout and position as they are today.



- 3.3.2 A "P" in the yard area between Buildings 4 and 5 denotes the location of a pump.
- 3.3.3 In a slightly wider context, the map also shows water-filled pits in the field to the north, presumably disused quarry pits associated with the nearby brickyard to the north west of the site.

# 3.4 Ordnance Survey, 2nd Edition, 1905 (25" to 1 mile) Figure 6

- 3.4.1 The next available map was the 1905 Ordnance Survey which features the name of the site for the first time as "Great Farm" and shows slightly more detail of the buildings studied than the previous edition. This map shows the location of posts on two buildings, indicating that they were open-fronted.
- 3.4.2 By this time, Buildings 3 and 5 appear wider and both are open fronted, there is also more detail regarding the additional part of the southern side of Building 1. The pump has also been removed by 1905.

# **3.5 Ordnance Survey, 1958 (6" to 1 mile)** Figure 7

- 3.5.1 The Ordnance Survey from 1958 shows the buildings and farm in less detail. All the buildings featured on the previous map are represented on this one, however there is no indication about which buildings are open fronted.
- 3.5.2 This map does show an extension/addition to the eastern side of Building 1 at some point between 1905 and 1958. This extension has been added between the support buttresses which can just be made out on the 1st Edition map (Figure 3).

# **3.6 Ordnance Survey, 1981 (1:2500)** Figure 8

- 3.6.1 The next available map dates from 1981. This is the first map that shows the name "Great Barn Farm" suggesting it has been re-named since 1958. By this time, a number of large stores/shelters have been built on the eastern side of the farm. The additional buildings on the north-east and south of Building 1 have also been removed as has the extension between the buttresses. Building 5 has what appears to be small enclosed yard areas on the south side, perhaps enclosed by fences or walls and Building 6 has been extended on the northern side.
- 3.6.2 The small rectangular building on the eastern end of Building 3 (3b) is not shaded which may indicate that by 1981 it had lost its roof.
- 3.6.3 This map also shows that the farm house now has its main drive and access on the eastern side as opposed to the southern side as shown on previous maps.

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# 4 Description of The Buildings

The surveyed buildings are located to the east of the main farmhouse (plate 1). Buildings 1 and 2 are the principal, largest buildings which flank the north and east sides of the historic buildings with Buildings 3-6, all on an east to west alignment located parallel in the area between Building 2 and the main road (Figure 2). From the main road, Buildings 1 and 6 are visible, however the size and location of Building 1 make it an imposing and recognisable feature of the group (plate 2). Figure 2 shows the location of the surveyed buildings and Figures 9 to11 provide elevations, supplemented by additional detail provided in plates 1-32.

# **4.1 Building 1** (Figures 9 and 10, Plates 3-11)

During the time the recording was carried out, the barn was being used for storage of agricultural products, equipment and building materials in the southern part of the building. The northern extension was being used as a workshop. There was full, unrestricted access to this building.

# External Description

- 4.1.1 This large barn is believed to have been a threshing barn and measures approximately 57m by 12m, orientated roughly north-south. It is constructed entirely of brick and clearly built in two phases. The southern part, comprising approximately two-thirds of the building was built using hand-made, mid-orange coloured bricks laid in an English bond. The northern third of the building is a later addition and built using a darker reddish orange brick, also laid in an English bond. The roof was covered with terracotta pantiles with a terracotta ridge tile.
- 4.1.2 The eastern elevation (Figure 9 and plate 3) has three large sets of double doors, all modern replacements, and a number of bricked-up narrow ventilation slots. A brick arch is located above the southern-most door and the remains of a recently removed, large modern iron structure is located to the immediate south. There is a blocked up window between the southern and central double doors. There are buttresses on this elevation which appear to be a later addition, perhaps to offer extra structural support. The join between the two phases of barn was clear from this side, indicating the northern third of the building is a later construction.
- 4.1.3 The western elevation (Figure 9 and plates 4 and 6) shows a number of phases of alteration and repair. This side of the building was designed for storage and incorporates an open loading/cart area, part of which has been filled in with brick at a later stage (plate 6).
- 4.1.4 The southern elevation (Figure 9 and plate 5) shows the moderate pitch of the roof with continuous contemporary outshut to the west. Built on a plinth of carstone and flint there is also tumble-in brickwork visible at the roofline. This elevation has three bricked-up windows, a bricked-up narrow ventilation slot and evidence of movement where the outshut on the western side meets the main building. Modern agricultural use has required some damage to be made into the brickwork. Iron support ties have been inserted at roof level to secure the gable end to the roof and prevent further movement.
- 4.1.5 The northern elevation (Figure 9 and plate 7) shows similar evidence to the south-facing gable end. However, this end does not have evidence of tumble-in brickwork and

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the two ventilation slots have not been fully in-filled. There are also structural iron ties at the roof level and the pitch of the roof and outshut are the same.

# Internal Description (plates 8, 9, 10 and 11)

4.1.6 Internally, this building is in two parts, as reflected in the external evidence.

### Southern Part

- 4.1.7 The southern part of the barn comprises approximately two thirds of the entire building. The roof in this area appears to have been largely or entirely reconstructed, possibly in the second half of the 19th or early 20th century, reusing the main timbers from a previous roof. The reused members include massive oak tie beams which rest on apparently similar large wall plates, principal rafters and two tiers of butt purlins (plate 8 and Figure 10).
- 4.1.8 There are 8 trusses, each with a distinctive arrangement of six raking struts formed from relatively slender and straight (non waney) members. The bases of the two longest struts almost meet, close to the centre of the tie-beam and these rise to support the underside of the upper tier of purlins. The two pairs of shorter raking struts are set close together but at a different angle to each other and they support the principal rafters at a point just above the lower purlin.
- 4.1.9 Each truss also includes a relatively deep collar set below the upper tier of purlins (but not clasping them). Within the central tier of purlins are simple and relatively narrow wind braces. The rafters are long, straight and horizontally set and there is a slender ridge piece.
- 4.1.10 The slender members, particularly the raking struts, are suggestive of a relatively late date of construction, possibly in the early 20th century, albeit clearly with reused members from a previous roof. However there appears to be a date of 1850 (or 1856) inscribed onto one of the tie beams (3rd from the south) and it could be that this was the date of the reconstruction. This is a typical type of roof construction to be found within the east of England (Harris 2001).
- 4.1.11 There were two sets of large double doors on opposing elevations and although the original doors had been replaced and one set of doors on the western elevation had been bricked up, one set on the western side still had the original "lift" boards. Many threshing barns had doors which stopped between 1 and 2 feet from the ground with separate horizontal boards below held in place by a groove in the door-jamb. This was called a "lift" and it meant that the opened doors were kept clear of dirt and manure when opening and closing and animals and birds from the farm yard could not wander in (Peters, 1981 p 14).
- 4.1.12 There have been a number of alterations internally including a recent removal of a first floor at the southern end. This was unlikely to have been an original feature, but openings recorded on the southern elevation correspond with an additional floor at this end
- 4.1.13 On the northern end of the building two openings were noted (plate 9); a narrow slot for ventilation and/or light and a larger door underneath which had been bricked up or repaired beneath.
- 4.1.14 Areas for storage built into the sides of the principal openings the were accessed from inside the building (plate 10). There was evidence of movement and cracking on the return walls on the western side, possibly caused by the weight of the pantile roof.

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### Southern Part

- 4.1.15 The northern third of the building was very different internally compared to the southern part (plate 11). At the time of the survey, it was in use as a workshop. This later addition was constructed using primarily chalk, brick and flint as visible from inside, and faced externally with brick (plate 4).
- 4.1.16 This part of the building also has bricked-up ventilation slots and an original 19th century king-post roof.

# **4.2 Building 2** (Figure 9, Plates 12-13)

# External Description

- 4.2.1 The part of this building which is being affected by the proposed development measures approximately 40m by 6m (Figure 9 and plate 12). This building is orientated roughly east-west and continues further west (not part of the development). It is constructed entirely of brick and faced mostly with large, uncoursed flints mixed with occasional, random brick headers and small lumps of carstone. Brick provides some of the strongest bonding when built into a wall, most often with the headers facing out (Hart, 2000). The roof was covered with terracotta pantiles with terracotta ridge tiles. At the time of the survey this building was in use as stabling for horses, although there were none on the day the survey was carried out. It was not possible to gain access into the room at the northern-most end of the building. There was lighting and unrestricted access to the rest of Building 2.
- 4.2.2 The south-facing elevation fronts into the farmyard (Figure 9 and plate 12 and has three door openings and nine "window" openings with diagonally laid wooden slats for ventilation. Neither the doors nor the windows are original, however they do appear to be in the original positions.
- 4.2.3 The east-facing gable end of Building 2 (Figure 9 and plate 13) shows a moderately pitched roof and a single window opening, the same as those recorded on the southfacing elevation.
- 4.2.4 The north elevation (Figure 9) faces onto open farmland. There is a bricked-up doorway on this side of the building, but no other doors or window openings.

# Internal Description

- 4.2.5 Internally, this building has been sub-divided for stabling horses. Although the wooden partitions appear relatively modern, the layout of the building, proximity to the main house and location and size of openings would suggest this building was originally constructed as horse stables. Drainage channels in the floor also correspond with the location of the internal stalls which would support this suggestion.
- 4.2.6 The roof structure appears to have been replaced, possibly within the last twenty years and although the pantiles are believed to be original, the roof lining between the tiles and the roof is modern indicating the roof structure may have been replaced and the tiles relaid.
- 4.2.7 At the western end of the building there was a small room which has a brick floor. This room also had a blocked door which would correspond with the blocked up one recorded on the north-facing elevation.

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# **4.3 Building 3** (Figure 9, Plates 14-17)

# External Description

- 4.3.1 Building 3 is located between Buildings 2 and 4 and is accessed mainly from the north and south sides. Building 3, along with 4, 5 and 6 all share the same boundary on the western side as their gable ends are all in line (plate 14). This boundary marks the division between the farmhouse and the farmyard. Building 3 has two clearly different elements; a stone-built square shaped building and a long rectangular barn (Building 3b), discussed separately below. This barn building is orientated east-west, measures approximately 20m by 10m and has two elements which appear to have been constructed in two separate phases. It was constructed using timber and brick and has a corrugated iron roof with inserted glass skylights on the southern side of the roof.
- 4.3.2 The north-facing element of this building (Figure 9 and plate 15) is entirely open-fronted. The roof is supported by five large timber posts which rest on concrete slabs/blocks. The eastern end of the barn was also constructed entirely from corrugated iron.
- 4.3.3 The south-facing element to this building (Figure 9 and plate 16) was entirely brick built using an orange coloured brick laid in English bond. It had four doors, all with what appear to be original two-part stable doors and one additional doorway had been blocked up. There were two window openings, both had been covered over as this part of the building was still in use for sheltering birds and was not fully accessible. There had been some repair/replacement of the western gable end using a darker red brick.
- 4.3.4 The western gable end comprised the end of both parts of the barn and clearly constructed in two phases. Built in a Flemish bond, the end of the northern side of the barn appears to have been incorporated into or is contemporary with the boundary wall continuing to the north towards Building 2. This may suggest an earlier building on this side, later replaced by the open shelter..?

### Internal Description

- 4.3.5 The inside of the northern side of barn 3 was being used to store hay at the time of the survey. From inside it was possible to see the dividing wall between the two elements of this building (plate 17). It was constructed using brick and three phases of construction and repair were visible. The part which comprised the lower fourteen courses was constructed in an English bond. Within this wall was a small arch which had been blocked up and may have been an access for small animals or for drainage. The next eight courses of brick appear to have been added later which were slightly larger bricks, laid in the same English bond. The upper eight courses were obviously later still and laid in a Running bond.
- 4.3.6 The southern part of the building comprised the brick building, sub-divided into several small "rooms". Inside, there is no internal detail of note and the same brick wall which was recorded on the northern side was visible from within the rooms on this side. There is significant evidence of rebuild and repair throughout this building, both internally and externally. The floor was covered with concrete and the layout would suggest this building was for stabling horses.
- 4.3.7 The roof structure spanned both sides of the wall forming the roof cover of both the north and south sides of the building. It appeared to be a relatively modern support and certainly not original, possibly added when the corrugated roof cover was added. It

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rested directly on the central support wall and on the internal dividing walls on the south side and to the vertical supports on the north side.

# **Building 3b** (Figure 9, Plate 18)

- 4.3.8 Although not effected by the proposed development, this building has been described and recorded as it is part of the building group and may represent the earliest building on the site.
- 4.3.9 This derelict building is square-shaped in plan, measuring approximately 6.80m by 6.80m and located on the eastern side of Building 3 (plate 18). This small building is constructed primarily using a combination of limestone on the outside faces and red bricks on the internal walls. There have been various stages of repair using brick, flint and undressed limestone rubble with dressed quoinstones at each corner. The roof is missing and the inside has become overgrown with plants.
- 4.3.10 There are blocked doorways on the south and eastern elevations and a bricked-up window on the north-facing side. A new centrally located doorway has been created on the south-facing side with red bricks used around the opening.
- 4.3.11 The western side of the building has been altered to incorporate the eastern end of Building 3 which has been built onto it.

# **4.4 Building 4** (Figure 11, Plates 19-20)

### External Description

- 4.4.1 This building is orientated east-west, measures approximately 24.40m by 5.40m and is constructed using brick and flint with a pantile covered low pitched hipped roof. At the time of the survey this building was empty and in a reasonable state of repair. There has been obvious repair to the roof as the pantiles are in three different shades indicating re-use and possible relaying.
- 4.4.2 The south-facing elevation (Figure 11 and plate 19) shows this building has four doorways; all have replacement doors, however the third opening along appears to have been added and is not original to the build. There has clearly been some repair or rebuild to the western end and a modern two-part stable door added. The flint render on this building is slightly different to that used in Building 2, as the flint used is much smaller and there is a more frequent use of brick in the wall which is very roughly coursed. This building also has three decorative bands of brick running across it. The eastern gable end shows little detail, the western end shows a modern orangey red brick used to repair/rebuild it.
- 4.4.3 The northward facing elevation (Figure 11 and plate 20) has a single doorway close to the eastern end which appears to be contemporary with the original build and another at the far western end which has been added or replaced when this end was altered/repaired. This side of the building differs slightly in appearance. The red brick banding does not continue on this elevation and the lower third of the wall uses much smaller and coursed flints than the rest which uses large and randomly laid flint stones and very occasional brick. There has been obvious repair at the west end which corresponds to that observed on the opposite side and gable end.

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# Internal Description

- 4.4.4 At the time of the survey, the building was empty and mostly open plan, however there is evidence to suggest internal sub-divisions and partitions. There was an internal division running the length of the building, creating a walkway on the northern side (plate 21). Accessed from the door on the northern side, this walkway still has an *in situ* brick floor. Most of the partition has been removed, however a brick plinth remains upon which rests a wooden baseplate and a number of upright vertical posts survive (plate 22). Two two-part stable doors still remaining may indicate this building was used for sheltering cattle or horses.
- 4.4.5 There were small bricked-up arches similar to those recorded in Building 3 which may have been used for drainage when cleaning out the stalls (the slope of the floor would assist drainage).
- 4.4.6 This building had been sub-divided by the creation of a partition using modern breezeblock at its western end. This corresponds with the external evidence of alteration/repair recorded outside.
- 4.4.7 This building had a modern truss roof with large tie beam resting on the wallplate. It has a concrete floor, however recent removal of some of the floor surface shows what may be flagstones (?) beneath.

# **4.5 Building 5** (Figure 11, Plates 23-26)

# External Description

- 4.5.1 This building is of brick construction in two parts: an enclosed area on the north-facing elevation and an open-fronted element to the south-facing side; at the western end an enclosed brick section spans both sides. It has a corrugated iron roof, measures approximately 24.50m by 10m and is orientated east to west.
- 4.5.2 The north-facing elevation (Figure 11 and plate 23) comprises two elements; an open fronted part with vertical timber supports on the left side and an enclosed brick building on the right (plate 23). The timber posts had iron brackets which suggests that they may have originally supported large doors. Vertically laid weatherboarding enclosed part of this end. To the right, vertical boards covered the enclosed brick section at this end.
- 4.5.3 The west-facing gable end (Figure 11 and plate 24) has two entrances: the one on the left provides access to the north side of the building and appears from the brickwork around it to have been inserted and is not an original part of the building. The second door on the right side would provide access to the southern side of Building 5. This has a brick arch above and is believed to be an original feature, although blocked-up at a later stage. A crude wooden framed window has been inserted in this elevation and it has vertically laid boards above the brick to the roofline. This elevation appears to represent a single phase of construction using pale pink-coloured bricks, laid in an English bond.
- 4.5.4 The south-facing elevation shows two elements on this side (Figure 11 and plate 25). It has an orange coloured brick-built element at the far western end with a door which has been blocked-up door using flint and then five vertical posts with open front on the east side. There were originally six posts, but one has been removed/decayed.
- 4.5.5 The east-facing elevation (Figure 11 and plate 26) shows both sides of the building constructed using brick (painted black) and vertical laid timber boards possibly in two phases. On the left side the brick has been laid in an English bond with vertical boards



above to the roof. A door has also been inserted into the brickwork. On the right side a lower level brick plinth, laid in a Running bond comprises just eight courses with vertical boards above to the roof. There is also a door providing access to the north side of the barn.

# Internal Description

- 4.5.6 There was little detail inside either side of Building 5; both sides were open and used for storage at the time of the survey. A spine wall was visible on both sides which divided the building. It was constructed in a single phase using light orange coloured bricks laid in a Flemish bond. Vertical boards were laid on top of the wall to the roof to create a partition between the two sides. The tie-beam of the roof support was built into the upper courses of the wall. A door had been inserted to allow access between both north and south sides.
- 4.5.7 The brick element of this building, located at the western end spanned the width of Building 5 and was entirely open plan. At the time of survey it was empty, however had recently been used to house a large water butt set high into the roof space. There was a door providing access to/from the northern side of the barn and a step led down into this area. It was constructed in a Flemish bond, in the same brick as the spine wall and would indicate it was contemporary with the rest of the building. From inside, the blocked up doorway recorded in the western end of the south-facing elevation was visible and further use of flint for repair was noted internally on this wall.

# **4.6 Building 6** (Figure 11, plates 27-30)

### External Description

- 4.6.1 Building 6 measures 24m by 12m and was the southern-most of the buildings surveyed (Figures 2 and 11). Orientated east-west it comprised two phases of open fronted cartshed or stores with a central brick wall and corrugated iron roof with three inserted skylights on the north-facing side.
- 4.6.2 The west-facing elevation (Figure 11 and plate 27) shows construction using bricks of various colour suggesting re-use and also repair/rebuild. There is a door providing access to the northern side of the building, which is original to this part of the building and vertically laid timber boards continue from the brick wall to the roof-line.
- 4.6.3 The north-facing elevation has a number of timber posts which sit on a two-course brick plinth (Figure 11 and plate 28). Although open-fronted, hinges from a two-part stable doors and fragments of vertical weather boarding located across the front suggest it was originally enclosed.
- 4.6.4 The east-facing end of Building 6 also shows two phases of construction. The left side is constructed using primarily flint with random brick inclusions and a band comprising a single course of headers towards the top with a bricked-up opening on the far left (Figure 11 and plate 29). On the right, the wall is constructed entirely using brick in a Flemish bond, painted black, with a contemporary door on the left side. Vertically laid timber boards sit on top of both walls and continue to the roofline.
- 4.6.5 The south-facing side of Building 6 fronts into a large, wall-enclosed area leading to the southern limit of the farm up to the main road. This side of the building is open-fronted with seven posts (originally eight as the central post has been removed/rotted away) resting upon concrete staddlestones and supporting a corrugated iron roof (Figure 11 and plate 30).

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# Internal Description

- 4.6.6 The north-facing side of Building 6 had, until recently, a number of internal sub-divisions creating areas for holding animals; these were created using breezeblock and modern materials suggesting they were not contemporary with the original build. The central spine wall which divides the two sides of the building is visible upon which vertical boards span the gap up to the roof. The wall has been altered and repaired in a number of phases; the lower half was built using flint and brick on top of which are four courses of red brick in a random bond followed by five courses of a buff coloured brick in an English bond. Another layer of brick topped with two more courses of brick demonstrates the alterations and repairs which have taken place in this building during its existence. A bricked-up door is located within the main spine wall on at the left end of the building. There is an original doorway located within the spine wall at the right end which provides access to the southern side of the building.
- 4.6.7 The south-facing element of this building (plate 31) is open-fronted and there is no surviving evidence to suggest there was ever a front to this part of the building. Given its location at the front of the site (facing the road) suggests it may have been a cart shed. The internal spine wall is different on this side, being constructed primarily from flint with just five courses of red brick towards the top suggesting the wall on the other side may have been built separately.
- 4.6.8 The roof spans both sides of the building. This roof is constructed using modern, sawn-cut timbers and like most other buildings recorded on the site, it was probably raised and replaced when the iron roof covering was added.

# **4.7 Building 7** (Figure 2, Plate 32)

4.7.1 Although not part of the required survey and not affected by the proposed development, a further building was noted and photographed located against the southern extent of the site. This building was briefly recorded as it appears on the historic maps as early as 1840 (Figure 4). Of flint and brick construction, this building was an irregular, almost "stretched-square" shape in plan (Figure 2 and plate 32) and measured approximately 8m by 6.75m. It no longer had a roof and coping stones had been added to the top course of brick. It had an entrance on the west-facing side and another on the opposing east-facing side. Internally, there were no features or details to note and access was restricted due to overgrown plants and weeds. An old colour aerial photograph of unknown date submitted along with the planning application documents on the West Norfolk and Kings Lynn planning website (Figure 12) shows this building with a roof.

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# 5 Phasing

# 5.1 Phase 1: Undated

- 5.1.1 The only building attributed to this phase is the small square-shaped limestone and brick building located at the eastern end of Building 3.
- 5.1.2 The stone used in this building is unlike any other found on the rest of the site or the main farmhouse. It is possible that this building is earlier than the brick and flint buildings which surround it. It appears on the 1840s Tithe Map (Figure 4) and may be on Bryants map of 1826 (Figure 3). Limestone blocks of this size are more likely to have come from a more substantial and high status building.
- 5.1.3 It may have been built as a folly or other decorative landscape feature for a much earlier building/estate such as the nearby Gayton Hall (NHER 46883), less than 1 mile to the northwest of the site. The present Gayton Hall building was erected around 1800 (Ibonline.english-heritage.org.uk) and was the 19th century seat of the Earl of Romsey however, there was an earlier building prior to that built in 1587 to the north of the present site (Anon 2006). It is possible that the original estate may have owned the land now occupied by the Great Barn Farm prior to the construction of the farm and farmhouse in the 18th century. Alternatively, when the original 16th century house was demolished in around 1800, some of the building stone may have been bought and a small tower or possibly a dovecote was erected around the same time as the farmhouse was built. Further research would be required to substantiate these suggestions which is beyond the scope of this current survey. However, it can be said with some certainty, that the stone used to construct this building is not local and it is highly unlikely to have been imported for the current structure.

# 5.2 Phase 2: 18th century

- 5.2.1 This phase of construction comprises the southern element of Building 1. Visible on the map evidence as early as 1826 (Figure 3), this threshing barn, along with the farmhouse and Building 3b is one of the earliest surviving buildings on the site. This building is likely to be contemporary with the main farmhouse and was possibly constructed c.1790 (Officer Report 2583281pdf, online.west-norfolk.gov.uk, Feb 2010). It is likely that there were other buildings associated with the farm at this time, as indicated on the 1826 map which were later demolished to accommodate the planned 19th century farm that followed as farming methods and technology changed or as the function and capacity of the farm and West Acre Estate grew.
- 5.2.2 In most traditional farmsteads, the barn was the central point to which the other buildings were related and was often the largest of them. The main purpose of threshing barns was to house the threshing floor and for storage (Wade Martin, 1991, pg 166). Generally they had at least one threshing floor with bays for housing the crops and the threshing floor always ran across the barn, never along the length (Peters, 1981 p.10). The size of the barn would depend on the size of the farm. The practice of storing all of the crops in barns and so of building larger ones, continued well into the 19th century in the south of England and East Anglia (Peters 1981, p.10). the fact that this barn would have two threshing floors (later three) suggests a substantial farm and level of production and activity. The areas on the western side of the barn would have been ideal for storage of threshed crops and carts.
- 5.2.3 The threshing barn had two sets of opposing high doorways. These were to allow carts and wagons to drive into the barn and unload from the threshing floor into one of the

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- bays. The height also provided light for working and ventilation when winnowing the husks from the grain.
- 5.2.4 At the north-facing end of the barn was a large opening high up in the elevation (plate 9). Pitch holes were often found at the ends of barns such as this, used to pitch the corn or hay directly into the barn from a cart or wagon standing outside. This might be necessary if the barn doors needed to be kept shut, if access was restricted or if perhaps there was already a cart loading on the threshing floor.

# 5.3 Phase 3 : Early-mid 19th century

- 5.3.1 This phase sees the extension of the threshing barn (Building 1) to the north and the construction of stableblocks (Building 4 and another in the location of Building 2). The evidence for these comes mainly from the Tithe map of 1840 (Figure 4) by which time these buildings are all present. There have been some obvious alterations and demolition of some aspects of these buildings, for example, the north side of Buildings 1 and 4 have additional elements on their northern side.
- 5.3.2 By this time Building 1 ("The Great Barn") had three pairs of doors so that it held six stacks, on each side of three throughways. As the barn was extended northwards, the roof was repaired/replaced and the pantiles relaid. If the date found carved into the roof structure of the barn is correct, this work may be attributed to the 1850s.
- 5.3.3 The mid 19th century the regular layout of the farmyard began to form and take the current design. Although Buildings 3, 5 and 6 had not yet been built, the walls/boundaries creating divisions in the farmyard had appeared by this time.
- 5.3.4 The buildings which are present at this time would suggest the farm was still primarily an arable farm with successful and expanding production of crops. The farm is surrounded by fields which could have been used for growing corn and wheat and the need to extend the two-bay barn yet again shows the capacity the farm and building must have had. As part of a larger estate, crops from other farms may have been brought here for threshing and storage. Additional storage was now available on the western side of the threshing barn and more horses could now be accommodated in stableblocks.

# 5.4 Phase 4: Mid-late 19th Century

- 5.4.1 The second half of the 19th century witnessed further expansion of the site as yet more buildings appear within the farmyard. Building 2 was re-built and extended to take its current form and the earliest elements of Buildings 3, 5 and 6 as well as Building 7 appeared in this phase.
- 5.4.2 A "P" denoting pump is shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) as well as additions to north-east and south-east corners of the threshing barn, possibly creating an area for production on the eastern side of Building 1.
- 5.4.3 By the end of the 19th century, gas and oil engines were being used to power many threshing machines, replacing horsepower, water, wind and steam (Peters, 1981 p29). It is therefore very possible that the buildings added onto the north and east sides of the barn (evident from Figure 5) were to house engines. When the threshing drum was introduced the drum would be pulled into the centre of the barn and was driven by a long belt from the steam engine which was stationed outside the low entrance to the barn. An elevator conveyed the threshed straw from the drum through the higher door as recorded in the southern gable end, into the stackyard.

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# 5.5 Phase 5: Late 19th to early 20th century

- 5.5.1 By the early 19th century, there had been yet more expansion of the buildings to create more cartsheds, stabling and storage. The 1905 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 6) shows Building 3 was been extended on the northern side, presumably for storage, Building 5 was also extended on the northern side and an additional brick-built area added on the western end. An addition was also made to the western side of Building 7, although it appears too narrow for a building and may simply be a small enclosed yard. These additional buildings may have been constructed to accommodate a small number of cattle.
- 5.5.2 It is likely that during this phase, most of the roof structures were replaced, especially as more of the buildings were extended on the opposite side (making use of the brick wall to create shelters etc) and covered with corrugated iron sheets.

# 5.6 Phase 6 : Early to mid-20th century

- 5.6.1 Between 1905 and the mid 20th century (Figure 7) there has been almost no change to the buildings, other than a narrow addition to the eastern side of the threshing barn (Building 1) between the two sets of doors. Evidence of this was recorded on the east-facing elevation where the brick buttresses have been extended in height to accommodate an addition.
- 5.6.2 By the early 1980s the site appears on the Ordnance Survey maps almost as it does today (Figure 8) Building 6 has been extended to the west, subdivisions appear on the south side of Building 5, presumably to shelter large animals and the additions to the northeast and south of the threshing barn (Building 1) have been removed. The large concrete block storage buildings located to the east of Building 1 were also constructed during this phase as well as the metal frame addition as noted on the southern set of double doors on the eastern elevation.

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# 6 DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 Although the building survey has recorded changes and alterations to all of the buildings studied, cartographic sources have been invaluable in this study. Agricultural buildings need to adapt and undergo repair and alteration to preserve their lifespan and to meet the changing needs and fortunes of farming activity. The available maps have assisted with the phasing of these changes in relation to alterations, expansions and development of the site as a whole.
- 6.1.2 The earliest available map from 1823 shows the threshing barn as well as a range of other buildings, which may be the first physical evidence for the development of the farmyard. The following years up to 1905 witnessed more buildings being constructed and existing buildings were expanded; a common activity within farms as production shifts and focus changes to meet the demands for arable, dairy or mixed production.
- 6.1.3 It has been difficult to attribute a function to some of the buildings as they have been altered and had fixtures and fittings removed during their lifespan. It appears that the earlier buildings housed the horses, carts and crop processing associated with wheat and corn production. Later, as the farm expanded and agricultural demands changed, accommodation for cattle was introduced.
- 6.1.4 Other than the "Great Barn" none of the buildings are of particular architectural or historical interest, however, they represent a typical group of buildings found on a 19th and early 20th century farm; buildings which are fast disappearing from the Norfolk landscape.
- 6.1.5 The collection of buildings at Great Barn Farm, and particularly the threshing barn, is a good example of how buildings are adapted and altered to reflect changing needs and circumstances. The buildings here all make use of local stone: carstone, flint, chalk and with bricks of likely local production given the nearby brickworks. Now these barns are redundant as a result of reorganisation of farming operations and as the next phase of development begins, with retention of some of the buildings, further reflect their ability to accommodate change and meet modern day needs.

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# APPENDIX A. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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# Maps and other Sources Consulted

Description	Source/Reference
Extract from Bryants Map of Norfolk, 1826	Barringer, 1988 (see biblio)
Tithe Map 1840	Norfolk Record Office ref. DN/TA 656 (part)
Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition, 1884 6" to 1 mile	Norfolk Heritage Centre XXXIV SE 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition 6"
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Ordnance Survey, 1983 Scale 1:10 000	Norfolk Heritage Centre Sheet TF 71 NW
Kelly's Directory for Cambridgeshire, Norfolk & Suffolk, 1883, pp. 323-324.	Kings Lynn Library Local Studies Shelves
Planning Application Documentation	

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www.heritagemp.com/gaytonthorpe.asp	27th October 2010
online.west-norfolk.gov.uk	2nd October 2010

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Study Area

# APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project D	•		, , , , ,	с арриоавіо.		
OASIS Number oxforda		oxfordar3-83197				
Project Nar	ne	Historic Building	Survey at Great	t Barn Farm, Gaytor	n Thorpe, Norfo	lk
Project Dat	es (fiel	dwork) Start	28-09-2010		Finish 01	-10-2010
Previous W	ork (by	OA East)	No		Future Wo	ork No
Project Ref	erence	Codes				
Site Code	XNFGI	3F10		Planning App.	No.	09/01843/F
HER No.	ENF12	5295		Related HER/	OASIS No.	
Type of Pro	iect/Te	echniques Use	rd			
Prompt	Joon 10			authority - PPG15		
				<u> </u>		
Please se	elect a	III technique	s used:Bu	ilding Survey	,	
	Sketch			☐ Photogrammetric Survey		
☐ Dendrochro	onologica	al Survey		☑ Photographic Survey		
Laser Scar	nning			Rectified Photography		
☐ Measured \$	Survey					
List feature typ	oes usino		nument Typ	e Thesaurus a	-	nds using the MDA Object type
Thesaurus together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".  Monument Period Object Period					e state inone .  Period	
Farm Building	ıs		dieval 1540 to 1			Select period
		Select p	eriod			Select period
Select period		eriod			Select period	
Project L	ocati	on				
County Norfolk			Site Ac	ldress (inclu	ding postcode if possible)	
District West Norfolk & R		Norfolk & Kings Ly	Kings Lynn Gaytor		Barn Farm, Thorpe	
Parish Gayton		n		Norfolk PE32 1PN		
HER Norfolk						

National Grid Reference TF 7478 1890



# **Project Originators**

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
Project Design Originator	James Albone
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Taleyna Fletcher

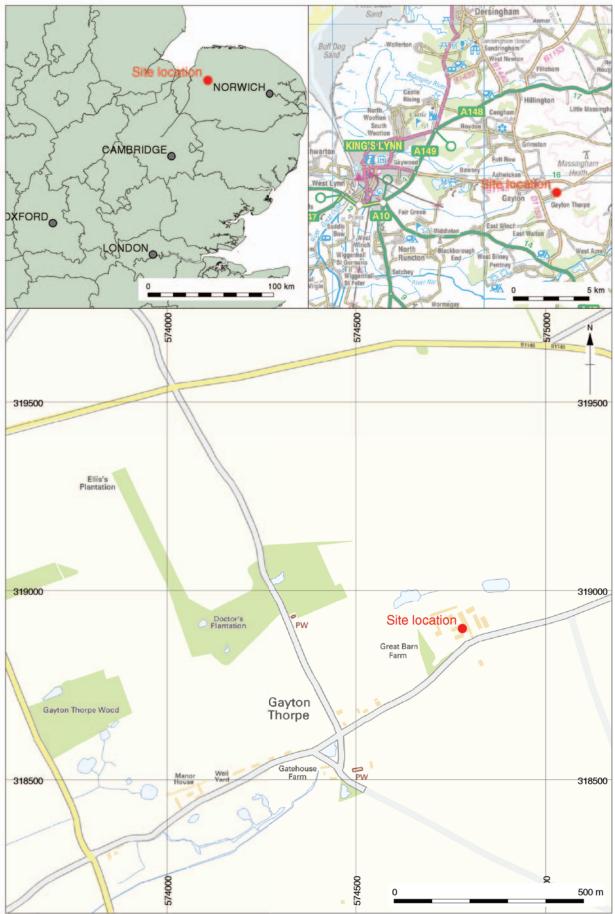
# Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
ТВА	OA East Offices	ТВА
XNFGBF10	XNFGBA10	XNFGBA10

# **Archive Contents/Media**

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones			
Ceramics			
Environmental			
Glass			
Human Bones			
Industrial			
Leather			
Metal			
Stratigraphic			
Survey			
Textiles			
Wood			
Worked Bone			
Worked Stone/Lithic			
None			
Other			

Digital Media	Paper Media
Database	Aerial Photos
GIS	Context Sheet
Geophysics	
	Diary
Illustrations  Illustrations	☑ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	Manuscript
Spreadsheets	
Survey	Matrices
▼ Text	Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	Misc.
	☑ Photos
	Sections
	Survey



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Figure 1: Site location





Figure 2: Plan showing buildings surveyed including phasing



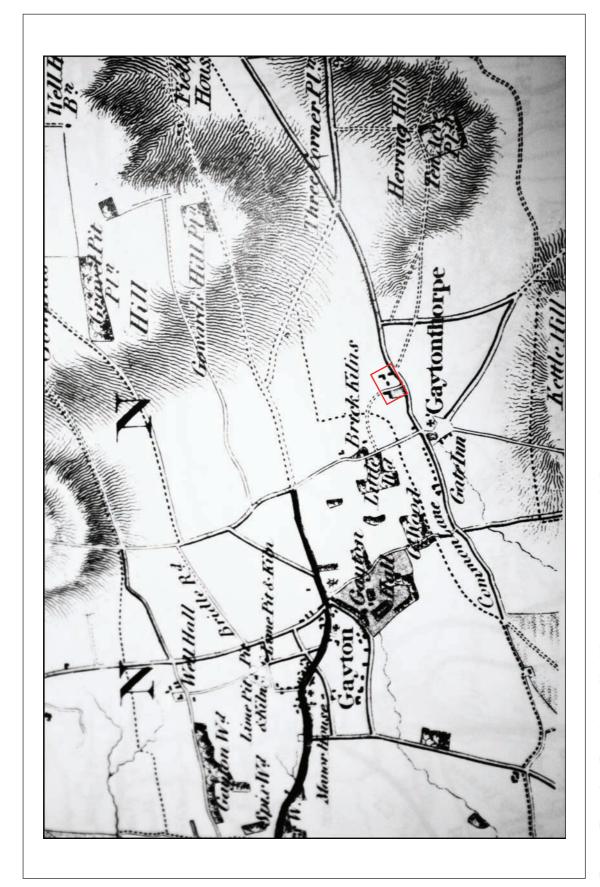


Figure 3: Extract from Bryant's map of Norfolk, 1826, showing study area (red)





Figure 4: Tithe Map, 1840



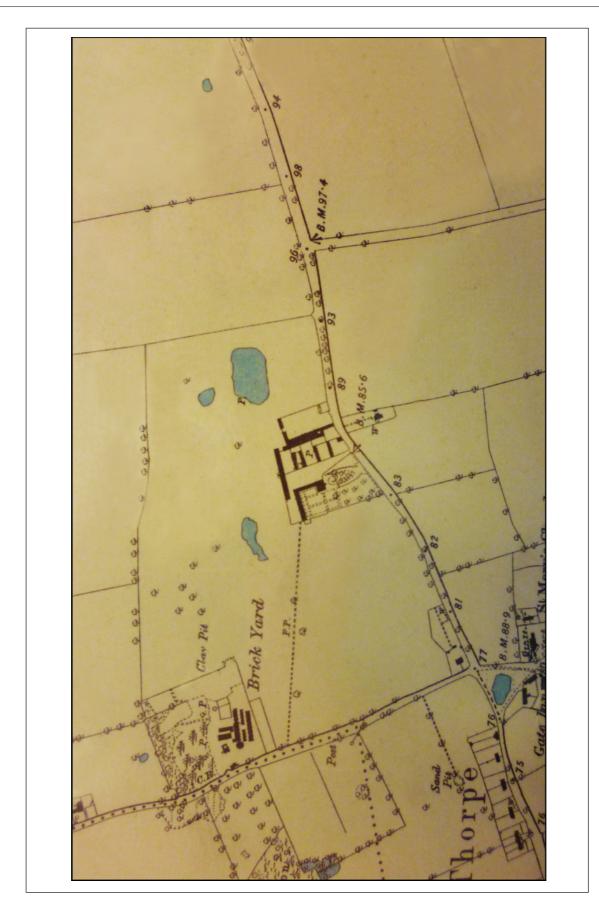


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition 1884



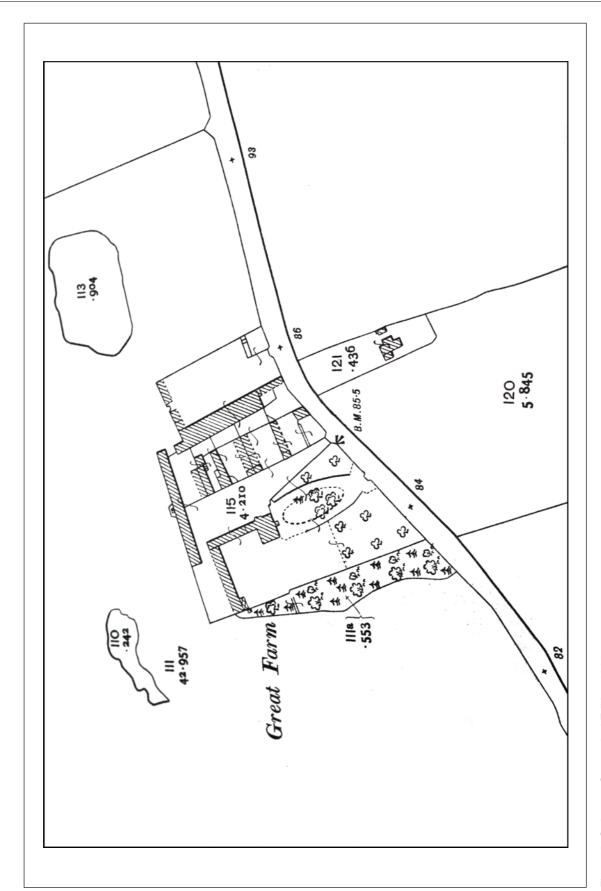


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1905



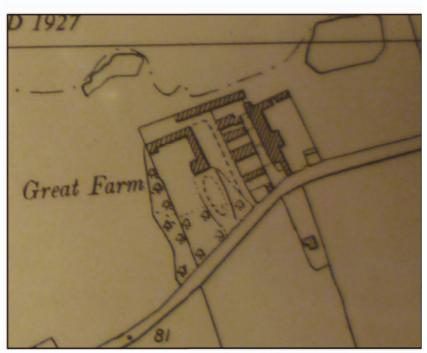


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey, 1958

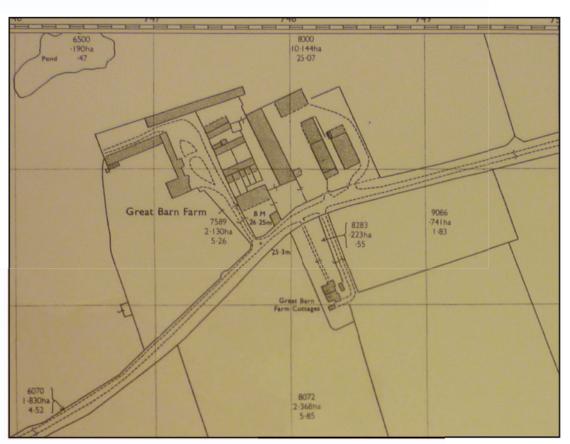


Figure 8: Ordnance Survey, 1981



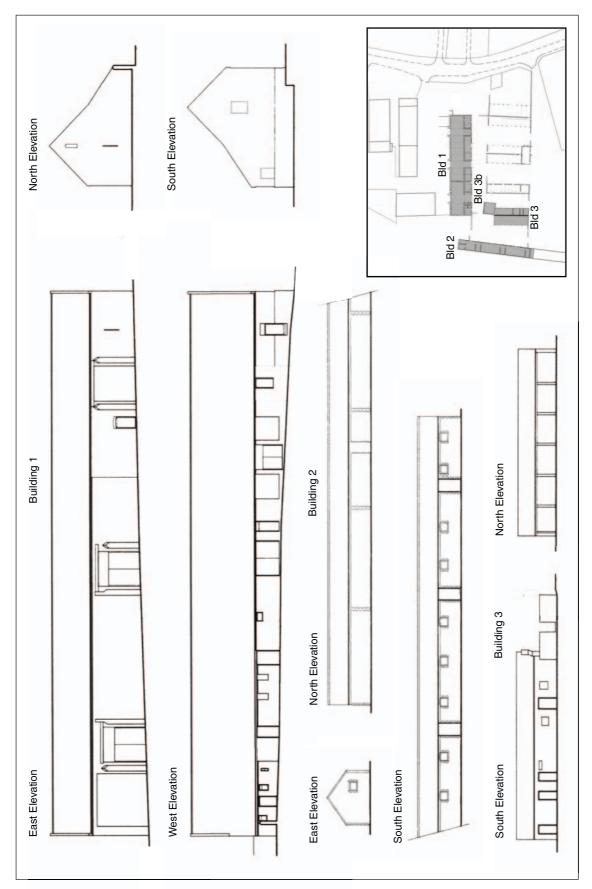


Figure 9: Elevations: Buildings 1 to 3 (from architects drawings supplied by the client)



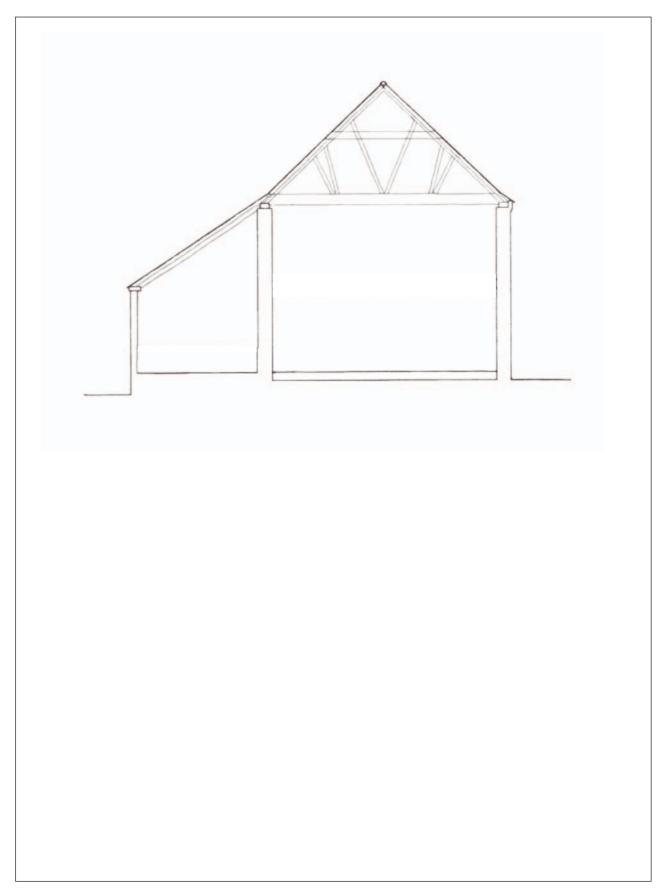


Figure 10: Internal elevation: Building 1, southern end (from architects drawings supplied by client)



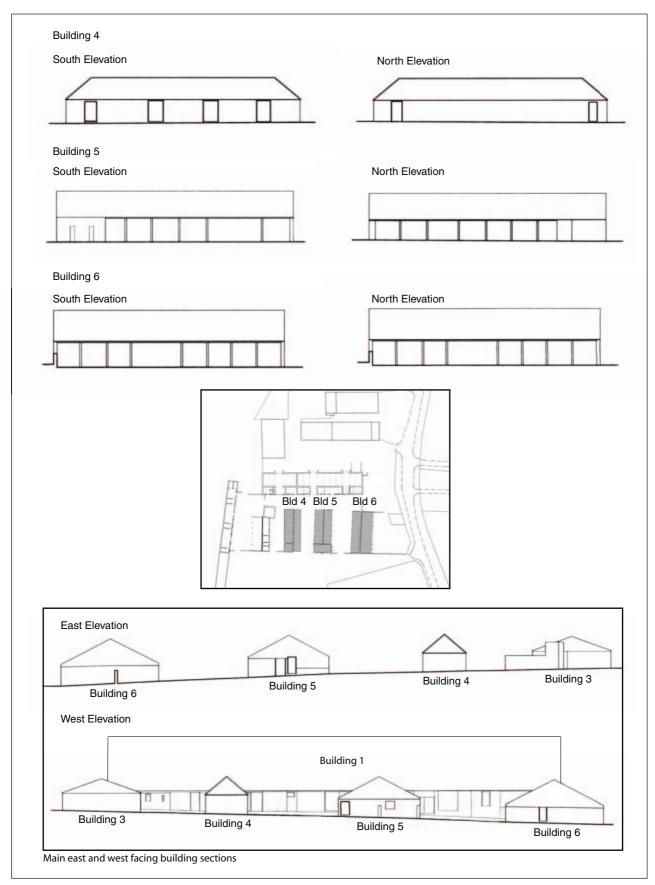


Figure 11: Elevations: Building 4-6 and overall elevations incorporating buildings 1 and 3-6 (from architects drawings supplied by client)



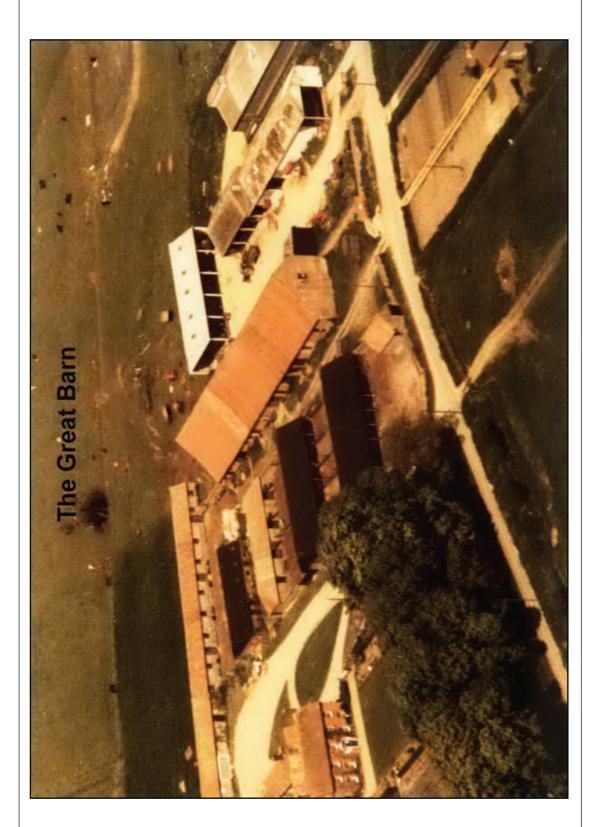


Figure 12: Undated aerial photograph of Great Barn Farm





Figure 13: Plan showing location of photographs used in report





Plate 1: Great Barn Farmhouse



Plate 2: Great Barn Farm, from the main road









Plate 5: South-facing elevation, Building 1



Plate 6: Detail of west-facing elevation, Building 1





Plate 7: North-facing elevation, Building 1



Plate 8: Internal view, Building 1



Plate 9: Detail of blocked opening, Building 1





Plate 10: Internal detail, Building 1



Plate 11: Internal elevation of north-facing end, Building 1





Plate 12: South-facing elevation, Building 2



Plate 13: East-facing elevation, Building 2





Plate 14: View of western ends of Buildings 3-6 taken from Building 2 looking towards the main road



Plate 15: North-facing elevation, Building 3





Plate 16: South-facing elevation, Building 3



Plate 17: Internal view of North-facing side of building 3





Plate 18: Remains of Dovecot (?) at eastern end of building 3



Plate 19: South-facing elevation, Building 4





Plate 20: North-facing elevation, Building 5



Plate 21: Internal view, Building 5





Plate 22: Internal detail, Building 4



Plate 23: North-facing elevation, Building 5





Plate 24: West-facing elevation, Building 5



Plate 25: South-facing elevation, Building 5





Plate 26: East-facing elevation, Building 5



Plate 27: West-facing elevation, Building 6





Plate 28: North-facing elevation, Building 6



Plate 29: East-facing elevation, Building 6





Plate 30: South-facing elevation, Building 6



Plate 31: Internal view, Building 6 (taken from east)





Plate 32: Building 7