

**Historic building recording at  
Hyde Farm Barn,  
Gosfield Road, Blackmore End,  
Essex, CM7 4DR**

**May 2019**



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on behalf of  
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## 1 Summary

*A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Hyde Farm Barn, Gosfield Road, Blackmore End, Essex in May 2019.*

*The earlier of the two buildings detailed in this report is a six-bay timber-framed structure which may predate 1777 and contains a high proportion of reused hand-sawn timber (originating from an earlier medieval house). This building had two midstreys added, then subsequently removed, from its southern elevation in the late 19th century. The later of the two recorded buildings is a five-bay threshing barn raised between 1866 and 1876 and constructed with hand-sawn timber in a vernacular style.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on a historic building recording of farm buildings at Hyde Farm in advance of their conversion into residential accommodation. The recording work was commissioned by Andrew Stevenson Associates and carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in May 2019. Hyde Farm is located in the south-west of the village of Blackmore End, on the west side of Hyde Lane near its junction with Gosfield Road, at NGR TL 73702 30262 (Fig 1).

A planning application (planning refs. 16/01636/FUL and 16/01637/LBC) was submitted to Braintree District Council in September 2016 proposing the conversion of the barn into a residential unit.

In response to this application, the Place Services Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) recommended to the council that a Historic England Level 3 building survey be made of the buildings prior to any conversion or alteration taking place (ECC 2016). This recommendation was given based on the site's location within an area highlighted by the EHER as having significant heritage assets. The recommendation was made based on the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2018).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the building recording was prepared by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT 2019) and agreed with the HEA. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24). In addition, the guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) were followed.

### 3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the buildings prior to the conversion taking place. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

*“Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building’s appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.*

*The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion the building’s broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group.”*

In particular the record considered:

- Plan and form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structures.
- Original function and layout.
- Original and later fixtures and fittings.
- The significance of the site in its immediate local context.

### 4 Methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of Hyde Farm.
- A large-scale block plan of the site.
- Annotated and phased floor-plans of the buildings at a scale of 1:100.
- A description of the buildings. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.
- A photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).

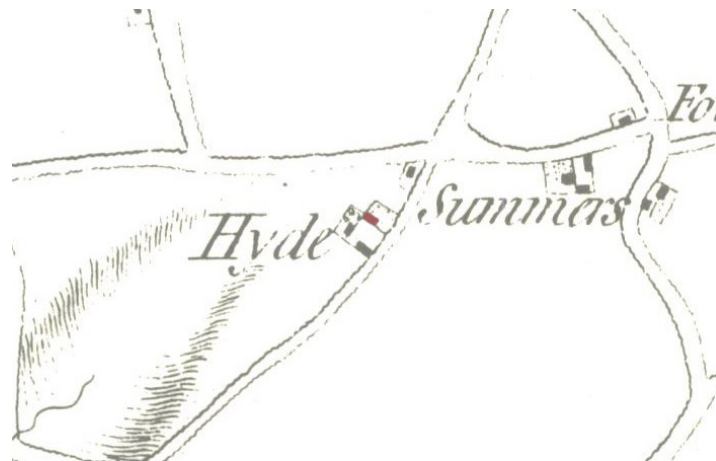
## 5 Historical background (Fig 1)

The following historical background draws on cartographic sources, the Essex Records Office (ERO) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)).

Two structures are detailed in this report; a five-bay threshing barn with a central midstrey and a six-bay building (Fig 1).

The site is located within the historic farm complex of Hyde Farm, located in the south-west of Blackmore End. Five other buildings survive from the farm complex, all of which are listed (Fig 1). They comprise a 16th-century or earlier farmhouse (Listed Building no. 1337861), a mid 19th-century stable range (no.1123303), a late 18th/early 19th-century byre (no. 1123302), a mid 19th-century cart lodge (no. 1337862) and an early 19th-century granary (no. 1168482). Three of these buildings (the stable range, byre and cart lodge) have been the subject of a previous historic building recording (Hillman-Crouch, 2018).

Hyde Farm is first shown on the 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex (Map 1). Notably there only appear to be three buildings on the site. One of these buildings, with a north-west/south-east aligned footprint, could be the six-bay building detailed in this report. The 16th-century (or earlier) farmhouse does not seem to appear however – suggesting that this map may not be entirely accurate.



**Map 1** Chapman and André map from 1777. Possible surviving building detailed in this report highlighted in red.



**Map 2a** Tithe map of Wethersfield from 1840. Hyde Farm shown in red, alongside associated fields in blue. ERO D/CT 393B.



**Map 2b** Detail of farm complex from 1840 Wethersfield tithe map. Possible surviving building highlighted in red. ERO D/CT 393B.

The tithe map of Wethersfield from 1840 (Map 2) shows several more buildings within the farm complex. The listed farmhouse is visible, as is the granary and the byre. The north-west/south-east aligned building from the tithe map is still visible and seems to be shown on the same footprint as the still standing six-bay building (Fig 1). A building is also shown in the location of the five-bay threshing barn on this map, but with no midstreys. The accompanying tithe appointment to the map details the owner of Hyde Farm as a 'Joseph Cornell', who also owns several other fields, farms and cottages in Wethersfield parish.

In 1866, Hyde Farm was put up for sale by Joseph Cornell, on account of him moving to another county. The associated sales catalogue details the farmstead alongside the agricultural buildings standing at the time.

**THE HYDE FARM:**  
WITH  
**THE MANOR OF HYDE;**  
SITUATE NEAR TO AND SOUTHWARD OF LOT 1,  
IN THE PARISH OF WEATHERSFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX:  
THIS FARM  
*lies in a ring fence and is nearly surrounded by public roads; and, being in hand, the purchaser will have*  
POSSESSION ON THE 11TH OF OCTOBER NEXT:  
IT CONSISTS OF

THE FARM HOUSE, containing Parlour, Kitchen, Pantry, Dairy, Wash-house, and four Chambers:

THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS: namely, a Wheat Barn, with asphalted threshing floor and two bays; a Barley Barn, with two bays; Oat Barn, with one bay; Cart Horse Stable, with loft, chaff bin, and harness house; Horse and Cattle Sheds; spacious Piggeries, with manure tanks; Boiling House; an excellent Hay House and Granary; Cart and Implement Sheds; and enclosed Grazing Yards:

THE LAND: comprising a Paddock, a small HOP GARDEN, and well-fenced enclosures of ARABLE and Wood Land:

ERO SALE/B5156. Details of Hyde Farm during its sale in 1866.

Although no accompanying plan survives with the sales catalogue, it clearly describes some of the listed buildings standing on the site, as well as three barns. Specifically absent from this description is the currently standing five-bay threshing barn, suggesting it was constructed after 1866. The mention of a Wheat Barn with an "asphalted threshing floor and two bays" may well refer to the east end of the six-bay structure, which has a partially surviving asphalt floor (see description below).



**Map 3** 6-inch OS map from 1876. Threshing barn highlighted in orange, six-bay structure in red. Note the midstreys.



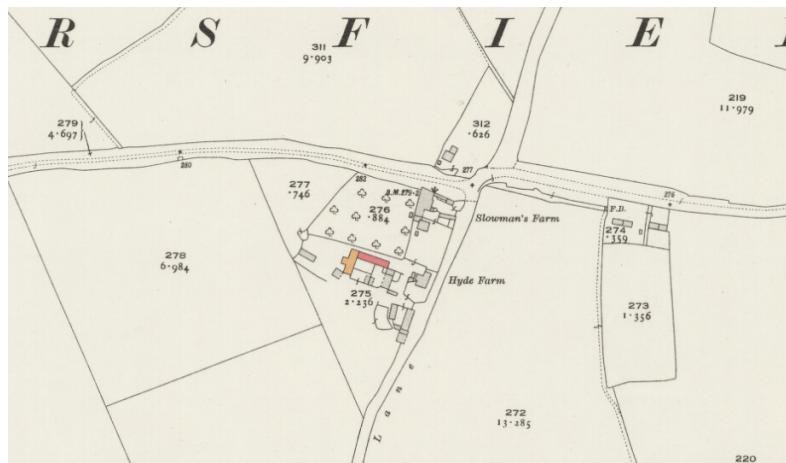
The first edition OS map of 1876 shows a busy farmstead, with many more structures than the 1840 tithe map and with several ranges of buildings (Map 3). The large five-bay threshing barn with its midstreys projecting westwards is visible. The north-west/south-east aligned building is still present; although it now has two midstreys projecting from its southern side. Whether this means these buildings have been rebuilt or that the midstreys have been added to the already existing structures is unclear.

Regardless, the two midstreys visible on this map suggest that the six-bay structure was subdivided into two separate barns at this stage. This would corroborate with the sales catalogue from 1866, which details several small barns, far more than are currently on the site (see above).



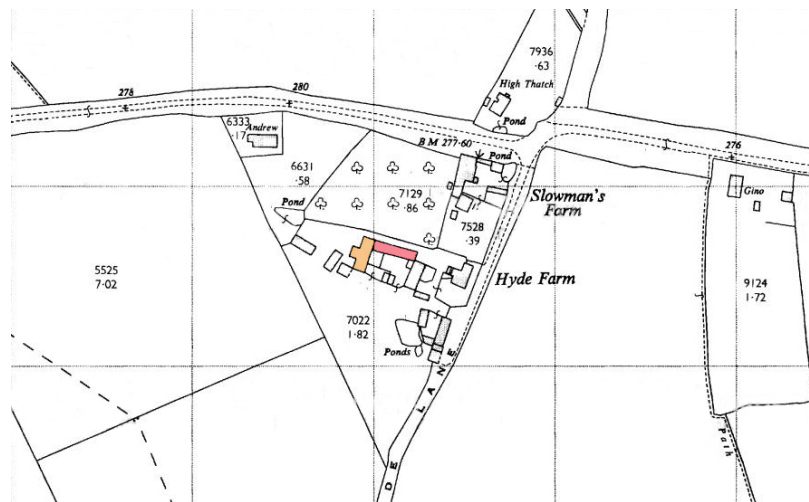
**Map 4** 25-inch OS map from 1896. Threshing barn highlighted in orange, six-bay structure in red.

Twenty years later, the 1896 OS map shows the farmyard as much reduced in size (Map 4). Several buildings, as well as the midstreys projecting from the south of the six-bay structure, have been removed. Evidence for the removal of the midstreys is still visible today in the surviving timber-frame of the six-bay structure (see below).



**Map 5** 25-inch OS map from 1919. Threshing barn highlighted in orange, six-bay structure in red.

The 1919 OS map shows the site as much the same, with only a few minor alterations (Map 5).



**Map 6** 25-inch OS map from 1969. Threshing barn highlighted in orange, six-bay structure in red.

The 1969 OS map (Map 6), again, shows very little difference in the site compared to the earlier 20th-century mapping.

Towards the end of the 20th-century several of the smaller ancillary buildings on the site appear to have been demolished, leaving the site as it is today (Fig 1); with the two buildings detailed in this report flanked by the surviving listed buildings noted above (pg 3).

In summary the cartographic and documentary evidence proves that Hyde Farm predates 1777. The map progressions above show the farm expanding significantly in size in the early to mid 19th century, before reducing in size in the late 19th and remainder of the 20th centuries.

Of the two buildings detailed in this report, both appear to have structures in their locations on the 1840 tithe map (Map 2), although whether these are the same buildings as are standing today is uncertain. The five-bay threshing barn is conspicuously absent from the description in the sales catalogue of 1866, but does clearly appear on the first edition OS map of 1876. It was probably constructed between these two dates.

The six-bay structure's provenance is less clear, but as well as the tithe map, there seems to be a building on its footprint on the 1777 Chapman and André map (Map 1). If this is the same building that stands today then it had two midstreys added, and then subsequently removed, in the latter half of the 19th century. This addition of midstreys probably also coincided with a subdivision within the structure.

## 6 Building recording descriptive record (Figs 2 - 5)

### *Five-bay threshing barn with midstrey*

#### Exterior

The threshing barn is aligned north-east/south-west, with a midstrey projecting from the centre of its north-west elevation. It measures 18.6m x 10.7m in size and covers around 149 square metres.

The barn is a five-bay pegged together timber-framed building covered in traditional weatherboarding. The roof is covered in corrugated asbestos sheets and has a half-hip at the north-east and north-west ends, but is gabled at the south-west (Photograph 1).

The timber-frame of the barn is supported on a red-brick plinth laid in an irregular English-bond and bonded with lime mortar, with brick dimensions of 230 x 100 x 60mm. This plinth is below ground and not observable around most sections of the barn, only being visible for any prolonged stretch on the south of the eastern elevation (Photograph 1).



**Photograph 1** South-east elevation of threshing barn. Barn doors visible in centre of elevation, brick plinth visible to left. Photograph taken facing north-west.

The north-west elevation of the threshing barn contains the centrally located midstrey. This elevation is tight up against the modern site boundary, so detailed examination was unfortunately not possible. The midstrey has a centrally-located doorway (with no surviving door) on the lower register and a centrally-located vertical-planked pitching door on the upper-register (Fig 4).

The north-east elevation of the barn is featureless apart from the half-hip in the gable (Fig 3).

In the centre of the barn's south-east elevation there is a pair of vertically-planked barn doors with a threshold leap (Photograph 1). These doors are modern replacements; the original doors would have been full-height, up to the wall-plate (see interior description below).



The south-west elevation of the barn has an entirely absent lower register (Photograph 2); this is may be due to the structure that was built up against the barn on this elevation (see Map 3 and discussion pg 27).



**Photograph 2** South-west elevation of threshing barn, showing open lower register. Photograph taken facing north-east.

### *Interior*

The barn consists of five bays which have been labelled 1-5, from north to south (Fig 2). Although the barn is aligned slightly off from the cardinal compass points, for ease of description the interior elevations of bays are referred to as “east/west elevations” etc below.

Almost the entire roof of the barn, above the tie-beams, has been rebuilt and is constructed of modern machine-cut timber, nailed together (Photograph 3). The only exception to this is the eastern roof pitch above Bay 3, which seems to still consist of original hand-sawn timber rafters and battens, as well as a length of an original purlin with a scarf joint (Photograph 4).



**Photograph 3** Interior of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north.



Each pair of rafters meets at a ridge-board at the apex of the roof and are supported by a clasped purlin on each roof pitch, as well as collars at bay and mid-bay intervals (Photograph 5). The tie-beams separating the barn's bays are original and hand-sawn, with some being quite sinuous. They are supported at both ends by knee braces (Photograph 5). The only exception to this is the tie-beam between bays 4 and 5, which is a modern machine-cut timber held in place with metal straps, with no



**Photograph 4** Eastern roof pitch above bay 3 in threshing barn, showing hand-sawn original rafters, purlin and battens. Photograph taken facing south-east.



**Photograph 5** Detail of truss between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.

supporting braces (Photograph 6).

The remaining timber-frame of the barn consists of hand-sawn timber, pegged together and supported with primary-bracing (although there are several later modern machine-cut additions bolted onto the original frame). Each bay has a girding-beam separating the lower and upper register, pegged into the principal posts (Photograph 5). As with the tie-beams, several of the primary-braces and structural timbers are relatively

sinuous. Unlike the other building detailed in this report, very little of the hand-sawn timber used in the barn has evidence of re-use.



**Photograph 6** Inserted modern machine-cut tie-beam between bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The floor of the barn is modern concrete, although the central bay (Bay 3) would have at one time had a threshing floor, possibly made of brick. The brick plinth of the barn is either buried or rendered over with concrete within much of the interior, with only small patches visible (Photograph 7).



**Photograph 7** North end of barn, showing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.

The east elevation of bay 1 (the west elevation of the six-bay building) is covered in weatherboarding and has two patches of lath and plaster render (Photograph 8). The girding-beams of the barn do not continue onto this elevation, and the principal-post supporting the tie-beam between bays 1 and 2 does not reach ground-level and is bolted to the wall-plate of the adjacent building (Photograph 8). The sill beam on this elevation of bay 1 is lower than elsewhere in the barn, again matching the adjacent



building. This elevation makes it clear that the threshing barn is built off of the frame of, and is therefore more recent than, of the six-bay structure (Fig 2).



**Photograph 8** East elevation of bay 1, showing weatherboarding, patches of lath and plaster and partial principal-post bolted to the frame of the adjacent building. Photograph taken facing east.

Behind each end of the tie-beam between bays 1 and 2, on the west and east wall-plates, is a face-halved and bladed scarf joint.

The western elevation of bay 2 has suffered significant water damage to its timber-frame, with both the wall-plate and the girding-beam have completely rotted through (Photograph 9). This damage has probably occurred relatively recently, as the roof of the barn is damaged on this side of the bay, with several missing asbestos panels.



**Photograph 9** West elevation of bay 2, showing extensive water damage to wall-plate and girding-beam. Photograph taken facing north-west.

On the eastern wall-plate, behind the tie-beam between bays 2 and 3, is another face-halved and bladed scarf joint (Photograph 10). The eastern knee brace supporting this tie-beam has a chiselled "II" carpenter's mark on its southern face (Photograph 10).



**Photograph 10** Detail of scarf joint behind east knee brace supporting tie-beam between bays 2 and 3. "II" carpenter's mark visible on knee brace. Photograph taken facing east.

The eastern elevation of bay 3 contains the large barn doors. With modern machine-cut studs and a lintel above, it is clear that the original doors into the barn would have been full-height and risen to the wall-plate (Photograph 11). The wall-plate above is devoid of mortices except for one at the very north and one at the very south ends of the bay, suggesting that while the original barn doors may have been taller, they were also slightly narrower.



**Photograph 11** East elevation of bay 3, showing barn doors. Machine-cut studs visible above. Photograph taken facing south-east.

On the eastern wall-plate, just to the south of the tie-beam between bays 3 and 4 (Fig 2), is a face-halved and bladed scarf joint. Unlike the other scarf joints in the barn,



however, it has two chiselled "III" carpenter's marks on its outer face, one on each side of the joint (Photograph 12). The eastern knee-brace supporting the tie-beam between bays 3 and 4 also has a "III" on its southern face.



**Photograph 12** Detail of scarf joint on eastern wall-plate of bay 4, with "III" carpenter's marks on both pieces of timber. Photograph taken facing south-east.

Bay 4 and bay 5 to the south of the barn are peculiar in that they are only divided by a principal-post on the eastern elevation. The western elevation has no dividing principal-post and contains a single girding-beam bridging both bays (Photograph 13). There is also no evidence for an original tie-beam between these two bays; at some point a modern machine-cut tie-beam has been added (Photograph 6).



**Photograph 13** West elevation of bays 4 and 5. Note lack of principal-post and single girding-beam bridging both bays. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Probably partially as a result of this lack of supporting principal-post, the girding-beam on the west elevation of bays 4 and 5 has buckled inwards, causing the wall to partially collapse (Photograph 14).



**Photograph 14** Partially collapsed west elevation of bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing west.

Beneath the eastern principal-post on the sill-beam, between bays 4 and 5, is an edge-halved scarf joint with square abutments and with no apparent bridling, blades or pegs (Photograph 15).



**Photograph 15** Detail of brick plinth and sill-beam on east elevation of bays 4 and 5. Rudimentary scarf joint visible in centre of sill-beam. Photograph taken facing south.



The southern elevation of bay 5, as mentioned on the exterior description above, has no lower register (Photograph 16). The girding-beam on this elevation has no evidence of mortices on its underside, suggesting (if the girding-beam is original) that there has always been an opening in this location.



**Photograph 16** South end of barn, showing bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The midstrey of the barn has no observable scarf joints or carpenter's marks, although it should be noted that at the time of recording there was a significant amount of loose timber piled against the interior walls of the midstrey, partially obscuring the timber-frame (Photograph 17).



**Photograph 17** Midstrey of barn, showing inserted pitching door on upper register. Photograph taken facing north-west.

The pitching door on the west elevation of the midstrey appears to be a later insertion; directly above it the wall-plate has several empty mortices for studs (Photograph 18). The brick plinth is concreted over on the northern elevation of the midstrey but there are several courses of modern brick-nogging interspersed within the timber-frame on the north and south elevations (Photograph 19).



**Photograph 18** Detail of underside of wall-plate above pitching door in midstrey, showing mortices. Photograph taken facing north-west.



**Photograph 19** North elevation of midstrey, showing inserted modern brick-nogging. Photograph taken facing north.



### **Six-bay building**

#### **Exterior**

The six-bay structure is a long rectangular building to the east of the threshing barn, aligned north-west/south-east. It measures 24m x 5.5m in size and covers around 131 square metres. The building is a six-bay timber-framed structure with a gabled roof covered in traditional weatherboarding and roofed in pantiles (Photograph 20).



**Photograph 20** South-west elevation of the six-bay building. Inserted modern plastic-framed window visible, alongside damaged stable door. Photograph taken facing north.

The timber-frame of the building is supported on a red-brick plinth laid in an irregular bond and bonded with lime mortar, with brick dimensions of 230 x 110 x 80mm. This plinth is largely below ground and is not observable around most sections of the building (Photograph 20).

The north-east elevation of the building (Fig 3) has a vertical-planked door at its eastern end, with strap hinges and an iron latch (Photograph 21).



**Photograph 21** North-east elevation of six-bay building, showing vertical-planked door. Photograph taken facing west.



The south-east elevation of the building is featureless (Fig 4).

The south-west elevation contains a vertical-planked barn door and a damaged vertical-planked stable door in the locations of the removed midstreys (see interior description below and historical background above). Both of these doors have strap hinges (Photograph 22). Also on this elevation is an inserted two-light plastic-framed horizontal casement window (Photograph 20).



**Photograph 22** Barn door on south-west elevation of six-bay building. Photograph taken facing north-east.

At the west end of the south-west elevation a section of weatherboarding has been removed, exposing the timber-frame behind and an area of brick-nogging (Photograph 23). These exposed bricks are frogged and measure 230 x 105 x 65mm in size.



**Photograph 23** Detail of damaged stable door on south-west elevation of six-bay building. Exposed timber-frame and brick-nogging visible to left. Photograph taken facing north-east.



The north-west elevation has been described with the interior of the threshing barn, as the east elevation of Bay 1 (see above, pg 10).

Interior

The building consists of six bays which for ease of description have been labelled 1-6, from west to east (Fig 2). The interior of the building has a modern subdivision between bays 2 and 3, separating the structure into two rooms (Fig 2).

Like in the threshing barn, almost the entire roof of the six-bay structure, above the tie-beams, has been rebuilt. It is constructed of modern nailed together machine-cut timber, with a ridgeboard and a clasped purlin on each roof pitch (Photograph 24). The collars in the roof are sporadic in their locations and seem to bear no relation to the bay divisions or tie-beams.



**Photograph 24** Tie-beam between bays 1 and 2, with removed southern brace. Photograph taken facing north-west.



**Photograph 25** Centre of structure, showing tie-beam between bays 3 and 4 and behind that, inserted dividing wall. Photograph taken facing north-west.



The tie-beams defining the building's bays are original and hand-sawn, and one in particular is quite sinuous (Photograph 25). Each tie-beam is supported at both ends by straight or arched braces (Photograph 25). There is a single inserted modern "tie-beam" in the middle of bay 3, with straight braces nailed onto its eastern side. As well as the original braces, many of the tie-beams to the east of the building have modern timber braces nailed to them (Photograph 26).



**Photograph 26** Detail of tie-beam between bays 5 and 6, showing the later addition of modern timber braces. Photograph taken facing south-east.

The original timber-frame of the barn consists entirely of hand-sawn timber, pegged together and supported with primary-bracing. Unlike the threshing barn to the west, a high number of the primary structural timbers within this building have evidence of reuse in the form of empty mortices (Photographs 27 and 35). The western room in the building (bays 1 and 2) was until recently in use as a stable, and the interior walls are covered in wooden panelling, masking much of the timber-frame (Photograph 27). Within this western room the floor consists of rammed chalk, but in the eastern room (bays 3 to 6) the floor is made of asphalt, which is quite degraded in areas.



**Photograph 27** Northern elevation of bay 2, showing internal timber panelling and reused intermediate posts. Photograph taken facing north-east.

The brick plinth and sill-beam of the structure is either buried or rendered over with concrete within much of the interior, only in bay 6 is it visible for any prolonged length.

Bay 1, the westernmost bay, has been converted into a single horse stall and so has a low timber wall with an entrance dividing it from bay 2 (Photograph 24). While the timber-frame of the building is largely obscured in these two bays (1 and 2), the corner posts and principal-posts are all at least partially visible, and most have evidence of reuse (Photograph 27). A scarf-joint is visible on the sill-beam on bay 1's west elevation, but its exact type is uncertain.

Of particular note is that the two reused principal-posts supporting the tie-beam between bays 1 and 2 are both jowled (Photograph 28). The southern brace supporting the tie-beam between bays 1 and 2 has been removed to allow a door into the inserted stall to be added (Photograph 28). On the east face of the jowled principal posts (and the one surviving northern brace) are chiselled "I" carpenter's marks (Photograph 29).



**Photograph 28** Detail of jowled principal-post on south elevation between bays 1 and 2, with removed brace. Photograph taken facing south.

The northern elevation of bay 2 has two intermediate posts, similar in size to the principal and corner-posts, but, obviously, not at a bay interval (Photograph 27). Like most other large structural timbers within the building, these posts have evidence of reuse in the form of empty mortices.

The southern wall-plate of bay 2 contains two scarf joints, at the very west and east ends of the bay. They are both quite rudimentary; edge-halved joints with square abutments and secured by two edge pegs (Photograph 30). On the northern wall-plate of this bay is a more sophisticated example, which appears to be a face-halved and bladed scarf joint with two face pegs.





**Photograph 29** Detail of "I" carpenter's mark on northern brace and principal-post between bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.



**Photograph 30** Detail of rudimentary scarf joints on southern wall-plate of bay 2, with short length of reused timber between them. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The tie-beam between bays 2 and 3 has a timber-framed wall inserted beneath it, supported on a red brick plinth laid in English-bond with brick dimensions of 230 x 105 x 60mm (Photograph 31). This wall is weatherboarded on its western side, but its hand-sawn timbers are visible in bay 3, to the east, alongside several patches of lath and plaster (Photographs 32). Like the principal-posts between bays 1 and 2, the reused principal-posts between bays 2 and 3 are jowled (Photograph 32).

As mentioned previously, bay 3 contains an inserted modern beam in the middle of the bay bridging between the north and south wall-plates. The northern wall-plate in bay 3 has a face-halved and bladed scarf joint with two face pegs (Photograph 34).



**Photograph 31** Dividing wall between bays 2 and 3, with red brick plinth and weatherboarding. Photograph taken facing east.



**Photograph 32** Other side of wall separating bays 2 and 3, showing patches of lath and plaster and timber-frame (including jowled principal-posts). Photograph taken facing north-west.

The southern principal-post and its corresponding brace between bays 3 and 4 both have a chiselled “III” carpenter’s mark, although they are partially obscured by modern timber bracing (Photograph 33). The northern post and brace probably have similar marks, but if so they are fully obscured. This is the centre tie-beam of the building, and likely the location of a division within the structure during the period in which it had two midstreys (see historical background pg 5). However, if it did have a division in this location, no evidence remains of it today.

The northern wall-plate in bay 4 has a face-halved and bladed scarf joint with two face pegs.





**Photograph 33** Detail of southern brace between bays 3 and 4, showing "III" carpenter's mark. Photograph taken facing south-west.



**Photograph 34** Detail of scarf joint on northern wall-plate of bay 3. Photograph taken facing north.

Bay 5 has another face-halved and bladed scarf joint on its northern wall-plate. The southern wall-plate has two more scarf joints at the west and east ends of the bay, both simple edge-halved joints with square abutments (Photograph 35). The timber between these two closely spaced scarf joints has clear evidence of reuse, as do the timbers on either side of the barn door on this elevation (Photograph 35). The vertical-planked door in the northern elevation of bay 5 appears to be in an original opening, although it is difficult to be certain.

Bay 6 is largely taken up by a modern chicken coop (Fig 2). The brick plinth of the building is visible throughout this bay, and, as observed elsewhere, it is irregularly bonded. The southern elevation of this bay is entirely made up of modern machine-cut studs, much smaller in size than the hand-sawn timber making up the rest of the building's frame (Photograph 36). The south-east corner-post of the building has empty



diamond mullion mortices on its west face, suggesting that at some point the timber was positioned vertically and housed an unglazed opening (Photograph 37).



**Photograph 35** Southern elevation of bay 5, showing barn door and rudimentary scarf joints on the wall-plate, with a reused timber between. Also note the reused timber used as framing for the doorway. Photograph taken facing south-west.



**Photograph 36** Southern elevation of bay 5, with modern machine-cut timbers as studs. Photograph taken facing south.



**Photograph 37** South-east corner post of building in bay 6, showing diamond mullion mortices. Photograph taken facing south.

## 7 Discussion

Often on historical farmsteads, barns are the oldest surviving structures. This is due to their important role in the processing of grain (meaning they must be well-built and maintained) and also to their size: the demolishing of a barn, even if it has since passed its usefulness, is no simple task.

At Hyde Farm, however, the cartographic, documentary and structural evidence all suggest that the large five-bay threshing barn is a late addition to the farm complex. It is clearly built off of the frame of the earlier six-bay structure (pg 11) and judging from its absence in the 1866 sales catalogue and its subsequent presence on the 1876 OS map, was constructed sometime in that ten year period (pg 4).

A reasonable assumption would be that whoever purchased Hyde Farm from Joseph Cornell in 1866 invested significant money into it. The mid 19th century is known as the "High Farming" years in British agriculture, a time of increased output and prosperity brought about by affordable imported artificial fertilisers, manure and feeds such as oilcake. These, combined with an Act of Parliament in 1849 that provided loans for the construction of new farm buildings, led to a boom in agriculture in Britain. Although constructed slightly later than the peak of these "High Farming" years, it seems likely that this agricultural boom period impacted the decision of the new owner to construct a threshing barn and resulted in the busy farm complex visible on the 1876 OS map (Map 3).

The barn appears to have been constructed abutting two already standing structures; the six-bay building still on the site and a since demolished building to the south (see Maps 3-4). This accounts for the unusual arrangement of the southern bays of the barn, with only one principal-post, and the angled south elevation (pg 13). The modern tie-beam between bays 4 and 5 of the barn is undoubtedly an addition, rather than a replacement; there is no evidence of an original tie-beam in this location. The subsequent demolition of the building to the south of the barn in the 20th century (see historical background) has probably contributed to the structural issues in the southern bays of the barn.

The barn would have originally been constructed for the processing and storage of a grain crop. A grain crop, whether wheat, oats, barley or rye, is called corn and requires processing to be of use. The grains need to be separated from the stalks and chaff needs to be removed from the grains. This process, called threshing, was traditionally carried out by hand-flail. Unusually the midstrey of the barn does not have a set of barn doors to mirror the ones in the centre of the south-east elevation (pg 7). Usually two large sets of barn doors are positioned opposite each other in the centre of the barn, which, when open, would have allowed a cross draught to winnow the chaff from the grain on the threshing floor (Bay 3). A threshold leap at the base of these doors would have prevented farm animals walking into the barn during this process. Subsequent to the threshing, the grain would be taken out of the barn to be stored in the granary (to the west; Fig 1) while the by-product of the threshing, the straw, would be piled high on either side of the threshing floor in bays 1, 2, 4 and 5. It would be stored in the barn until such time as it was needed for fodder or bedding.

That the midstrey only contains a single door on the lower register (pg 7), rather than a full size set of barn doors, seems likely to have impacted the cross draught through the barn. No evidence was observed that indicated that the midstrey has been rebuilt, or originally had a set of barn doors, but this cannot be entirely ruled out.

The observed carpenter's marks within the barn seem original to the structure and, including gaps, appear sequential (Fig 2). It is likely the trusses and joints with no observed carpenter's marks do in fact have them, but they are obscured either by modern timber additions or are on the exterior of the frame, beneath the weatherboarding.

In several ways the threshing barn is anachronistic. As noted in the description, its timber-frame (aside from the roof) consists of hand-sawn timbers and contains very little, if any, reused timber. That a threshing barn was constructed, with a contemporary hand-sawn timber-frame, between 1866 and 1876 is somewhat of an historical anomaly.

In the mid 19th century, because of developments made during of the Industrial Revolution, the threshing process was becoming increasingly mechanised (Brunskill 1994, 158) and required less time, space and manpower. By the late 19th century, threshing barns were no longer the integral part of the agricultural landscape that they had once been. It could seem somewhat incongruous, then, that a traditional threshing barn would be constructed at Hyde Farm as mechanisation was beginning to take hold.

However, this is not to say that new threshing barns were never built in this period. The county of Essex in the mid 19th century was still predominantly rural. It was a place where labour continued to be cheap and there was less incentive to replace manpower with machine (Wade Martins 2002, 129). Although falling in numbers, traditional threshing barns were constructed well into the 19th century in East Anglia: mid to late 19th-century examples are found in Alphamstone (CAT Report 767), Wakes Colne (CAT Report 1131) and Wickham St Paul (CAT Report 1136) in Essex, and one was even constructed as late as 1894 in Mendlesham, Suffolk (Harvey 1980, 135).

The real anomaly when discussing the threshing barn is that it is entirely constructed of contemporary hand-sawn timber, several decades after the end of the Industrial Revolution and the widespread adoption of machine cutting techniques. The late examples of threshing barns in Essex mentioned above all contain a mix of machine-cut and hand-sawn timbers in their original frames, but most often these hand-sawn timbers are the result of reuse of building materials from earlier structures, rather than new timbers. Some of the barns mentioned above do contain a small amount of contemporary hand-sawn timber (most notably at Wickham St Paul; CAT Report 1136) but for the entire threshing barn to be constructed of such timber, as it is at Hyde Farm, is unusual.

This raises the possibility that the barn is earlier than interpreted, and that the building on its approximate footprint on the 1840 tithe map (Map 2) is in fact the building still standing (and that the midstrey is a later addition; there is no midstrey on the 1840 map). If this were the case then the hand-sawn timber would be far less of an anachronism.

However, this interpretation itself brings fresh problems. No evidence was found for midstrey being a later addition, it appears entirely contemporary with the rest of the barn's frame. In addition, that the sales catalogue of 1866 should completely fail to mention the large five-bay threshing barn on the site seems unlikely; and there is no evidence that the barn was at any point subdivided and formed part of the number of smaller buildings mentioned in the catalogue (pg 4).

On balance it is considered more likely that the barn was in fact constructed between 1866 and 1876, and that the hand-sawn timber-frame is a late example of its type.

The impetus for constructing a new barn in the latter half of the 19th century out of hand-sawn timber is probably one of cost. Assuming the farm already had access to enough trees (several woods are shown as belonging to Hyde Farm on the 1840 tithe map, and the 1866 sales catalogue makes mention of woodland to be sold with the farm) and manpower, constructing a barn using traditional methods would probably be a cheaper alternative than purchasing large quantities of machine-cut timber. Even with this postulated vernacular origin, the quality of the timber-frame suggests that a trained carpenter must have been involved in the barn's construction, rather than merely farm labourers.

The six-bay structure's timber-frame, in sharp contrast to the threshing barn's, contains a preponderance of reused hand-sawn timbers. So many, in fact, that it seems likely the structure was raised largely or entirely from the remains of an earlier, medieval, building. There survive some elements in the frame that assist in the dating of this earlier structure. The reused jowled principal-posts to the west of the building are a distinctive feature of earlier timber-framing; they are far less common after 1600. Similarly, the empty diamond mullion mortices on the reused south-east corner-post would have originally housed an unglazed opening; something that was common in the medieval period but increasingly less so after 1500 (Historic England 2017, 8). These two pieces of evidence serve to broadly date the age of the building preceding the six-bay structure, from which much of its timber originates, as 15th century or earlier. Additionally, given it apparently contained unglazed openings, this earlier building is likely to have been a house, rather than a farm building.

There are also some architectural indicators as to the date of the current building's construction. The primary bracing present in the six-bay structure's frame suggests that it is unlikely to have been constructed earlier than the end of the 16th century (Stenning and Shackle 2013, 130). The scarf joints on the wall-plates (where not related to the removed midstreys: see below) are all face-halved and bladed, a type that, again, only began to be used in the late 16th century (Hewett 1980, 269).

Given these date ranges, there seems to be no architectural reason as to why the building currently standing cannot be the same as the north-west/south-east aligned structure visible on the 1777 Chapman and André map (Map 1). Even if this is not the case, it seems likely that it is present on the tithe map of 1840 (Map 2). Unfortunately, with no surviving original fixtures or fittings, it is very difficult to suggest the building's purpose or use in the 18th century (or any earlier).

As mentioned in the historical background, however, it does appear that in the mid to late 19th century this building was in use as two barns, with two midstreys projecting from the southern elevation (Map 3). These probably correspond with two of the small barns mentioned in the sales catalogue of 1866. It can probably be assumed that the building was divided at this point, but as mentioned in the description above (pg 23) there is no direct evidence of this. Presumably with the addition of midstreys there would have been threshing undertaken within the building during this period.

The subsequent removal of the midstreys from the building, as shown on the 1896 OS map (Map 4), is evident upon observation of the southern wall-plates of the building (in bays 2 and 5; pgs 22 and 25). The rudimentary scarf-joints at either end of these bays, with a short timber between them, are a clear indicator that the wall-plates in these locations have been altered by the midstrey's removal. That these rudimentary joints are not fully behind the principal-posts and project slightly into their respective bays (pgs 22 and 25), also suggests that the midstreys were themselves later additions to the structure: if they were integral to the building they would have been constructed so as to project off of the principal-posts on either side of the bay (as the midstrey does on the threshing barn).

As with the threshing barn, the carpenter's marks on the trusses of the six-bay structure are sequential (Fig 2); the trusses without visible carpenter's marks probably have modern braces masking them.

These two buildings at Hyde Farm have different histories, and represent two very different stages of the farm's development. The earlier of the two, the six-bay structure, harkens back to the medieval period with its heavy reuse of earlier timber, and is one of a handful of buildings present on the farm in the early 19th and possibly late 18th centuries. In contrast, the threshing barn first appears as part of a thriving farm complex, booming from the advances of the Industrial Revolution and the economic growth of the mid-19th century. As many other farm buildings have been demolished around them, these two structures have survived as a testament to the agricultural heritage of both Hyde Farm specifically and Essex generally.



## 8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Andrew Stevenson Associates for commissioning and A. J. Tinney for funding the historic building recording. The recording was carried out by Mark Baister and Ziya Eksen. Figures are by Mark Baister. The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor for Essex County Council. The text was reviewed and edited by Philip Crummy, director of CAT.

## 9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an historic building recording at Hyde Farm Barn, Gosfield Road, Blackmore End, Essex, CM7 4DR</i> by E. Holloway
CAT Report 767	2014	<i>Historic building recording at King's Farm Barn, Bishops Lane, Alphamstone, Essex</i> by C. Lister
CAT Report 1131	2017	<i>Historic building recording at Sturgeon's Farm, Middle Green, Wakes Colne, Colchester, CO6 2BN</i> by M. Baister
CAT Report 1136	2017	<i>Historic building recording at Nagg's Farm, Old Road, Wickham St Paul, Braintree</i> by M. Baister
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIfA	2014b (updated 2019)	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National planning policy framework</i>
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Wade Martins, S	20002	<i>The English Model Farm, Building the Agricultural Ideal 1700-1914</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

batten	a thin, rectangular piece of timber. Often nailed to the outer face of rafters in roof construction, to support the roofing material (tiles, slate, etc). Also used to reinforce and support planked doors
carpenter's marks	symbols scratched, incised or chiselled into timbers to assist in assembly
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
collar	a horizontal timber in a roof spanning between a pair of inclined timbers (such as rafters)
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
ERO	Essex Records Office
English-bond	a brickwork bond created from alternate courses of headers and stretchers
girding beam	a timber beam placed horizontally in a wall frame at a level between the sill and the tie-beam or wall-plate
HE	Historic Environment
header	a brick laid at right-angles to the face of the wall, i.e widthways
lath and plaster	a technique used to finish interior surfaces of buildings, it consists of narrow strips of wood (laths) which are nailed horizontally to wall studs or ceiling joists and then coated in plaster
model farm	A type of farm complex popularised during the Victorian period, designed to implement researched and demonstrated improvements in agricultural techniques, efficiency, and building layout.
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post	in wall frames vertical members which rise the full height of the frame, being either principal posts at the bay divisions or intermediate posts within the bay
purlin	a longitudinal timber giving support to the common rafters of a roof and normally set at right-angles to the slope of the rafters
sill-beam	the beam at the foot of a timber-framed wall from which rise all the studs (and usually the posts)
stud	in wall frames the upright smaller section timbers between the main posts of the frame
rafter	an inclined timber following the slope of the roof
ridge-board	a plank-like timber running below the apex of the roof and receiving the ends of the rafters
stretcher	a brick laid parallel to the face of the wall, i.e. lengthways
tie-beam	beam tying together the post-heads of a timber-framed wall or the upper surfaces of a solid wall
truss	a frame consisting of several pieces of timber, jointed and triangulated in order to retain its shape under load
vernacular	a style of architecture used in the construction of domestic and functional buildings for ordinary people, as opposed to public or monumental buildings
wall-plate	a timber running horizontally along the top of a wall to receive the ends of common rafters

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum under EHER code WFHF19.

## 12 Contents of archive

### Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1448)

Original site record (plans, elevations and notes)

Site digital photos and log, attendance register, risk assessment

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date: 15/07/2019



**Appendix 1:**  
**Full digital photographic record**  
**(images on accompanying CD)**

WFHF19_Photo graph_001.JPG	South-east elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_002.JPG	Detail of barn door on south-west elevation of six-bay building. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_003.JPG	Detail of damaged stable door on south-west elevation of six-bay building. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_004.JPG	Detail of plastic-framed horizontal casement on south-west elevation of six-bay building. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_005.JPG	South-west elevation of six-bay building. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_006.JPG	South-west elevation of six-bay building. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_007.JPG	South-west elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_008.JPG	North-east elevation of six-bay building, showing vertical-planked door. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_009.JPG	South-east elevation of six-bay building. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_010.JPG	South-west elevation of threshing barn's midstrey. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_011.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing dividing truss between bay 1 and 2, including inserted low wall and door. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_012.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing machine-cut and reused hand-sawn roof rafters above bay 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_013.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing inserted dividing wall and brick plinth between bay 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_014.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing interior panelling in bay 1 and reused intermediate timber. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_015.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing north-western gable end in bay 1, backing onto the threshing barn. Lath and plaster visible. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_016.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing north-western gable end in bay 1, and detail of lath and plaster. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_017.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing north-western gable end in bay 1, and detail of lath and plaster. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_018.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing northern brace and principal-post dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_019.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing pegs attaching northern brace to tie-beam dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_020.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing southern jowled principal-post (with missing brace) dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_021.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing reused intermediate post on north-west gable end of bay 1. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_022.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of southern tie-beam in bay 2, including rudimentary scarf joints and reused timber between them. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_023.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of modern bolt and lock on door dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_024.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing reused intermediate post on north elevation of bay 2, and scarf joint above. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_025.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing reused intermediate posts on north elevation of bay 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_026.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing northern brace and principal-post dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_027.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing northern brace and principal-post dividing bays 1 and 2, with "I" carpenter's marks. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_028.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing northern principal-post (with missing brace) dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing west.

WFHF19_Photograph_029.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of scarf joint in northern wall-plate of bay 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_030.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing inserted stable door in south elevation of bay 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_031.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing north elevation of bay 1, including concreted over plinth and slightly exposed timber-frame and brick-nogging. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_032.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing south elevation of bay 1, including repaired plinth and modern plastic horizontal casement window. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_033.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of north-west reused corner-post in bay 1, partially obscured by internal timber panelling. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photograph_034.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing northern principal-post (with missing brace) dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photograph_035.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of "I" carpenter's marks on northern brace and principal-post dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_036.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of "I" carpenter's mark on southern principal-post dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photograph_037.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing machine-cut and reused hand-sawn roof rafters above bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_038.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of rudimentary scarf joint in southern wall plate of bay 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_039.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of rudimentary scarf joint in southern wall plate of bay 2. Photograph taken facing south.
WFHF19_Photograph_040.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing centre of building and truss dividing bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_041.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing south-east gable end and bay 6, including modern chicken coop.. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_042.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing truss dividing bays 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_043.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of dividing wall between bays 2 and 3, including lath and plaster and timbers. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_044.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing jowled southern principal-post dividing bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photograph_045.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of lath and plaster on dividing wall between bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_046.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of lath and plaster on dividing wall between bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photograph_047.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of lath and plaster on dividing wall between bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photograph_048.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing north elevation of bay 3, with modern inserted beam above centre of bay. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_049.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing north elevation of bay 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_050.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing northern principal-post and brace supporting tie-beam between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photograph_051.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing southern principal-post and brace supporting tie-beam between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south.
WFHF19_Photograph_052.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing southern principal-post and brace supporting tie-beam between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south.
WFHF19_Photograph_053.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, truss between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_054.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of scarf joint on northern wall-plate in bay 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_055.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of scarf joint on northern wall-plate in bay 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.

WFHF19_Photo graph_056.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of northern wall-plate in bay 3, with additional modern timber added. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_057.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of northern wall-plate in bay 4. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_058.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of scarf joint on northern wall-plate in bay 4. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_059.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing north elevation in bay 5, with original? doorway. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_060.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail roof above bay 4, with a mix of modern and reused timber. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_061.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing truss dividing bays 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_062.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of northern brace from the truss dividing bays 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_063.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of scarf joint on northern wall plate of bay 5. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_064.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing south elevation of bay 5, including barn doors and rudimentary scarf joints on wall-plate, bridged with reused timber. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_065.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of wall-plate on south elevation of bay 5, including rudimentary scarf joints. Photograph taken facing south.
WFHF19_Photo graph_066.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing reused timber used as framing for the barn door on the south elevation of bay 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_067.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing reused timber used as framing for the door on the north elevation of bay 5. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_068.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of "V" carpenter's mark on northern brace supporting the tie-beam dividing bay 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_069.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of "V" carpenter's mark on southern brace supporting the tie-beam dividing bay 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_070.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing reused southern principal-post supporting the tie-beam dividing bay 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_071.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of southern brace supporting the tie-beam dividing bay 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_072.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing northern elevation of bay 6. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_073.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing southern elevation of bay 6. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_074.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of rudimentary scarf joint on southern wall-plate of bay 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_075.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing central bays and asphalt floor. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_076.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of south-east corner-post in bay 6, with multiple mortices and diamond mullion mortices. Photograph taken facing south.
WFHF19_Photo graph_077.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of south-east corner-post in bay 6, with multiple mortices and diamond mullion mortices. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_078.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing southern brace supporting tie-beam between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_079.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of "III" carpenter's mark on southern brace supporting tie-beam between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_080.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing detail of "III" carpenter's mark on southern brace supporting tie-beam between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_081.JPG	Interior of six-bay building, showing jowled principal-post supporting tie-beam between bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_082.JPG	Interior of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_083.JPG	Interior of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing south-west.

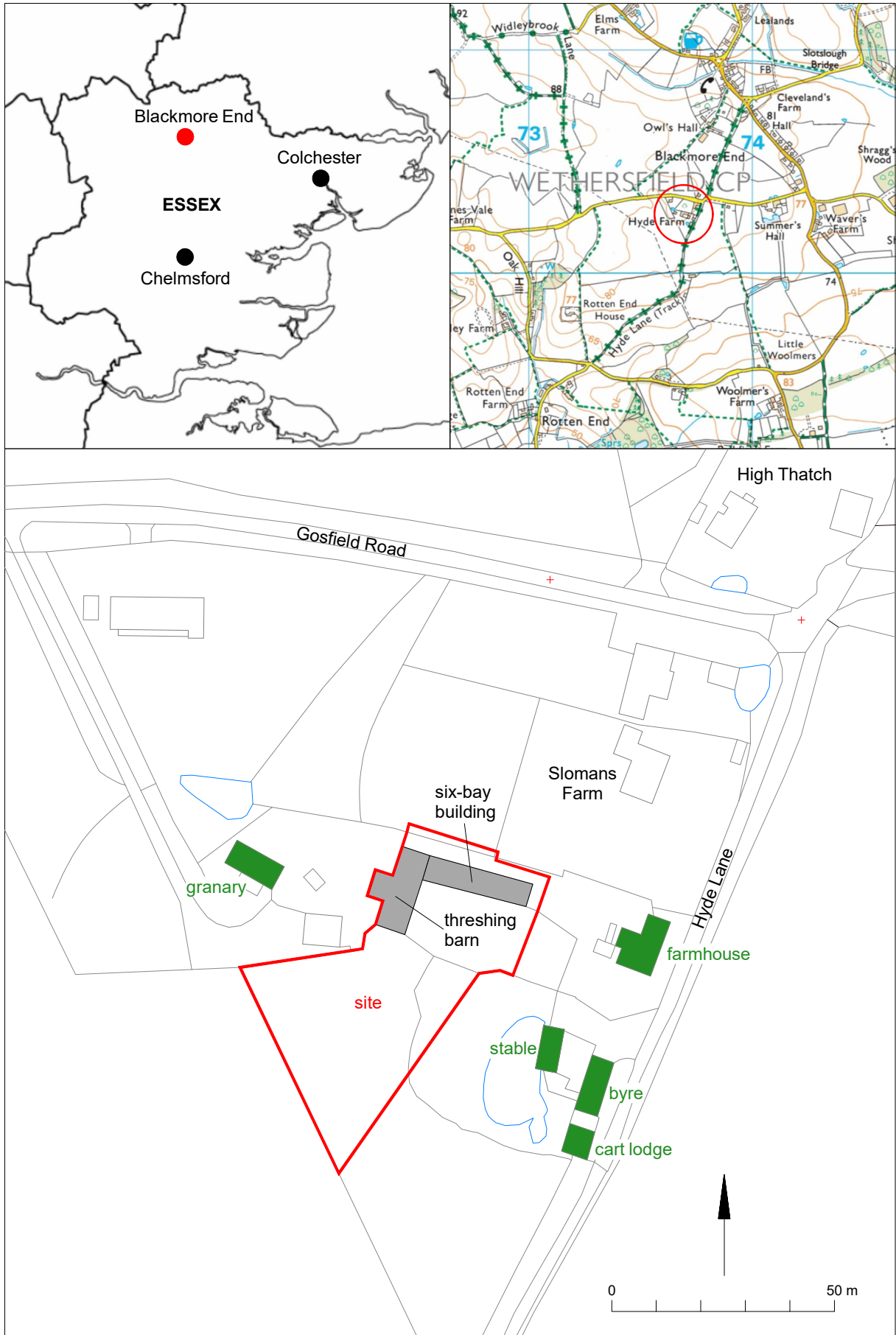


WFHF19_Photo graph_084.JPG	Interior of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing south.
WFHF19_Photo graph_085.JPG	Interior of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_086.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing north-east gable end. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_087.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing south-west gable end with missing lower register. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_088.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing midstrey. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_089.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing east elevation of bay 5. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_090.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing east elevation of bay 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_091.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing east elevation of bay 3, with barn doors. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_092.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing eastern roof pitch above bay 3, with original rafters, battens and purlin. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_093.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing east elevation of bay 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_094.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing eastern roof pitch above bay 2, with modern rafters, battens and purlin. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_095.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing east elevation of bay 1 (north-west elevation of six-bay structure), with weatherboarding and lath and plaster. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_096.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing east elevation of bay 1 (north-west elevation of six-bay structure), with weatherboarding and exposed, lower, sill-beam. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_097.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing north-east gable, with half-hip. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_098.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing north elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_099.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing west elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_100.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing western roof pitch above bay 1, with modern rafters, battens and purlin. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_101.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing west elevation of bay 2, with water damaged wall-plate and girding-beam. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_102.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing western roof pitch above bay 2, with modern rafters, battens and purlin, and missing roof panels. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_103.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing north elevation of midstrey. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photo graph_104.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing upper register of north elevation of midstrey. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_105.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing lower register of north elevation of midstrey, with modern brick-nogging. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_106.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing west elevation of midstrey, with inserted threshing door and original doorway. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_107.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing west gable of midstrey, with half-hip. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photo graph_108.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing south elevation of midstrey. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_109.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing lower register of south elevation of midstrey, with modern brick-nogging. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_110.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing upper register of south elevation of midstrey. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_111.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing southern roof pitch above the midstrey, with modern timbers. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photo graph_112.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing partially collapsed west elevation of bays 4 and 5, with buckled girding-beam. Photograph taken facing north-west.

WFHF19_Photograph_113.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing western roof pitch above bays 4 and 5, with modern timbers. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_114.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing south-west gable end in bay 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_115.JPG	Detail of scarf joint on eastern wall-plate of bay 4, with carpenter's marks "III" on either side. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_116.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing east knee brace supporting tie-beam dividing bays 2 and 3. Carpenter's mark "II" visible. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_117.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing tie-beam dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_118.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing tie-beam dividing bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_119.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing tie-beam dividing bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_120.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing inserted modern tie-beam dividing bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_121.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of scarf joint on wall plate behind eastern knee brace supporting tie-beam dividing bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing south.
WFHF19_Photograph_122.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of scarf joint on wall plate behind eastern knee brace supporting tie-beam dividing bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photograph_123.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of damaged wall-plate and modern timber on eastern elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_124.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of damaged wall-plate and possible scarf joint behind eastern knee brace supporting tie-beam between bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_125.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of lath and plaster on east elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_126.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of lath and plaster on east elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photograph_127.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of west knee brace between bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photograph_128.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of water damaged wall-plate on west elevation of bay 2. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_129.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of scarf joint on sill-beam on east elevation of bay 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_130.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of principal-post on east elevation dividing bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_131.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of principal-post on east elevation dividing bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_132.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing partial collapse of west elevation of bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing west.
WFHF19_Photograph_133.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of principal-post on east elevation dividing bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photograph_134.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing lower register of north elevation of midstrey, with modern brick-nogging. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_135.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing lower register of south elevation of midstrey, with modern brick-nogging. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_136.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing gable end of midstrey. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_137.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing loose timber in midstrey. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_138.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing loose timber in bay 4. Photograph taken facing north.
WFHF19_Photograph_139.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing brick plinth beneath east elevation of bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_140.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing change in level of sill-beams between six-bay building and threshing barn. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_141.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing building projecting off of frame of six-bay structure. Photograph taken facing south-east.

WFHF19_Photograph_142.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing building projecting off of frame of six-bay structure. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_143.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of truss between bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing north-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_144.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of underside of wall-plate on west elevation in midstrey above pitching door, showing mortices. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_145.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of damaged western principal-post between bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photograph_146.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of damaged western principal-post between bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_147.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing scarf-joint on sill-beam on east elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_148.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing detail of scarf-joint on sill-beam on east elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_149.JPG	Interior of threshing barn showing hole in timber on sill-beam on east elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.
WFHF19_Photograph_150.JPG	Interior of six-bay structure showing details of truss between bays 5 and 6. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photograph_151.JPG	Interior of six-bay structure showing north-west elevation of bay 1, with timber panelling and intermediate post. Photograph taken facing north-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_152.JPG	Interior of six-bay structure showing repaired plinth on south elevation of bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-west.
WFHF19_Photograph_153.JPG	Interior of six-bay structure showing roof and dividing wall between bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing east.
WFHF19_Photograph_154.JPG	Interior of six-bay structure showing truss and low dividing wall between bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.





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Fig 1 Site location. Surviving listed buildings in farm complex shown in green.

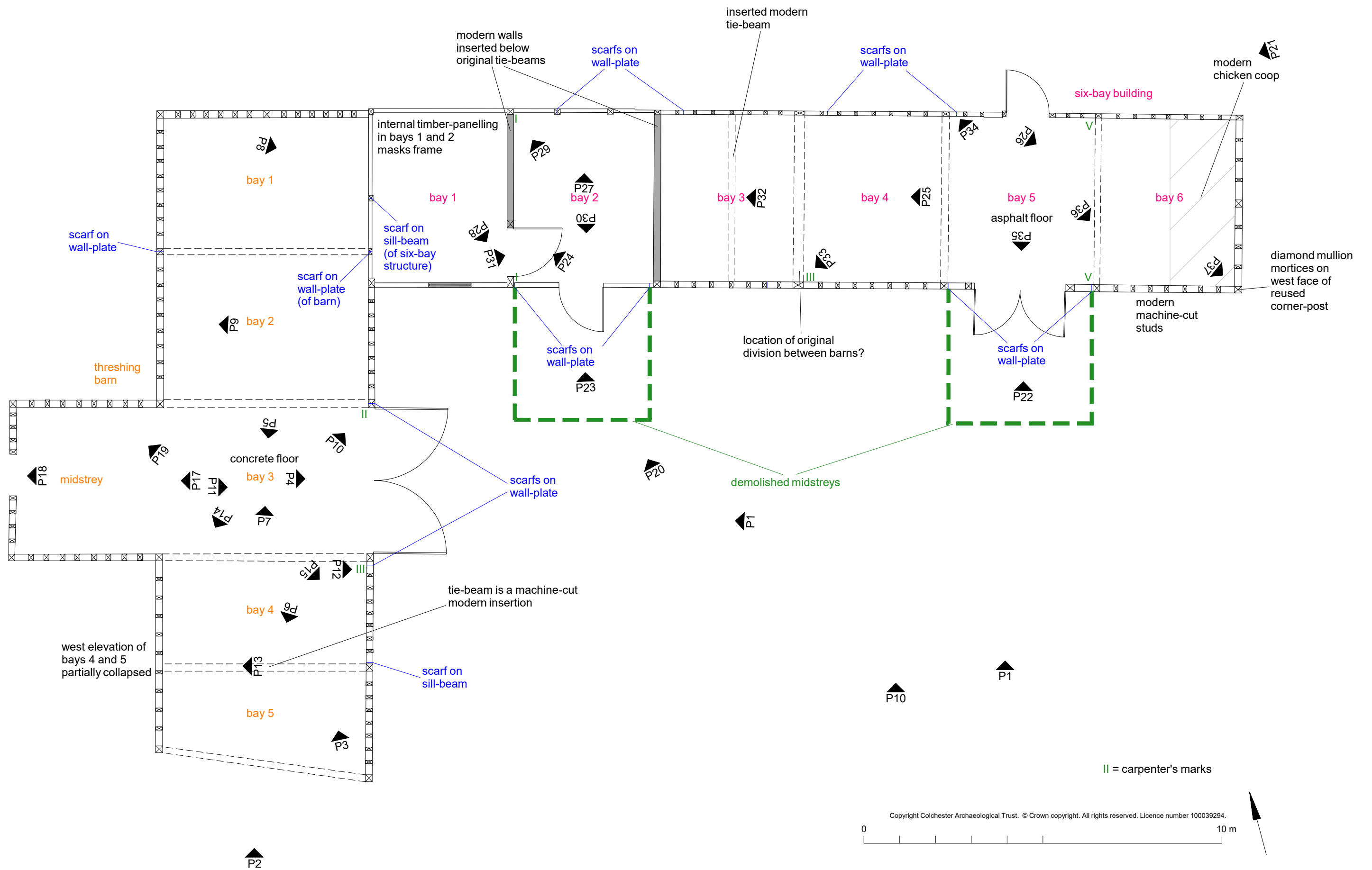


Fig 2 Plan of buildings. Location and direction of photographs reproduced in text shown.

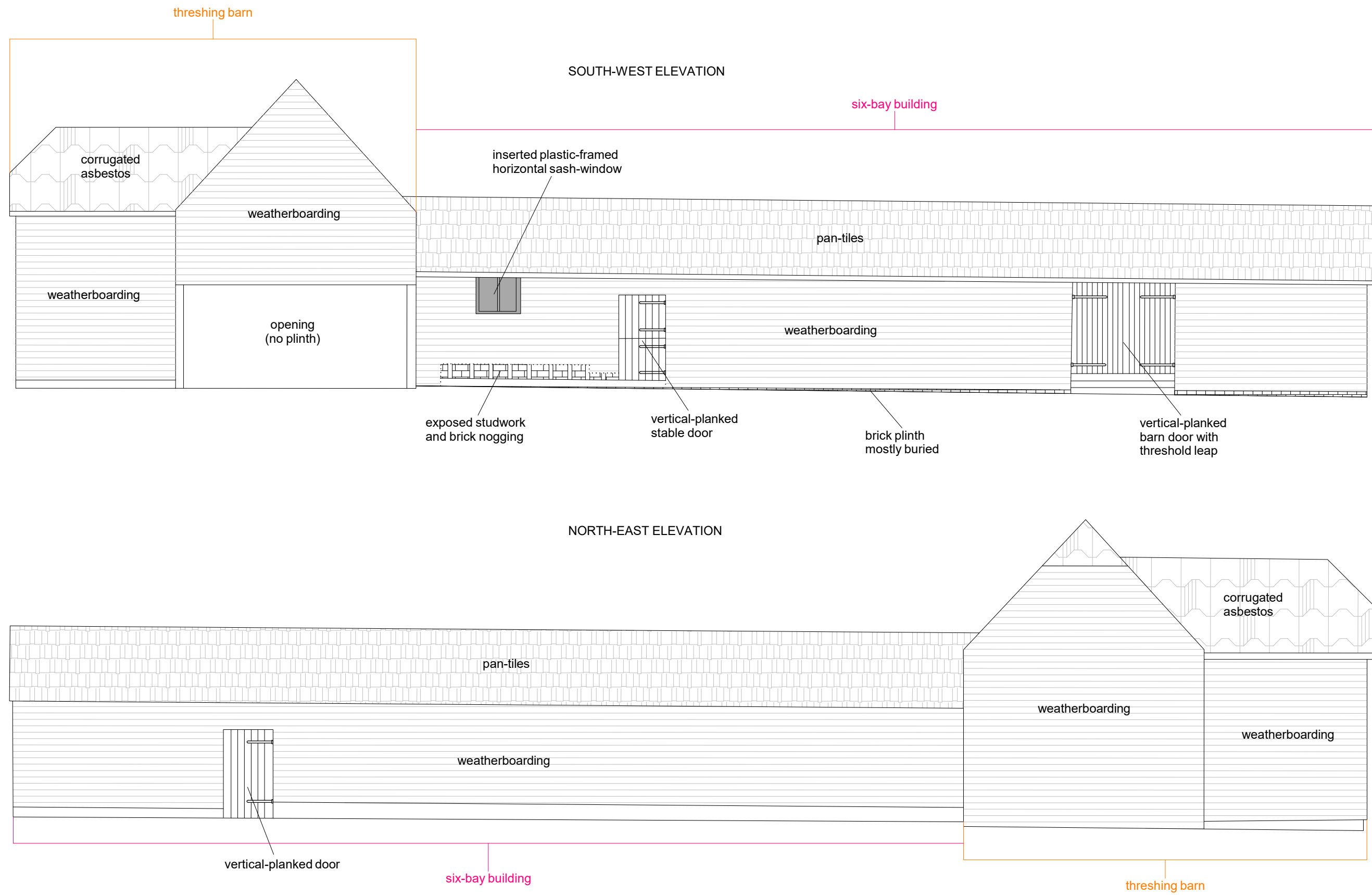
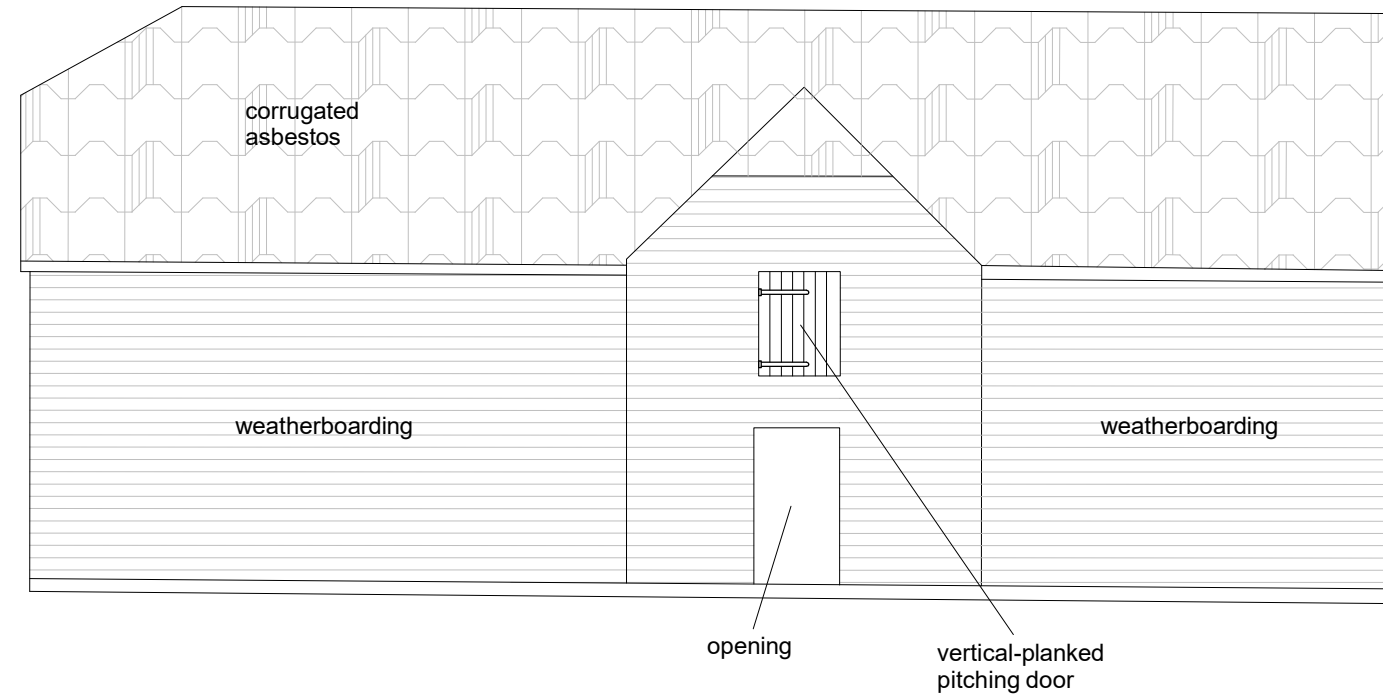


Fig 3 North and south elevations of the buildings.



NORTH-WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION

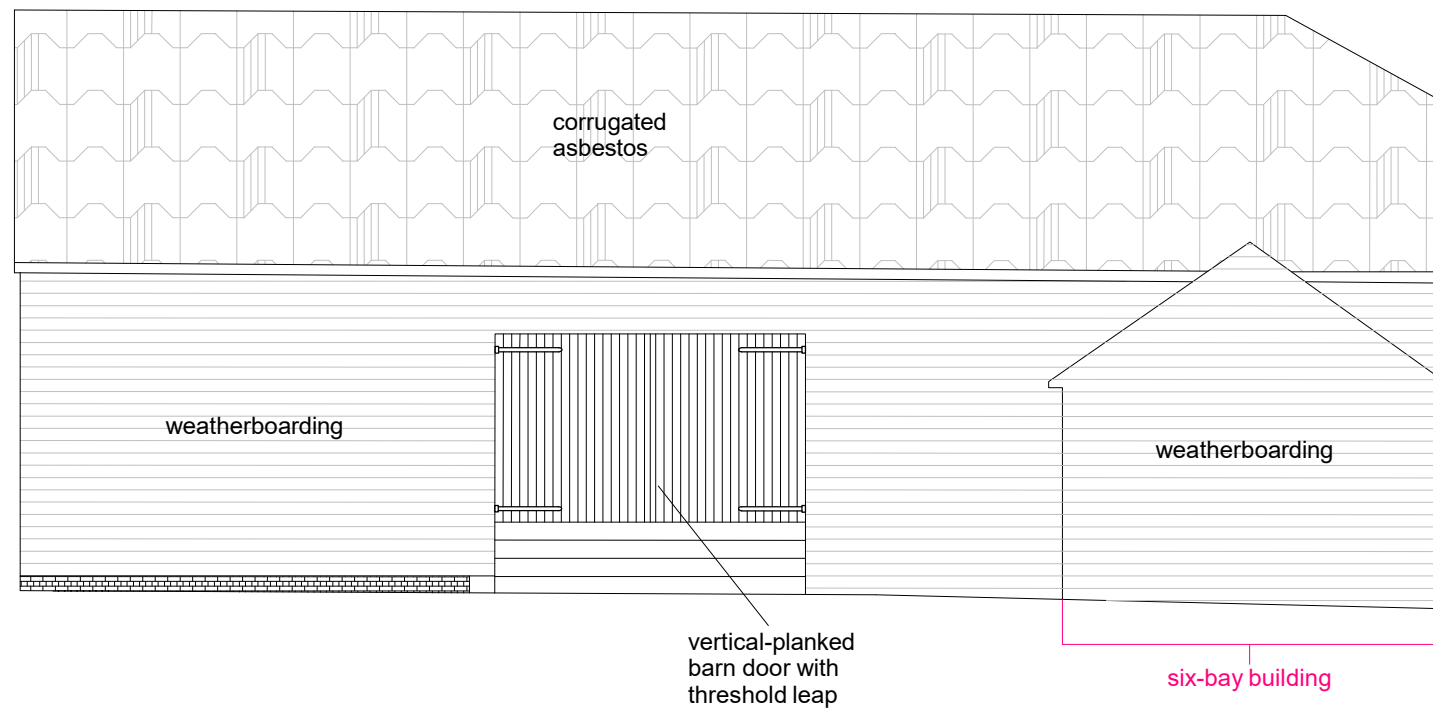


Fig 4 East and west elevations of the buildings.

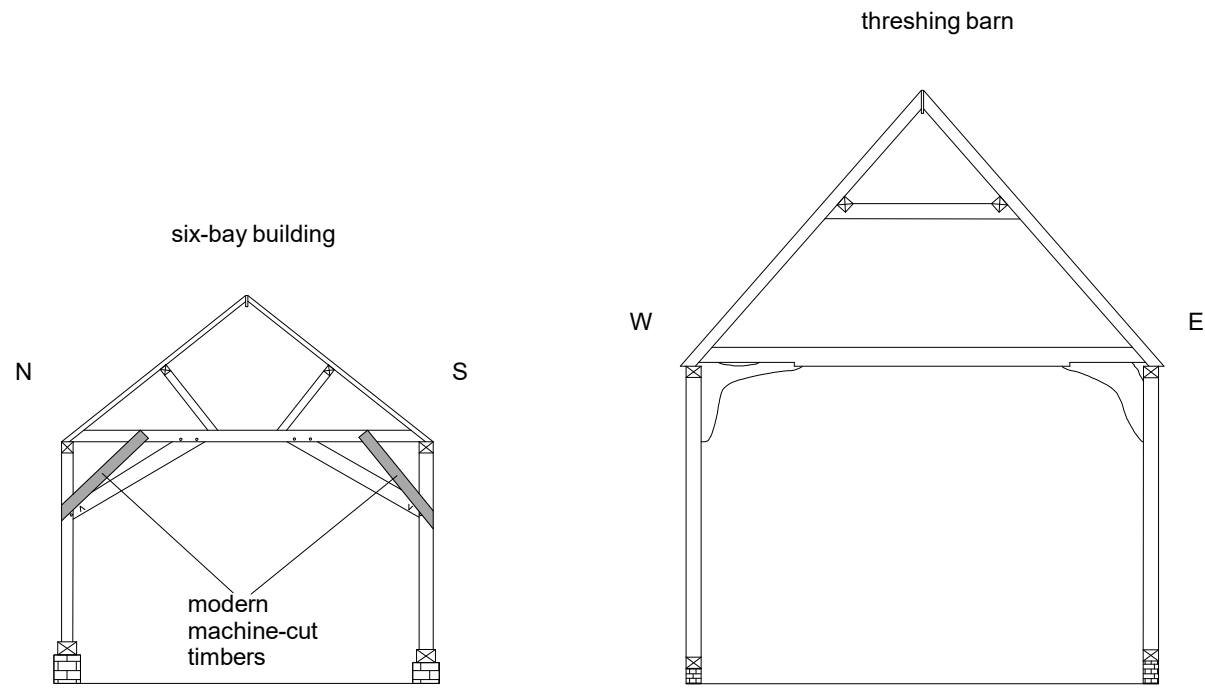


Fig 5 Trusses of the buildings.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-350961**

### Project details

Project name	Historic building recording at Hyde Farm Barn, Gosfield Road, Blackmore End, Essex, CM7 4DR.
Short description of the project	A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Hyde Farm Barn, Gosfield Road, Blackmore End, Essex in May 2019. The earlier of the two buildings detailed in this report is a six-bay timber-framed structure which may predate 1777 and contains a high proportion of reused hand-sawn timber (originating from an earlier medieval house). This building had two midstreys added, then subsequently removed, from its southern elevation in the late 19th century. The later of the two recorded buildings is a five-bay threshing barn raised between 1866 and 1876 and constructed with hand-sawn timber in a vernacular style.
Project dates	Start: 28-05-2019 End: 15-07-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WFHF19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	THRESHING BARN Modern
Monument type	BARN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POST Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey","Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE WETHERSFIELD Hyde Farm Barn, Gosfield Road, Blackmore End, Essex
Postcode	CM7 4DR
Study area	280 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 73702 30262 51.943218814117 0.527481911052 51 56 35 N 000 31 38 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	A. J. Tinney

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	WFHF19
Digital Contents	"Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	WFHF19
Paper Contents	"Survey","other"



Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Historic building recording at Hyde Farm Barn, Gosfield Road, Blackmore End, Essex, CM7 4DR

Author(s)/Editor(s) Baister, M.

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Entered on 15 July 2019

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