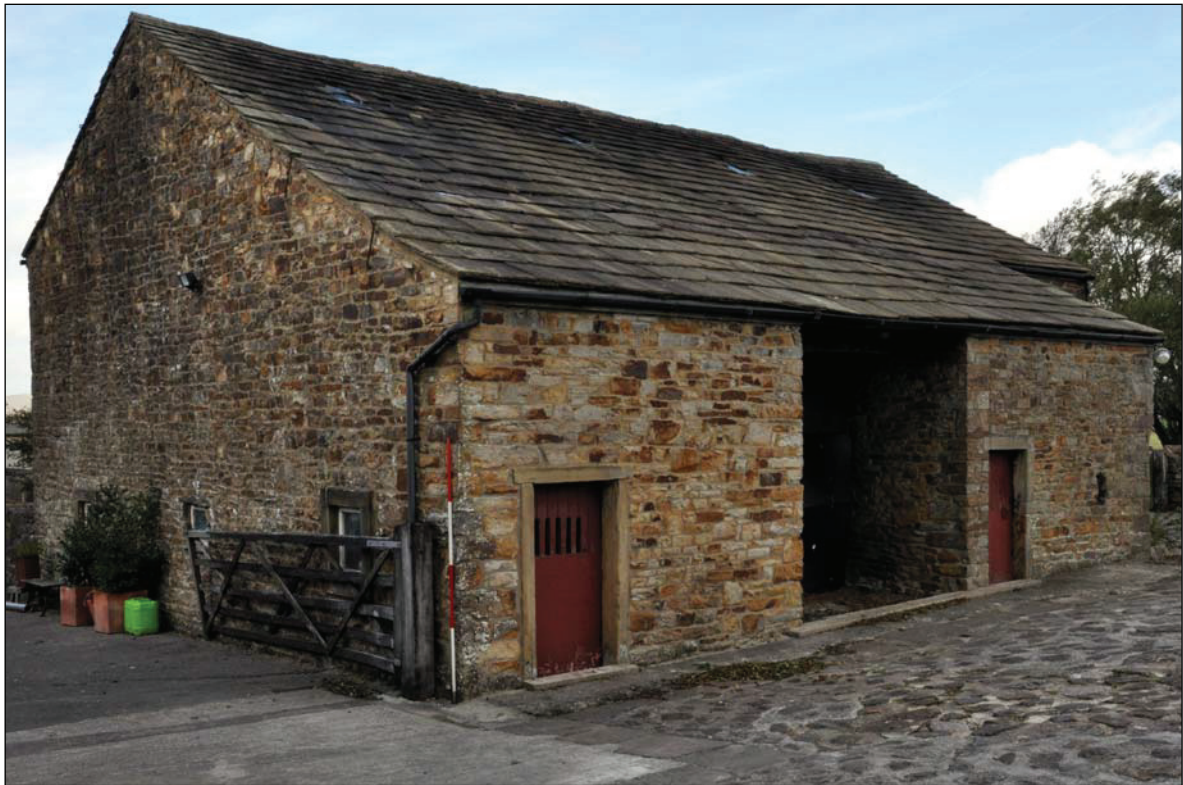


Barn at Lower Stony Bank
Easington, Lancashire:
Historic Building Record



October 2018

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*This report is formatted to allow printing on both sides of the paper
and may contain blank pages*

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Selected photographs

SUMMARY

The barn at Lower Stony Bank (NGR: SD 74791 54155) is a four-bay combination barn, which probably dates from the early 19th or late 18th century and in general terms is typical of the laithes of the wider Craven area. It is largely of a single construction phase, but has a small historic addition to the front elevation, and its interior has been altered. Recording was carried out for Mr P Hindle to inform a planning application for residential conversion.

October 2018

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS REPORT

Many of the photographs taken during the recording are reproduced at the end of this report, but for a full set of photographs the project archive should be consulted (see Appendix 2).

Photo	Subject
1	General view of the farmstead, from the south-east
2	Barn and farmhouse, from the north-east
3	Front elevation of the barn
4	The barn, looking north
5	Internal view of porch, looking east
6	Detail of underside of doorway lintel, within porch
7	Doorway to shippon, in south-west end of front elevation
8	Historic addition to front elevation, looking north
9	The barn, looking south-west
11	North-east end of front elevation (former doorway to stable?)
13	Detail of openings in south-west gable
14	Rear of the barn, looking east, with modern lean-to in foreground
15	Detail of altered doorway in rear elevation, now within lean-to
18	Detail of openings, north-east end of rear elevation
19	Threshing bay and mewstead, looking east
20	Cross-wall in barn, looking north-east
22	Former shippon, looking south-west
23	Former shippon, and rear doorways to barn, looking north-west
24	Former shippon, looking south-east, with slate uprights
25	North-east shippon, looking north-west
27	Concrete boskin and floor in north-east shippon
28	Loft over north-east shippon, looking south-east
29	Roof trusses over barn, looking north-east
30	Interior of front extension, looking south-west

BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK, EASINGTON, LANCASHIRE:

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the results of the recording of the historic barn at Lower Stony Bank, in Easington civil parish, near Slaidburn, Lancashire. It was commissioned by Mr P Hindle via his agent Peter Hitchen Architects, to inform a planning application to Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC) for the conversion of the building to a dwelling. The survey was carried out in October 2018.
- 1.2 The building recorded is a four-bay combination barn, likely to be early 19th or perhaps late 18th century, and has an L-shaped plan incorporating a porch and two shippens, and possibly a stable at one time. The building appears to have been built in a single phase for the most part, but historically a small addition was made to the front elevation. Modern alterations to the interior mean that very few historic fixtures or fittings have survived.
- 1.3 The recording work included a photographic record and measured survey, as well as a study of historic maps. This report will be submitted to the client, the local planning authority and the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, and the Oasis Project for publication on the internet¹. The project archive will be deposited with Lancashire Archives.

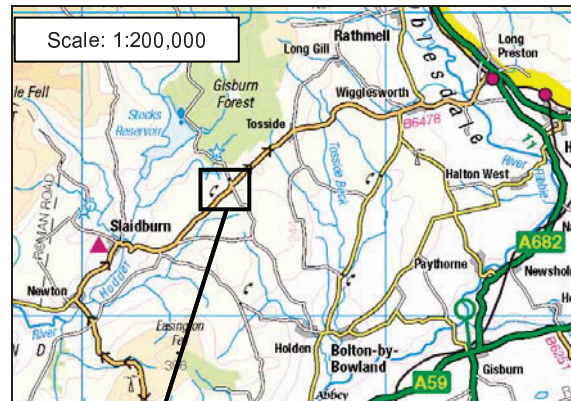
2 Location

- 2.1 Lower Stony Bank is a farmstead within Easington civil parish and the Forest of Bowland AONB, located on the north side of the B6478 Slaidburn to Long Preston Road, between Slaidburn and Tosside (part of the West Riding until 1973). The NGR for the site is SD 74791 54155, and it lies at about 230m above Ordnance Datum (figures 1 & 2). The surrounding area is known as Stephen Moor, after Stephen Hammerton, whose family were manorial owners until Stephen Hammerton (born 1480) was executed for treason following his participation in the Pilgrimage of Grace, in opposition to Henry VIII's stance against the Catholic church. At present, the surrounding land comprises enclosed pasture for the most part, classified as "rolling upland farmland". The historic landscape character is described as "post-medieval enclosure", surrounded by areas of "reverted moorland"².

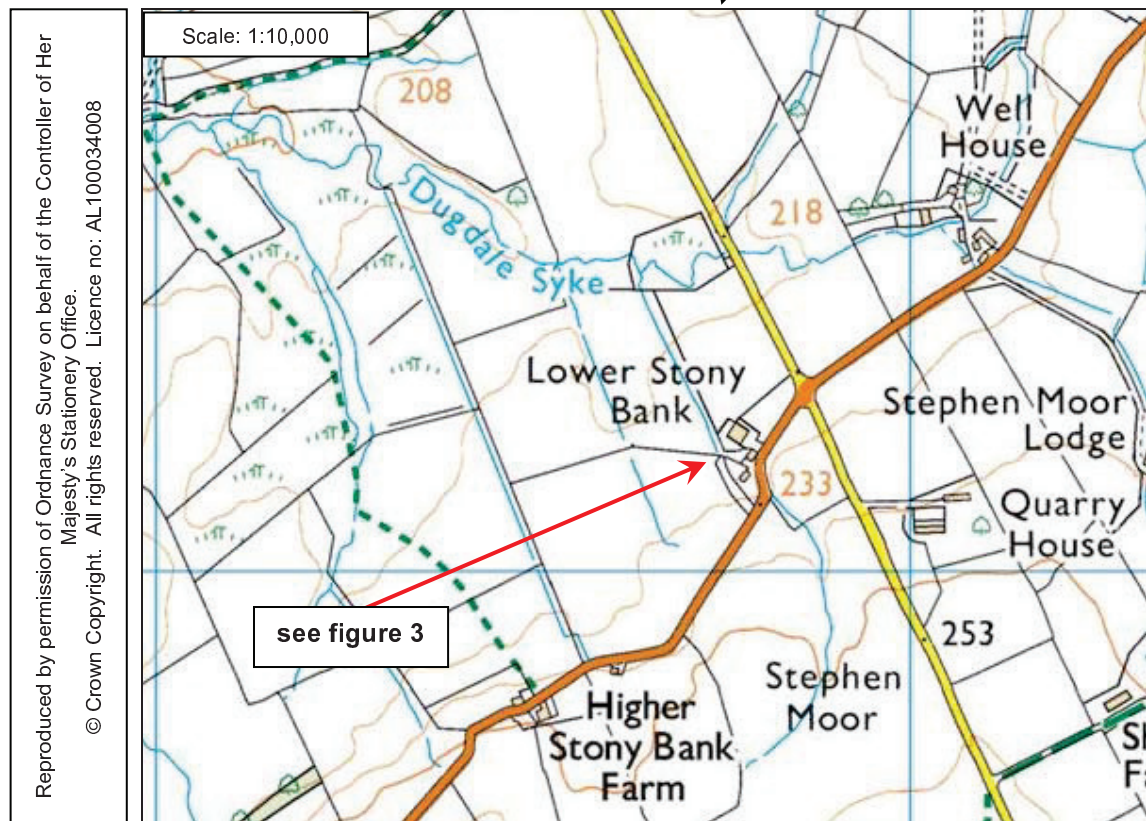
¹ [Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations](#)

² see Lancashire County Council Mario mapping site

- 2.2 Within the farmstead, the house stands at the south-west end, facing south-east, and has an irregular plan owing to piecemeal development. The barn stands detached from it, to the north-east, but also faces south-east. There are modern sheds to the north of the barn (figure 3).



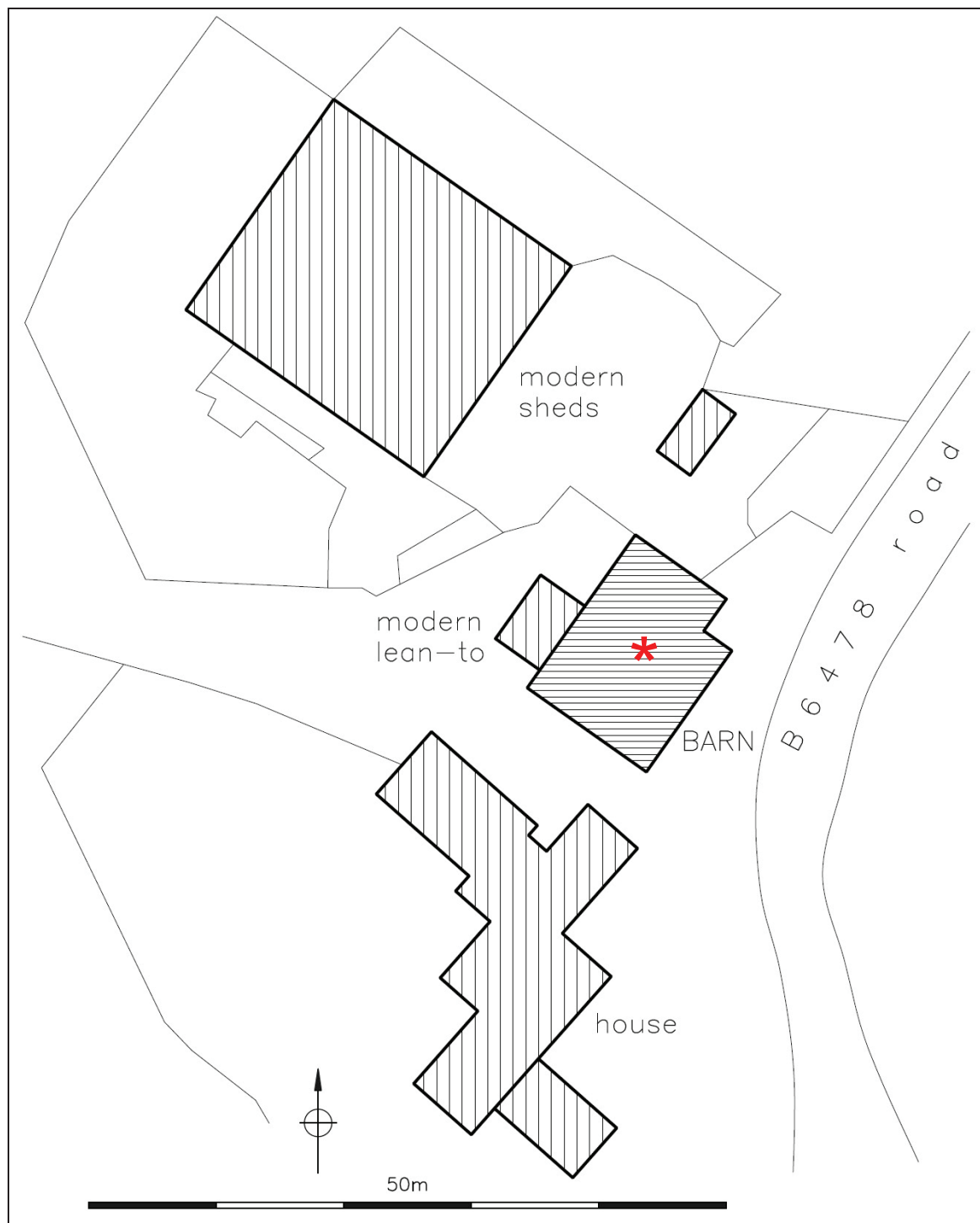
1: Location map (i)



2: Location map (ii)

3 Current use

- 3.1 The barn is presently in use for housing horses and equine paraphernalia.



3: Site plan (1:500)

4 Planning background

- 4.1 None of the buildings at the farm are listed or otherwise designated as heritage assets, although the site does fall within the Forest of Bowland AONB.
- 4.2 Pre-application advice on the potential conversion of the barn was obtained by the owner from RVBC, in October 2017 (ref: RV/2017/ENQ/00100), and Peter

Hitchen Architects are currently producing a scheme for a formal planning application. The present record has been commissioned to inform the design and preclude any condition for recording which might be attached to any consent.

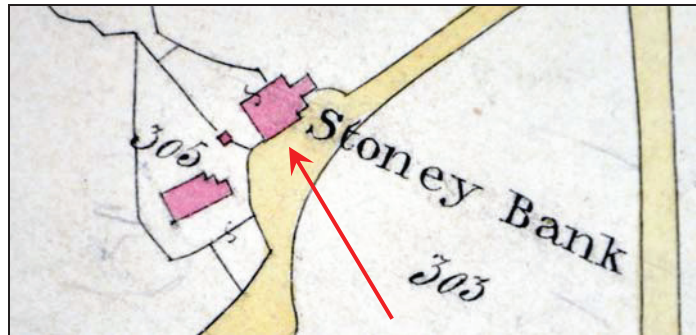
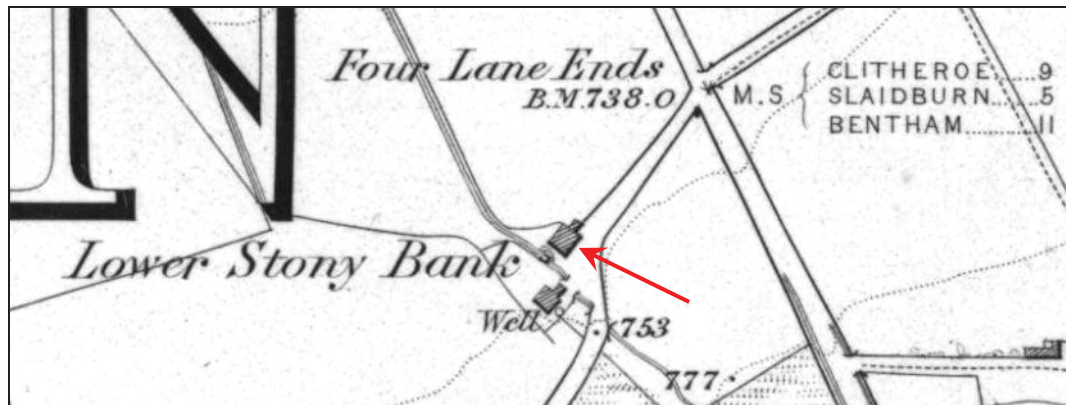
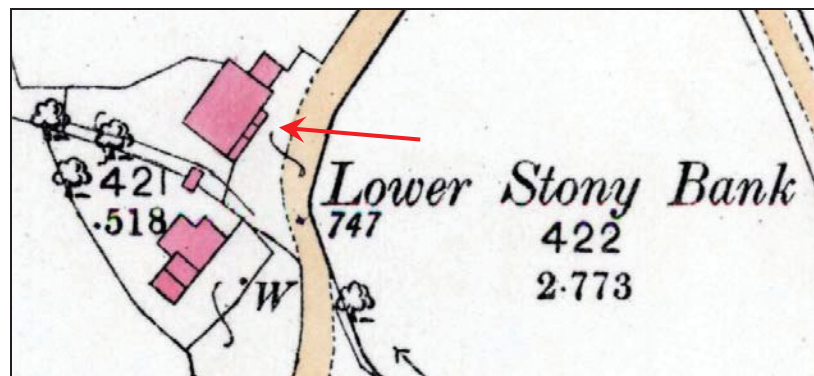
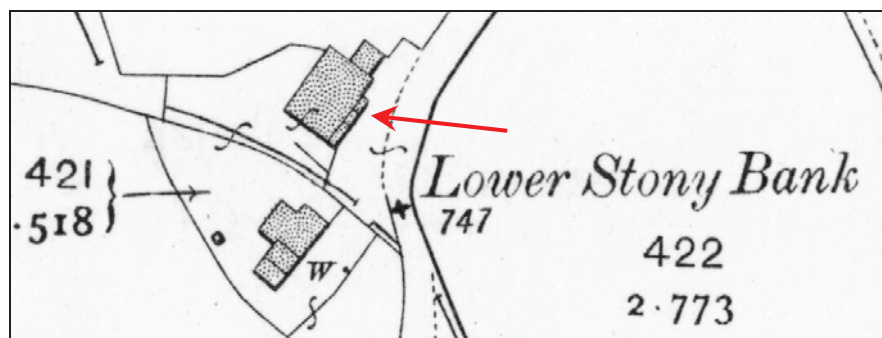
5 Previous investigative work

- 5.1 No previous investigative work of this type is known to have been carried out at the site.

6 Historical background

Historic maps

- 6.1 As part of this work, a brief study of historic maps available online and at Lancashire Archives was undertaken.
- 6.2 The tithe map for the township of Easington was surveyed in 1844 and shows the barn with a very similar outline as today, but with a projection at the north-east end which is no longer extant (figure 4). The farmstead is identified as parcel 305, noted in the schedule as “Lower Stoney Bank House Croft & Garden”. The landholding was 123 acres in total, and one of four farms in the township owned by William Wilkinson Esq, in this case occupied by William Parker. Nine of the 123 acres were arable, the rest meadow and pasture.
- 6.3 The Ordnance Survey’s first edition 1:10560 map sheet covering the site was surveyed in 1847, and shows a very similar arrangement to the tithe map, though the L-shaped plan is not evident, most likely because of the small scale (figure 5). The larger scale 1:2500 maps of the 1890s and 1900s (figures 6 & 7) show the barn in more detail, with the north-east projection very clear. On these, the three compartments along the south-east elevation appear to indicate the present layout, albeit not to scale.

4: Extract from 1840 tithe map³5: OS 1:10560 map, 1850⁴6: OS 1:2500 map, 1894⁵7: OS 1:2500 map, 1909⁶

³ No 2 Plan of the Township of Easington in the Parish of Slaidburn Lancashire Archives PR 3035/4/4 (reproduced by kind permission)

⁴ Yorkshire, sheet 148; surveyed 1847. Not at original scale

⁵ Yorkshire, sheet 148.15; surveyed 1893. Not at original scale

7 Recording methodology

- 7.1 The present recording was carried out during a site visit on 2 October 2018, and involved detailed inspection of the building, together with a measured survey, photography, and written notes.
- 7.2 The drawn record comprises ground and upper floor plans and elevation drawings at 1:100 scale, and a cross-section at 1:50, showing all significant detail and with conventions based on those specified by Historic England⁷. The drawings were produced from a new hand-measured survey.
- 7.3 The photographic record was made using a digital SLR camera (12 megapixels), and both external and internal photographs were taken, generally using a scale in the form of a 1m or 2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations, or a 0.5m baton with 0.1m graduations. Images were captured as camera raw (NEF) files, which were converted to 8 bit TIFF files and printed at approximately 5 x 7", to form part of the project archive, in accordance with the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service's requirements. Their locations are shown on copies of the plans, and a selection is copied at the end of this report; in the text they are referred to by numbers in **bold**.

8 Description of the building

- 8.1 The barn stands to the north-east of the farmhouse, facing onto a modern stone forecourt with the road beyond, and these historic buildings of various dates form a loose cluster, with a common, south-east facing alignment (**1,2**). The barn has walls of local sandstone rubble, roughly squared and partly coursed, and the roof is stone slate, although it has been re-laid in recent years (**3**). The quoins are generally undistinguished from the walling stone, and although some of the doors and windows have finely dressed sandstone surrounds, others have rough flagstone sills and lintels.
- 8.2 In plan, the building was originally L-shaped, with a wider south-west end incorporating the porch to the front elevation, and this L-shape persists, despite the small historic addition to the right of the porch (**4**). The longer roof slope to the front pitch continues down unbroken over this south-east side of the building.
- 8.3 The porch itself is 3.3m deep, and formerly, the pair of doors within it were located at its rear, as is evident from the sockets for harr-hung doors and a central post in the overhead oak beam, but the present doors are modern

⁶ Yorkshire, sheet 148.15; revised 1907. Not at original scale

⁷ Historic England 2016 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

replacements set forward of this (5,6). A shelved recess is set within the right-hand side of the porch, and opposite that is a glazed window, probably created from another recess. Oak beams, including the door lintel, once supported a loft over the entry, but this has been removed, and the outer lintel at the building's eaves is a modern softwood replacement.

- 8.4 To the left of the porch is a pedestrian doorway into the shippon (7), and its present timber door, with sliding hit-and-miss ventilator, may be an original fixture. To the right of the porch, a second pedestrian doorway of different form has been incorporated within the small extension here; the doorway has a concrete lintel internally. There is a small plain breather beyond this opening (8). Within the extension, two blocked breathers can be identified in what was the barn's original front, as well as a larger opening at first floor level, which lacks dressings and may be an insertion. The outer north-east end of this addition has an unusual recess at ground level, which might have formed an opening at one time, together with an upper level window, inserted or rebuilt in recent years (9).
- 8.5 At the right-hand end of the front elevation are further openings, including a former doorway, now serving as a window. This is 100mm wider than the shippon doorway, and its lintel is raised above the main jambs, which might indicate that it once served a stable. There is an adjacent window, and a second window at first floor level, too small for a forking hole, and likely to indicate that there has always been a loft at this end of the building (10,11). The right-hand return beyond here is reported to have been rebuilt recently, which is borne out by the appearance of the stonework, particularly in the deep joints. There are no openings or physical evidence for the building which adjoined it on the historic maps, but a small edge near the ridge may survive from an owl hole.
- 8.6 The south-west gable retains some of its original pattern of openings, although here too there has been alteration (12). At ground floor level there seems to have been a characteristic row of four slit breathers, with central mucking-out hole between, but only two of the former survive and they have been blocked. The other two have been enlarged in the early 20th century to square openings with projecting, sawn stone surrounds, and are now glazed (along with the muck hole) (13). There is also a plain, triangular owl hole close to the ridge.
- 8.7 Within the rear elevation, the barn has a doorway opposite the main front entrance, located within the rear lean-to (14,15). This now resembles the other pedestrian doorways, with jambs formed from upright blocks, but it has been reduced to its present width by about 0.7m and may have had an arched head previously. The present internal lintel is of re-used oak, with a pegged halving (16). Other openings to the rear include a doorway to the shippon in the south-

west end of the barn, and a similar doorway at the north-west end (possibly a stable at one time), with an adjacent window which has been raised from its original level (17,18).

- 8.8 Inside the barn, the main entrance leads into the former threshing bay and mewstead, an area enclosed on the north-east side by a wall of thin rubble, formerly about 1.5m high, but more recently raised to its present 2.5m (19,20). This wall is in any case secondary to the barn, as it slights a breather which can be seen in the front elevation (now within the small extension). The heightened wall supports a modern loft, and also probably had a similar function previously, perhaps with additional timber uprights providing the necessary height. In contrast, the threshing bay and mewstead have always been open to the roof.
- 8.9 At the south-west end of the barn, the structure of the former shippon and the hay loft which it carried have both been lost (21). Sockets in the gable, with stone corbels beneath, indicate where beams were once located, though one such beam, of oak, does remain against the front wall (22-24), and the spacing of the inferred beams suggests there were stalls for 10 cows. Two large upright slates surviving in the south-east part of the shippon are thought to have been re-sited here from the original timber frame, where they would have formed panels within the boskins. The floor here has been laid in concrete, so the slates were probably re-set at that time.
- 8.10 The north-east end of the barn, beyond the dividing wall, now forms a shippon with mid 20th century concrete boskins and concrete floor (25-27), and its original configuration cannot be established, though as noted previously at least part of it may have been a stable at one time. The partial blocking of the front doorway was probably undertaken when the present fixtures were constructed. A very modern staircase leads from here up to the modern loft (28), though an earlier upper floor can clearly be inferred from the presence of the window opening and cross-wall on which the loft is supported.
- 8.11 The present roof over the barn is fully constructed from machine-sawn, imported softwood, and has king posts bolted to the tie beams, with vertical struts (29). The trusses may possibly date from the early 19th century, but may instead be replacements from later that century or early in the 20th, although no clear evidence was observed to indicate that they are secondary.
- 8.12 The small front extension (which maps suggest was present by the 1840s) appears to have been added to provide more animal housing, with a loft over. The ground floor is now partly concrete and any stalls, together with the loft, have been entirely removed (30,31).

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 The building appears architecturally and functionally very typical of the many stone “combination” barns or laithes which formed the primary farm buildings in the wider Craven area during the post-medieval period, particularly in the 18th and 19th centuries. While each example is ultimately unique, features such as the covered porch, the L-shaped plan providing a wider end for the shippon, and the threshing bay, are common aspects of these barns, which were built in their hundreds during that period. That at Lower Stony Bank is externally well preserved, with few outward alterations having taken place since it was built, but it has lost key aspects from its interior, particularly the timber framed shippon in the south-west end, its front doors, and the historic arrangements at the north-east end. It is not certain if the roof structure is original: if so, the barn is likely to be of relatively late date, as oak would have been used in place of imported softwood, prior to the mid 18th century.

Appendix: Contents of the project archive

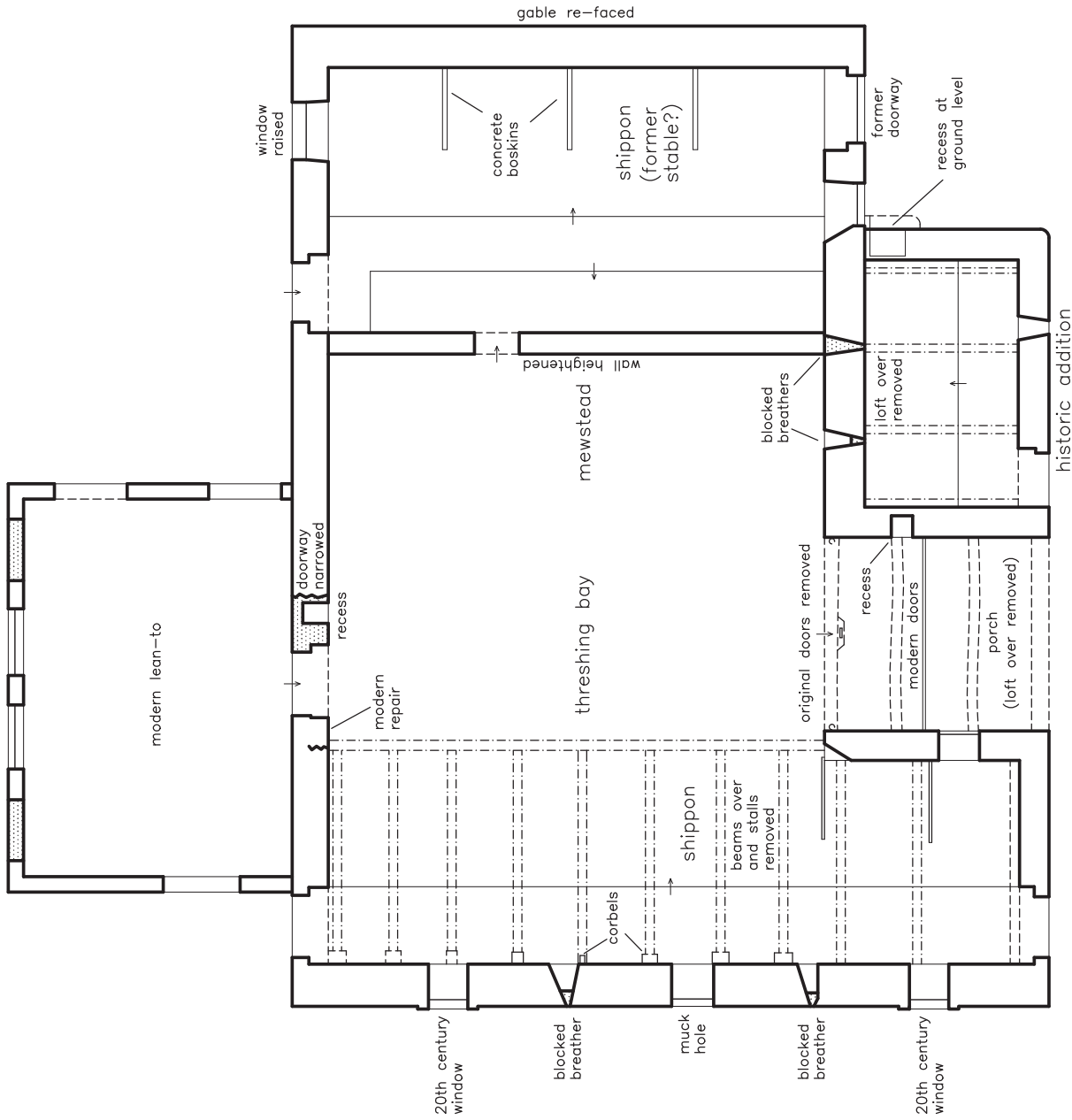
To be deposited with Lancashire Archives, Preston (reference DDX 2204)

Archive contains:

- a printed copy of the report
- full set of printed photographs
- CD or DVD with all photographs as TIFF files

Complete list of photographs taken

Photo	Subject
1	General view of the farmstead, from the south-east
2	Barn and farmhouse, from the north-east
3	Front elevation of the barn
4	The barn, looking north
5	Internal view of porch, looking east
6	Detail of underside of doorway lintel, within porch
7	Doorway to shippon, in south-west end of front elevation
8	Historic addition to front elevation, looking north
9	The barn, looking south-west
10	Front elevation of the barn, looking west
11	North-east end of front elevation (former doorway to stable?)
12	South-west gable
13	Detail of openings in south-west gable
14	Rear of the barn, looking east, with modern lean-to in foreground
15	Detail of altered doorway in rear elevation, now within lean-to
16	Detail of internal lintel to rear doorway
17	Rear of the barn, looking south
18	Detail of openings, north-east end of rear elevation
19	Threshing bay and mewstead, looking east
20	Cross-wall in barn, looking north-east
21	Porch and former south-west shippon, looking south
22	Former shippon, looking south-west
23	Former shippon, and rear doorways to barn, looking north-west
24	Former shippon, looking south-east, with slate uprights
25	North-east shippon, looking north-west
26	North-east shippon, looking south-east
27	Concrete boskin and floor in north-east shippon
28	Loft over north-east shippon, looking south-east
29	Roof trusses over barn, looking north-east
30	Interior of front extension, looking south-west
31	Interior of front extension, looking north-east



KEY

blocking or infill

step up



10m



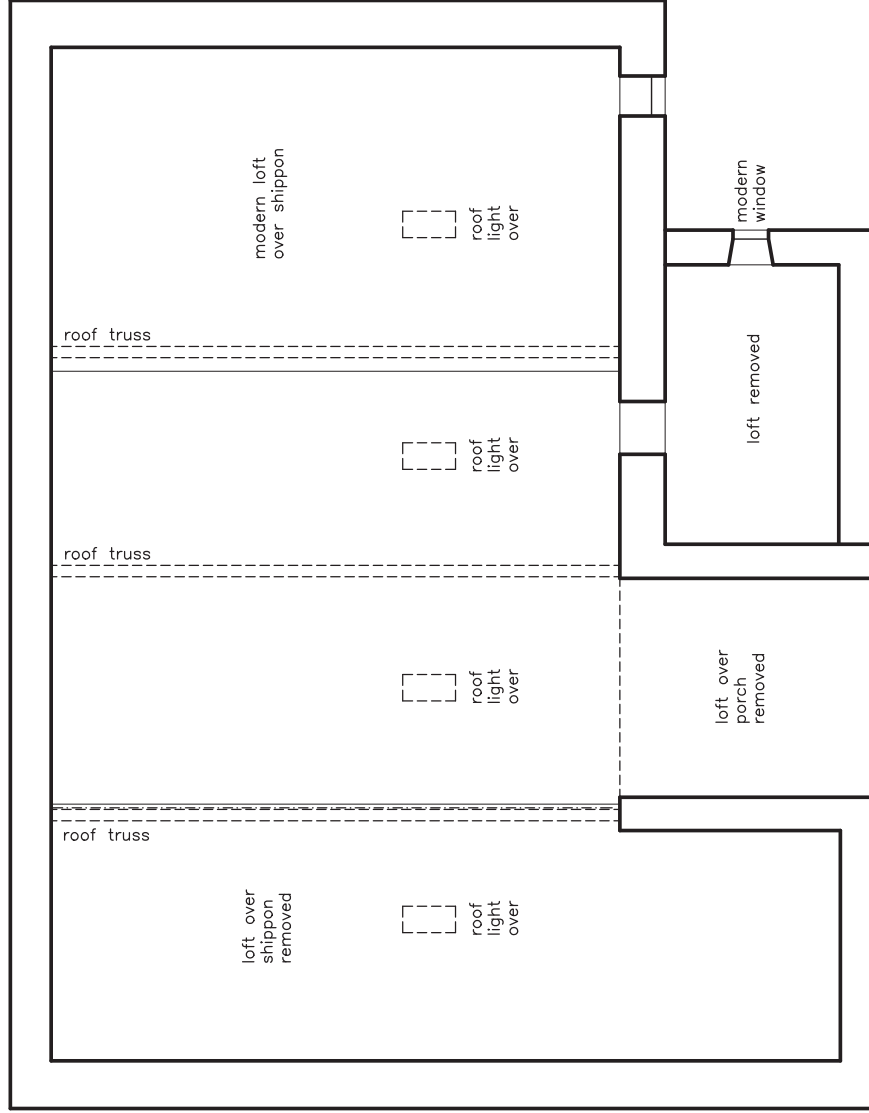
BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK
EASINGTON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 74791 54155):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 8:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2018

STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist



KEY



10m



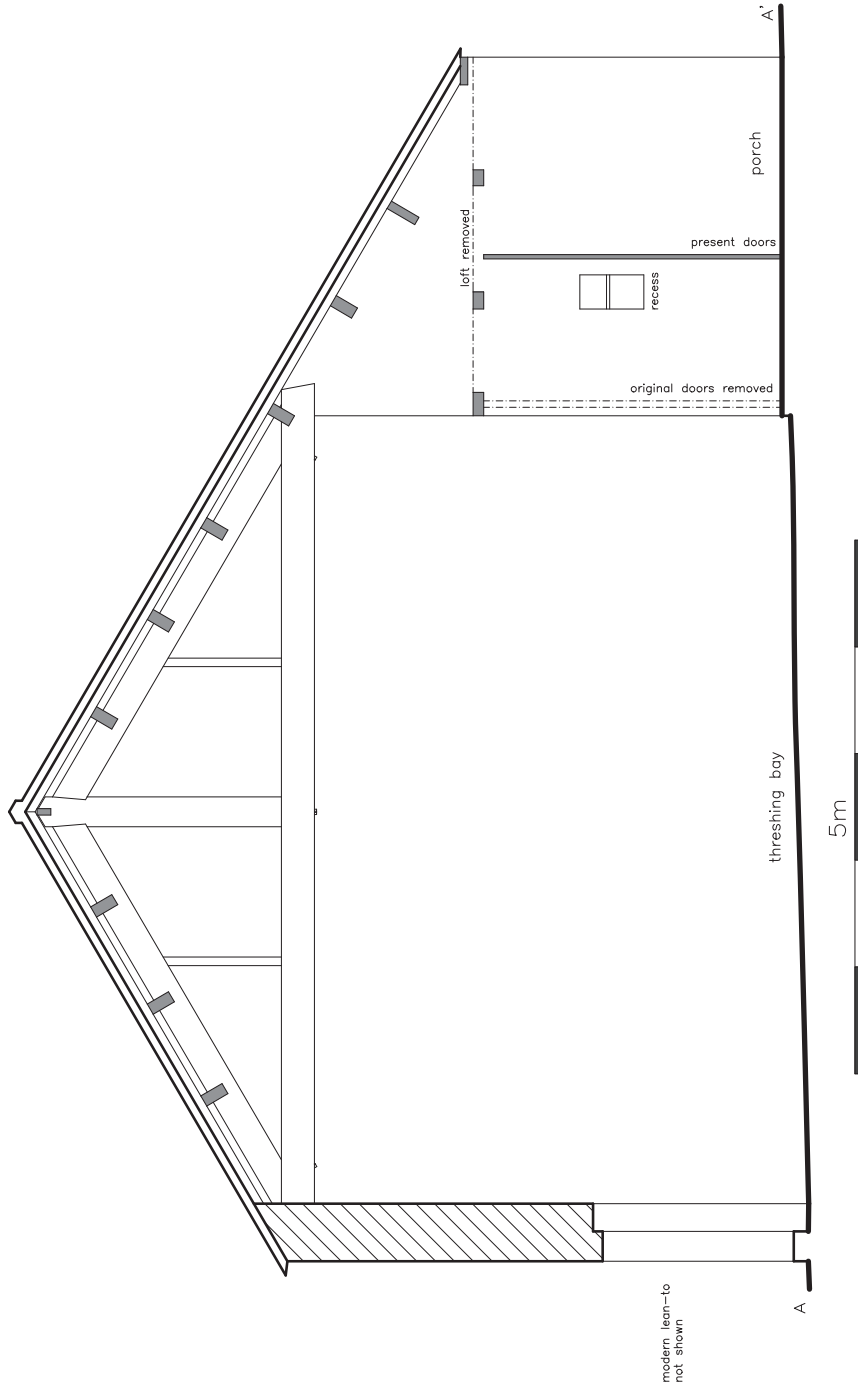
BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK
EASINGTON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 74791 54155):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 9:
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2018

STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist



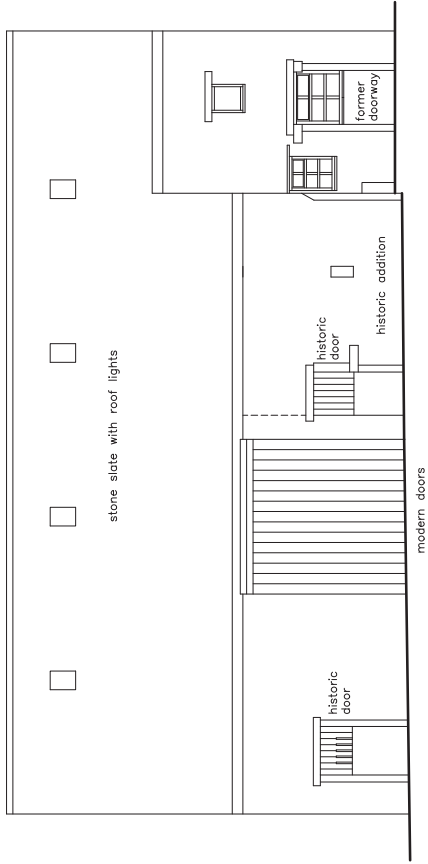
BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK
EASINGTON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 74791 54155):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 10:
CROSS-SECTION

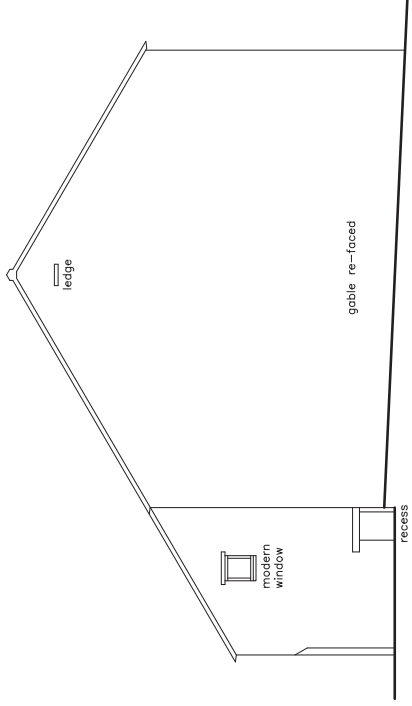
SCALE: 1:50 (at A3)

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2018

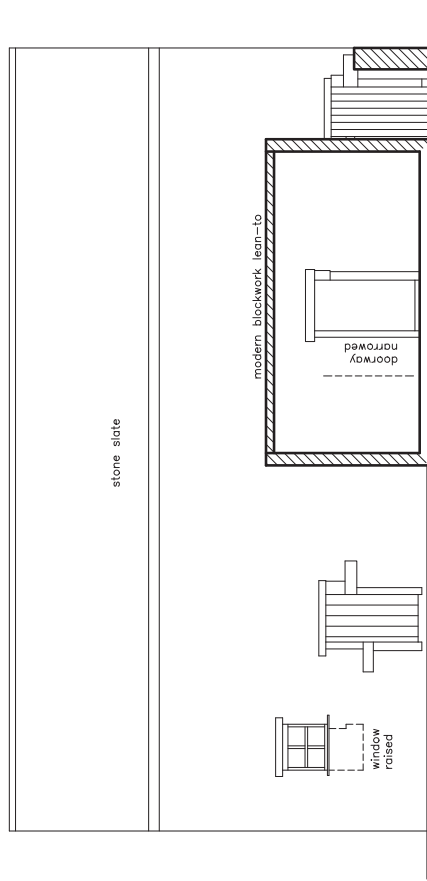
STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist



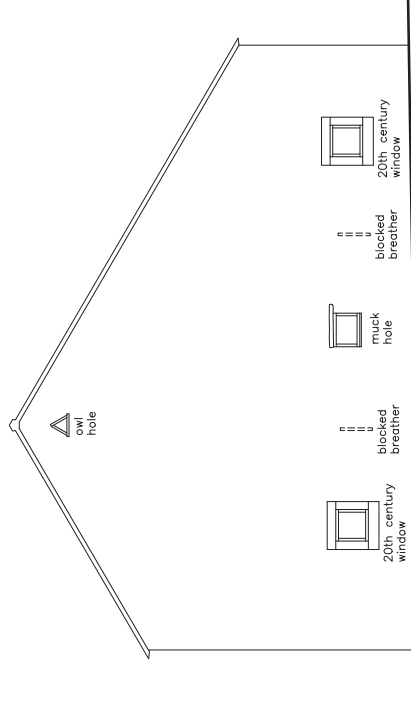
SOUTH—EAST ELEVATION (FRONT)



NORTH—EAST ELEVATION



NORTH—WEST ELEVATION (REAR)



SOUTH—WEST ELEVATION

BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK
EASINGTON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 74791 54155)
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

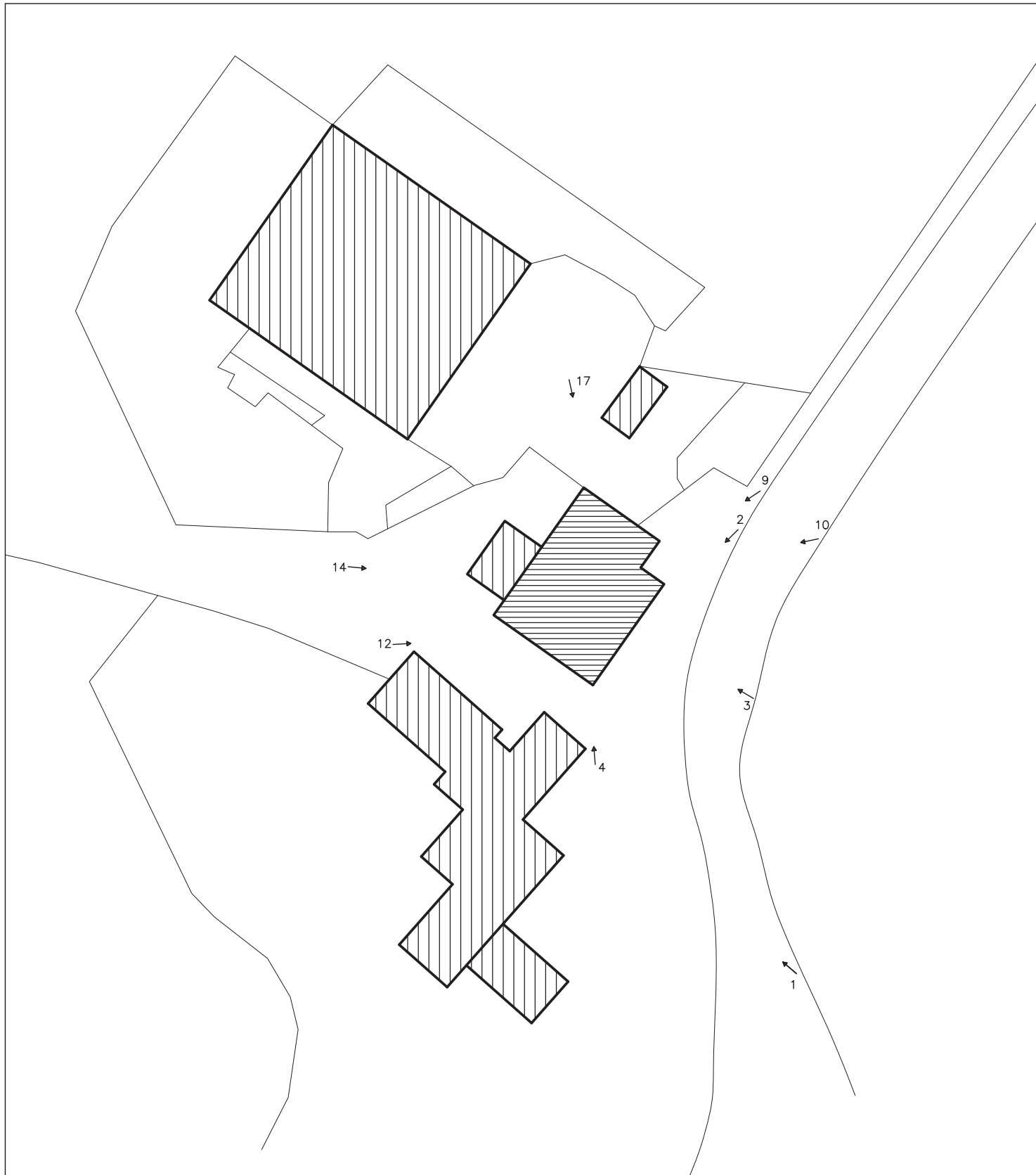
FIGURE 11:
ELEVATIONS

SCALE: 1:100 (at A3)

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2018

STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist

10m



BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK
EASINGTON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 74791 54155):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 12:
SITE PLAN
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:500 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2018

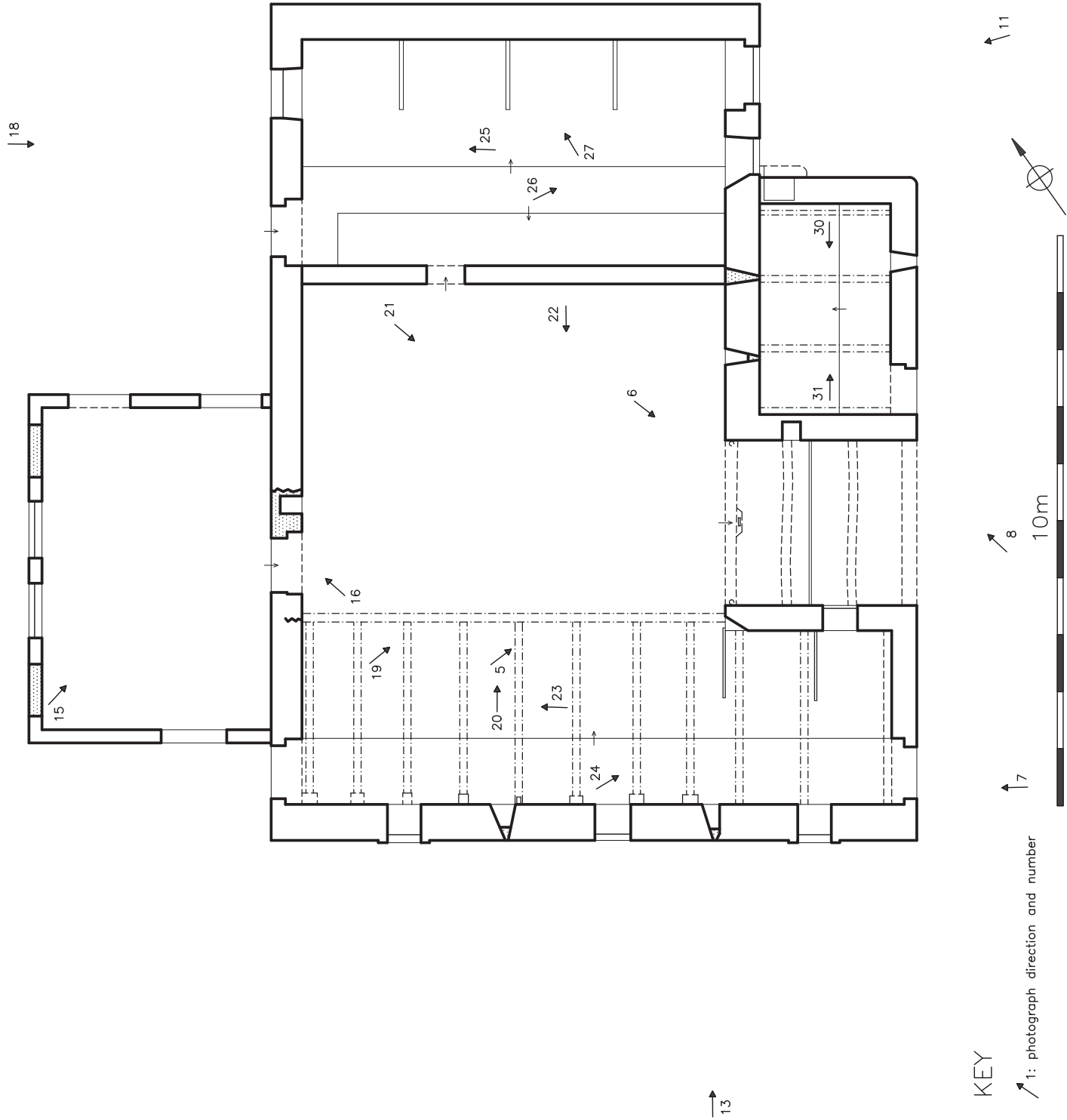
STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist



1: photograph direction and number

50m





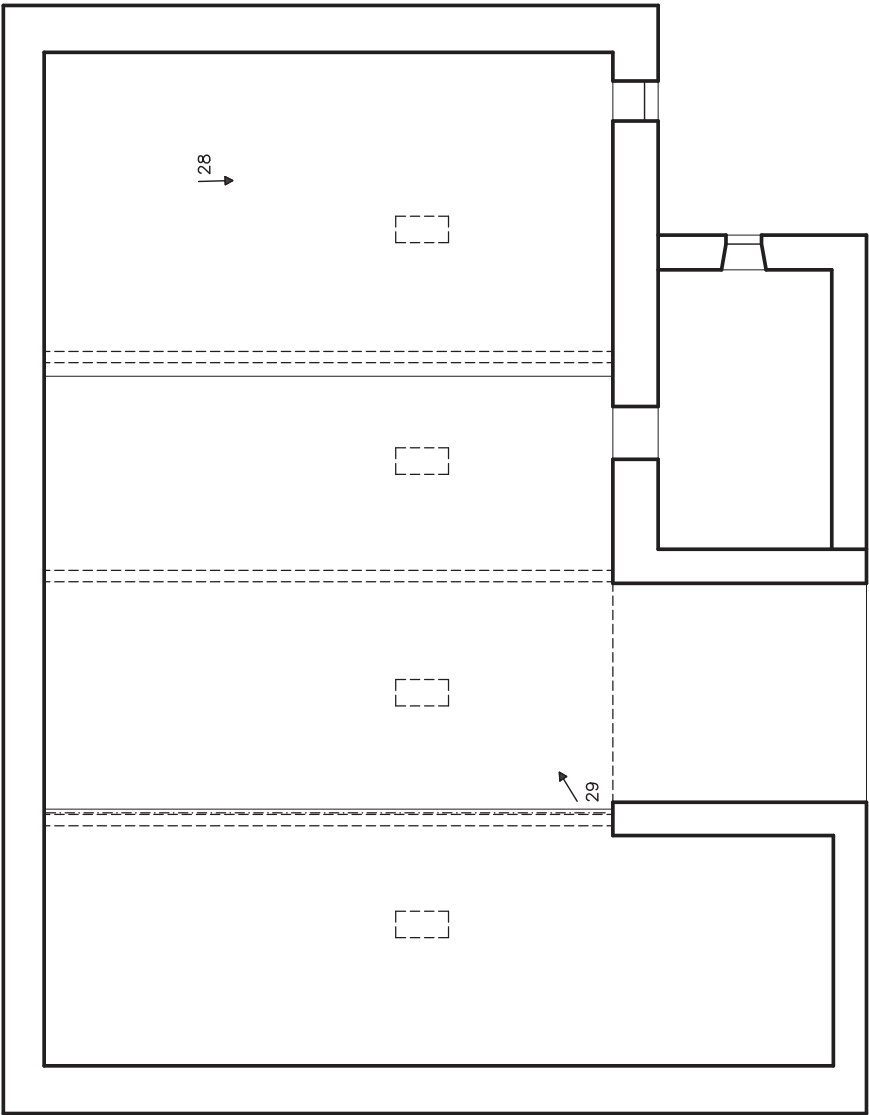
BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK
EASINGTON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 74791 54155):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 13:
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2018

STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist



KEY

↗ 1: photograph direction and number



10m



BARN AT LOWER STONY BANK
EASINGTON
LANCASHIRE
(NGR: SD 74791 54155):
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 14:
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: OCTOBER 2018

STEPHEN HAIGH
Buildings Archaeologist



Photo 1: General view of the farmstead, from the south-east



Photo 2: Barn and farmhouse, from the north-east



Photo 3: Front elevation of the barn



Photo 4: The barn, looking north



Photo 5: Internal view of porch, looking east



Photo 6: Detail of underside of doorway lintel, within porch



Photo 7: Doorway to shippon, in south-west end of front elevation



Photo 8: Historic addition to front elevation, looking north



Photo 9: The barn, looking south-west



Photo 11: North-east end of front elevation (former doorway to stable?)



Photo 13: Detail of openings in south-west gable



Photo 14: Rear of the barn, looking east, with modern lean-to in foreground



Photo 15: Detail of altered doorway in rear elevation, now within lean-to



Photo 18: Detail of openings, north-east end of rear elevation



Photo 19: Threshing bay and mewstead, looking east



Photo 20: Cross-wall in barn, looking north-east



Photo 22: Former shippon, looking south-west



Photo 23: Former shippon, and rear doorways to barn, looking north-west



Photo 24: Former shippon, looking south-east, with slate uprights



Photo 25: North-east shippon, looking north-west



Photo 27: Concrete boskin and floor in north-east shippon



Photo 28: Loft over north-east shippon, looking south-east



Photo 29: Roof trusses over barn, looking north-east



Photo 30: Interior of front extension, looking south-west