

# **Barn at Barley Green Farm, Stradbroke, Suffolk**

## **Heritage Asset Assessment**



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# Barn at Barley Green Farm, Laxfield Road, Stradbroke, Suffolk

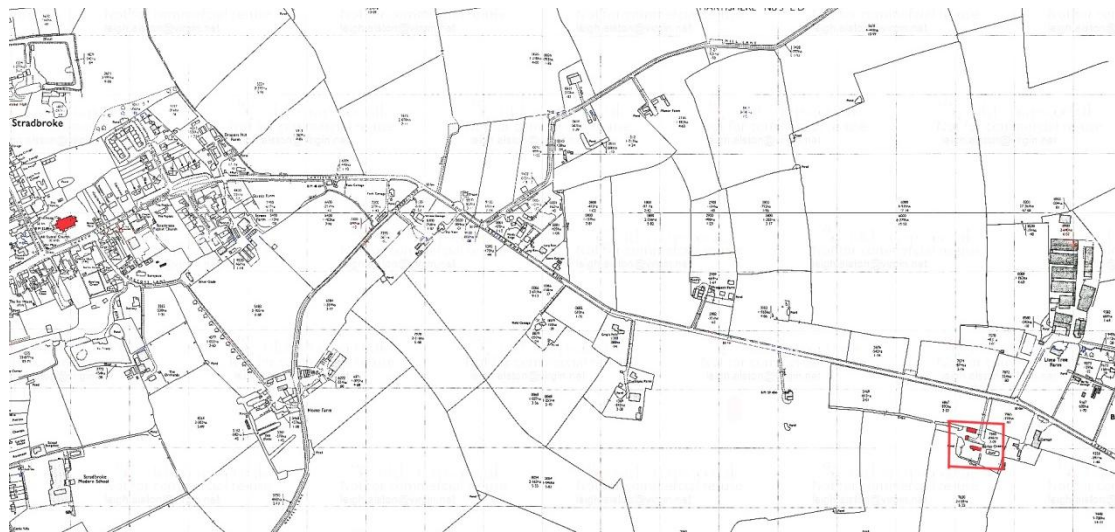
(TM 24731 73635)

## Heritage Asset Assessment

*This report provides an archaeological record and analysis at Historic England (2016) Level 2 of a redundant agricultural building in the curtilage of a grade II-listed house. It has been prepared to the standard specified by Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service and is intended to inform a planning application for conversion. The text is accompanied by a CD containing a full photographic record in the form of 72 Canon 5D digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also includes 24 photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is described in a separate schedule and wherever possible shows a scale rod with half-metre divisions in red and white. The site was inspected on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.*

### Summary

Although not listed in its own right the barn at Barley Green Farm is a well preserved late-16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed structure of exceptional quality and historic interest. It extends to a remarkable 23.25 feet in width and reflects a distinctive East Anglian form with a floored stable in the end-bays of a three-bay threshing barn. The building is broadly contemporary with the high-status grade II-listed farmhouse immediately opposite and offers significant insight into the layout of Elizabethan farmsteads in the region, having apparently formed part of a base court through which the site was approached from the adjoining medieval green. The floored section originally contained two or three bays but only one now remains with evidence of a separate door facing the house and no fewer than four diamond mullion windows – one of which survives intact. The unusual presence of a ceiling in the first-floor chamber and high-quality shutters sliding in narrow grooves suggest it may have been designed as a lodging rather than a hay loft. The 16<sup>th</sup> century structure was built as an extension to an older barn, but this was replaced a few decades later with the present eastern bay of the threshing barn. The relatively poor quality of this alteration is consistent with a sharp decline in the farm's status, which in 1841 was a modest tenanted holding of 62 acres on Lord Henniker's Thornham Hall estate.



**Figure 1. Location map outlining the farm 1.5 km west of Stradbroke parish church.**

## Documentary Evidence and Map Regression



**Figure 2a. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk published in 1783 illustrating a landscape still dominated by medieval greens with Barley Green a relatively large example in the centre. Most had been enclosed to create new farm land by the 1820s. See detail below.**

Barley Green Farm lies in open countryside to the south of the B1117 Laxfield Road approximately 1.5 km west of the village of Stradbroke. The site is reached by a short unmade track and consists of a grade II-listed timber-framed farmhouse to the south of a former farm yard defined by a broadly contemporary timber-framed and weatherboarded barn on the north and a modern garage to the west (figure 7). The house was not inspected for the purpose of this report but features mentioned in the listing description such as roll-moulded window mullions and a clasped-purlin roof with cranked wind-braces indicate a date in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and probably its final quarter. Hodkinson's map of 1783 shows the property adjoining the southern edge of a large medieval green of the same name but this was enclosed soon afterwards to create new farm land. Its southern edge was marked by the linear pond that now lies to the west of the barn and the entrance track crosses the former site of the green to the new enclosure road. At the time of the 1841 Stradbroke tithe survey the farm was a medium-scale tenanted holding of just under 62 acres on the substantial estate of Lord Henniker based at Thornham Hall which in 1870 contained some 30,000 acres in Suffolk. The high quality of the farmhouse would normally indicate Yeoman status, with a threshold of 100 acres in *circa* 1600, and it is possible that the farm was once larger. Lord Henniker owned approximately 400 acres in Stradbroke and the estate may have reassigned land between its various farms. Any relevant estate records in the Suffolk Record Office are currently inaccessible due to its temporary closure. Historic England's archive includes an auction catalogue of 1918 relating to part of the estate which includes Barley Green Farm along with neighbouring Barley Hall, White House and Wootten Green farms in Stradbroke (ref. SC00990). The present owner purchased the property in the 1970s after most of the land had been sold separately. Figures 3-6 illustrate the changing outlines of the buildings since 1841.



Figure 2b. A detail of the 1783 map. Barley Green Farm is indicated by a stylised rectangle on the southern edge of the green (beneath the 'r' in Green). Note the windmill to the west and the central blank that probably represents a large pond or enclosure.

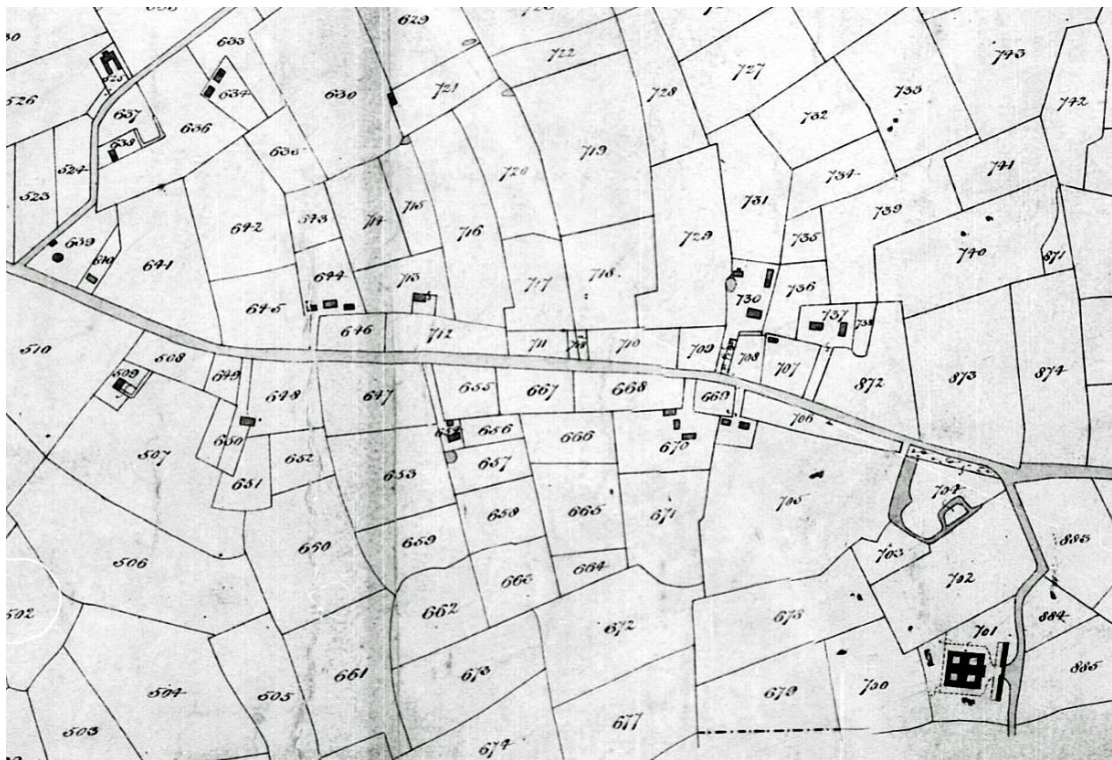


Figure 3a. The same area on the Stradbroke tithe map of 1841 (PRO), by which time the green had been divided into fields with the various houses set back from the new road. The circular windmill remained at plot 639 to the extreme left. Barley Green Farm is plot 670 (see detail below) and the large grid-pattern building to the south-east the new Hoxne Union Workhouse of 1835.

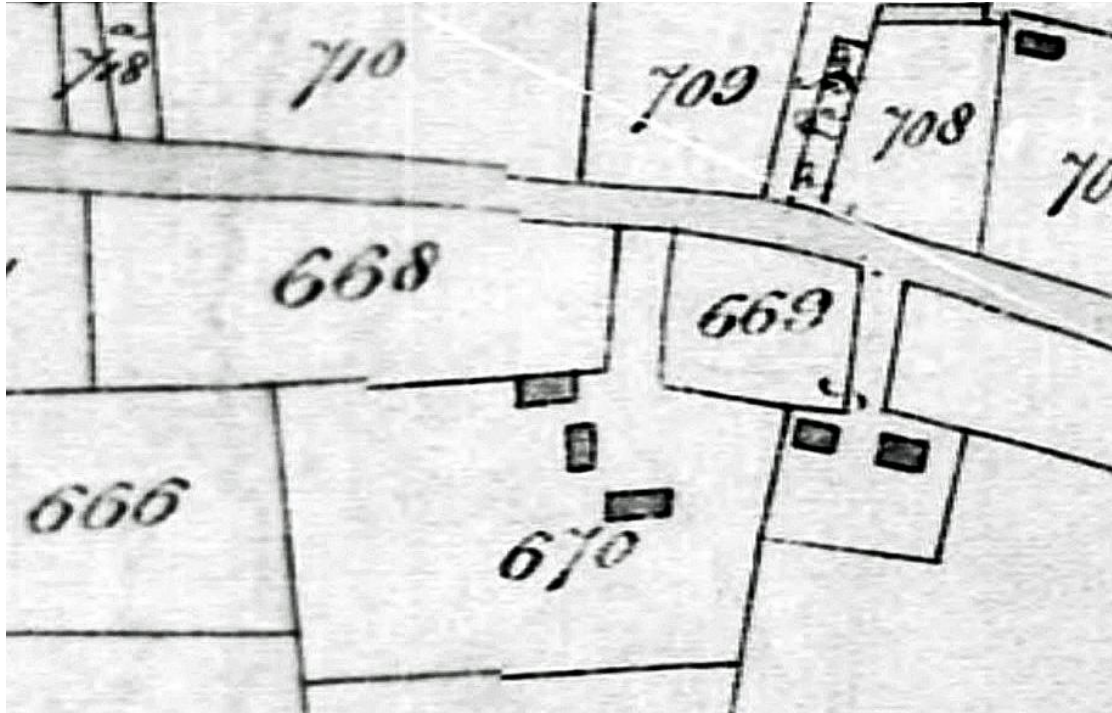


Figure 3b. Barley Green Farm on the 1841 tithe map. Surveys of this period are rarely fully accurate but the house is clearly shown on an east-west axis opposite the entrance track with the barn adjoining the former green to the north and another outbuilding on the approximate site of the present garage. Plot 670 was described in the apportionment only as ‘Homestead’ with 668 an arable ‘allotment’ of just over 2 acres (i.e. an allotment of the green which had been apportioned to the neighbouring landowners). Plot 666 was a ‘pightle’ (paddock) and plot 671 to the south ‘Home Field’. The farm contained 61 acres, 3 roods and 12 perches of which some 30% was pasture and the rest arable

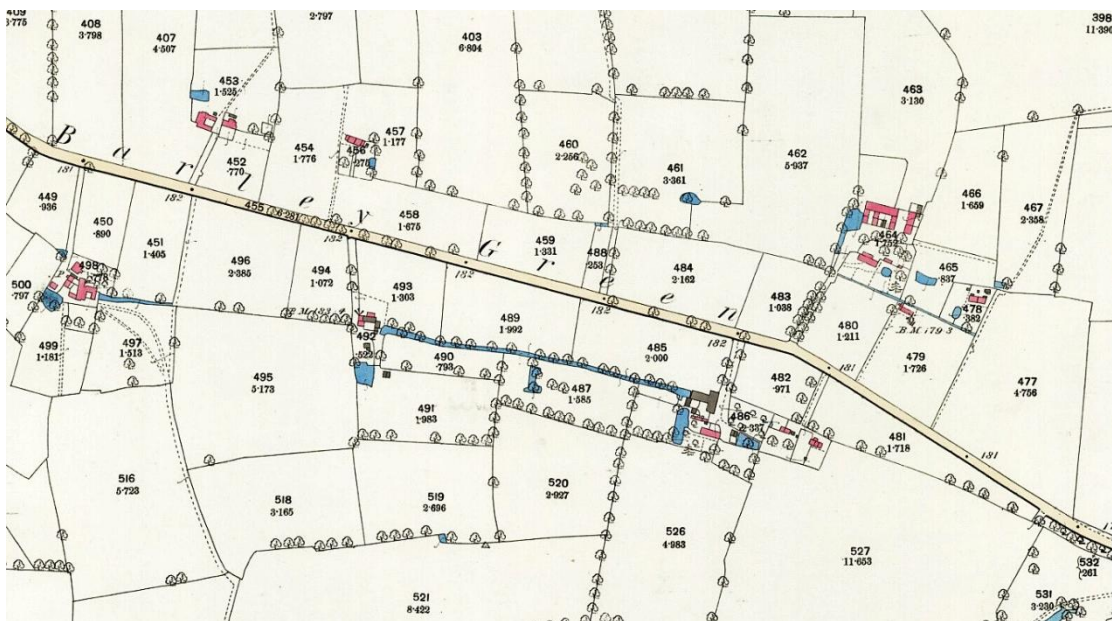


Figure 4a. The First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1884. The original boundaries of the green are still recognisable to the north and south of the road, with its southern edge defined by a broad linear pond or ditch that extends westwards from the gable of the barn at Barley Green Farm.

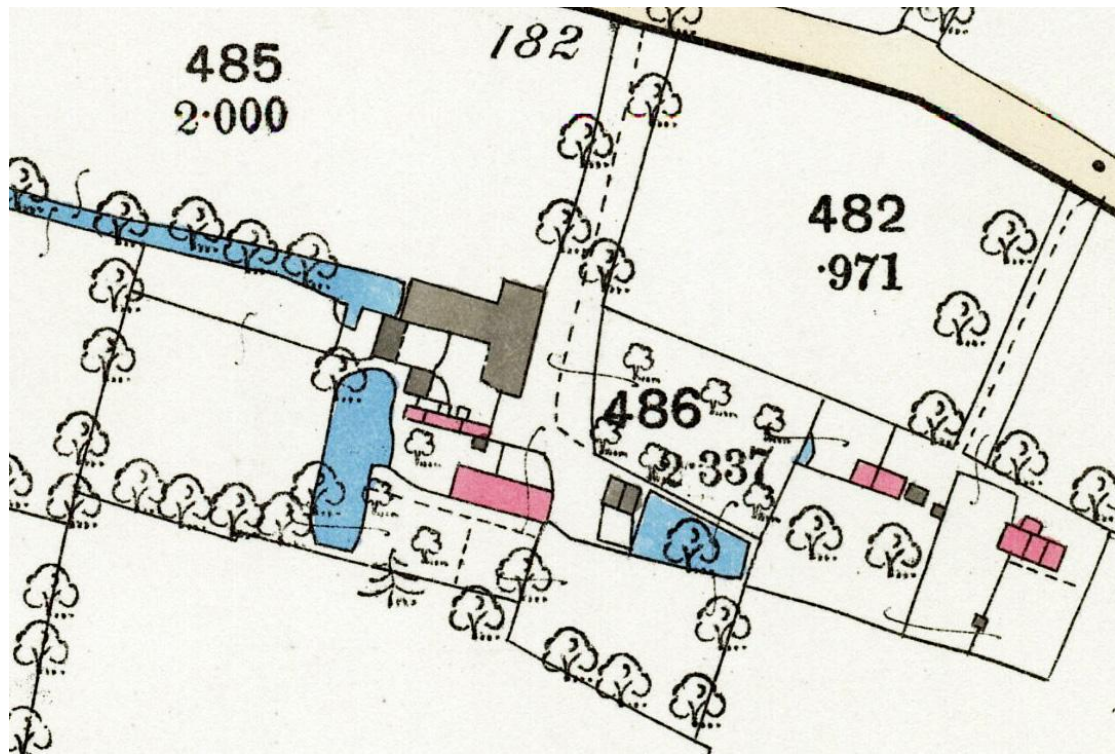


Figure 4b. A detail of the 1884 Ordnance Survey. This highly accurate map plots even trees correctly, and shows the house in red with a simple rectangular outline. The western gable of the barn in grey adjoins the linear pond and had been provided with substantial additions to its eastern gable that are shown in more detail in figure 5. Broken lines indicate open walls such as cart lodges, and the two enclosed animal yards to the south of the barn were each served by a shelter-shed to the east and west. The narrow range of brick buildings with small pens on the north were probably pig sties.

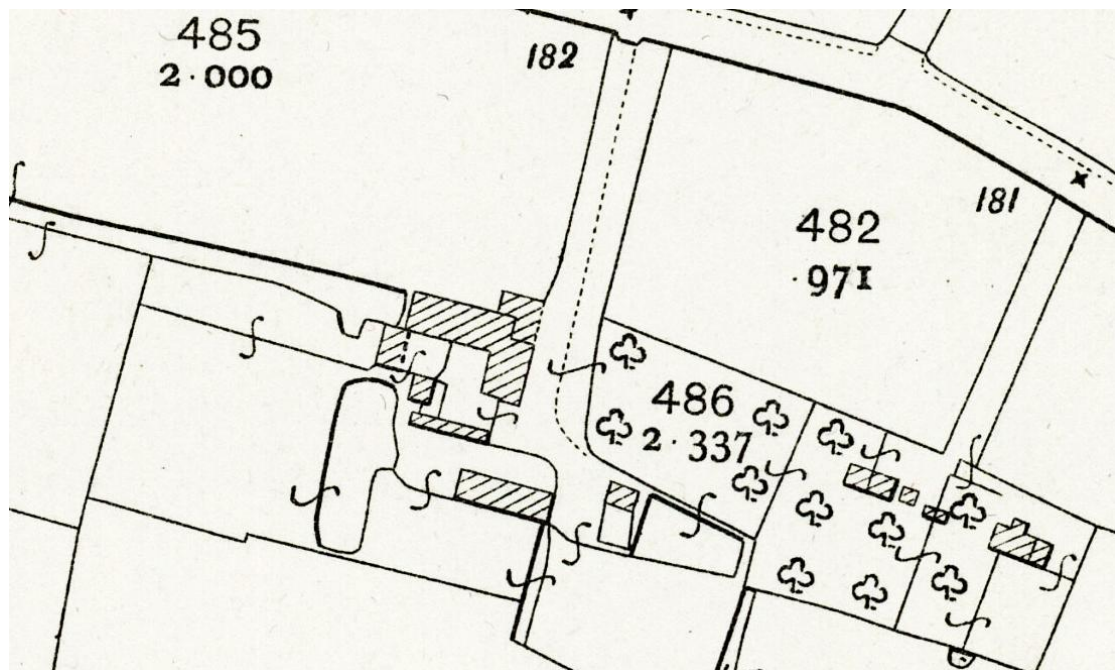


Figure 5. The Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1903. The outline of the surviving eastern gable of the barn is shown more clearly with overlapping sheds to the north and south that probably represent a single-storied cart lodge adjoining the track and a shelter shed against the yard. The latter is no longer shown as open-sided and may have been enclosed to form a cow shed.

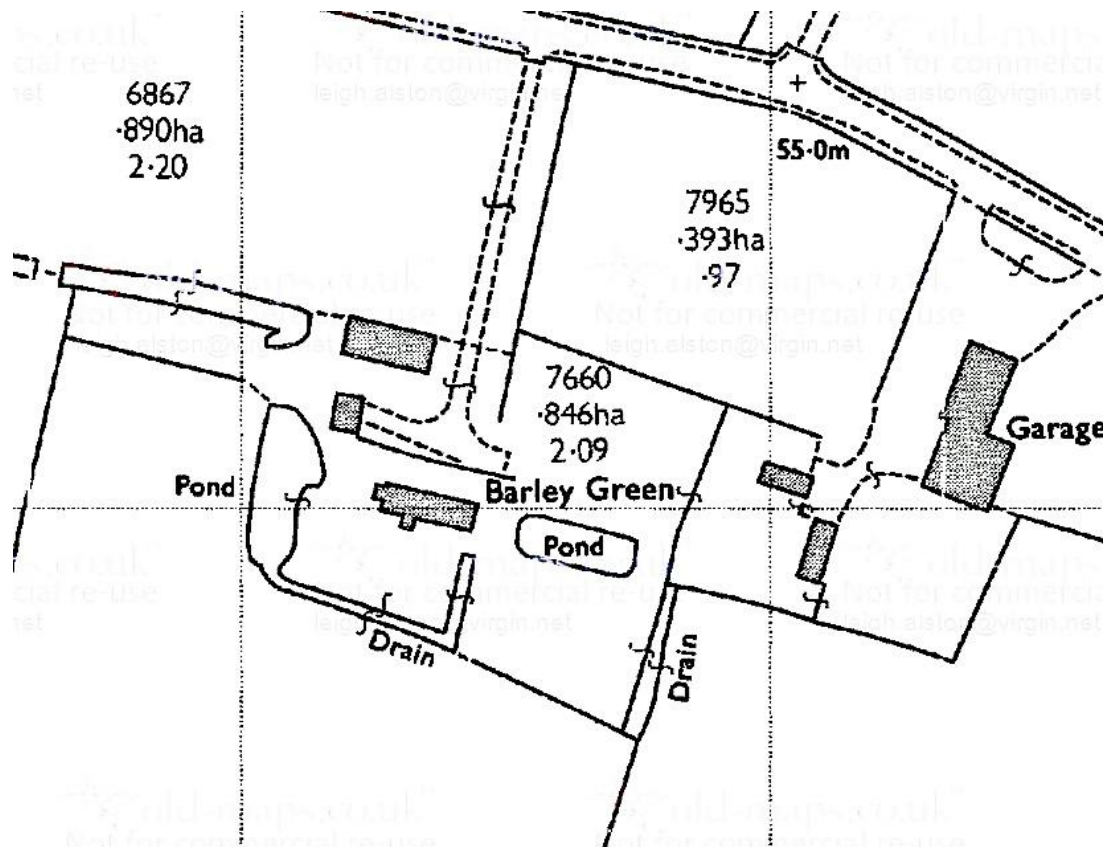


Figure 6

The 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1981.

A significant section to the west of the barn had been demolished since 1903, leaving a much larger gap against the pond, and the adjoining sheds had also disappeared. Most of these changes had occurred since the six inch map of 1957 (not reproduced here).



## Building Analysis

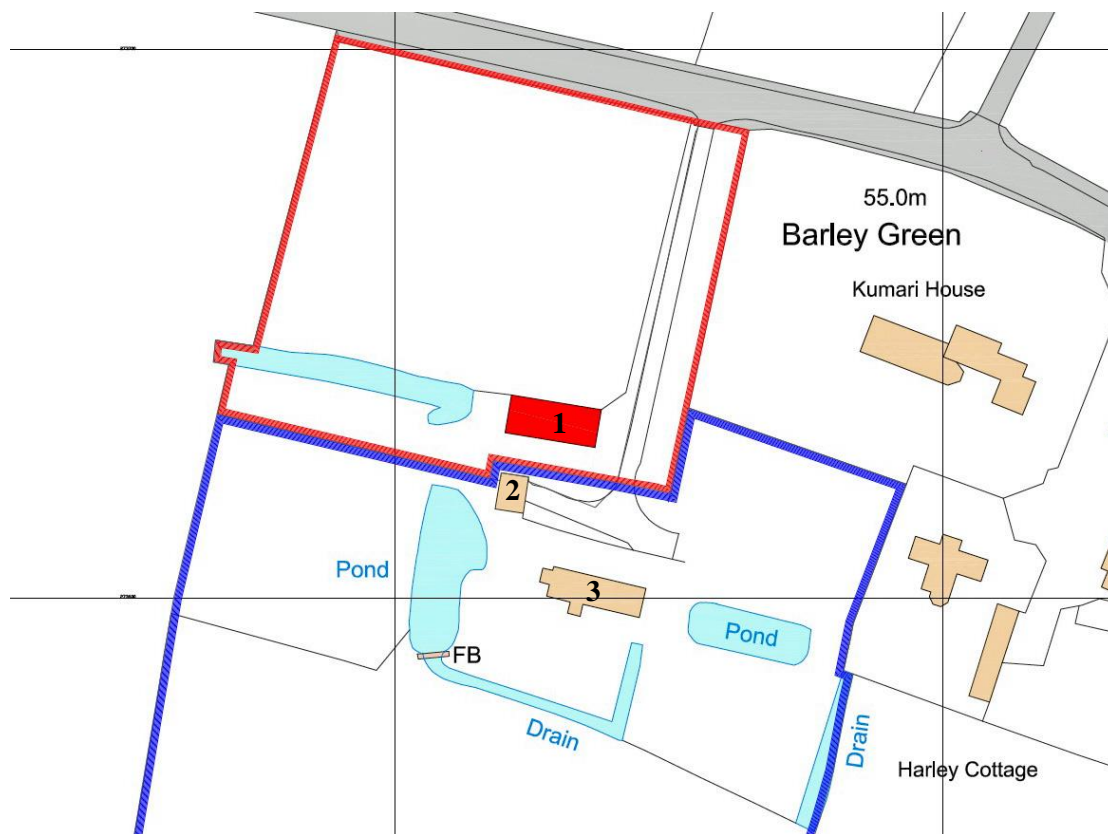


Figure 7

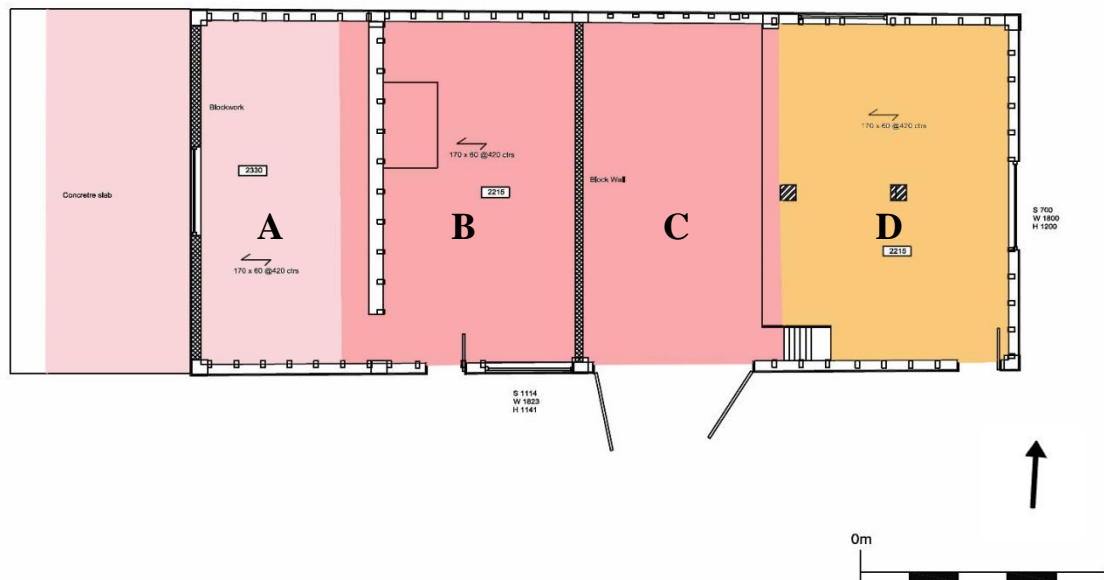
A current site plan by Brooks Architects Ltd highlighting the barn in red (1) to the north of the modern garage (2) and the grade II-listed 16<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse (3).

## Introduction and Listing

The barn at Barley Green Farm is a complex timber-framed and weatherboarded structure built in two distinct phases as highlighted in figure 8. It consists of a traditional three-bay threshing barn (B-D) entered from the yard in front of the farmhouse to the south with a floored additional bay on the west (A) that would normally be interpreted as a stable and hay loft but contains a number of unusual features. It would have adjoined the edge of a large green until its enclosure in *circa* 1800. The floored section originally extended further to the west by at least one and possibly two bays that appear from the cartographic evidence to have been demolished as recently as the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The threshing barn is also unusual in that its eastern bay is formed by a later timber-frame that replaced an earlier structure against which the rest of the barn was initially built. These various features are described and discussed in the following account which is intended to be read in conjunction with the captions to illustrations 1-24 in Appendix 2. The barn is not listed but remains in the same ownership as the farmhouse and lies within its curtilage for planning purposes. The house was not inspected internally but on external appearance seems to form a large single-phase house reflecting the standard layout of its period with a central hall of two bays flanked by an in-line service bay on the west and a wide chimney bay to the east with a two-bay parlour beyond. A number of exposed roll-moulded window mullions in its parlour gable point to a builder of reasonably high status and this is confirmed by the internal features recorded in the schedule of listed buildings (entry no. 1032847):

*Farmhouse. C16. Timber framed and plastered, with exposed studding on the front at first floor level and in the left gable. Roof has black pantiles to front and plaintiles to rear. 2 storeys and attic. 3-cell form, originally with cross-entry. Mainly mid C20 square-leaded casement windows; one mid C20 ground floor window with diamond mullions. In the left gable end, 2 original windows with moulded mullions. Boarded entrance door. Internal stack. Good interior with much exposed framing. Both hall and parlour have roll-moulded bridging beams with leaf-carved stops and chamfered joists; in the hall the mouldings are continued onto the storey posts, in the parlour the storey posts have plain chamfers with barred stops. Service cell originally divided into 2 rooms on ground floor. Doorway into parlour chamber has 4-centre arched head. The joints in the chimneybreast brickwork at the parlour end show evidence of lining. Clapsed-purlin roof with long shallow braces to the collars, meeting at the centre. Cranked wind braces.*

The presence of roll mouldings and foliate stops in both the hall and parlour would normally be associated with a farmhouse of Yeoman rank attached to a holding of 100 acres or more, although give the site's close proximity to Stradbroke it is possible that agriculture was not the builder's sole source of income. The combination of roll mouldings with a clapsed-purlin roof and cranked wind-braces indicates a date of *circa* 1580 before ovolo-mouldings became popular, and although structurally different, with more widely spaced wall studs, the building must be broadly contemporary with the barn. The visible studs of the northern facade are not significantly weathered and are waney suggesting they were intended to be rendered and pargeted externally. There is evidence that the barn was finished in the same manner. The survival of a high-status house and barn of the same late-Elizabethan period is unusual and lends special historic significance to the site as a whole.



**Figure 8**

**Ground plan by Brooks Architects Ltd. adapted to indicate the four original bays in colour with the site of the demolished bay on the west. Scale in metres.**

**The high-quality timber frame in red was built in the late-16<sup>th</sup> century as a two-bay threshing barn (dark red) with a floored section on the west that probably formed a stable with a possible ‘court hall’ or lodging on its upper story (light red). Only one bay (A) of this floored section now remains, with at least one and possibly two additional bays to the west since demolished. The two-bay threshing barn (B-C) was entered from the south in bay C but was built against an older structure to the east that was rebuilt in the early- to mid-17<sup>th</sup> century as the eastern bay of a three-bay barn (bay D in brown). Bays B and C were probably designed to extend a previous barn on the site of bay D but may have adjoined another type of building such as a gatehouse.**

## Proportions, structure and date

### Bays A-C

The barn is a timber-framed and weatherboarded structure in four bays that extends to 16.4 m in length on an approximately east/west axis by 7.1 m in total width (53.75 ft by 23.25 ft). Its walls rise to 4.25 m at their roof-plates (14.25 ft), and consist of two distinct structures: the framing of the three western bays (A-C) differs from that of the eastern bay (D), and the two are linked by crude unpegged vertical centre-tenons with housed soffits (illus. 11). The western bays represent the earlier of the two frames, and are of exceptionally high quality with neatly chamfered mid-rails 1.8 m below the roof-plates (6 ft) and heavy oak timbers. Their storey posts are an impressive 30 cm by 20 (12 in by 8) and the studs a uniform 15 cm by 10 (6 in by 4). Internally trenched wall braces rise to the roof-plates from the north-eastern corner post of bay C and from south-eastern post of bay B as the normal position for a corner post in bay C was occupied by the original entrance doors of the threshing barn as noted below (illus. 7 and 21). The western bay (A) contained ground and first-floor ceiling joists, of which only one now remains (illus. 19), and these were secured by sophisticated soffit tenon joints with diminished (sloping) shoulders of a kind usually seen in high status domestic houses rather than agricultural buildings. The surviving joist in the first-floor ceiling is 14 cm by 10 (5.5 in by 4), and well finished in oak heartwood. The width of the structure at over 23 feet is also exceptional and indicates a wealthy builder with access to expensive, high-quality timber (as long tie-beams were rare and costly): very few houses exceed 18 feet and single-span barns in excess of 22 feet are unusual even on manorial sites. Weatherboarding was rarely used on agricultural buildings until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and notches for horizontal external laths are visible in the sides of the principal storey posts but not the common studs. This suggests the building was clad externally in roughcast clay daub, although some barns were lime-rendered and pargeted. The exposed timbers of the house are waney and lack weathering, so were probably covered in the same way. It should be possible to confirm this point if the present boarding is removed during any future conversion.

### Bay D

The framing of the eastern bay (D) was obliged to match the width of its predecessor but is otherwise far more utilitarian, with less substantial principal timbers and more widely spaced studs of just 11 cm by 7 or less (4.5 ins by 3). Its outer corners are internally braced (illus. 9) and its mid-rails are secured to the posts of bay C by unpegged tenons. Both posts contain additional unpegged mortices at slightly different heights that presumably relate to the previous structure on the site of bay D against which bay C was initially built. The open trusses to the east and west of bay C retain their original heavy-sectioned arch-braces which bear chamfers on both sides (illus. 8 & 12), and it seems likely that bays A-C were built as an extension to an older threshing barn on the east – perhaps in order to add a second threshing floor. The slender but still fully framed carpentry of bay D suggests it replaced this earlier building during the second quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in order to create the existing three-bay barn with a single, central threshing floor. Bays A-C contain face-halved and bladed scarf joints of a type that first appeared in the final decade or two of the 16<sup>th</sup> century when they were probably built – although a date at the very beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century cannot be ruled out (illus. 22). The shallow-pitched roof that now spans all four bays is a softwood replacement of the late-19<sup>th</sup> or early-20<sup>th</sup> century but the lack of post mortices in the original tie-beams demonstrate they lay beneath a similar side-purlin structure of typical late-16<sup>th</sup> century form that probably contained wind-braces matching those of the house. The farmhouse is of much the same high status and period as bays A-C (if not built at the same time), and the three structures are consistent with a significant fall in the site's status between the late-16<sup>th</sup> and mid-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The modest length of the present three-bay threshing barn created by the addition of bay D is appropriate to the 62-acre tenanted holding of 1841 while the width and quality of bays A-C suggest they were part of a larger barn serving a holding well in excess of 100 acres - for which the house would also have been more appropriate.

## Layout and Purpose

### Bay A

After the addition of bay D in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the building contained a threshing barn of standard three-bay form on the east and a separate floored compartment of at least two bays to the west. Multi-purpose agricultural buildings of identical layout are common in Suffolk, although rare elsewhere in the country, and typically combined threshing barns with stables and hay lofts. In some cases stables were placed at both ends of the threshing barn. The floored section in this instance was unusual in several respects, but any full interpretation is hampered by the fact that one and possibly two bays have been demolished (apparently as recently as the 1960s if the Ordnance Surveys show the original structure continuing to the pond). Its narrow remaining bay, A, extends to just 2.4 m in length between its storey posts (8 ft) and formed only the eastern end of a room that continued beyond the present gable. The mid-rail of this gable shown in illustration 3 is in fact a binding joist containing empty mortices on both sides for a missing ground-floor ceiling and is matched by the tie-beam on the upper storey where a single common joist still survives (illus. 19). The two rooms are likely to have been at least 5.2 m long before their truncation (17 ft), with the binding joist and tie-beam central to their ceilings, and may have adjoined a tack room in a third bay on the west. They were divided from the barn by a solid partition indicated by uninterrupted mortices for missing studs in the tie-beam and mid-rail between bays A and B, although the mid-rail has been moved by approximately 0.5 m into bay B and incorporated into a much later partition (illus. 13).

The ground-floor room was entered by a door at the eastern end of its southern wall, as demonstrated by the pegged mortices of its chamfered mid-rail (illus. 15), and lit by opposing unglazed windows with diamond mullions at the western end of the surviving bay (illus. 16). This door may have opened onto a stair leading directly to the first-floor chamber, which would explain the inserted partition that appears to have framed a narrow compartment against its eastern wall (illus. 17). Stairs were often enclosed by partitions in this way. The remaining section of the upper room was lit by identical windows immediately above its ground-floor counterparts, the southernmost of which retains its original mullions with unusual evidence of glazing in its central light (illus. 18 & 23). All but the ground-floor front (southern) window possessed internal shutters sliding horizontally in grooves cut into the roof-plates and mid-rail and supported by lower rails that are no longer present. These grooves are no more than a quarter of an inch in width and evidently secured finely made shutters of thin, often imported boarding known as wainscot, rather than the inch-thick planks typically found in both domestic and agricultural contexts. Thin grooves of this nature are normally seen only in high-status domestic houses of the late-16<sup>th</sup> century and early-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the neatly cut step-stopped chamfers to the tie-beam and binding joist would also have graced the average domestic hall. There was no room for a shutter alongside the entrance door, and its presence also reduced the number of mullions in the window here to three from the four seen elsewhere.

While floored stables and hay lofts are common in early Suffolk barns, the quality of this example is much higher than usual. The presence of wainscot shutters and a first-floor ceiling is more typical of domestic houses than agricultural buildings, but the unfortunate loss of the western bay or bays renders any alternative interpretation purely speculative. If the missing section contained a hay drop above a blind western wall the space must have formed a stable with a first-floor hayloft, but in the absence of such evidence the building could also be regarded as a 'court hall' of a type seen on high-status sites across the region. Crows Hall in nearby Debenham retains an example of this little understood building form, where a two-storied brick structure adjoins a standard threshing barn. This may have operated as a stable on its lower storey but its upper was reached by an external stair beneath terracotta images of jesters' heads and was used as a meeting and entertainment space. Large numbers of tenants

and guests would have gathered in domestic open halls during the Middle Ages to attend manorial courts and enjoy seasonal festivities, but the increasingly private nature of new houses in the Elizabethan period appears to have occasioned the construction of separate first-floor halls in farm yards for the same purpose. Some examples of this form contain two sets of stairs (one for tenants and one for the owner), and resembled modern court houses. Could the 16<sup>th</sup> century house at Barley Green Farm have required such a structure before its status seemingly declined in the 17<sup>th</sup> century? The scale and quality of the barn's carpentry is certainly consistent with such a possibility, and the building may well have formed part of a much more extensive 'base court' in front of the house that would have extended to the east of the modern entrance. Enclosed front courtyards are often seen on early maps and typically contained a variety of service outbuildings such as brew-houses, bake-houses and maltings in addition to the usual agricultural offices. Many were provided with central gatehouses. There is also ample documentary evidence to suggest that farm labourers and even family members used the upper storeys of agricultural buildings as unheated private apartments after taking their meals in the farmhouse. The answers might be found in the public archives if any relevant early surveys or maps survive, but research is currently impossible given the closure of the Ipswich branch of the Suffolk Record Office (due to the coronavirus crisis combined with its move to a new site).

### **Bays B-D**

The eastern bays of the structure were open to the missing roof and formed a three-bay threshing barn of standard layout and 13.6 m in length (44.75 ft), with an entrance in the southern wall of the central bay (C) facing the house. The threshing floor of brick or boards has been replaced by 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete and the present double doors are modern, but the distinctive circular holes for the original doors are still visible in the southern roof-plate (illus. 6). These holes secured pin hinges in a manner rarely seen outside northern Suffolk and Norfolk, and correspond with a lack of pegged stud mortices in the rest of the roof-plate. The entrance of 3.3 m in width (11 ft) did not fill the bay as usual, but terminated at a substantial post 18 inches from the arch-braced storey post to the east – presumably as a means of stabilising the structure's corner in the absence of the usual trenched corner braces (given that the doorway effectively adjoined the corner of the frame). The rear wall contained only a small door beneath its mid-rail as found in most pre-19<sup>th</sup> century barns, sufficient to generate a through-draught for threshing for winnowing but not to admit carts. A set of full-height doors appears to have been inserted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as often occurred, with most of the original wall fabric in the northern wall of bay C removed and later replaced with re-used timber. A short section of the original mid-rail remains *in situ* to the east with a single stud and a truncated wall brace above (to the right in illus. 7 and the left in illus. 10).

## **Losses and Later Alterations**

The present pantiled clasped-purlin roof of the barn is a late-19<sup>th</sup> or early-20<sup>th</sup> century replacement with softwood principal timbers, flat-sectioned new roof-plates and nailed collars. The original roof would have been steeply pitched like that of the house for peg-tiles or thatch. The western bay or bays of the floored western section appear to have been demolished as recently as the 1960s or 70s as the six inch map of 1957 shows the farm buildings much as in 1903 with the barn adjoining the pond, but its present proportions were in existence by 1981. The external cladding was renewed at the same time, with the exception of a small area to the loft in bay D which retains traces of tar and may survive from the previous refurbishment that included the new roof. The internal lofts in bays A, B and D consist of re-used tall-sectioned softwood supported on new cement-block partitions and brick piers, all of which is consistent with a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date. Some components of these lofts and partitions date from a slightly earlier period and would have been used to store and mill grain for animal feed, but nothing appears to pre-date the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and they are not of special historic significance. The original timber-framed structure is generally well

preserved, particularly above its mid-rails where the wall studs are almost completely intact with the exception of the back wall of the threshing bay (C). The re-used timber that fills the position of the inserted doors here may be no older than the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The frame is less complete below its mid-rails, with the sills and brick plinths renewed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and most of the southern studs removed or replaced. The northern studs have fared better, surviving intact in bays A and B, but those of both the gable and northern wall in bay D were replaced with re-used timbers in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century leaving only a small number that occupy pegged mortices and may be original. The roof was leaking at the time of inspection and posed a threat to the first-floor framing of the back wall and in particular the north-eastern corner post of the threshing bay (C). This issue could be easily remedied in the short term with plastic sheeting.

## Historic Significance

Although not listed in its own right the barn at Barley Green Farm is of special historic interest as an unusual late-16<sup>th</sup> century multi-purpose farm building of exceptional quality. It reflects a distinctive East Anglian form, with a floored apparent stable in the end-bays of a threshing barn, and is broadly contemporary with the nearby grade II-listed farmhouse - thereby offering significant insight into the layout of high-status farmsteads in the Elizabethan period. The barn formed the front range of a farm yard in front of the house and was probably part of a larger 'base court' of service buildings through which the site was approached from the large medieval green on the north. The 16<sup>th</sup> century structure contained only two bays of a threshing barn initially and was almost certainly built as an extension to an older barn on the east. This earlier barn was replaced within a generation by a single bay of much poorer quality to suggest a sharp decline in the site's status, consistent with its position as a modest tenanted farm of 62 acres on Lord Henniker's Thornham Hall estate in 1841. The floored stable was unfortunately truncated in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but its surviving bay retains evidence for no fewer than four diamond mullion windows, one of which survives intact. At over 23 feet its width is exceptional, and the presence of high-quality wainscot shutters in narrow grooves and an unusual first-floor ceiling suggest it may have formed a lodging or even an entertainment space rather than a hay loft. A 1546 lease of Chantry Farm next to the church in nearby Brundish excludes a room in the end of the 'heybarne' in which the Widow Jerveys had been allowed to live for the rest of her life ('The Chantry at Brundish' by Peter Northeast, *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, Vol. XXXVIII Pt 2, pp. 138-148). Despite its losses the barn is therefore among the best of its kind in the region.

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*Leigh Alston is a building archaeologist and architectural historian who for 20 years lectured on the understanding and recording of timber-framed structures in the Departments of Archaeology and Continuing Education at Cambridge University. He worked as the in-house building archaeologist for Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service for 10 years and still fulfils this role for its successor, Suffolk Archaeology CIC. He also undertakes commissions on a freelance basis for the National Trust, private clients and various county archaeological units. Leigh co-founded the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group in 1993, serving as Chairman for 13 years, and has been involved in several television programmes including 'Grand Designs' and David Dimbleby's 'How We Built Britain'. Publications include 'Late Medieval Workshops in East Anglia' in 'The Vernacular Workshop' edited by Paul Barnwell & Malcolm Airs (CBA and English Heritage, 2004) and the National Trust guidebook to Lavenham Guildhall.*

## **Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record**

### **Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1**

1. A view of the site from the west showing the modern garage (2) between the barn (1) on the left and the grade II-listed house (3) in the rear to the right.
2. The courtyard from the west flanked by the grade II-listed 16th century house (3) on the right and the broadly contemporary barn (1) to the left.
3. The courtyard from the east formed by the grade II-listed 16th century house (3) on the left, the modern garage (2) in the rear & the barn (1) to the right.
4. The northern facade of the grade II-listed house (3) ostensibly a single-phase three-cell mid- to late-16th century structure with a stack bay.
5. The southern facade of the barn (1) showing its modern cladding and pantiles with the outline of the partly blocked original entrance to the threshing bay (C).
6. The eastern gable with tarred ostensibly 19th century cladding above new boarding possibly indicating the abuttal of the missing structure on historic maps.
7. The northern exterior with its recently renewed weatherboarded and two modern glazed windows.
8. The recently renewed cladding of the western external gable showing the empty joist mortices of the demolished bay in the exposed binding joist.
9. The western external gable showing its modern windows and cladding with a full complement of joist mortices in its chamfered binding joist.
10. The northern end of the western exterior showing empty pegged mortices for ceiling joists and the mid-rail of the missing bay in the corner post.
11. The southern end of the western exterior showing the chamfered & stopped binding joist with the pegged mid-rail mortice of the missing bay in the corner post.
12. The western external gable from the south showing sufficient distance for one or possibly two missing bays to the east of the linear pond on the left.
13. The threshing bay (C) from the south showing the 20th century lofts of tall-sectioned joists in bays B & D to left & right.
14. The northern interior of the threshing bay (C) with later studs blocking an inserted full-height doorway with a short section of original framing to the right.
15. The short section of original northern mid-rail to the left of the eastern storey post in bay C with a later re-used post & mid-rail beyond.
16. A detail of the north-eastern corner post of bay C showing a deep unpegged mortice in its eastern edge apparently to secure the earlier structure it abutted.
17. The northern interior of the threshing bay (C) showing part of an original internally trenched brace indicating this was the corner of the structure.

18. A detail of the original wall brace and stud to the east of the threshing bay's northern interior (C) protected from the later doorway by the overlapping loft.
19. The underside of the northern roof-plate in bay C showing original stud mortices and an addition mortice for the corner brace on the right.
20. The 20th century grain loft in the eastern bay (D) overlapping the threshing bay (C) in the foreground.
21. The intact arch-braces and tie-beam of the open truss to the east of bay C as seen from the west with the 20th century loft in bay D beyond.
22. The southern interior of bay (C) showing the large additional post to the left of the original entrance presumably to stabilise the structure's corner.
23. The southern interior of the threshing bay (C) showing later studs above the lower doors with circular holes for original pintle hinges to left & right.
24. The intact arch-braced open truss to the west of the threshing bay (C) showing the later studs and blockwork of the inserted grain floor.
25. The open truss to the west of the threshing bay (C) showing the late-19th or early-20th century softwood clasped-purlin roof structure with nailed collars.
26. The southern interior of bay D showing its original mid-rail with pegged stud mortices but renewed late-19th century studs with diagonal primary braces.
27. The south-eastern corner post of bay C showing the unpegged but tenoned mid-rail of bay D with an empty unpegged mortice above for the previous structure.
28. The southern end of the eastern internal gable of bay D showing replaced re-used lower studs ignoring the pegged mortices in the mid-rail.
29. The northern end of the eastern internal gable of bay D showing replaced re-used lower studs ignoring the pegged mortices in the mid-rail.
30. The northern interior of bay D showing three probably original pegged studs to the right of the inserted window.
31. The southern interior of bay D's loft showing the intact narrow studs with an unpegged tenoned scarf joint to the left of bay C's post on the right.
32. The original pegged and internally trenched bracing in the south-eastern corner of bay D's loft.
33. The eastern internal gable of bay D's loft showing its intact tie-beam & narrow studs with truncated pegged studs for a taller vertical gable above.
34. The northern interior of bay D's loft showing the original narrow studs with a missing corner brace to the right & an unpegged scarf joint on the left.
35. The north-eastern corner post of bay C from bay D's loft showing the crude unpegged tenoned scarf joint between the two structures on the right.



36. A detail from the east of the scarf joint between the two structures in the northern interior of bay D.
37. A detail from above & to the east of the simple centre-tenoned scarf joint with a housed soffit but no peg linking the two structures in bay D's northern plate.
38. The intact arch-braced open truss to the east of bay C seen from the loft in bay D showing the shallow-pitched late-19th or early-20th century roof structure.
39. The intact substantial studs and chamfered mid-rail in the northern interior of bay B with a renewed sill and brick plinth beneath.
40. A detail of the neatly chamfered mid-rail and original studs in the northern interior of bay B.
41. The southern interior of the threshing barn's western bay (B) showing the original mid-rail above a 20th century window and door.
42. The eastern interior of bay B showing the 20th century cement-block partition dividing it from the threshing bay (C).
43. The western interior of bay B showing the 19th century partition of nailed studs beneath the original mid-rail moved approximately 0.5 m to the east.
44. The southern interior of bay A showing the partition mid-rail to the left that was originally tenoned to the storey post 0.5 m to its right.
45. The underside of the original southern mid-rail of bay A showing mortices for an original window to the right and an entrance door against the post to the left.
46. The south-western corner of the building showing empty mortices for a four-light diamond mullion window in the mid-rail with a sill mortice in the corner post.
47. A detail of the three empty diamond mullion mortices without a shutter groove at the western end of the southern mid-rail in bay A with a new stud on the left.
48. The underside of the southern mid-rail in bay A showing a gap in the stud mortices for an original door with a pegged jamb mortice against the post to the left.
49. A detail of the pegged mortice for an original door jamb against the southern storey post to the east of bay A with a pegged mortice for the moved partition.
50. The northern interior of bay A showing 3 intact studs to the left of the storey post on the right to which the moved partition mid-rail was formerly tenoned.
51. The underside of the northern mid-rail of bay A showing a narrow shutter groove and four diamond mullion mortices to the left of three original studs.
52. A detail of the original northern window to the west of bay A showing its four diamond mullion mortices with corresponding sill mortices in the jamb and post.
53. The western interior of the partition between bays A and B rebuilt approximately 0.5 m into bay B retaining only the original mid-rail.

54. The internal western gable showing the mid-20th century cement-block ground-floor wall probably built when the barn was truncated.
55. The 20th century loft at the western end of the barn looking east towards the intact open truss between bays B and C.
56. The 20th century loft at the western end of the barn looking towards the western gable from bay B with stud mortices for the missing partition in the tie-beam.
57. The northern interior of bays A (left) and B on the loft showing the intact roof-plate and studs with an upper plate to level the renewed roof.
58. A detail of the short face-halved and bladed scarf joint of late-16th and 17th century form in the northern roof-plate of bay B.
59. The southern interior of bays B and A on the loft showing their intact framing with a window to the right and an original internally trenched brace to the left.
60. A detail of the short face-halved and bladed scarf joint of late-16th and 17th century form in the southern roof-plate of bay B.
61. The southern interior of bay A from the loft showing a rare intact window with four original diamond mullions against the 12-inch wide corner post to the right.
62. The intact diamond mullion first-floor window in the southern interior of bay A pegged to the large post of an open truss without a brace to the right.
63. A detail of the diamond mullion southern first-floor window to the west of bay A showing nails flanking the central light as if to secure leaded glass.
64. The underside of the southern roof-plate in bay A showing a narrow quarter inch groove for a high-quality domestic-style wainscot sliding shutter.
65. The original studs of the southern interior of bay A showing the back of wattle-and-daub notches suggesting the exterior was rendered initially.
66. The northern interior of bays A and B showing the position of an original first-floor window above the modern glazed window to the left.
67. The northern interior of bay A showing four diamond mullion mortices and intact pegged sill with a narrow shutter groove in the roof-plate above.
68. The underside of the ceiling joist chamfered on both sides that now forms the western gable's tie-beam as seen from the south.
69. The single ostensibly original ceiling joist in bay A between the binding joist of the gable (left) and the internal partition tie with a later partition above.
70. The ostensibly original first-floor ceiling joist in bay A showing the empty soffit tenon joists with diminished shoulders for others in bay B's tie-beam.
71. The empty joist, stud and brace mortices in the northern half of the tie-beam to the east of bay A with pegs for a gable partition above.

72. The empty joist, stud and brace mortices in the southern half of the tie-beam to the east of bay A with pegs for a gable partition above.

*Photographic Appendix 2 follows on pp. 18-29*

**Appendix 2 (pp. 20-31): Selected Photographs to Illustrate the Text**



**Illus. 1. The ‘base court’ from the east formed by the grade II-listed 16<sup>th</sup> century house (3) on the left, the modern garage (2) in the rear and barn (1) to the right. Both the barn and house appear to have faced this yard through which the house was approached from the green. The two buildings are broadly contemporary, with the service bay of the house to the right of its central hall and its chimney bay and parlour on the left.**



**Illus. 2. A view of the site from the west showing the modern garage (2) between the barn (1) on the left and the grade II-listed house (3) in the rear to the right. The barn’s low-pitched pantiled roof is a late-19<sup>th</sup> or early-20<sup>th</sup> century replacement of the original, which would have been steeply pitched like that of the house for peg-tiles or thatch. Until its truncation in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the barn continued into the foreground, stopping just short of the pond visible at bottom left.**



**Illus. 3. The western external gable showing its modern glazed windows and renewed cladding with a full complement of joist mortices in its chamfered binding joist for the ceiling of a demolished bay that extended into the foreground. The joints have diminished shoulders as found in high-quality carpentry of the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and later (as shown in illus. 20). Pegged mortices for projecting mid-rails are also visible in the present corner posts.**



**Illus. 4. The southern facade of the barn (1) showing its pantiled roof and late-20<sup>th</sup> century weatherboarding with a small section of tarred weatherboarding to the loft in bay D on the right that may survive from the late-19<sup>th</sup> or early-20<sup>th</sup> century refurbishment. The outline of the original full-height doors to the main entrance in bay C is visible above the present double doors of the late-20<sup>th</sup> century.**



**Illus. 5. The southern interior of the threshing bay (C), now with a modern concrete floor and 20<sup>th</sup> century storage lofts of tall-sectioned softwood joists on both sides. The original doors rose to the roof-plate but unusually were defined by a single large post 18 inches to the right of the bay's arch-braced storey post on the left. The eastern loft in bay D on the left projects into the bay by the same extent.**



**Illus. 6. The southern roof-plate of the threshing bay (C) showing inserted re-used studs above the present door lintel (nailed rather than pegged to the plate). The circular holes at both ends secured the pin hinges of the original doors in a manner rarely seen in south Suffolk where iron hinges were the norm. The jamb post on the left was thought necessary to stabilise the corner post which abutted an earlier structure.**



**Illus. 7.** The northern internal wall of the threshing bay (C). In contrast to the southern elevation the roof-plate here contains pegged mortices for original studs that formed a solid wall with a small central door beneath a mid-rail. A short section of original mid-rail survives to the right (under the loft) but the framing to its left consists of re-used timbers that were inserted to block a secondary doorway rising to the roof-plate. An original stud and a section of wall brace are visible above the original mid-rail.



**Illus. 8.** The intact arch-braces and tie-beam of the open truss to the east of the threshing bay (C) showing the 20<sup>th</sup> century loft in bay D beyond. The present clasped-purlin roof structure consists of re-used rafters with pine purlins and nailed collars in the typical manner of the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



**Illus. 9.** The eastern internal gable from the 20<sup>th</sup> century loft in bay D. The framing of this bay is very different to that of bays A-C with much narrower and more widely spaced studs. It dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century and evidently replaced an older structure against which bay C was originally built in the late-16<sup>th</sup> century. The lower and most of the studs above are pegged to the tie-beam and original to the fabric, as are the internally trussed corner braces.



**Illus. 10.** The northern internal wall of the eastern bay's loft (D) which retains its original narrow studs with a trench for a missing corner brace on the right. A crude scarf joint links the roof-plate to the earlier plate of bay C on the left (see illus. 11).





**Illus. 11. The north-eastern corner post of the threshing bay (C) showing its heavy original arch-brace and the crude joint linking its roof-plate to that of the separate, later structure of the eastern bay (D). This consists of a simple tenon with a housed soffit but lacking a peg that projects from bay D in bay C. An identical joint lies in the southern plate. A large unpegged mortice 13 inches in height lies just above mid-rail level in the eastern face of the storey post. A similar but smaller mortice is visible in the southern post but at a slightly higher level. Both must relate to the predecessor of bay D.**



**Illus. 12. The open truss to the west of the threshing bay (C) showing its impressive arch-braces with the 20<sup>th</sup> century loft in bays A and B beyond (supported on block-work). The structure is a very impressive 23.25 ft in total width and its tie-beams lack mortices for queen or crown posts – indicating the original roof contained side-purlins.**



**Illus. 13.** The ground-floor partition beneath the 20<sup>th</sup> century loft in bays A and B, as seen from bay A to the west. This consists entirely of re-used timber interrupted by diagonal primary braces and dates from the late-19<sup>th</sup> century but now rests on a 20<sup>th</sup> century brick plinth. It incorporates the mid-rail of the original partition between bays A and B (i.e. the floored stable and the threshing barn) which was initially tenoned to the storey posts approximately 0.5 m to the west of its present position.



**Illus. 14.** The southern internal wall of the narrow westernmost bay (A) showing its storey post approximately 0.5 m to the right of the present partition on the left. The chamfered binding joist above the cement block-work of the gable to the right contains mortices for missing ceiling joists matching those in illustration 3, and the southern mid-rail contains evidence for an original door and window (illus. 15). Although this bay contained a ceiling initially the present tall-sectioned joists date from the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Illus. 15.** The underside of the original southern mid-rail of bay A (illus. 14) showing three empty diamond mullion mortices for an original window to the right and a gap for an original entrance door against the storey post to the left. None of the four studs occupy their original positions, but the present corner post on the right contains a pegged mortice for the window sill. A small pegged mortice abutting the post held the missing door jamb. Of the four windows the bay this is the only one with three rather than four mullions and without a shutter groove – as the door restricted space.



**Illus. 16.** The underside of the northern mid-rail of bay A showing evidence of another original window with four diamond mullions immediately opposite that in illustration 15. The corner post on the left and the stud on the right contain pegged mortices for the sill and a narrow groove for a sliding shutter is visible in the underside of the mid-rail.



**Illus. 17.** The northern internal wall on the loft in bays A and B showing the position of an original first-floor window occupied by the modern glazed window to the left (with a detail in illus. 18 below). The tie-beam that divides the two bays on the right contains empty pegged mortices for a missing solid wall against the threshing barn in bays B-D and joist mortices for a missing first-floor ceiling in bay A.



**Illus. 18.** The original first-floor window in the northern wall of the westernmost bay (A) which retains its original pegged sill with a narrow groove in the roof-plate for a shutter sliding to the right and four empty mortices for missing diamond mullions.



**Illus. 19. The single ostensibly original first-floor ceiling joist that survives in the westernmost bay (A), tenoned between the tie-beam of the missing partition against the threshing barn on the right and the neatly chamfered and stopped binding joist that now forms the tie-beam of the gable on the left (seen from the south). This was incorporated into a later partition possibly of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that may have enclosed a narrow stair opposite the southern entrance door to this bay.**



**Illus. 20. The western face of the tie-beam between the floored bay (A) to the left and the three-bay threshing barn in bays B-D showing its neat chamfer and pegged stud mortices for a missing solid partition. The joist mortices held soffit tenons with diminished shoulders in a style normally found only in high-quality domestic ceilings between the mid-16<sup>th</sup> and mid-17<sup>th</sup> century when tall sectioned joists became the norm.**



**Illus. 21. The southern internal wall of bays B and A on the loft showing their intact framing with a window to the right and an original internally trenched brace to the left. Bay B was originally part of the threshing barn while the narrow bay A contained ground and first-floor rooms with ceilings that both extended beyond the present gable.**



**Illus. 22. A detail of the short face-halved and bladed scarf joint of late-16th and 17th century form in the southern roof-plate of bay B (to the right of the cabinet in illustration 21). Joints of this type first appeared in the final years of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and replaced the earlier edge-halved and bridled form. It would be interesting to know which form was used in the farmhouse to establish whether the two buildings are exact contemporaries. The bolted reinforcing plate above is a 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century addition.**



**Illus. 23.** A detail of the intact first-floor window in the southern wall of the westernmost bay (A) with the 12-inch wide storey post that now forms the corner of the truncated building to the right. The original diamond mullions are uncommon survivals even in normal domestic contexts and are rare in barns. The nails flanking the central light are usually found in conjunction with leaded panels of glass and could be explained by the insertion of such a panel here when the rest of the window was blocked.



**Illus. 24.** The roof-plate above the southern window in illustration 23 contains a very narrow quarter-inch groove for a sliding internal shutter. Narrow grooves of this kind are usually seen only in high-status domestic houses which possessed finely made shutters of thin imported wainscot instead of the thick planks used in most cases.