

**GREENBANK BARN, GRINDLETON,
LANCASHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Planning ref. 3/2019/0140



JB Archaeology Ltd

On behalf of

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**GREENBANK BARN, GRINDLETON,
LANCASHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Summary

A survey of the historic Greenbank barn near Grindleton in Lancashire was undertaken in July 2019. The survey recorded a large, rectangular barn which was probably originally built in the late 18th or early 19th century and can be seen to have undergone a number of phases of alteration. The barn is located to the west of the former farmhouse and could be seen to occupy a slight, man-made terrace on a south facing slope. The barn was built from randomly coursed local stone rubble under a stone tile roof.

Greenbank barn probably dates from the 18th century and was originally a 'double' hay and threshing barn with a yards to the north and south. The barn underwent significant changes in 1817 with the infilling of the area between the cart porches on the southern side along with the remodelling of its eastern end. This remodelling entailed the realignment of the southern wall at the eastern end and the addition of two small rooms; the replacement of three of the roof trusses; and the removal of the external stairs on the northern side. The northern side of the barn also saw the eastern cart door being rebuilt. These changes would seem to coincide with a time when there was a significant national drive to improve agricultural efficiency.

The final identifiable change was a small infilling between the cart shed and the main barn.

GREENBANK BARN, GRINDLETON, LANCASHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents the results of programme of historic building recording into Greenbank barn at Greenbanks, Grindleton Road, Grindleton BB7 4QJ, (NGR SD 7544 4521). The building is in the civil parish of Grindleton, in the Ribble Valley, Lancashire (Figure 1) (Planning ref. 3/2019/0140). The recording was carried out by JB Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Mr Evans in July 2019.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Historic Background

- 2.1 Like the majority settlements the nearby village of Grindleton is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and shows that there has been some form of settlement here for at least a 1,000 years and possibly longer. The place name for Grindleton is first recorded as *Gretlintone* from the Old English *grendle, ing* and *tun* meaning ‘farmstead near the gravelly stream’ (Mills, 2011, 215).

Geology and Soils

- 2.2 The underlying solid geology of the site is the Clitheroe Limestone Formation which is overlain by a quaternary geology of glacial till (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The soils that have weathered from this are the Brickfield 3 association which are slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, fine loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Topography and Land-use

- 2.4 The site lies in an area of levelled ground on a south facing hillside to the north of Grindleton Road. The barn is part of a former farm complex at a height of c.100mOD. The land around the site is given over to agriculture.

Greenbanks Barn, Grindleton, Lancashire – Historic Building Recording

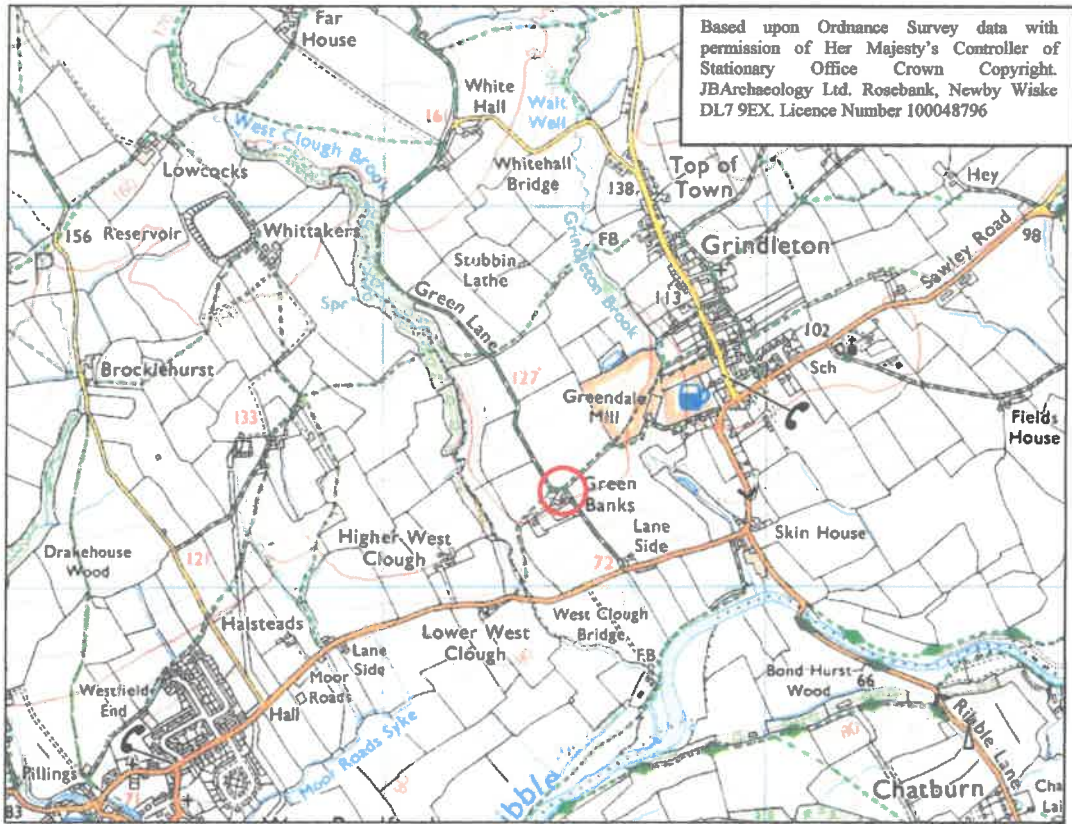


Figure 1. Site Location

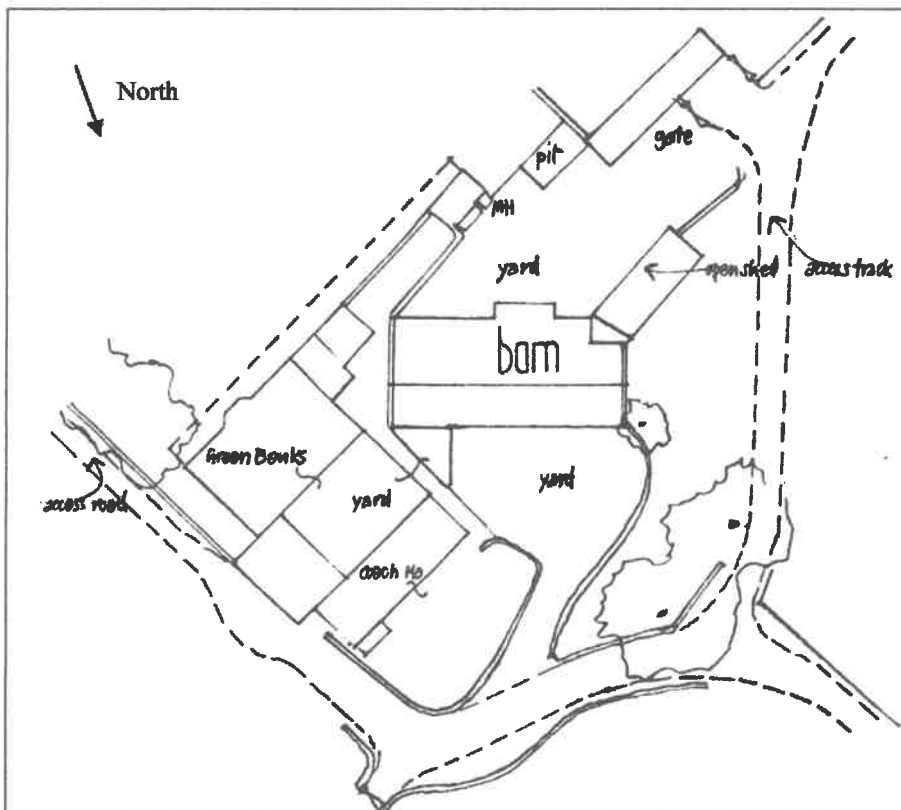


Figure 2. Detailed site location

(Drawing John Wharton)

3.0 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 The objective of the building recording was to locate, identify, record and interpret any features of architectural/historical interest or significance surviving within the fabric of the historic building that would possibly be damaged/altered or destroyed during the re-development works. The specific aim was to:

- record (written, graphic and photographic records) any surviving architectural/historic features

3.2 The detail of the recording was to Level 2/3, as given in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (English Heritage, 2006).

3.3 In addition small scale research was undertaken in to historic Ordnance Survey mapping in order to try to more fully understand its history and development.

4.0 RESULTS

Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping

4.1 Green Bank farm is already established by the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile 1st edition of 1850 (Figure 3) and the barn is depicted as a more or less rectangular building. However, by the OS 25" edition of 1886 the barn is shown in the configuration that it is seen today and it would seem possible that the earlier depiction is a simplified one.



Figure 3. Extract 1850 OS 1st edition

(National Library of Scotland)



Figure 4. Extract 1886 OS 25'' series (National Library of Scotland)

- 4.2 The later OS editions all show the same basic shape for the barn with only minor variations in the surrounding buildings – e.g. the addition of a small structure on the north-western corner of the main barn on the 1908 map (Figure 6). This basic layout is of a rectangular barn with access to both the northern and southern elevations with the southern side being enclosed by a walled fold yard with outbuildings.



Figure 5. Extract 1890 OS 6'' series (National Library of Scotland)

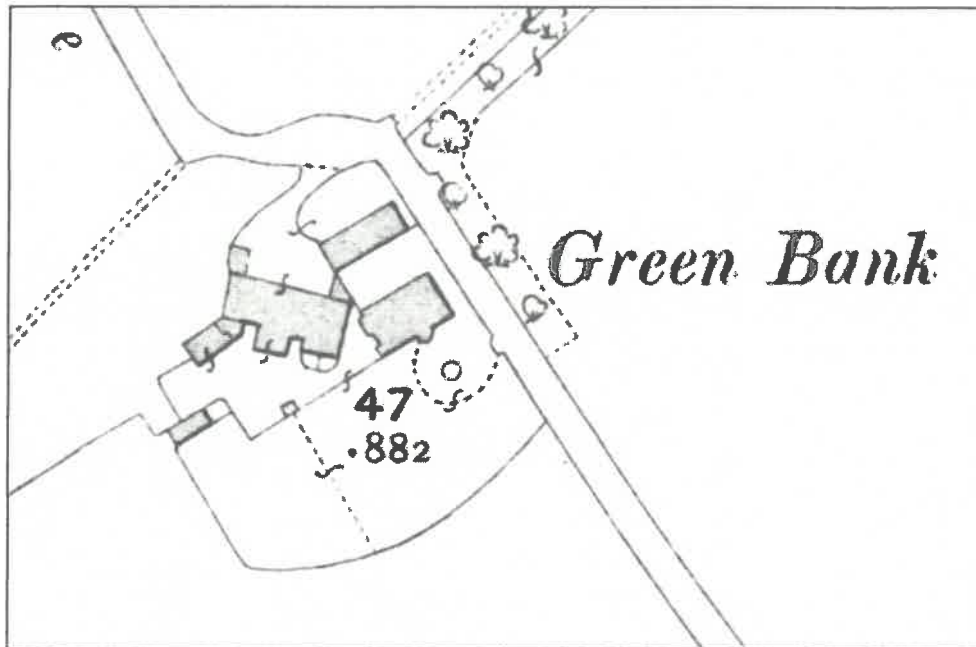


Figure 6. Extract 1908 OS 25" series

(National Library of Scotland)

Building Survey

- 4.3 The building survey recorded that the barn had been built from random courses of local stone rubble under a stone tile roof with roughly squared quoins. The barn had a varying number of openings in its various elevations with all of the openings being roughly finished with a variety of tools. All the jambs, sills and lintels were also of local stone. The variation in the tooling suggests a degree of rebuild/repair over time.
- 4.4 The barn had been built on a modest man-made terrace cut into the south facing slope of the hillside. The rear (north) elevation (Plate 1) contained two large cart doors along with a single, centrally located doorway and window.
- 4.5 The southern elevation (Plate 2) had a similar arrangement with two large cart doors directly opposite the ones in the northern elevation. There were a number of small doors leading to a variety of small rooms which appear to have been added to this elevation over time.
- 4.6 On the western side of the yard to the south of the barn there was an open sided, three bay cart shed whilst on the eastern side there was a stone trough and slurry pit. At the southern end of the yard there was a smaller building which had been modified over time but would appear to have been a stable.
- 4.7 From the inspection of the building it would appear that it has undergone three phases of activity starting from its origins in the 18th century.

Phase I: Original Construction: ?late 17th to 18th century

- 4.8 The date of the original construction of the barn is uncertain and, as seen in the historic mapping above, it appears to be in place in its current form by the mid 19th century. An earlier origin is indicated by a number of surviving

architectural features including a king-post truss of hand-cut timber which has curved braces (Plate 3). This suggests an 18th century date.



Plate 1. Rear (northern) elevation, looking south, scale 1m

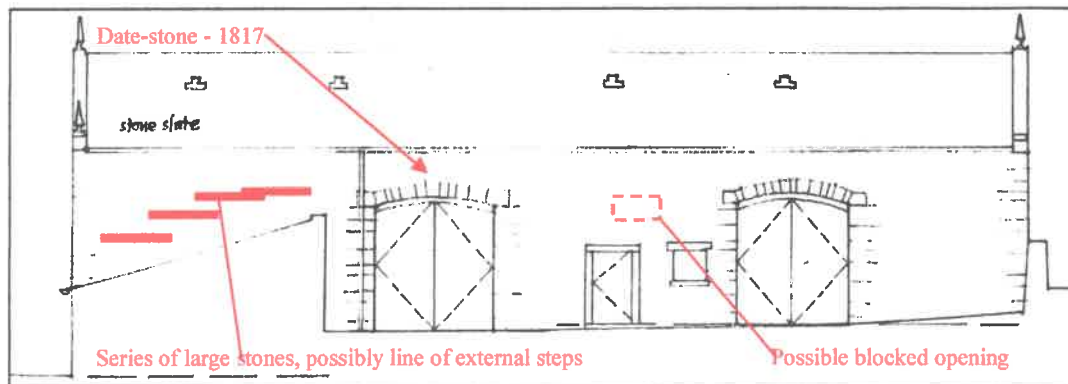


Figure 7. Northern elevation

(Drawing John Wharton)

- 4.9 The original configuration of the barn appears to have been as a large hay barn with two cart porches on the southern side with matching doors on the northern side. The size and location of these doors would have allowed for threshing to have taken place. A row of joist holes in the dividing wall between the two parts of the barn attest to a hay loft (Plate 4). A further possible indication of a hay loft, or possibly even a granary, is a line of large staggered stones in the north-eastern side of the barn (Plate 5 & Figure 7). These stones appear to be the remains of a flight of external steps to a loft of some form which were probably removed during the Phase II works in 1817 – see below.



Plate 2. Front (southern) elevation, looking north, scale 1m

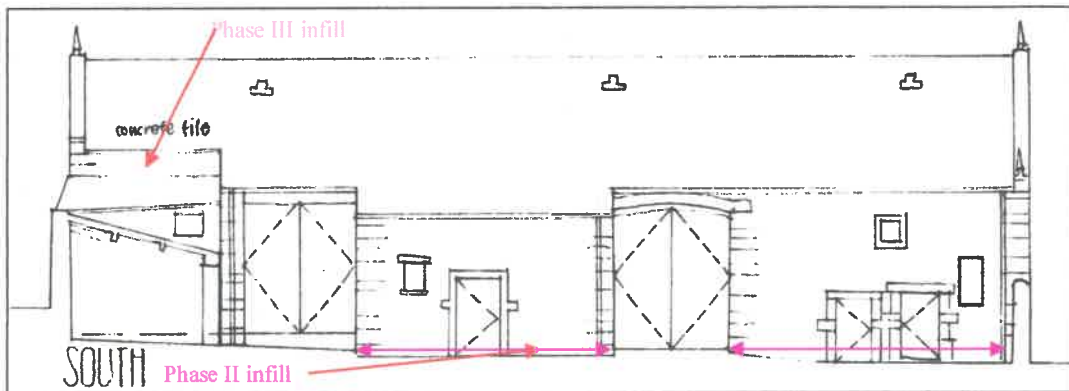


Figure 8. Southern elevation

(Drawing John Wharton)



Plate 3. King post truss with curved braces at west end of the barn, looking W

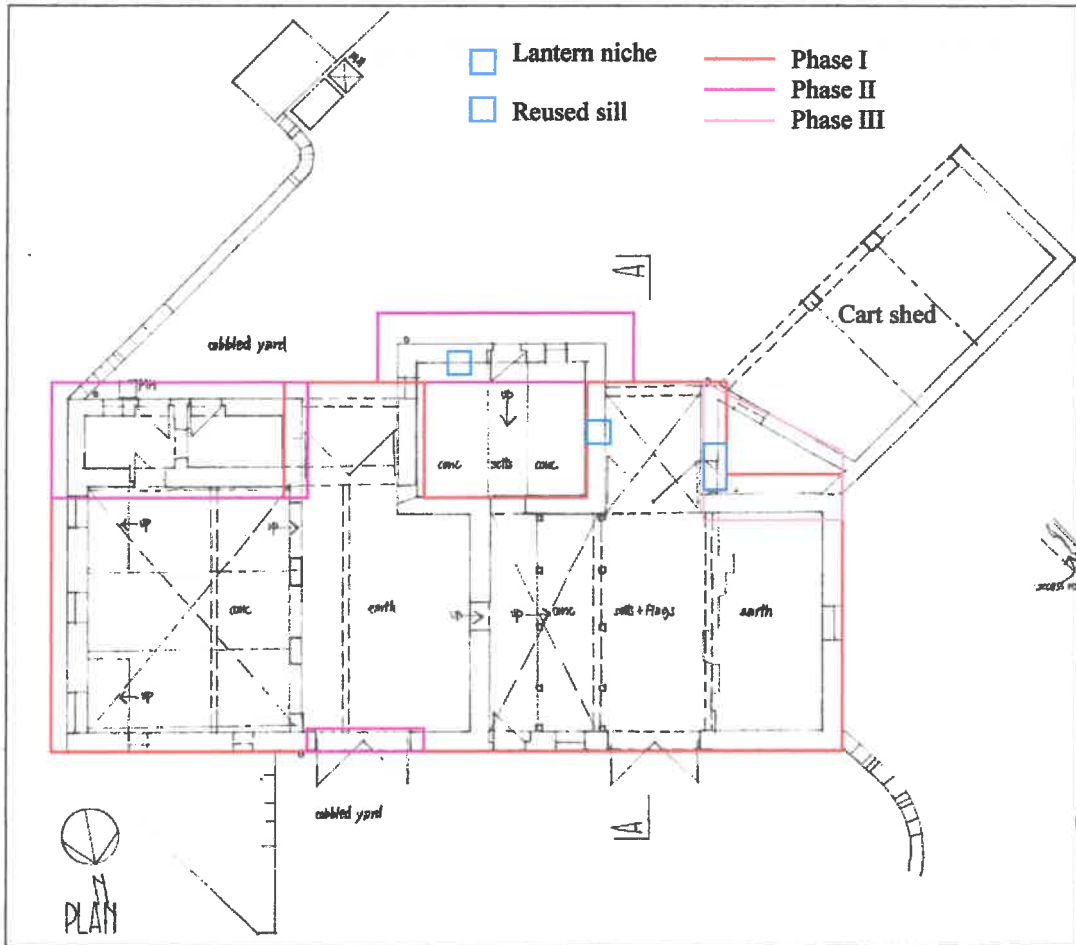


Figure 9. Ground floor plan

(Drawing John Wharton)



Plate 4. Joist holes and 'tide mark' showing hay loft, looking SE, scale 1m



Plate 5. Staggered stones in the north-eastern side of the barn, looking SE

- 4.10 The western cart porch retained a lantern niche on its eastern side (Plate 6), a similar one would be expected in the eastern cart porch but later alterations have probably removed it (Plate 7). The cart doors in all four entrances were harr-hung which probably reflects their original configuration.



Plate 6. Lantern niche & butt join of Phase II extension, looking NE, scale 1m



Plate 7. Eastern cart porch with later doorway, looking NE, scale 1m

Phase II: Southern Infill and Extension Construction: Probably 1817

- 4.11 The dated key stone in the cart door at the eastern end of the northern side of the barn probably marks first phase of extensive alterations to the building (Plate 8). This phase of activity can be seen in the infilling of the area between the two cart porches on the southern side and the addition of a further two rooms on the south-eastern corner (Figure 9).



Plate 8. Dated key stone and rebuilt arch, looking south

- 4.12 The infill between the cart porches was used for livestock, as seen by the lantern niche in the southern wall (Plate 10) and the collapsed boskins. The ceiling timberwork for this room contained a number of reused elements which may have derived from the reconfiguration of other parts of the building.



Plate 9. Infill room between porches, looking north, scale 1m



Plate 10. Lantern niche, looking south-east, scale 1m

- 4.13 The two small eastern rooms do not retain any evidence or features for a specific function.
- 4.14 The southern side of the eastern end of the main barn appears to have undergone a major change as the wall line to the east of the porch does not line up with the rest of the original frontage. This change in alignment and the presence of the markedly different type of voussoirs in the arch on the northern side (Plate 8) all suggest a significant rebuild; as does the probable removal of the external steps on the northern side of the barn. If they are all contemporary this would seem to date to 1817 as seen in the key stone. Interestingly the adjacent farmhouse has a date stone on the chimney stack of 1819 (and the initials WS) which strongly suggests a programme of improvement in the farm in the early 19th century, possibly trying to create a ‘model farm’ ideal. It would seem quite likely that during this round of alterations and improvements that the stone finials were added to the barn.

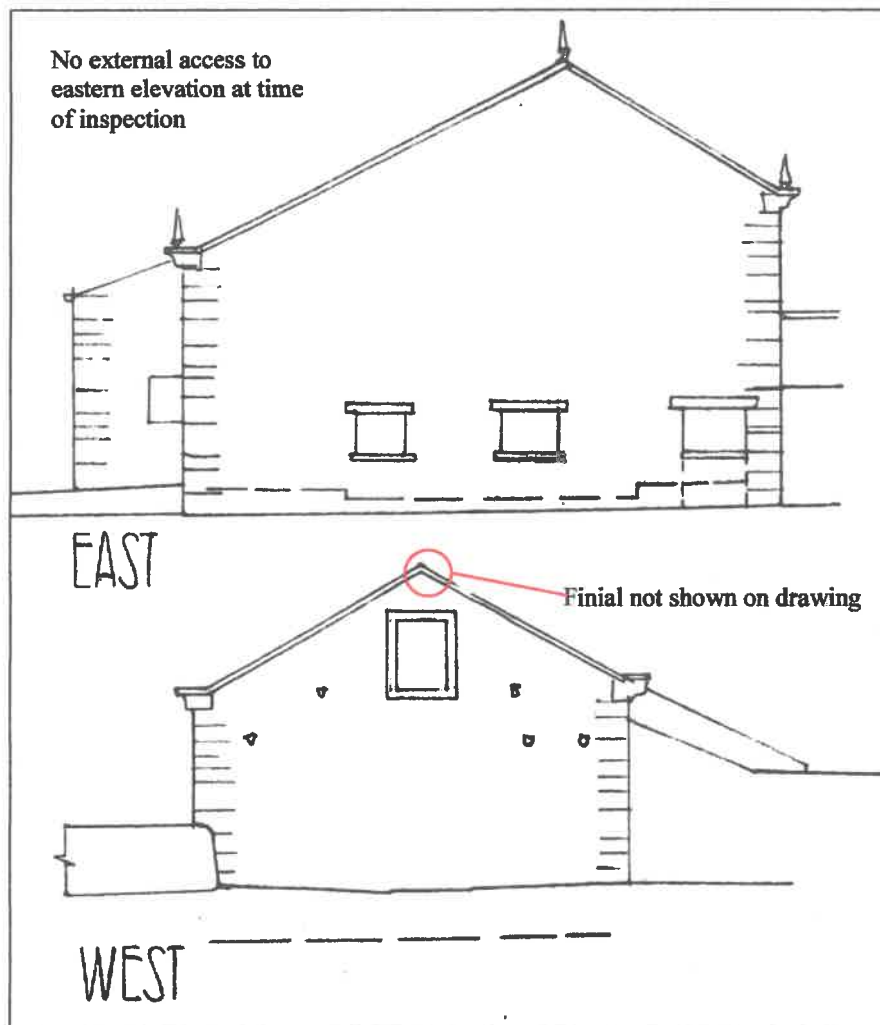


Figure 10. Eastern & western elevations

(Drawing John Wharton)

- 4.15 It would seem probable that the early 19th century changes also saw the replacing of the original/earlier trusses with the more substantial ones seen today (Plate 11).



Plate 11. Later trusses at the eastern end of the barn, looking east

Phase III: Infill between Barn and Cart Shed: between 1890 & 1908

- 4.16 The last significant change to the building that can be identified is the infilling of the gap between the cart shed to the west and the western end of the barn. From historic mapping (Figs 6&7) this would seem to be between 1890 and 1908. The only notable feature of this room was the reused door sill as a lintel over the door, as seen by the holes for door jambs (Plate 12).



Plate 12. Reused door sill as a jamb, looking east.

Farmyard

4.17 The enclosed farmyard to the south of the barn retained a number of structures and features:

- three bay, open sided cart shed (Plate 13)
- stone trough and drain (Plate 14)
- slurry pit and remains of platform (Plate 15)
- probable stable (Plate 16)
- concrete trough (Plate 17)
- pit (Plate 18)

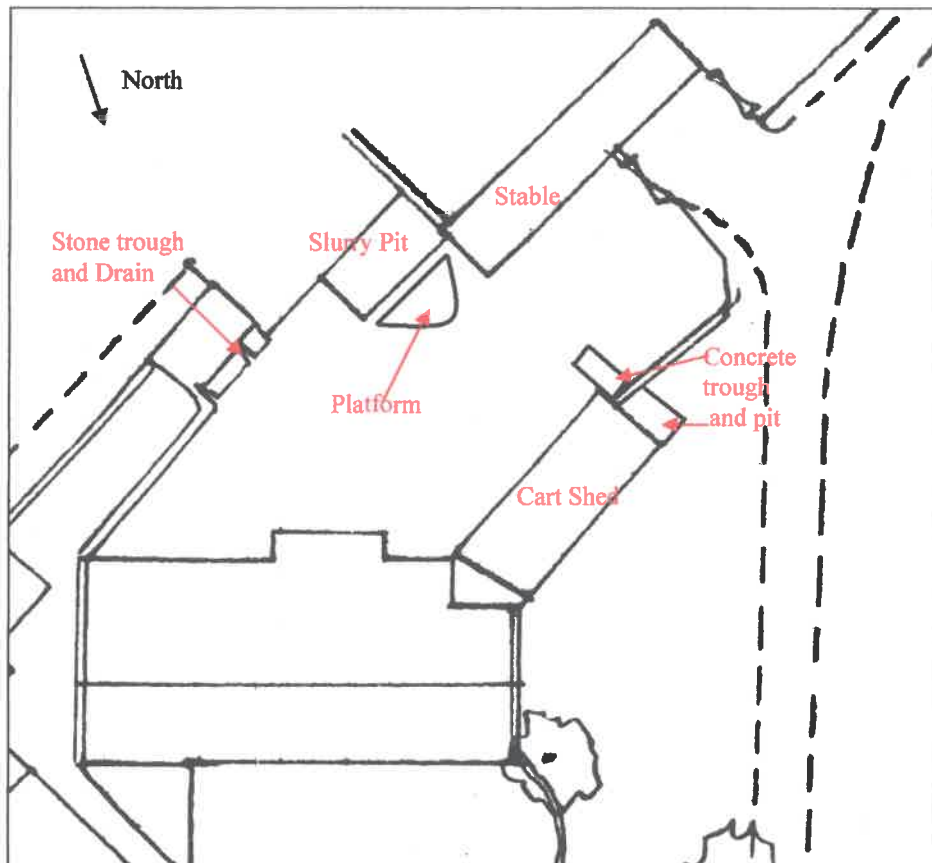


Figure 11. Plan of features in farmyard

(Drawing John Wharton)



Plate 13. Cart shed, looking east.



Plate 14. Stone trough and drain, looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 15. Slurry pit and remains of platform, looking south-east



Plate 16. Probable stable, looking east, scale 1m



Plate 17. Concrete trough, looking west, scale 1m



Plate 18. Pit, looking east, scale 1m

5.0 DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 From the results of the map research and survey described above, it can be seen that Greenbank barn probably has its origins in the 18th century as a ‘double’ combined hay and threshing barn with a yard to the north and south to allow the handling of the crop coming in the building.
- 5.2 The barn then undergoes a number of significant changes with the infilling of the area between the cart porches on the southern side along with the remodelling of its eastern end. This remodelling entails the realignment of the southern wall at the eastern end and the addition of two small rooms; the replacement of three of the roof trusses and the removal of the external stairs on the northern side. Also on the northern side, the eastern cart door is also rebuilt and a date stone of 1817 added. All of these changes coincide with a time when there was a significant national drive to improve agricultural efficiency.
- 5.3 The final identifiable change is a small infilling between the cart shed and the main barn.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr Evans and John Wharton for inviting me to under take the project.

References

- English Heritage, 2006, *Understanding Historic Buildings; A Guide to Good Recording Practice*
- Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (September 1995, revised September 2001)
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- 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1 Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales. Lawes Agricultural Trust, Harpenden
- 2001 Geological Survey 1:625,000 Map North Sheet Solid Geology. British Geological Survey

Historic OS Mapping

6” Series

1850 Yorkshire 182 (includes: Chatburn; Clitheroe; Waddington; West Bradford)

Surveyed: 1847

1890 Yorkshire CLXXXII (includes: Chatburn; Clitheroe; Waddington; West

Bradford) Surveyed: 1884

1910 Yorkshire CLXXXII.NE (includes: Chatburn; Grindleton; Sawley; West Bradford) Revised: 1907

1934 Lancashire XLVII.NE (includes: Chatburn; Downham; Grindleton; Rimington; Sawley; Worston) Revised: 1930

25" Series

1886 Lancashire XLVII.3 (Chatburn; Grindleton; Sawley; West Bradford)

Surveyed: 1884

1886 Yorkshire CLXXXII.7 (Chatburn; Clitheroe; Grindleton; West Bradford)

Surveyed: 1884

1908 Yorkshire CLXXXII.7 (Chatburn; Clitheroe; Grindleton; West Bradford)

Revised: 1907

Appendix I

Additional Photographs



Eastern part of main barn, looking west, scale 1m



Modern livestock stalls in eastern end of main barn, looking east



Phase III infill, looking west, scale 1m



Western end of southern elevation, looking north, scale 1m



Eastern end of southern elevation, looking north, scale 1m



Interior of cart shed, latterly used for stalls, looking south, scale 1m



Western gable end, looking east, scale 1m