

**Farm Buildings  
at  
Mill Farm, Worlingworth IP13 7HT  
for Pre-Application Enquiry DC/21/05763**



**Heritage Report**

**By**

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## Content

### Page

3	Introduction
5	The Barn
9	Midstrey and lean-to sheds either side
12	Single storey rooms against the barn gables
13	Open cattle shelter yard behind east single storey room

### Illustrations

3	Fig. 1: Location and buildings to be developed
4	Fig. 2: Ordnance Survey Maps of Mill Farm, Worlingworth, Suffolk
5	Fig. 3: North side of barn
5	Fig. 4: South side of barn
6	Fig. 5: Brick threshing floor looking north
6	Fig. 6: Rafter bracing south end of threshing bay
6	Fig. 7: East half of barn showing tiebeam with knee brace only at south end. Loft is a later insertion
7	Fig. 8: Roof of barn looking north
7	Fig. 9: West end of barn
7	Fig. 10: South-west corner of barn
8	Fig. 11: South end of threshing bay where the large full height doors have been replaced
8	Fig. 12: South exterior of barn
8	Fig. 13: Monk bond with two stretchers between each header
9	Fig. 14: Midstrey looking north
9	Fig. 15: Midstrey's roof looking north
10	Fig. 16: West wall of midstrey incorporating end wall of lost west lean-to shed
10	Fig. 17: North front of large building which replaced the lost west lean-to shed
10	Fig. 18: East wall of midstrey looking north
11	Fig. 19: West end of lean-to shed on east side of midstrey looking west
11	Fig. 20: Roof of shed on east side of midstrey looking west
11	Fig. 21: East wall of lean-to shed on east side of midstrey is built in a mixed bond
12	Fig. 22: South-east rear side of barn along rear of barn and east single storey room
13	Fig. 23: Cattle yard looking east
13	Fig. 24: North stable
13	Fig. 25: South stable
14	Fig. 26: Rear dwarf brick foundation wall of east shelter shed in monk bond
14	Fig. 27: Roof of east shelter shed looking south-east
15	Fig. 28: South face of rear wall of east single storey room viewed from shelter shed
15	Fig. 29: East shelter shed looking south with its two original posts for west open front
15	Fig. 30: West wall of shelter shed with northern original post highlighted
16	Fig. 31: Rear gable of east shelter shed - framing maybe a later alteration as some rebuilding of the dwarf wall
16	Fig. 32: Detail of overlapping plank framing of south gable of east shelter shed
17	Fig. 33: South side of 'L' shelter shed
17	Fig. 34: North side of the bottom of the 'L' of the shelter shed looking south
18	Fig. 35: Interior of bottom of 'L' shelter shed looking east
18	Fig. 36: Roof of bottom of 'L' shelter shed looking east

## Description of Farm Buildings at Mill Farm, Worlingworth for Pre-Application Enquiry DC/21/05763

### Introduction

The farm buildings being applied to be converted to residential accommodation at Mill Farm, Shop Street, Worlingworth, Suffolk IP13 7HT (Fig. 1) consist of a unaisled two storey brick barn running west to east built around 1800, or shortly after, with a contemporary single storey room attached to both the east and west ends. These were probably for the storage and preparation for food for the cattle in the open cattle yard to the south of the barn and its single storey end rooms. (Figs. 3 & 4) (The west single storey room and the west side of the cattle yard are not part of the application.) On the middle of the north side of the barn is a one storey brick porch or midstrey which is probably contemporary with the barn. Attached to the west side of the porch was a lean-to shed built against the north side of the barn, while on the east side there is a later 19<sup>th</sup> century brick storage room with a catslide roof. The cattle yard behind the barn consisted of open fronted cattle sheds facing into the yard. Those on the east side, which are part of the application, are probably contemporary with the barn. They were later converted to stables. All of this is shown as being present on the Ordnance Survey 25in to the mile maps published in 1885 and 1904 (Fig. 2). After this the lean-to shed on the west side of the midstrey was replaced with a much larger building; the buildings on the west side of the cattle yard, which are not part of the application, were rebuilt; and a lean-to open fronted shed, now used as a garage, was added to the north front of the single storey room on the east end of the barn.

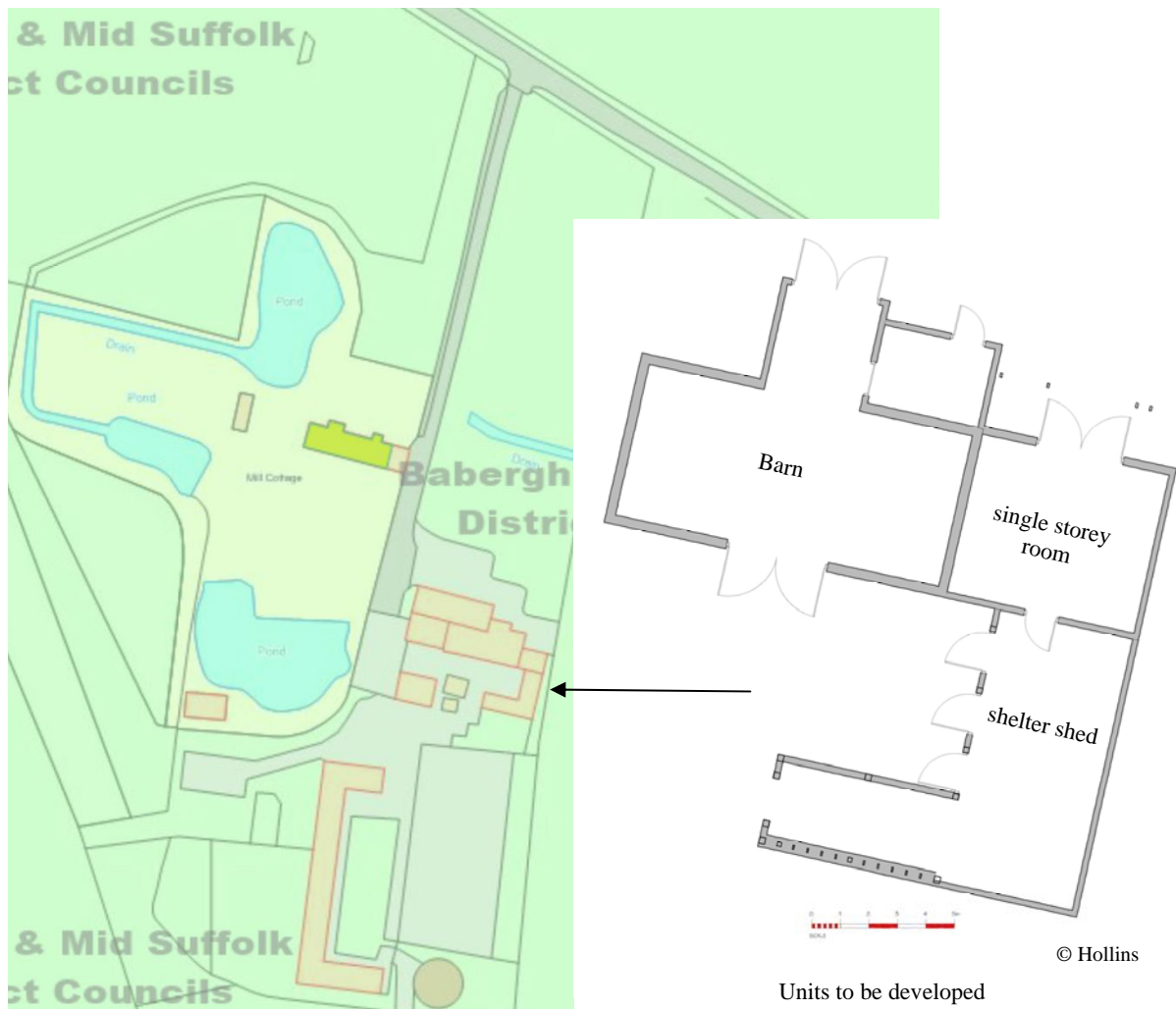
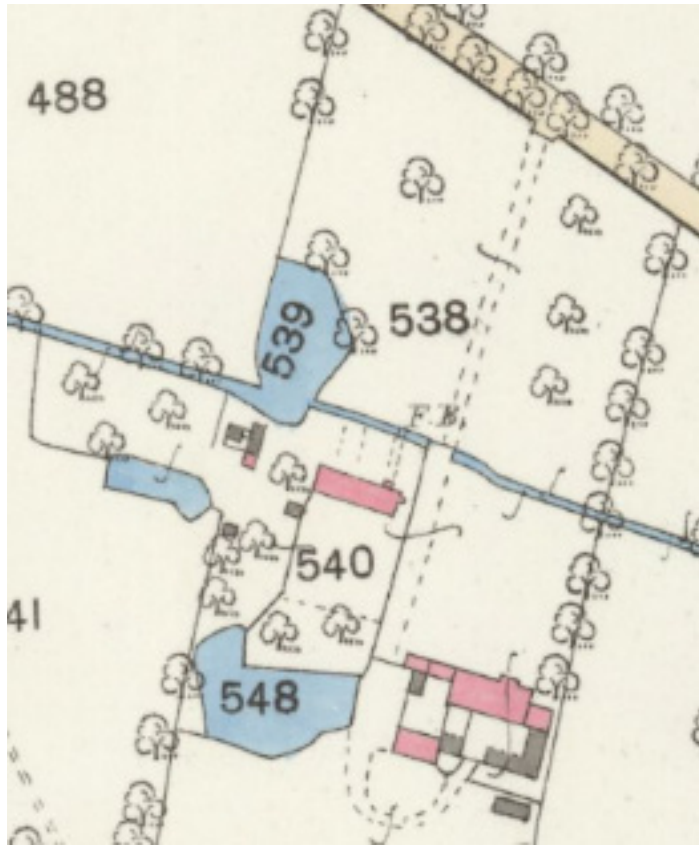
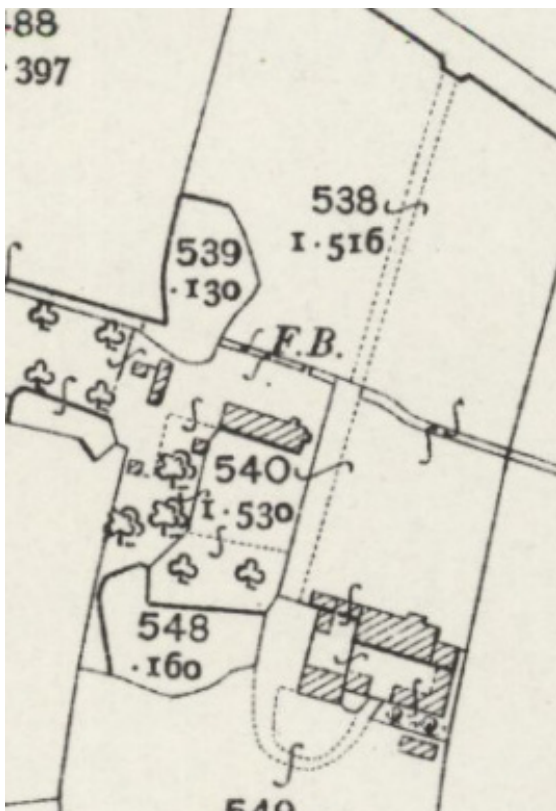


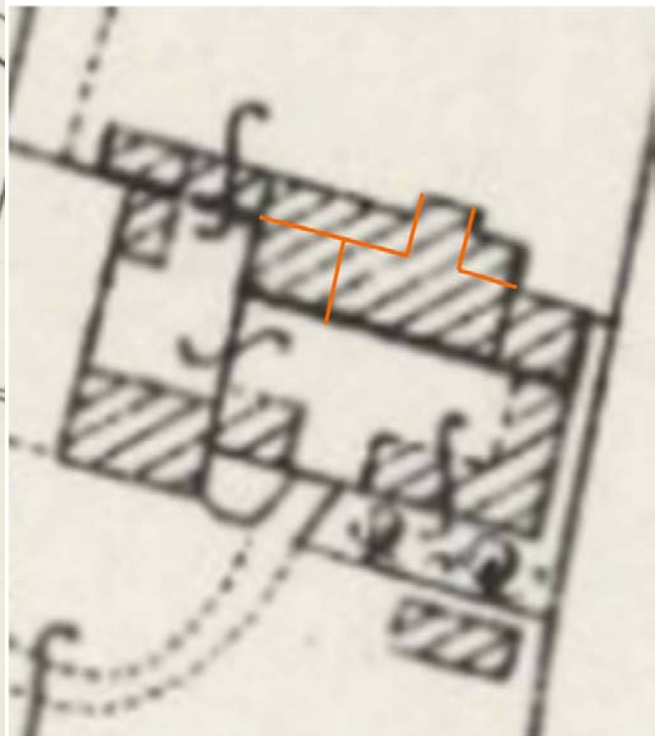
Fig. 1: Location and buildings to be developed



a: OS 1884, pub 1885 25nin to mile



b: OS 1903, pub 1904 25inch to mile



c: enlargement of b.

Dotted lines to yard buildings show they were open fronted  
 Red lines added to show the separate units

Fig. 2: Ordnance Survey Maps of Mill Farm, Worlingworth, Suffolk



Fig. 3: North side of barn



Fig. 4: South side of barn

### The Barn

The barn was built for the storage of grain at the time of the Napoleonic Wars when grain prices rose rapidly in 1793-1820 and farmers switched from cattle to arable farming. The barn is unaisled, 12¼ metres long, 6¼ metres wide and 4¼ metres high to the wall plate. It is in three sections. The central section, the threshing bay with its brick threshing floor (Fig. 5), had full height doors to the south and to the north a one storey midstrey with timber framing between it and the barn's wallplate. Either side of this the walls are built of brick laid in lime mortar in monk bond (a variation of Flemish bond with two stretchers instead of one between each header), sometimes called Suffolk agricultural bond (Fig. 13). The brick sections are three bricks deep on the lower storey reducing to two for the upper storey between a series of brick plasters. It has a series of diamond shaped ventilation holes, most of which are now blocked (Figs. 8-10). The midstrey to the north of the threshing bay is probably contemporary with the barn as it is built of the same bricks and bonding, but is not bonded into the barn. At the south end of this bay the two full height doors have replaced as shown in Figures 11-12. Also in the 20<sup>th</sup> century a loft was inserted into the eastern section of the barn with two rooms below (Fig. 7).

The barn has a clasped side purlin roof with common rafters divided into three bays by two tiebeams either side of the threshing bay, plus rafter bracing in the threshing bay (Figs. 6 & 8). The tiebeams have original knee braces on the south side between the tiebeams and the posts from carried the two large southern doors to the threshing bay (Figs. 6 & 7). There are no such braces on the north side as there no timber posts framing this side of the threshing bay. Roof covering is pantiles (Figs. 3 & 4).



Fig. 5: Brick threshing floor looking north



Fig. 6: Rafter bracing south end of threshing bay



Fig. 7: East half of barn showing tiebeam with knee brace only at south end.  
Loft is a later insertion

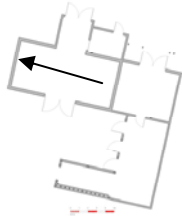


Fig. 8: Roof of barn looking west

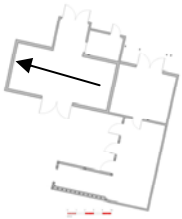


Fig. 9: West end of barn

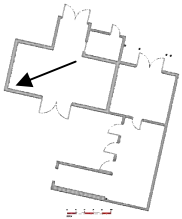


Fig. 10: South-west corner of barn



Fig. 11: South end of threshing bay where the large full height doors have been replaced

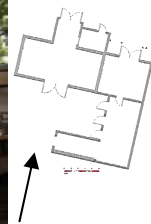


Fig. 12: South exterior of barn

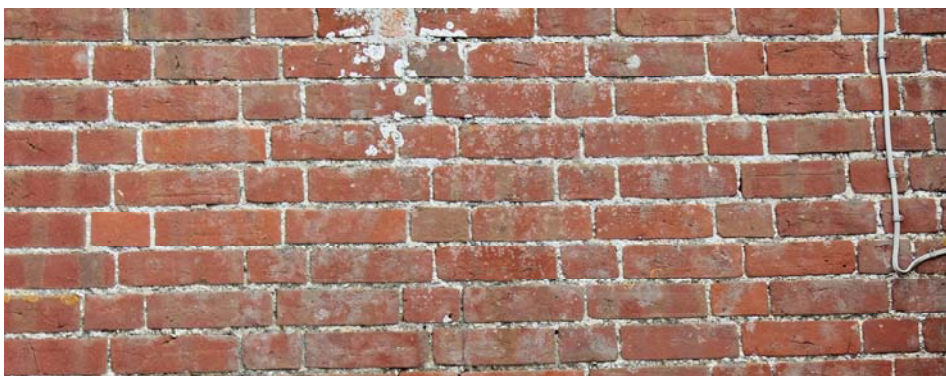


Fig. 13: Monk bond with two stretchers between each header



### Midstrey and lean-to sheds either side

The midstrey is a single storey high built of brick but, as mentioned above, is not bonded in to north wall of the barn (Fig. 18). However it is probably contemporary as it is built of similar bricks laid in monk bond as in the barn and has a similar clasped side purlin roof (Fig. 15). Today the roof is also covered with pantiles (Fig. 3). Built into the west wall is the end rafter and front post of the end of a contemporary lean-to shed built against the north-west wall of the barn (Fig. 14). The Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2b) show this was still there in 1903, later being replaced by the present much larger building (Fig. 17). The gap above this end rafter and the midstrey's west wallplate is infilled with lath and plaster (Figs. 14 & 16) which still survives. Filling this gap with lath and plaster indicates that the builders in c.1800 were trying to reduce costs, as does the use of timber framing in the north wall of the barn above the south end of the midstrey (Fig 15).

In the midstrey's east wall there is evidence of some repairs to its north end and a door has been cut to give access to a later lean-to shed built against the north-east wall of the barn (Figs. 14 & 18). The lean-to has another door in the front north wall. This lean-to's east brick wall is built in a very random bond (Fig. 21) showing this room is clearly a later addition, though from the Ordnance Survey map it was clearly added before 1885 (Fig 2a). Today the lean-to roof is covered with corrugated iron sheets (Fig. 3).

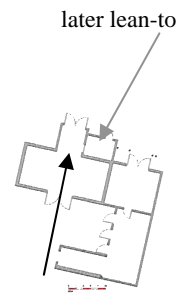


Fig. 14: Midstrey looking north

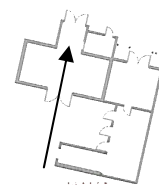


Fig. 15: Midstrey's roof looking north



lath and  
plaster infill

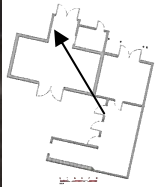


Fig. 16: West wall of midstrey incorporating end wall of lost west lean-to shed



Fig. 17: North front of large building which replaced the lost west lean-to shed

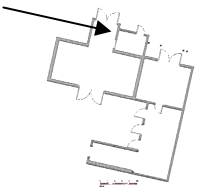


Fig. 18: East wall of midstrey

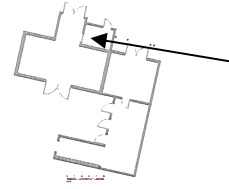


Fig. 19: West end of lean-to shed on east side of midstrey looking west

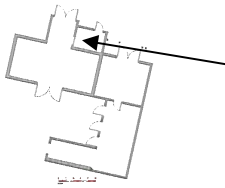


Fig. 20: Roof of lean-to shed on east side of midstrey looking west

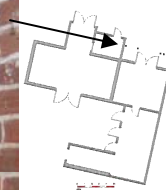


Fig. 21: East wall of lean-to shed on east side of midstrey is built in a mixed bond

### Single storey rooms against the barn gables

These are contemporary with the barn as the barn walls are continuous along the single storey rooms. Above them the ends of the barn have closure bricks showing that the end rooms were always single storey (Fig. 22). The room on the west has a pitched roof, but that on the east room has been replaced by a catslide roof of corrugated iron with the south wall raised by a timber-framed section (Fig. 28), possibly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century when an open fronted lean-to shed was added on the north side of the single storey room (Fig. 3). The east room has an original doorway in the south wall into the shelter shed behind (Fig. 28). Today a large double door has been inserted in the north wall which may have replaced an earlier smaller doorway.

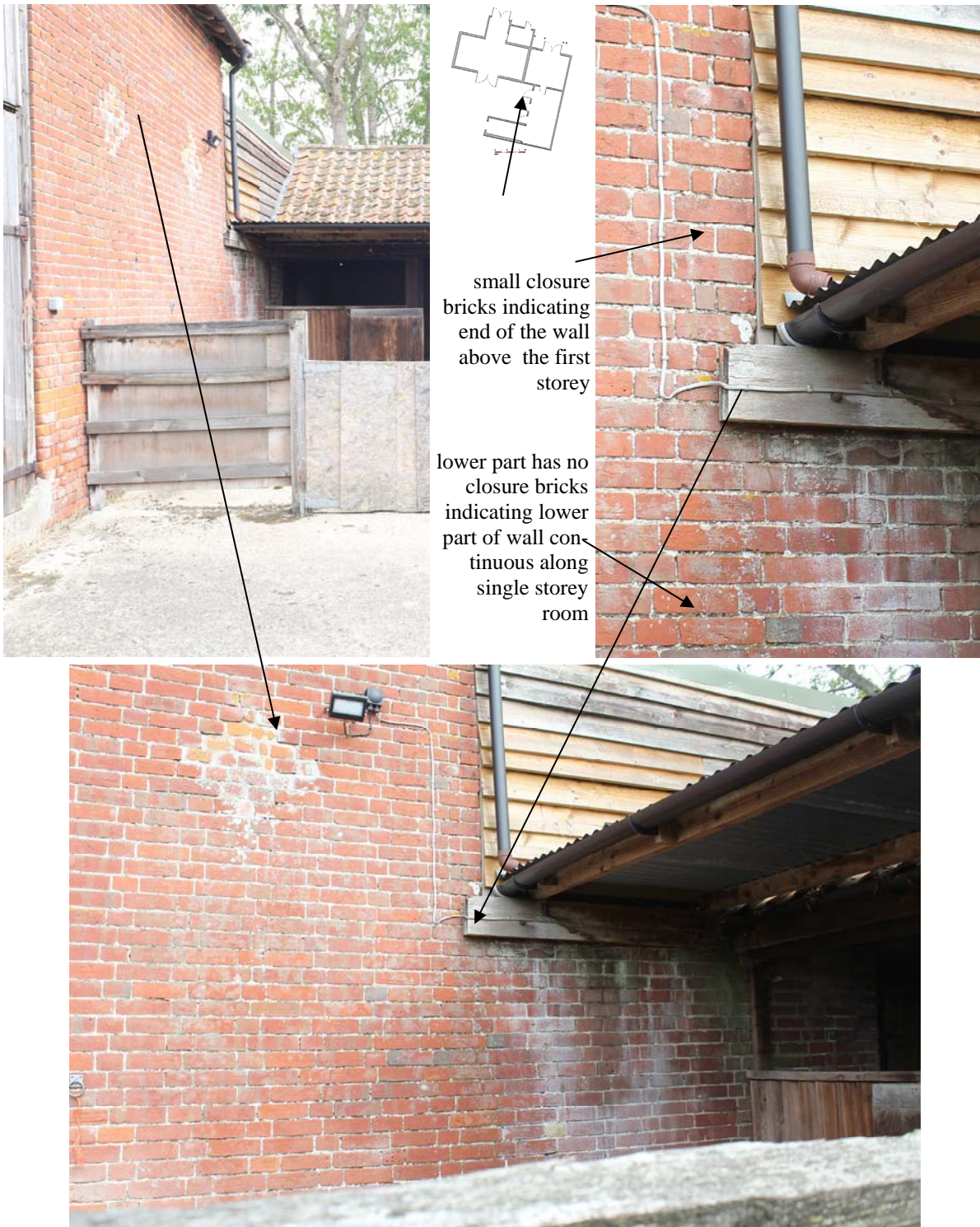


Fig. 22: South-east rear side of barn along barn and east single storey room

### Open cattle shelter yard behind east single storey room

This is 'L' shaped. The upper part of the 'L' running north-south is a timber building probably built at the same time as the barn as it has a similar roof – a pitched clasped side purlin roof with rafters of the same scantling (Fig. 27). It stands on a dwarf brick wall built with similar bricks to the barn, also laid in monk bond, but like the north porch this is not bonded into the south wall of the single storey room, so it maybe a slightly later addition (Fig. 26). The east wall and gable are timber-framed and it was open fronted on the west side supported by two posts, both of which survive (Figs. 29 & 30). It was later converted to stables in the 20th century (Figs. 24 & 25). The type of framing of the east wall is not visible as it is covered by boarding on the inside and it was not possible to see the exterior as it faces a field which was not accessible (Figs. 26 & 28). However the end south gable is visible and is infilled with overlapping planks which are probably a later alteration (Figs. 31 & 32). The roof covering is pantiles with a horizontal corrugated extension on the west side to provide more cover over the yard.



Fig. 23: Cattle yard looking east



Fig. 24: North stable



Fig. 25: South stable



Fig. 26: Rear dwarf brick foundation wall of east shelter shed in monk bond



Fig. 27 Roof of east shelter shed looking south-east



Fig. 28: South face of rear wall of east single storey room viewed from shelter shed



Fig. 29: East shelter shed looking south with its two original posts for west open front

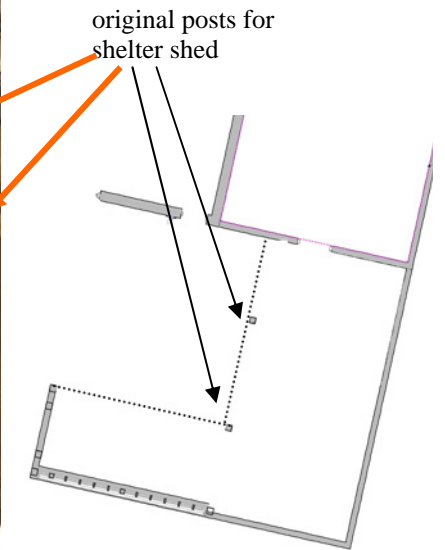
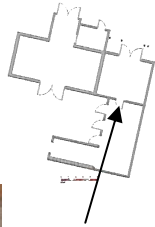


Fig. 30: West wall of shelter shed with northern original post highlighted





Fig. 31 Rear gable of east shelter shed - framing maybe later alteration as some rebuilding of the dwarf wall



Fig. 32: Detail of overlapping plank framing of south gable of east shelter shed



The bottom of the 'L' attached at the south-west end of the north-south range is probably a later addition but was there by 1884 according to the Ordinance Survey map. It is narrower than the north-south range, around 3 metres deep compared with about 5 metres, and was built with a catslide roof as the south wallplate is lower than that to the north. The north side was originally open fronted to the yard (Fig. 2c) Today it is covered with corrugated iron plus a horizontal corrugated extension on the north side over the yard as on the north-south range. Its south side appears to have been open above the dwarf wall, with the wallplate now supported by inserted timber studs.

The 1903 Ordinance Survey map shows both sides of the 'L' were open to the yard with the cattle yard stretch along the whole of the south side of the barn and its single storey end rooms.

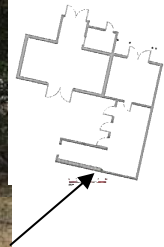


Fig. 33: South side of 'L' shelter shed

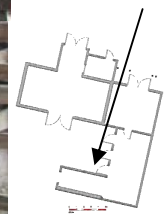


Fig 34: North side of the bottom of the 'L' of the shelter shed looking south



Fig. 35: Interior of bottom of 'L' shelter shed looking east



Fig. 36: Roof of bottom of 'L' shelter shed looking east

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