

Barn at Little Woodfield Farm  
Longsight Road, Clayton-le-Dale, Lancashire:  
Historic Building Record



August 2018

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OASIS project ID: stephenh1-326812

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

# Barn at Little Woodfield Farm

## Longsight Road, Clayton-le-Dale, Lancashire:

### Historic Building Record

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#### SUMMARY

The barn at Little Woodfield Farm (NGR: SD 65986 32807) is early 19th century and was probably built shortly after the construction of the adjacent Longsight Road (ca. 1808/9). It adjoins the farmhouse, which was extended into the barn previously, so that the remaining agricultural end is now confined to a former threshing bay and shippon, the latter altered in the early 20th century. Recording was carried out for Mr J Barlow to inform an anticipated planning application for partial demolition.

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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  | Front elevation of barn and house, facing south-east towards Longsight Road              |
| 2  | Front elevation of the barn, with traces of arched cart entry visible above double doors |
| 4  | Front of house, with 20th century windows in part of former barn at left                 |
| 5  | General view of the barn and house from the west   |
| 6  | Detail of tabling and kneelers in south-west gable                                       |
| 8  | Interior view of front cart entrance, from the north                                     |
| 10 | Shippon in south-west end of barn, looking south   |
| 11 | Stalls in shippon, looking east, showing later boskins and front beam to loft            |
| 14 | Detail of doorway in north-west side of shippon  |
| 15 | Hay loft over shippon, looking south-west  |
| 18 | South-west truss, looking south-west   |
| 19 | "Baltic" mark on north-east side of south-west tie beam                                  |

## **BARN AT LITTLE WOODFIELD FARM, LONGSIGHT ROAD, CLAYTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE:**

### **HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD**

#### **1 Introduction**

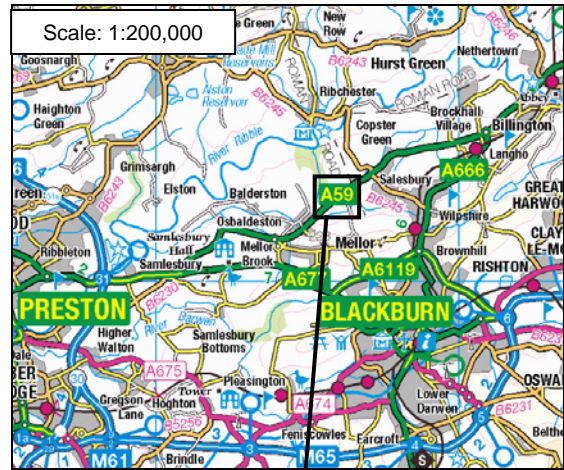
- 1.1 This report presents the results of the recording of an historic barn at Little Woodfield Farm, Clayton-le-Dale, Lancashire. It was commissioned by the owner Mr J Barlow, through his agent Judith Douglas Town Planning Ltd, to inform a forthcoming planning application to Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC) for the partial demolition of the building. The survey was carried out in August 2018.
- 1.2 The building recorded comprises part of an early 19th century combination barn, the remainder of which was converted to part of the dwelling and a garage in the 1970s. The existing agricultural building includes a former threshing bay, and shippon with hay loft over, with a modern hay loft over the present garage.
- 1.3 The recording work forms a level 2-3 study, as defined by Historic England, and was carried out in accordance with standard guidance from the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service (Appendix 1), so includes 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 will be submitted to the Oasis Project for publication on the internet<sup>1</sup>. The project archive will be deposited with Lancashire Archives.

#### **2 Location**

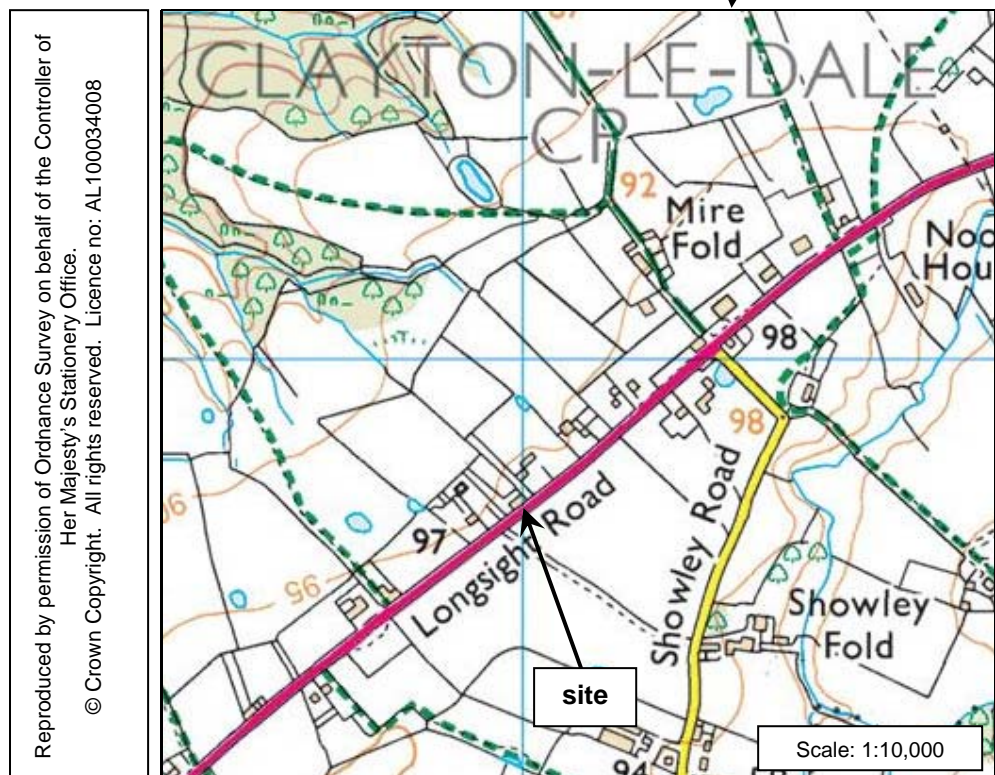
- 2.1 Little Woodfield Farm stands on the north-west side of the A59 Longsight Road within Clayton-le-Dale civil parish, about 1km west of the main part of the village centre. It stands on a plain between the River Ribble to the north-west, and rising ground to the south-east, and the site itself lies at NGR: SD 65986 32807, approximately 95m above Ordnance Datum. Surrounding land is predominantly pasture enclosed by hedgerows, but there is also residential and commercial ribbon development along Longsight Road (figures 1 & 2).
- 2.2 The former farmstead contains a single range of historic buildings, comprising the barn at the south-west end and the house at the north-east end; there is also a modern garage at the south-west gable. Both barn and house face south-east towards the road (figure 3).

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<sup>1</sup> [Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations](#)



1: Location map (i)



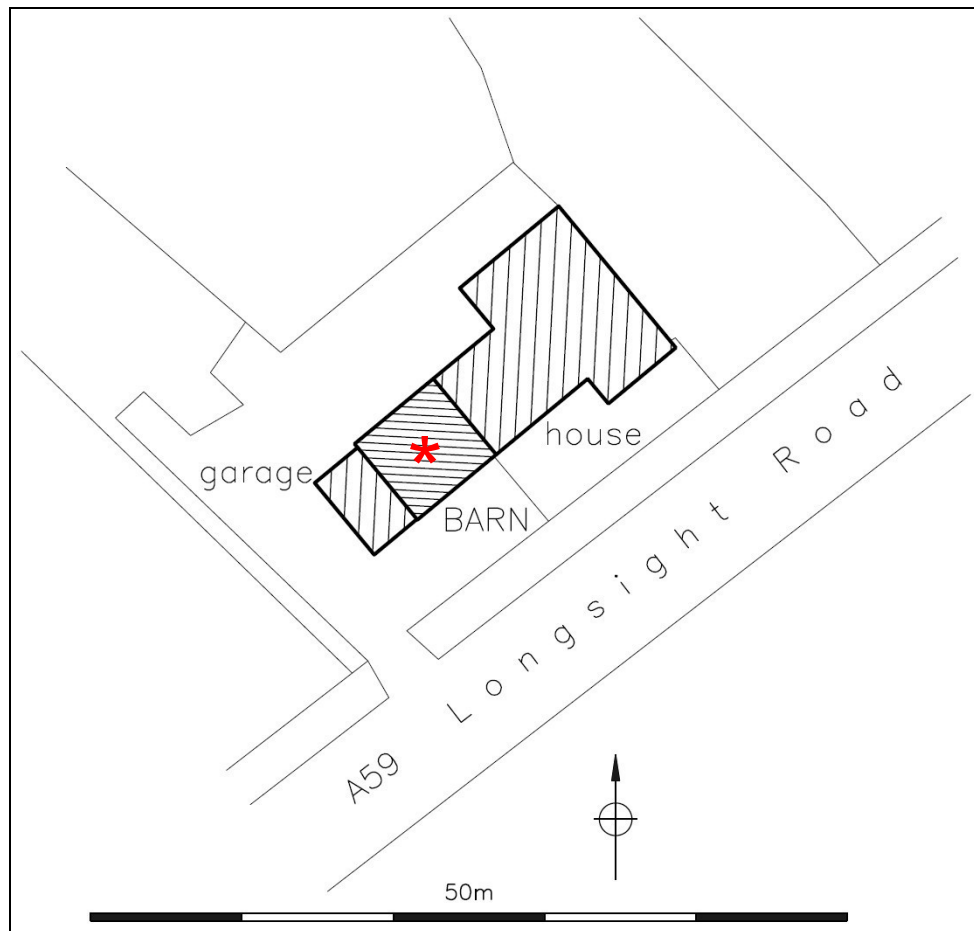
2: Location map (ii)

### 3 Current use

3.1 The barn is currently in use for storage.

### 4 Planning background

4.1 The barn is not listed or otherwise designated as a heritage asset, and does not lie within a conservation area or AONB.



3: Site plan (1:500)

- 4.2 A recent planning application for “Proposed stables, riding arena, domestic garage, alterations to house and garden boundary. Demolition of attached garage” was granted consent by RVBC on 25 July 2018 (reference 3/2018/0484).
- 4.3 The original application scheme included the partial demolition of the barn, but in their consultation response to the application, the local planning authority’s archaeological advisor, the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service, commented that: “The farm is noted in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record as site PRN1031, where it is described as a farmhouse and barn with architectural features of 17th century type..... Photographs... show the barn to have a somewhat unusual roof truss type and to retain some wooden stalls, as well as evidence of alterations to the existing openings.” It was also recommended that in the event of planning consent being granted, a condition be imposed requiring a record of the building to be made prior to works commencing.
- 4.4 In response to these comments, the applicant deleted the demolition of the barn from the scheme, which was subsequently approved. He is now seeking

consent for demolition under a new application, and has therefore commissioned this record to inform the application and obviate any such condition being attached.

## **5 Previous investigative work**

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

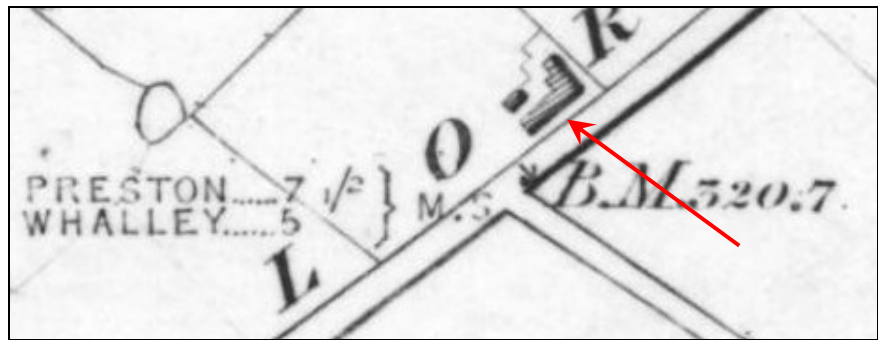
## **6 Historical background**

- 6.1 The location of the barn and house at Little Woodfield Farm, close to and parallel with Longsight Road, leads to the supposition that it was built after the establishment of this stretch of road, which was opened *ca* 1808/9 as part of the Clitheroe and Mellor Brook Turnpike Trust. Longsight Road cut a completely new route across the landscape at that time, to form a much more direct line between Clitheroe and Preston than had hitherto existed, and Little Woodfield Farm, along with a number of other farms and houses, appears to have been built next to it, probably shortly afterwards. However, the farm is not shown on Greenwood's 1818<sup>2</sup> or Hennet's 1829<sup>3</sup> map of Lancashire, which raises the possibility that it is later in date than both those sources, although alternatively those omissions may be due to the small mapping scale.
- 6.2 The farm does appear, unnamed, on the Ordnance Survey's first edition 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1844-6 (figure 4), where it has an approximately L-shaped plan, and a small detached building to the north-west. On their 1893 1:2500 map (figure 5), the farm appears with the name "Little Wood Field Farm", and the main range can be seen to contain three parts, largely as at present, with a smaller detached, parallel range of buildings to the north-west. This arrangement appears largely unaltered on the two early 20th century revisions of this map (figures 6 and 7). There is no tithe map for Clayton-le-Dale.

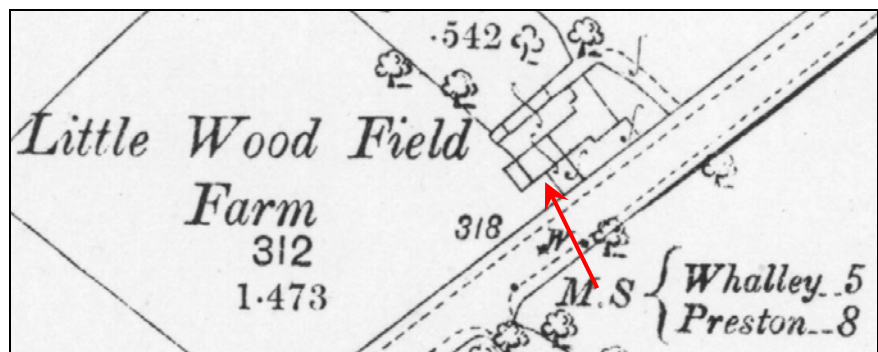
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<sup>2</sup> Greenwood, C *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, from an actual survey made in the year 1818*

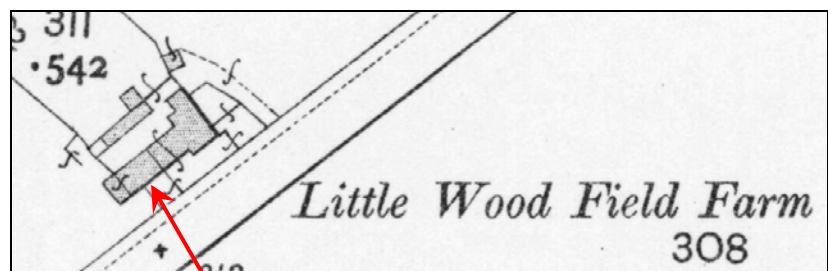
<sup>3</sup> Hennet, G *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster divided into Hundreds and Parishes from an accurate survey made in the years 1828 and 1829*



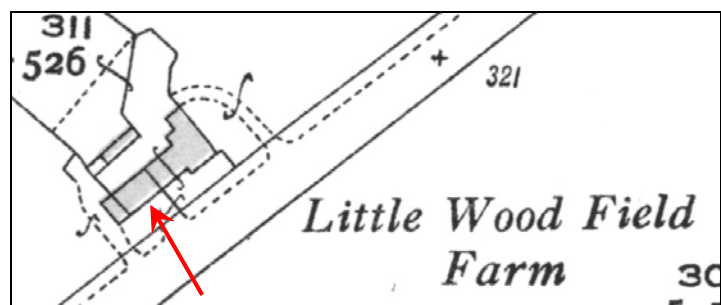
4: OS 1:10560 map, 1847<sup>4</sup>



5: OS 1:2500 map, 1893<sup>5</sup>



6: OS 1:2500 map, 1912<sup>6</sup>



7: OS 1:2500 map, 1931<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Lancashire, sheet 62; surveyed 1844-6. Not at original scale

<sup>5</sup> Lancashire, sheet 62.3; surveyed 1892. Not at original scale

<sup>6</sup> Lancashire, sheet 62.3; revised 1910. Not at original scale

<sup>7</sup> Lancashire, sheet 62.3; revised 1929-30. Not at original scale

6.3 The 1841 census<sup>8</sup> refers to “Little Wood Fold”, which then comprised two households, one headed by Matthew Howarth, a cotton weaver, and one by John Crook, a farmer. In 1861<sup>9</sup> the census notes “Little Wood Fold”, occupied by the Eddleston family, of whom the head farmed 30 acres, while there was also “New Little Wood Fold”, where Francis Hampson, a cotton hand loom weaver, lived with his family. In 1871 Eddleston remained at “Little Wood Fold”, but now farmed 60 acres<sup>10</sup>. In 1881<sup>11</sup> the name seems to have changed to “Woodfield Farm”, and the property was occupied by Robert Calderwood, farmer of 29 acres, and his wife. The 1891<sup>12</sup> census seems to refer to the site as “Woodfield Farm” or “Woodfield Cottage”, while in 1901<sup>13</sup> it was probably recorded as “Woodfield Farm”, home to the Higgin family, but in 1911 the present name “Little Woodfield Farm” was used; it was then home to Mrs Forrest and her children.

## 7 Recording methodology

7.1 The present recording was carried out during a site visit on 24 August 2018, and involved detailed inspection of all those parts of the barn which have not been converted to residential or garage use. During the visit a measured survey, photography, and a written account were all undertaken.

7.2 The drawn record comprises new ground and upper floor plans at 1:100 scale, and a cross-section at 1:50, as well as outline elevation drawings at 1:100 scale, the latter provided by Architectural Designs, but checked and amended. The drawings show all significant detail and employ conventions based on those specified by Historic England<sup>14</sup>.

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. 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**.

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<sup>8</sup> HO107/503/3

<sup>9</sup> RG9/3092

<sup>10</sup> RG10/4170

<sup>11</sup> RG11/4179

<sup>12</sup> RG12/3394

<sup>13</sup> RG13/3903

<sup>14</sup> Historic England 2016 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

## 8 Description of the barn

### Exterior

- 8.1 The barn occupies the south-west end of the range, with a modern, single storey lean-to garage forming an extension at its gable, apparently replacing an earlier lean-to, to judge from the historic maps above. All historic parts of the range are built from local sandstone rubble, with sandstone dressings, but the south-east elevation has been rendered and the other two sides of the barn have been limewashed, so much detail which might assist with interpretation is masked. There is a blue slate covering to the historic parts of the roof, though this is not believed to be original, although the sandstone ridge along most of the range is probably an original remnant, replaced over the house by interlocking ridge tiles (1). Shaped kneelers are used at the corners.
- 8.2 The barn appears to have been four bays long originally, with the house occupying the wider, north-east end of the range, though the domestic accommodation has been extended into it at some date in the 20th century, so that the full extent of the historic agricultural space is now unknown. The present barn occupies approximately two of the original four bays on the ground floor, and three on the upper floor (2).
- 8.3 The principal feature in the front elevation is the partly blocked cart entrance, whose segmental arch can be made out within the render, over the double doors (3). This entrance has been narrowed at the right-hand side, as well as being reduced in height. Two hinge pintles also survive, to indicate that the double doors were hung externally. A narrower, pedestrian doorway, at the left-hand end of the front, has monolithic jambs, and formerly gave access to the shippon within the barn, but has also been partly blocked and converted to a window. The present front window to the garage, to the right of the cart entry, may also have been a doorway at one time, but this cannot be said with certainty. Beyond here, large 20th century windows occupy what may have been the barn's fourth bay (4).
- 8.4 The south-west gable has coping and horizontal tabling which create a pediment (5,6), and at ground floor level is the modern garage; no other historic features are evident here. To the rear, there is a doorway to the shippon matching that to the front, although in this case it remains open and still in use. To the left is a narrow pedestrian doorway which might represent part of an historic opening; the surrounding masonry is partly rendered and little can be deduced from it with certainty. Next to this is a large inserted doorway for a modern garage,

occupying the barn's original third bay. Neither of these two is positioned directly opposite the cart entrance to the front, where a winnowing door or rear cart entrance would normally be expected.

### **Interior**

- 8.5 Inside the building, the front cart entrance is mostly exposed, with stone arch above a more recent, lower lintel (7,8), and this would originally have opened onto the threshing bay. A wall of concrete bricks cuts across the north-east end of this space however, enclosing the modern garage (9).
- 8.6 To the south-west of the threshing bay is a shippon for six cows with hay loft over, in characteristic position (10). It has however been altered: the original beam supporting the front of the loft has been supplemented by a more recent, probably early 20th century beam parallel to it, and the loft extended to it. The two boskins or stall dividers also clearly date from this phase of alteration: they are of softwood, though essentially traditional in form (11,12); the positions of the their predecessors' heel-posts can be seen as mortices in the undersides of the loft beams, which are also of softwood. The floor throughout this area and the former threshing bay, is concrete. At the rear of the shippon, the pair of doorways in the long walls gave access for the livestock (13,14), their hinges and latch staples intact within the jambs.
- 8.7 The hay loft over the shippon comprises a single space open to the roof (15,16), without forking holes in the outer walls, so loading of hay onto it must have been done from the threshing bay. Opposite, to the north-east of the threshing bay, the modern brick wall supports another, modern loft at a higher level, with another brick wall at first floor level enclosing the bedrooms within this part of the enlarged house (17). The previous, historic arrangement in this area is entirely unknown.
- 8.8 Two roof trusses presently support the roof over the barn, but it is not certain that these are original, at least in their present forms (18). They are entirely of machine-sawn softwood, and have iron rods in place of king posts, as well as struts beneath the tie beams, set into the long walls in an awkward manner. As well as their relatively modern form (though they could be early 19th century), their spacing is unusual, as normally the trusses would be positioned on either side of the cart entry, but in this case, one is located centrally over it, creating rather long bays between the trusses. There is also slight evidence in the stonework near the eaves (in particular, a slightly projecting stone which may have been a rough corbel below a tie beam), which suggest that the trusses were once differently and more closely spaced. It is therefore possible that there

have been alterations to or replacement of the roof structure during the barn's history, perhaps when the present blue slate roof was laid. Another alteration is the "doubling-up" of purlins which has been carried out, though this must have taken place with the present truss arrangement already in place.

- 8.9 Some carpenter's marks, in the form of linear notches cut by a chisel, were observed on the upper face of the north-east truss, marking the joints between the tie beam and the principal rafters ("I" and "II"). "Baltic" markings were also observed on the south-west truss, their meaning unknown (19,20).

## **9 Conclusion**

- 9.1 The surviving agricultural part of the barn at Little Woodfield Farm represents approximately half of its former length, when built in the first half of the 19th century. As far as can be deduced, it seems to have been built at the same time as the adjoining house, so can be considered as an example of a "laithe house" in the wide sense. In contrast to many barns in the district it is relatively narrow, but was probably four bays long originally, with threshing bay and shippon in the south-west end, and perhaps a second shippon, stable or mewstead in the north-east end, which was converted to domestic use in the 1970s. Census information suggests it served a farm of about 30 acres during the 19th century, a relatively small holding but one which might have been supplemented by work in the textile industry, as was then common.
- 9.2 In terms of architectural features, the barn's largely plain exterior has been much altered by the extension of domestic accommodation and the changes to openings, particularly to the front cart entry, where the arch is now masked, and by the insertion of a prominent garage doorway to the rear. The "pediment" form of the south-west gable does remain prominent however. The changes which have taken place internally mean that there is little of particular interest there, with the loss of the north-east end and the replacement of the 19th century boskins contributing to loss of significance. The roof trusses are unusual for a barn, but of relatively modern construction, and possibly secondary to the building.

## **Appendix: Contents of the project archive**

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

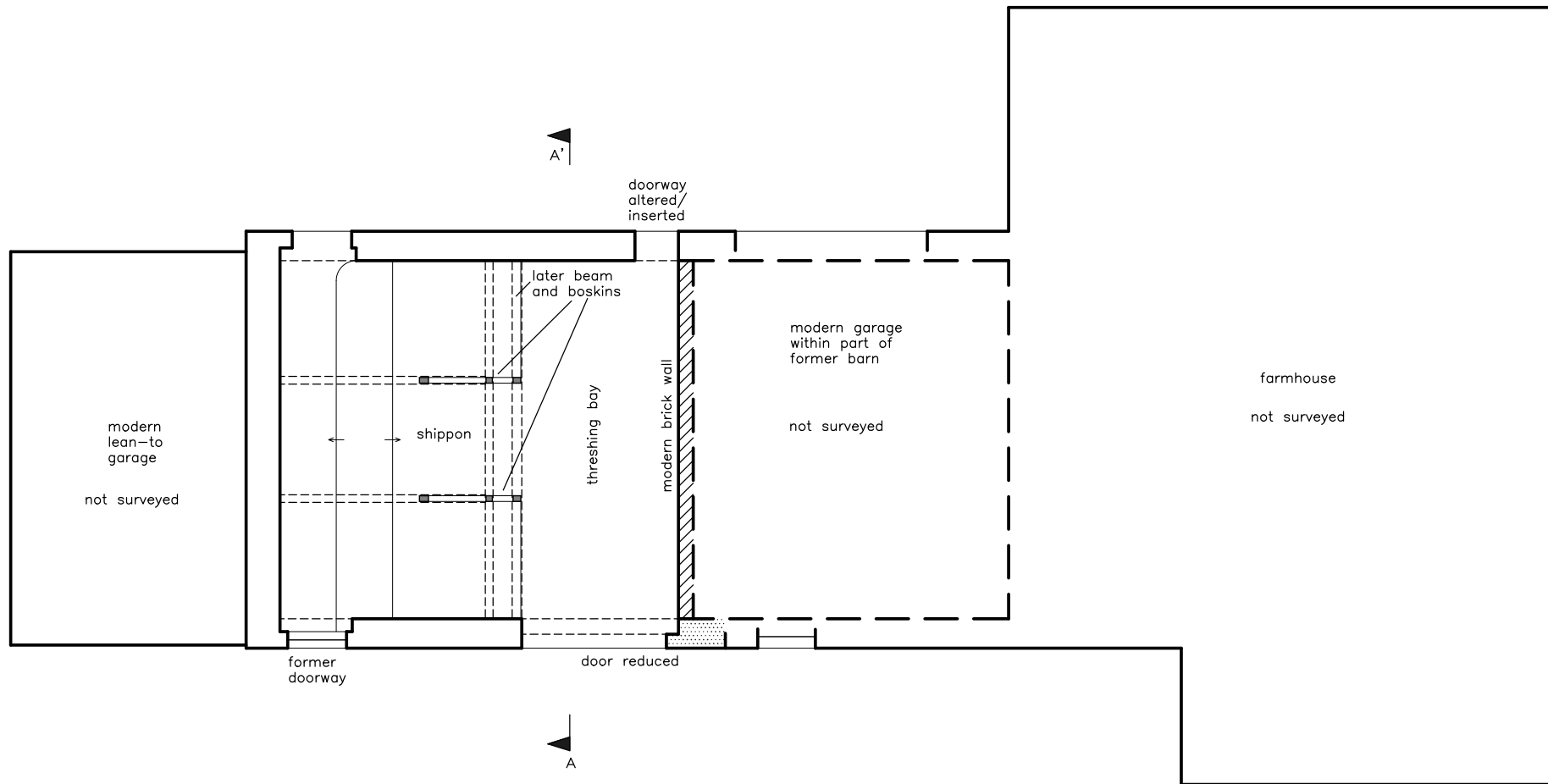
Archive contains:

- a 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 Front elevation of barn and house, facing south-east towards Longsight Road
- 2 Front elevation of the barn, with traces of arched cart entry visible above double doors
- 3 Detail of former cart entry, with traces of arch above
- 4 Front of house, with 20th century windows in part of former barn at left
- 5 General view of the barn and house from the west
- 6 Detail of tabling and kneelers in south-west gable
- 7 Interior view of arch over front cart entrance
- 8 Interior view of front cart entrance, from the north
- 9 Interior view of doorway at rear of threshing bay
- 10 Shippon in south-west end of barn, looking south
- 11 Stalls in shippon, looking east, showing later boskins and front beam to loft
- 12 Detail of boskin, looking east
- 13 Detail of blocked doorway in south-east side of shippon
- 14 Detail of doorway in north-west side of shippon
- 15 Hay loft over shippon, looking south-west
- 16 Hay loft over shippon, looking west
- 17 North-east truss and modern brick wall at first floor level, north corner of barn
- 18 South-west truss, looking south-west
- 19 "Baltic" mark on north-east side of south-west tie beam
- 20 "Baltic" mark on underside of principal rafter, south-west truss



KEY  
 blocking or infill



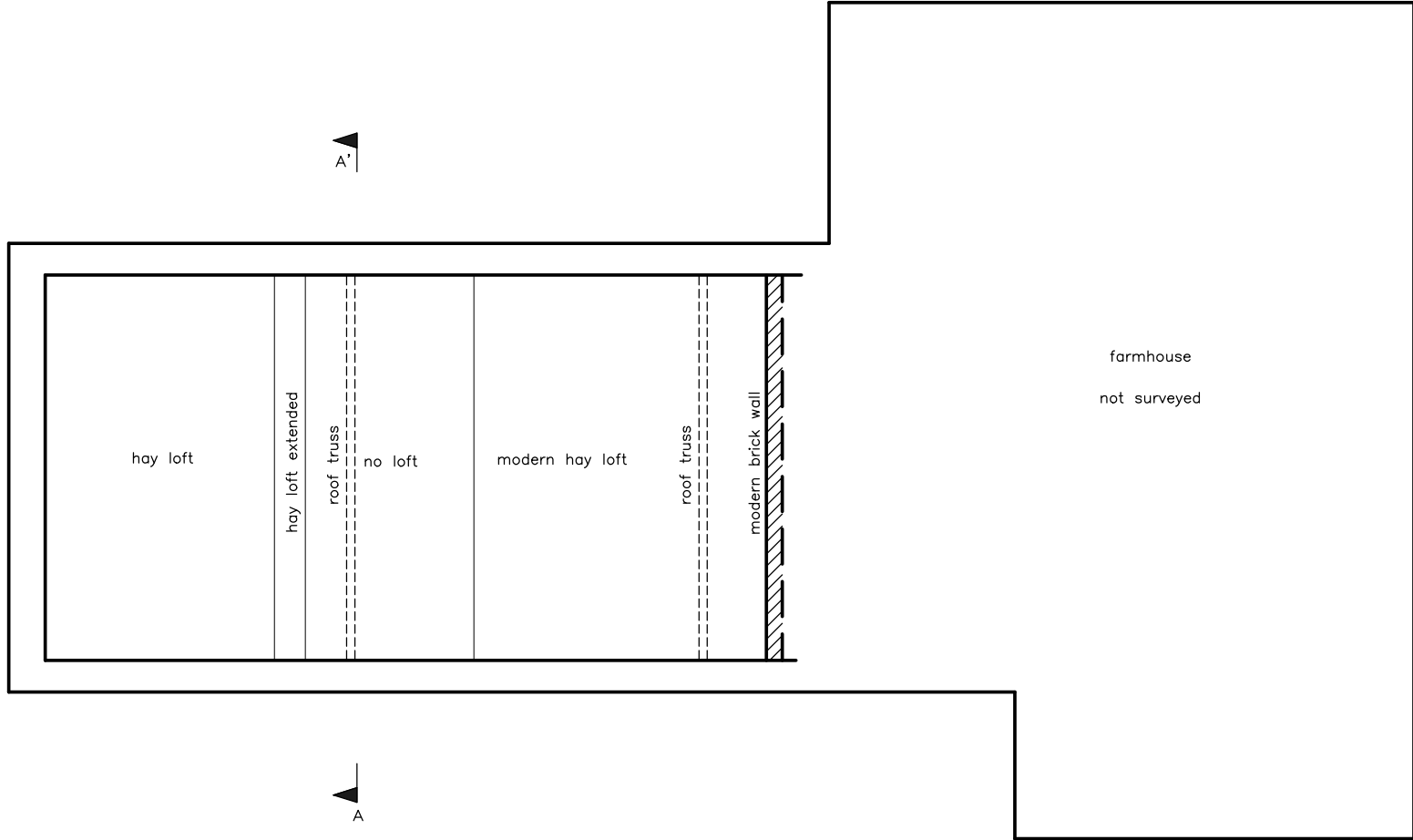
BARN AT LITTLE WOODFIELD FARM  
 LONGSIGHT ROAD  
 CLAYTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE  
 (NGR: SD 65986 32807):  
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 8:  
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN

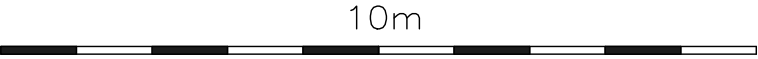
SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: AUGUST 2018

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KEY  
 blocking or infill



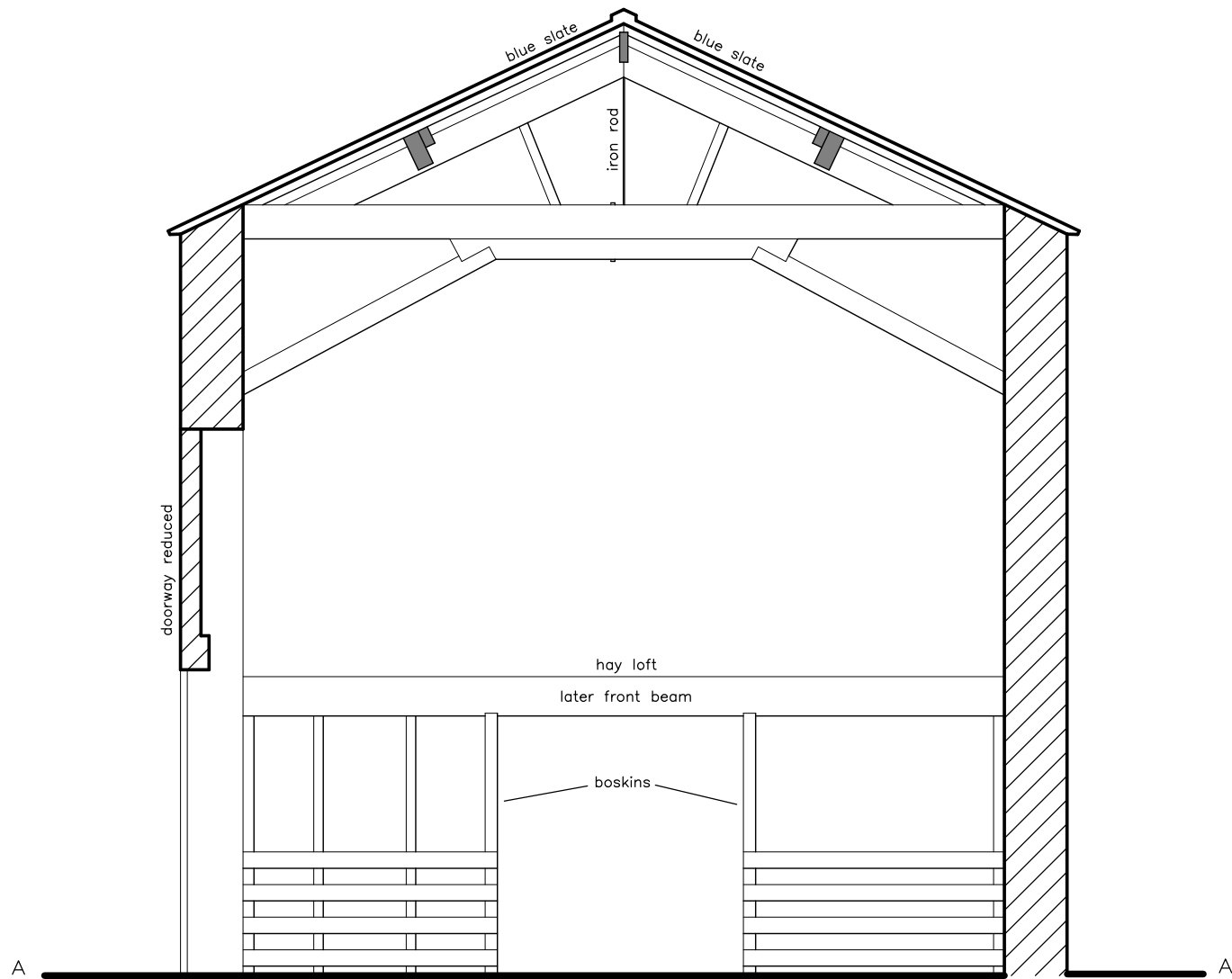
BARN AT LITTLE WOODFIELD FARM  
 LONGSIGHT ROAD  
 CLAYTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE  
 (NGR: SD 65986 32807):  
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 9:  
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

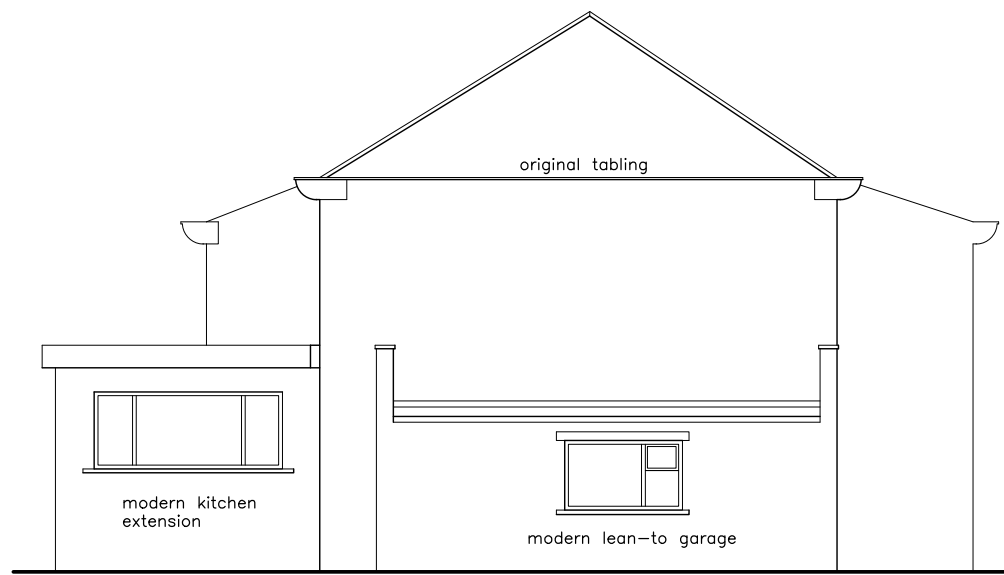
DATE OF SURVEY: AUGUST 2018

STEPHEN HAIGH  
 Buildings Archaeologist

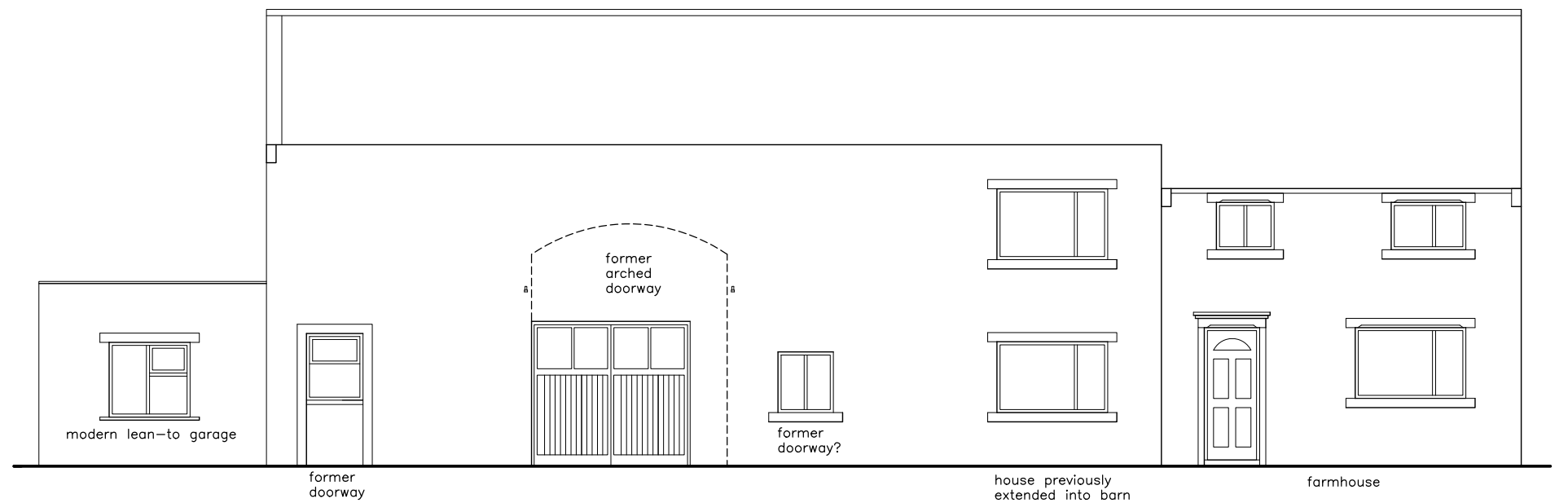


<p>BARN AT LITTLE WOODFIELD FARM          LONGSIGHT ROAD          CLAYTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE          (NGR: SD 65986 32807):          HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD</p>
<p>FIGURE 10:          CROSS-SECTION</p>
<p>SCALE: 1:50 (at A4)</p>
<p>DATE OF SURVEY: AUGUST 2018</p>
<p>STEPHEN HAIGH          Buildings Archaeologist</p>

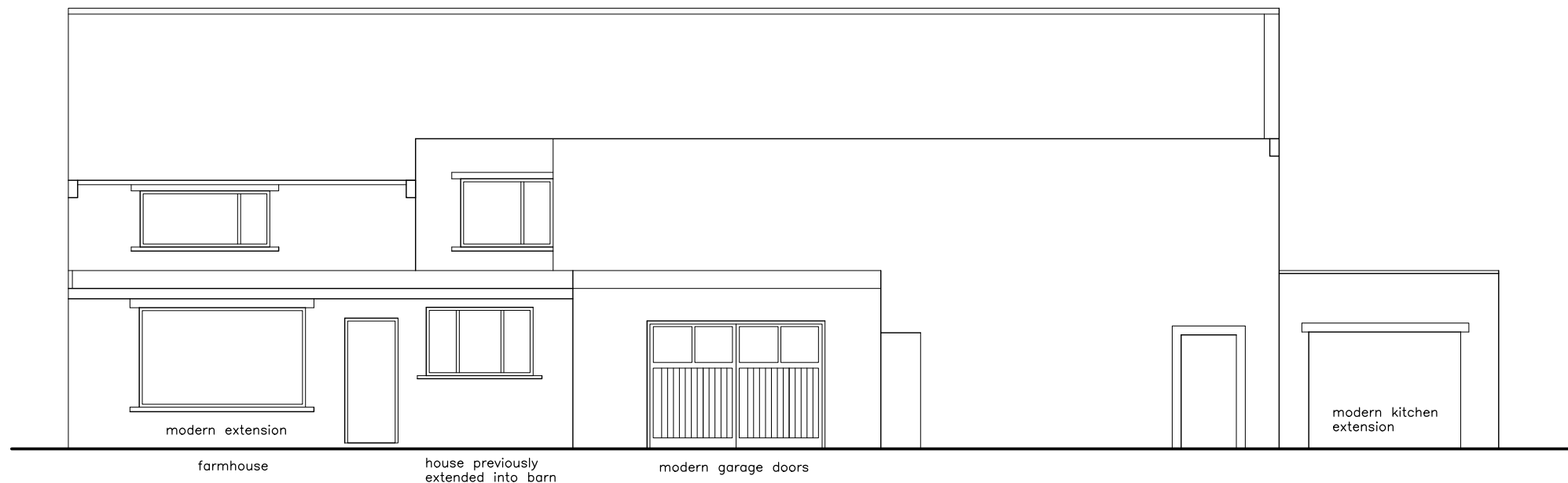




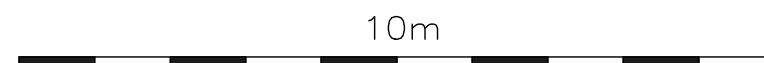
SOUTH-WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION (FRONT)



NORTH-WEST ELEVATION (REAR)



BARN AT LITTLE WOODFIELD FARM  
 LONGSIGHT ROAD  
 CLAYTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE  
 (NGR: SD 65986 32807):  
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 11:  
 ELEVATIONS

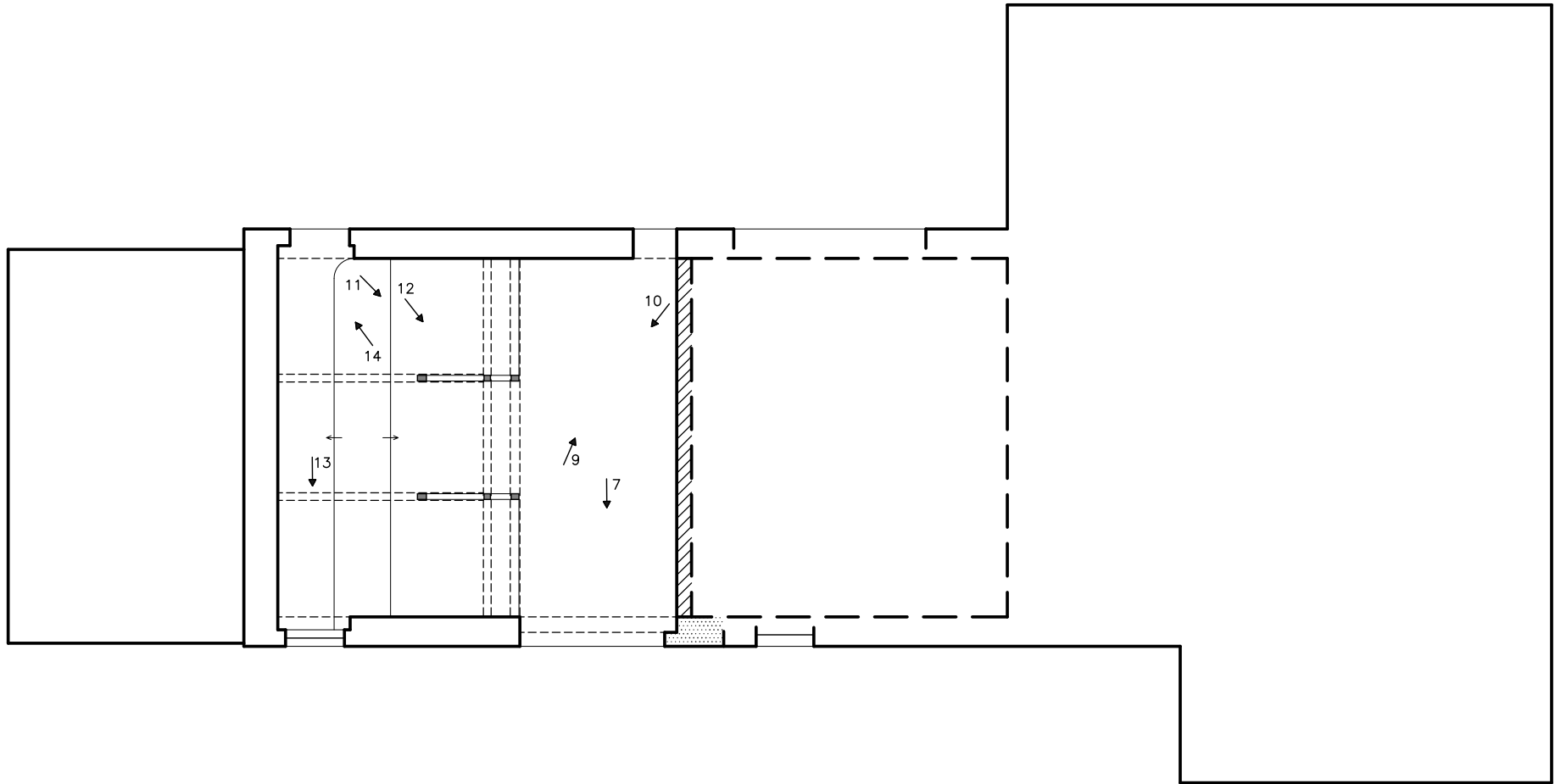
SCALE: 1:100 (at A3)

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5 ↙



↑<sub>3</sub>

↗<sub>4</sub>

↖<sub>2</sub>

↑<sub>1</sub>

10m

KEY

↗<sub>1</sub>: photograph direction and number



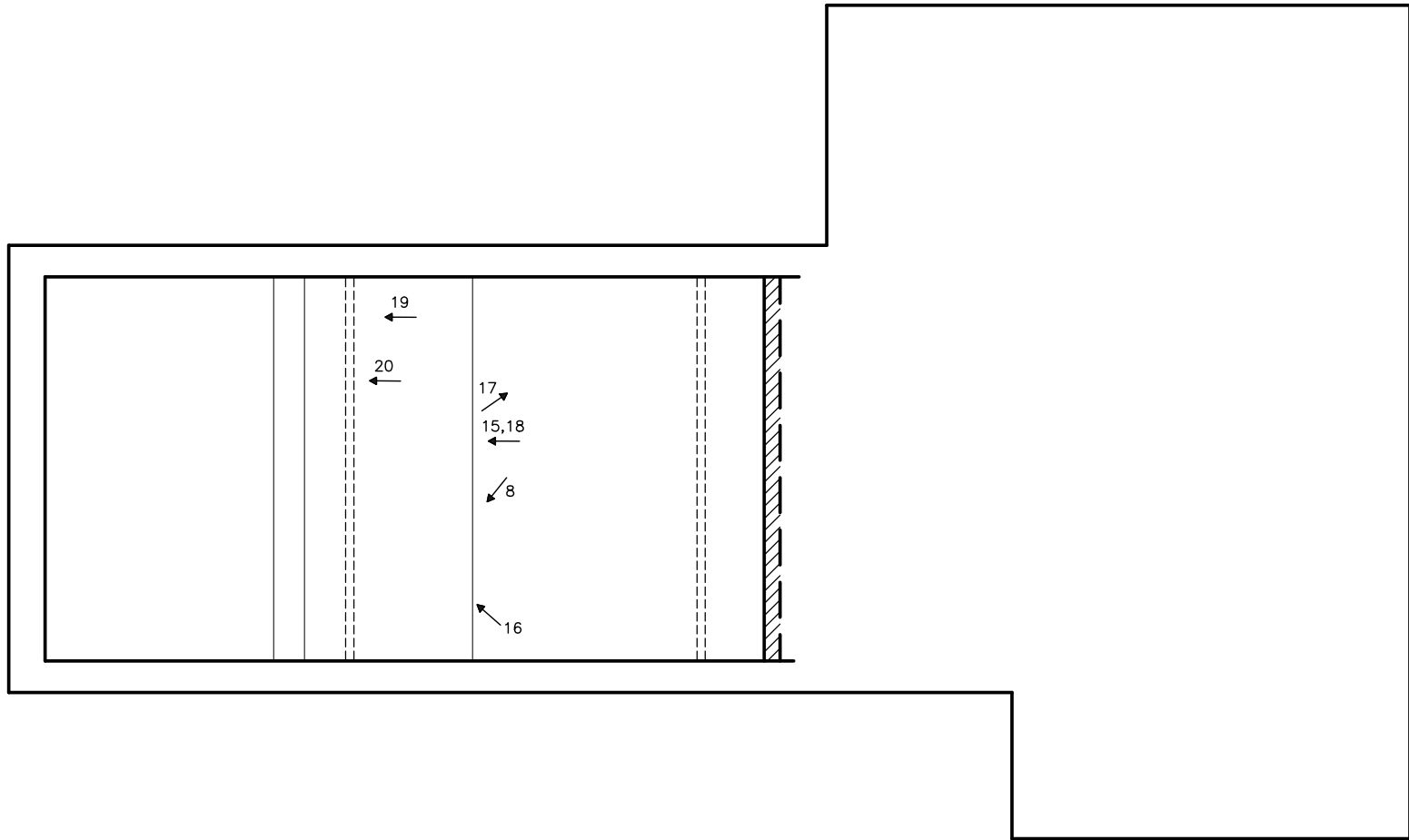
BARN AT LITTLE WOODFIELD FARM  
 LONGSIGHT ROAD  
 CLAYTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE  
 (NGR: SD 65986 32807):  
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 12:  
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN  
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: AUGUST 2018

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6 →

19 ←

20 ←

17 ↗

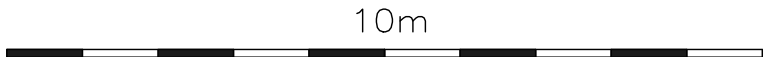
15,18 ←

8 ↘

16 ↖

KEY

↗ 1: photograph direction and number



BARN AT LITTLE WOODFIELD FARM  
 LONGSIGHT ROAD  
 CLAYTON-LE-DALE, LANCASHIRE  
 (NGR: SD 65986 32807):  
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 13:  
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: AUGUST 2018

STEPHEN HAIGH  
 Buildings Archaeologist



Photo 1: Front elevation of barn and house, facing south-east towards Longsight Road



Photo 2: Front elevation of the barn, with traces of arched cart entry visible above double doors



Photo 4: Front of house, with 20th century windows in part of former barn at left



Photo 5: General view of the barn and house from the west



Photo 6: Detail of tabling and kneelers in south-west gable



Photo 8: Interior view of front cart entrance, from the north



Photo 10: Shippon in south-west end of barn, looking south



Photo 11: Stalls in shippon, looking east, showing later boskins and front beam to loft



Photo 14: Detail of doorway in north-west side of shippon



Photo 15: Hay loft over shippon, looking south-west



Photo 18: South-west truss, looking south-west



Photo 19: "Baltic" mark on north-east side of south-west tie beam