

Archaeological Recording of Buildings

For historic building applications, archaeological surveys are often required by the local planning authority (LPA) in order to:

- i) inform decisions about proposed repairs and alterations through a documented understanding of the historic character and appearance, sufficient to take the implications fully into account
- ii) record historic fabric (often previously hidden) during repairs and alterations, to add to the understanding of the building and to inform the works in progress
- iii) make a formal record of the whole building for archive purposes, prior to permitting demolition or major alterations to the existing historic fabric.

The level of archaeological survey will also vary according to the complexity and significance of the building, as well as the extent of proposed works and/or alteration. English Heritage (in the guise of the former Royal Commission on Historic Monuments England) have produced guidelines for undertaking building surveys, identifying four levels varying in intensity:

Level 1 - the lowest level which is a visual record using annotated photographs to depict a buildings external and internal appearance.

Level 2 - a descriptive, fuller record than Level 1, with the addition of measured floor plans and a written account of the building's plan, form, function, age and development sequence .

Level 3 - a fully analytical record which will include detailed photographs of decorative and structural elements, a detailed written description and account of the building's origins, development, use and the evidence on which this has been based. Readily available historic documentation will be examined and measured drawings will be made of relevant sections, elevations and key architectural features.

Level 4 - the highest level of investigation and record which comprises a detailed study involving: measured plans, elevations and sections, detailed photographs, a full written description and informed analysis as well as detailed historical research.

The full description of these levels can be found in 'Recording Historic Buildings - a descriptive specification' by RCHM England. Second Edition published in 1991.

For listed building applications involving a significant amount of alteration it is usually necessary to undertake at least a Level 2 survey, to ensure provision of sufficient information to explain and justify the proposed works. It is often the case that a mixture of recording elements is needed, being tailored to the character of the listed building and the nature of the proposed works. Sometimes health and safety considerations or the obscuring of historic features and fabric by modern render mean that a staged approach to recording has to be adopted. A requirement for additional recording work may be identified during the course of the survey, such as the need to undertake a 'watching brief' during the stripping out of key areas within the building. There is also the possibility of below ground archaeological remains being present, for instance the footings of previous buildings or features relating to industrial processing, and these may be of key interest in understanding the origins and development of a listed building. In such cases archaeological recording of buried remains will be required.

Advice on the requirements of a building survey can be sought from the Local Authority Conservation Officer or the County Archaeologist and it is always advisable to seek their views before submitting an application; often a site inspection will prove very useful at this stage.

As with below ground archaeology, the recording of listed buildings is funded by the applicant and undertaken by appropriately qualified archaeologists or architectural historians. For certain building types, such as those with a distinctive industrial process or building material, it may be necessary to

employ a specialist recorder. SWAT Archaeology can provide a project brief for the recording exercise as well as contact details of organisations qualified to undertake the work.

Planning Policy Guidance No: 15 (DoE/DNH 1994) 'Planning and the Historic Environment' provides best practice advice on recording listed buildings.

There are many non-listed buildings and structures of local historical or archaeological interest and these may form part of a Conservation Area, or be identified on the HER or a local planning authority's local list. An archaeological survey is often required for such buildings that are threatened by substantial alteration or demolition.

Non Development Control Schemes

There are many types of scheme that fall outside the planning process for which SWAT Archaeology provide advice, such as: projects undertaken by statutory undertakers (eg. pipelines, major road schemes), works to historic churches and graveyards, Heritage Lottery proposals, the management and presentation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, restoration of historic landscapes and heritage features (such historic parks and gardens, canals), Forestry Commission tree planting proposals, community woodland projects, Countryside Stewardship Schemes, Flood Defence works, and the identification, consolidation and presentation of archaeological sites and historic landscapes for amenity and educational purposes.

See below

Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Woodlands Farm, Calcott, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent

NGR TR 178 631

Site Code: CAL/WB/11

Planning Application: CA/07/01630/STU



Report for Michael Rigden

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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Archaeological Watching Brief at Woodlands Farm, Calcott, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent

NGR TR 178 631
Site Code: CAL/WB/ 11

SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on the rebuilding and conversion of a 16th century barn at Woodlands Farm. A planning application (CA/07/01630/STU) for the conversion of a barn at Woodlands Farm for domestic use whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the construction work on any archaeological remains, and any additional architectural data that may be gleaned from the exposed framework of the barn. Brick foundations dating from the mid 19th century were exposed which indicated foundation repair to the 16th century timber frame.

No evidence was found for either a porch or end aisles.

The work was carried out in accordance with consultations with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council (CCC).

The archaeological investigation consisted of monitoring of the excavation of trenches for additional foundations and recording by photography the repair, rebuild and conversion of the barn.

The Archaeological Watching Brief has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives set by Canterbury City Council as a Condition

INTRODUCTION

Swale and Thanet Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Mr Michael Rigden to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with consultation with the Archaeological Heritage Officer CCC. The watching brief was carried out between the 13th June and 20th November 2011

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located at Woodlands Farm which lies about 3km to the north of Sturry, and to the east of the A291. Access to the site is down an unmade road. The barn is located on a farm site (Fig. 1) comprising a cluster of farm buildings and it seems only the main house and the barn situated some 40m south of the main house are the only historic buildings on the site. The rest are modern structures and buildings. The site centre is NGR: TR 178 631.

PLANNING

The site has planning permission for the conversion to domestic use of the barn from Canterbury City Council. The planning reference is CA/07/01630/STU. Prior to this the Canterbury City Council planning department had requested an archaeological appraisal of the structure in order that any planning decisions could be made from an informed position with respect to the historic fabric of the barn. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust was commissioned to undertake this appraisal by Project Management & Design Services Ltd. An inspection by Canterbury Archaeological Trust was undertaken on 21st February 2005 of the building and a report was issued. Canterbury City Council on giving planning permission requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to monitor the ground works associated with the conversion of the barn.

The following Condition was attached to the planning permission.

Condition 15: 'No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer or their successors in title has made arrangements for the implementation of further historic building recording and the maintenance of an archaeological watching and recording brief, to be carried out during construction, and has given notice in writing to the local planning authority of an intention to commence the permitted operations not less than 14 days before those operations are commenced. REASON: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.'

Subsequently the following planning requests were highlighted by the Archaeological Officer:

Further observations during conversion work to determine whether the barn had end-aisles

Observations during the cutting of service trenches

More detailed interior photography once the silos have been removed

Recording of a longitudinal section

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is in an area of some archaeological potential relating to known discoveries close-by.

An Early-Mid Saxon occupation site was excavated at Popes Lane, Sturry (TR 16 SE 91).

A Roman cemetery was investigated at Staines Hill (TR 16 SE 8).

Woodlands Farm Barn (now called the Threshing Barn) itself was subject to a comprehensive report by Richard Austin of Canterbury Archaeological Trust in November 2007.

Further information on the potential of this area can be provided in the County Historic Environment Record held in the Heritage Conservation, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX (telephone 01622 221536)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Canterbury City Council Archaeologist has advised that the watching brief should be targeted at three aspects:

1. The stripping of ground deposits (topsoil and subsoil) to create a new foundation base for the structure. These excavations should be carried out with a flat bladed bucket under the direction of the supervising archaeologist and in a manner that would allow any archaeology present to be properly exposed, identified and investigated before subsequent disturbance by construction.
2. The archaeologist should then record and investigate any archaeology visible before stripping to full construction depth is completed.
3. A comprehensive photograph record of the building to confirm or otherwise the existence of end aisles and once the barn is cleared internally a longitudinal section to be drawn.

METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works.

Trenching for new foundations was carried out on 14th June 2011, with initially the excavation of one trench on the south-east side of the barn. The trench measured 0.65m in width and about 17m in length. Trench

location was to an agreed plan carried out by the building contractors. Subsequently additional trenches were excavated by the contractor. All were watched by SWAT Archaeology.

The trench was scanned for finds during and after excavation. Excavation was carried out using an 8 ton mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The trench was subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal any exposed features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through any features revealed would have been excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

Archaeology was revealed in the newly excavated foundation trenches of the foundations of the barn which could have indicated that at some stage a porch may have existed to the main entrance to the barn. However, on investigation the exposed foundations were seen to be constructed of frogged red clay bricks dating from the c.mid 19th century and not part of the original build which has been dated to the 16th century (Fig 3). It seems at some stage underpinning of the wooden structure had taken place after it had been built which has destroyed any evidence of a porch foundation (Plate 5).

Rupert Austin in his report on the barn (Austin R. 2005) notes that the aisle walls had been rebuilt in the 20th century and the discovery of the aisle red brick foundations confirm this scenario.

There were no foundations beyond the footprint of the building on either end, or indeed any post-holes which may suggest that end-aisles were a feature of this building.

MONITORING

Visits by the Archaeological Officer (CCC) were carried out.

RESULTS

The first activity on site was stripping of the interior followed by strip of the structure (Plate 3). Work started on this phase of development whilst SWAT Archaeology was present on site. Subsequently new foundation trenches were cut under the timber frame, again SWAT Archaeology was present for this phase of work.

The Archaeological Watching Brief continued for the rest of the groundwork's but the only archaeology revealed were later brick foundations underpinning part of the timber structure. Geology revealed was constant across the site and comprised topsoil- a grey brown sandy clay loam of about 35cm thick overlaying a darker grey brown sandy stiff clay. A metal detector survey was carried out but the ferrous and non-ferrous material recovered was modern and mostly fastenings discarded by the contractors.

FINDS

No finds were retrieved

CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Condition. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil (01) overlaying subsoil (02) sealing Clay (03).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Michael Rigdin for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Canterbury City Archaeological Advisor, for his advice and assistance.

SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive consists of three permatrace drawings, four context sheets and 78 colour photographs. All will be archived at Swat Archaeology.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MiFA

APPENDIX 1 – Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Woodland Farm, Calcott, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4NB</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>CAL/W/11</i>	
Site Address: <i>As above</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on a barn at Woodlands Farm. A planning application CA07/01630/STU for the conversion to domestic use of a barn at the above site was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby Canterbury City Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out with discussions with the Archaeological Advisor, Canterbury City Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Watching Brief consisted of watching trenches which encountered mid 19th century brick foundations underpinning part of the 16th century timber structure. No evidence for a porch or end aisles were revealed.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Canterbury</i>	Parish: <i>Sturry</i>
Period(s): Tentative:	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR TR 178 631</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Watching Brief</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>November 2011</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Stiff Clay</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Watching Brief at Woodlands Farm, Calcott, Sturry, Kent</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>27th Dec 2011</i>

PLATES



Plate 1. Original barn prior to work commencing (facing south-west)



Plate 2. Original barn (facing north)



Plate 3. Barn stripped prior to new build (facing north)



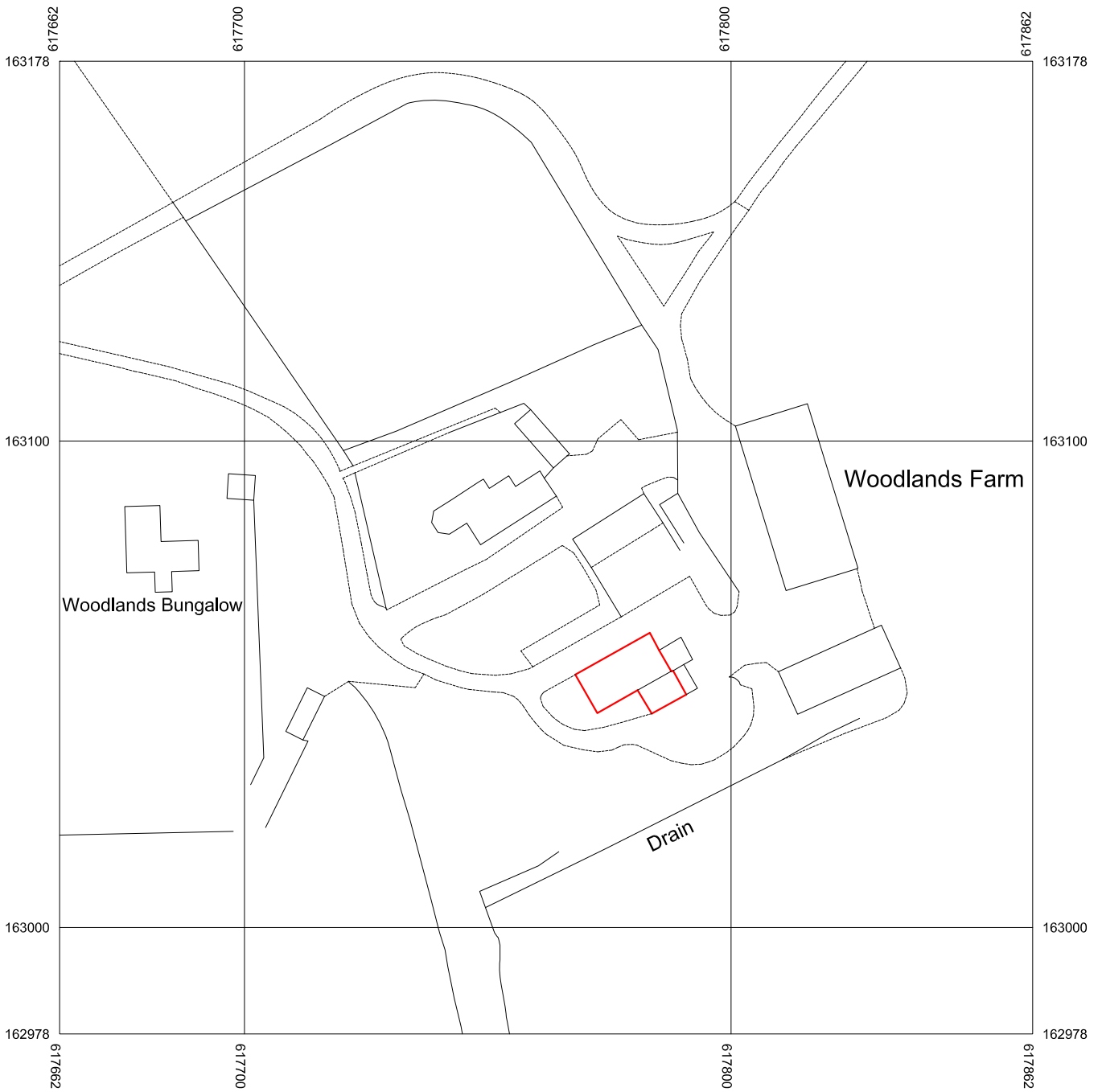
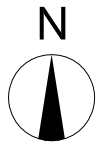
Plate 4. Close up of jowled post and tie beam (facing south-east)



Plate 5. Mid 19th century brick foundations on the south-east side of the barn



Plate 6. Rebuild of the barn



1:1250@A4



Figure 1: Location of site

SW

NE

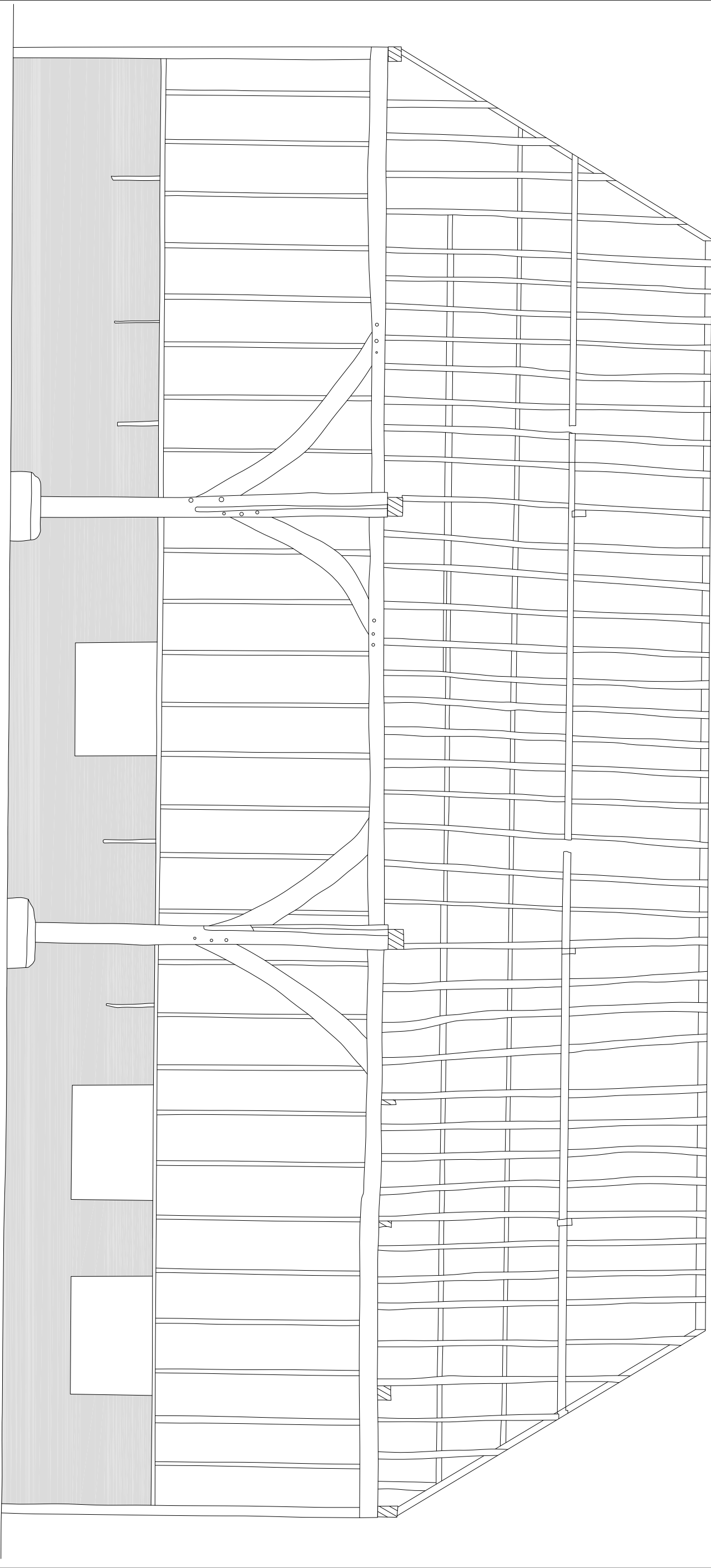
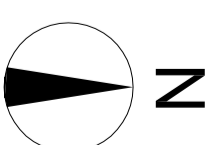


Figure 2: Calcott Barn

1:50@A3

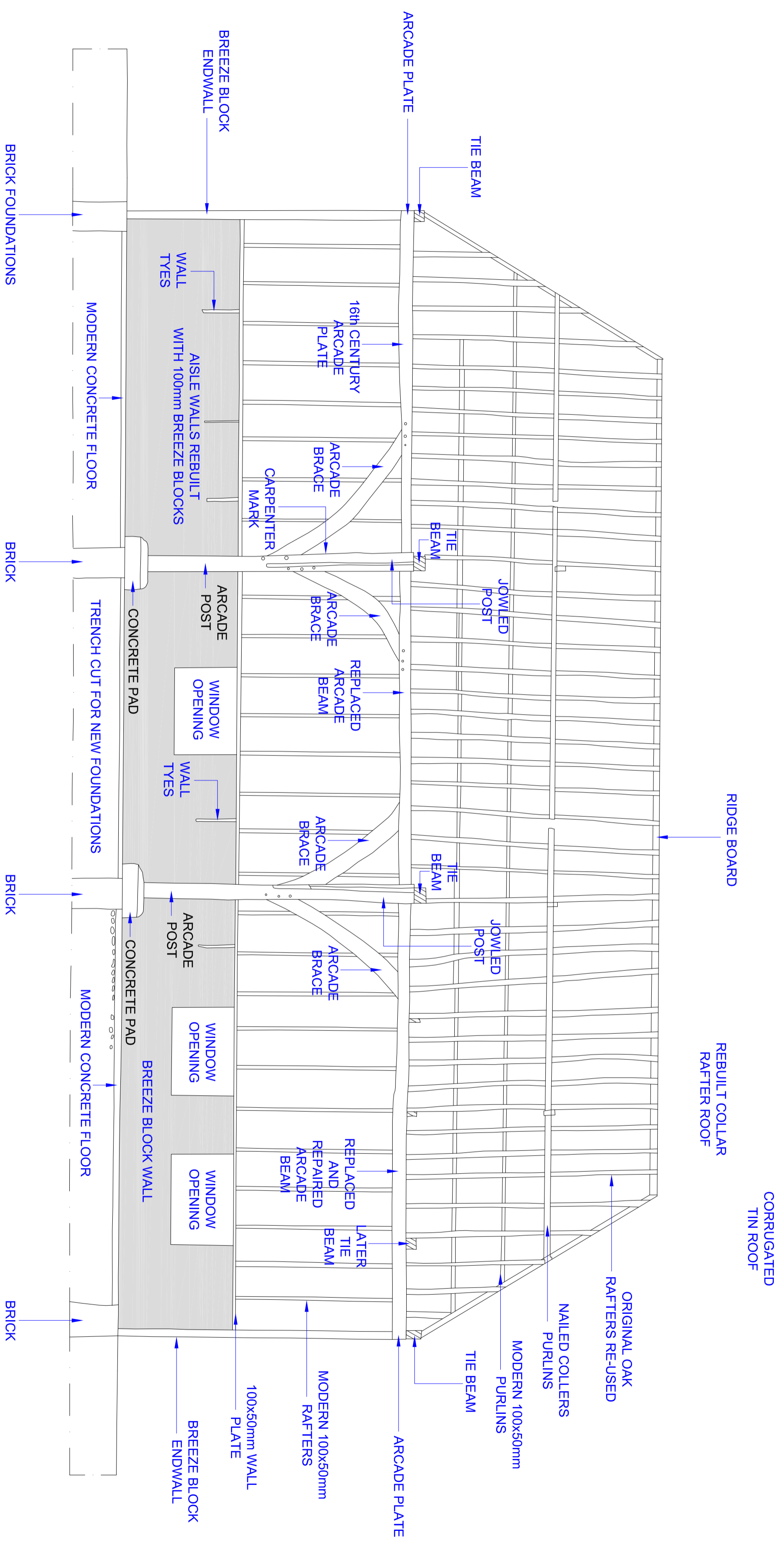
0m

5m



SW

NE



0m

1:50@A2

7.5m

Figure 3: Calcott Barn with annotations