

WRITTEN STONE FARM, WRITTEN STONE LANE, LONGRIDGE, PRESTON, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Building Recording



Clients: Clare Hargreaves-Norris
and Darren Norris

NGR: 362582 437860

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April 2025



The Site	
Site Name	Written Stone Farm, Written Stone Lane, Longridge, Preston
County	Lancashire
NGR	362582 437860
Listing Status and number	Curtilage of Grade II listed farm house (1362273) close to Grade II listed 'Written Stone' (1147440)

Planning	
Planning application number	3/2024/0622 and 3/2024/0623
Relevant condition number	26 and 14
Level of recording required	3 for barn, 2 for outbuilding 1, photographic record of outbuilding 2

Client	
Client Name	Clare Hargreaves-Norris and Darren Norris
Client's architect	Judith Douglas Town Planning Ltd
'As existing' drawings available?	Yes

Archiving	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Preston
Relevant HER	Lancashire

Staffing	
Desk-based assessment	Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace
Building recording	Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace
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Illustrations	Tom Mace
Date on site work carried out	21/03/2025

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Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the conversion of a barn for residential use, conversion of an outbuilding for associated use, and demolition of another outbuilding for the creation of a new garage, at Written Stone Farm, Written Stone Lane, Longridge, Lancashire, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological building recording. This took place in March 2025.

The associated farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building, as is the nearby Written Stone, from which the site takes its name. This comprises a large piece of stone inscribed by Ralph Ratcliffe in 1655, while the house is dated to 1784 but clearly contains earlier fabric, as does another outbuilding to the east. The origins of the site are uncertain but it certainly appears to have been occupied by the early 17th century and belonged to the Ratcliffe family. The Written Stone was connected to a range of legends, largely relating to bad fortune afflicting one resident who tried to move it. The current house was probably constructed by the Bourn family in 1784 and they remained at the site into the 19th century, by which time it was certainly operating as a farm. The map evidence shows that the barn had been constructed before 1837, and was extended in the later 19th century, during which time Outbuilding 1 had also been constructed. The second outbuilding was evidently built early in the 20th century.

The building recording revealed that the earliest part of the barn comprised the north-east end, which was originally a substantial combination barn, with a threshing floor accessed by a wagon doorway with an opposing winnowing door, and animal housing below a hay loft to the north-east. This was probably of late 18th to early 19th century date, although it incorporated various pieces of reused material of 17th century date, including two dressed door surrounds. Similar material was also observed in the farm house and the other outbuilding to the east of that. The original barn was extended shortly after construction at the south-west end, with what was probably additional housing for cattle, although it could have been a stable, again with a hay loft over. The building was again extended, this time to the north-west, in the later 19th century, with further housing for cattle, and Outbuilding 1 was also constructed during this time, perhaps for the housing of calves or for dairying purposes. Other areas were also modified during this phase. In the 20th century the barn and Outbuilding 1 saw further alterations, again mostly connected to modernisations such as the use of concrete. Outbuilding 2 was also constructed, probably to form an open-front storage or cart-shed.

While the site has an interesting history connected to the Written Stone and the Ratcliffe family, the barn represents a fairly typical but good example of a type of barn found throughout the region as the increasing need for dairy products during the late 18th and 19th centuries led to greater amounts of cattle farming. The later extension and the outbuildings demonstrate the manner in which such farmsteads often developed as agricultural practices changed.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Clare Hargreaves-Norris and Darren Norris for commissioning the project and providing information about the site.

1. Introduction

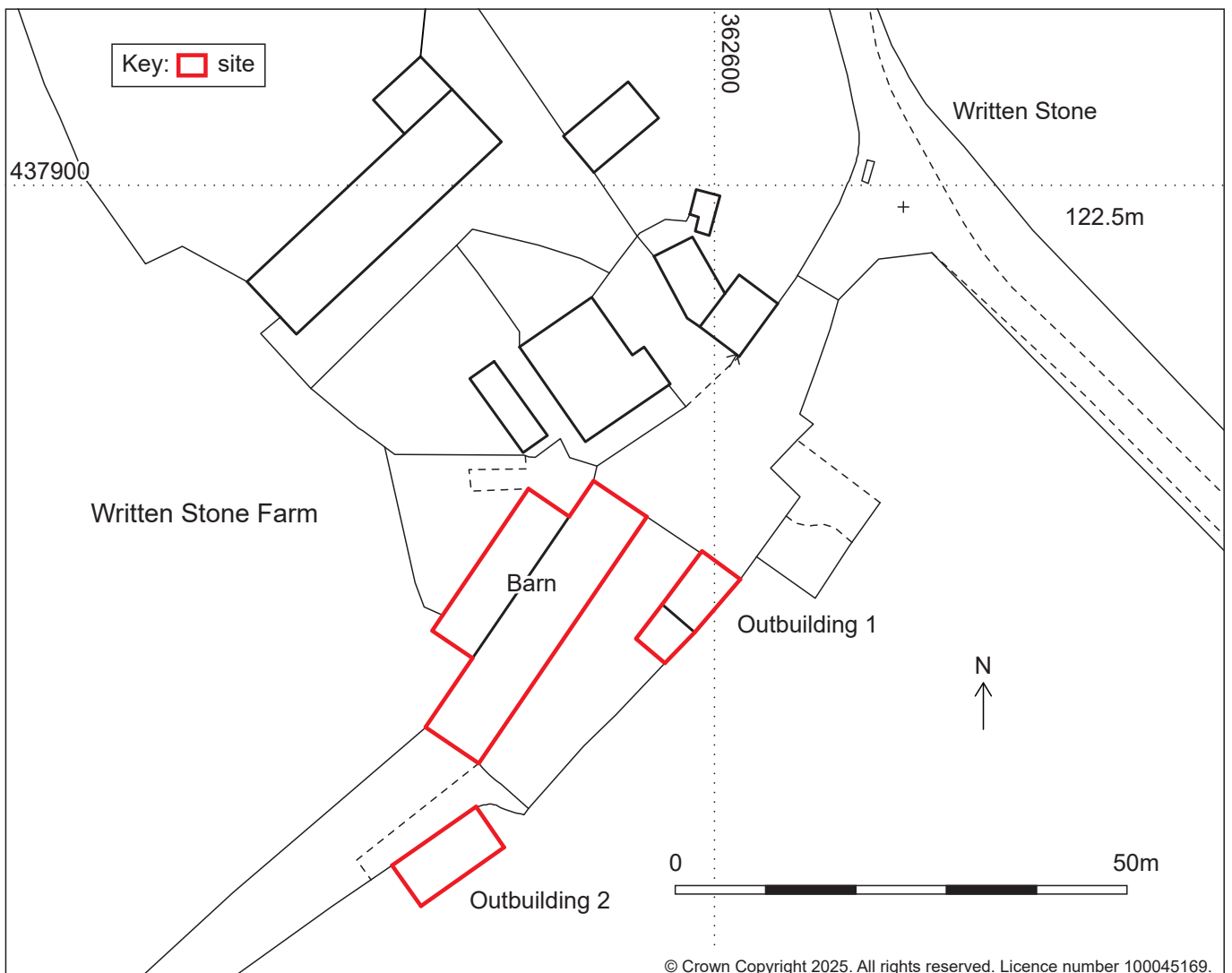
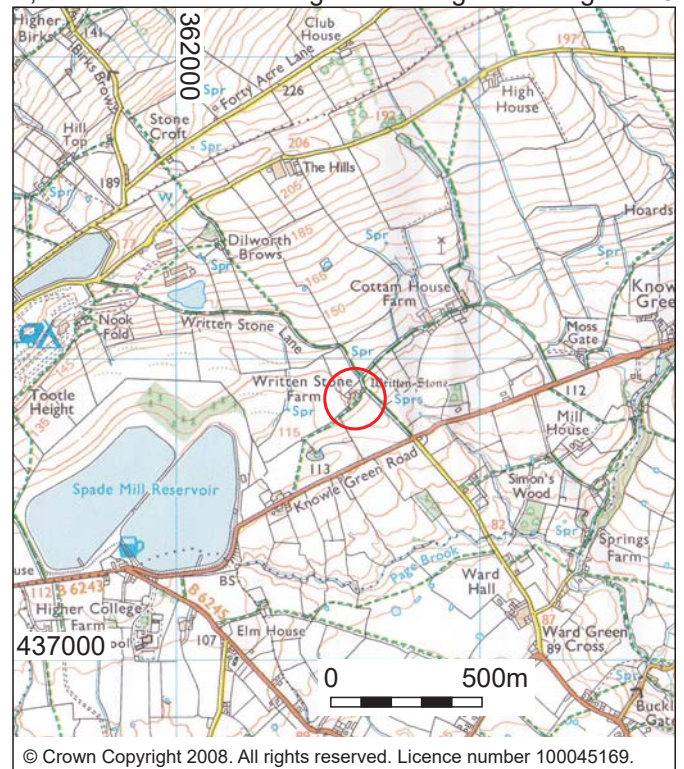
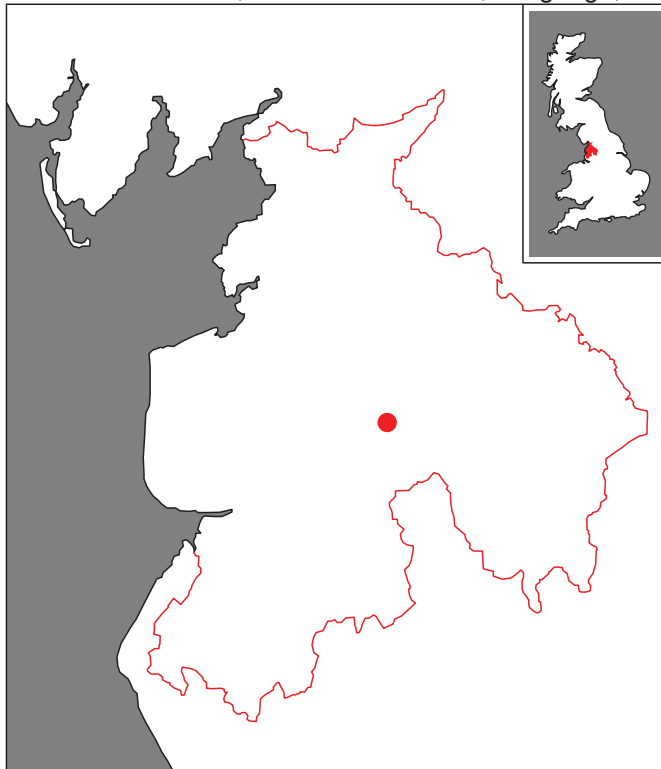
1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 The circumstances of the project are set out in the tables on the inside cover of this report.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Written Stone Farm is located in the Ribble Valley area, c1.7km east of Longridge and c10km north-east of Preston, (Figure 1; Ordnance Survey 2008). It lies c125m above sea level.

1.2.2 The area is within the Lancashire Valleys character area. The surrounding area is characterised by an undulating landscape, with scattered settlements on valley sides comprised of old stone buildings (Countryside Commission 1998, 103). Small woodlands are limited and the land principally comprises pastureland, enclosed by hedgerows, stone walls on the higher ground, and post and wire fences (Countryside Commission 1998, 101). The underlying geology of the valleys comprises Coal Measures overlain by glacial deposits of mostly till (Countryside Commission 1998, 102).



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Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological building recording provides a record of the structure equivalent to Level 3 (for the barn) Level 2 (for Outbuilding 1) survey as defined by Historic England (Historic England 2016), with a photographic survey only of Outbuilding 2. The building recording was carried out according to the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b). A suitable archive has also been compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results, also in accordance with CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources and is in addition to research carried out for an earlier Historic Building Appraisal (Sunderland Peacock and Associates 2024). A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this report. Of principal importance are early maps of the site. These were examined in order to establish the development of the site, date of any structures present within it, and details of land use, in order to set the site in its historical, archaeological, and regional context. In addition, any details of the site's owners and occupiers were acquired where available;
- **Online Resources:** where available, mapping such as Ordnance Survey maps and other historical sources were consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology's office library includes maps, local histories, and unpublished primary and secondary sources. These were consulted where relevant, in order to provide information about the history and archaeology of the site and the general area.

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to Historic England Level 3 type standards for the barn and Level 2 for outbuilding 1 (Historic England 2016), the former is a more detailed record taking into account more of the known historical development of the building based on documentary sources, but both provide a relatively detailed record of the respective building. The recording comprised the following elements:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in colour digital format (as both 12meg jpegs) were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are in the project archive;
- **Drawings:** 'as existing' architect's drawings were provided by the client's architect. These were plotted at a scale of 1:100 and annotated by hand with additional detail.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the building, will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report, together with a copy of the report. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c). In addition, any digital data produced during the project will be archived with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and details will be submitted to the Online

Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public. A copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided for the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Map and Image Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** early county-wide maps of the area of 17th and 18th century date tend not to be comprehensive enough to show the site in much detail; for example, Yate's map of 1786 only shows a single building, shown as a simple block at the site, and names it 'Writhen Stone'. The earliest suitable plans date from the mid-19th century onwards.

3.1.2 **Tithe map, 1837:** Written Stone Farm is marked on the tithe map for Dilworth in the parish of Ribchester and named as 'Written Stone' (NA IR 30/18/101 1837; Plate 1). Details of the plot numbers recorded in the accompanying tithe apportionment are summarised in Table 1. The main buildings are within Plot 415 and some overlap Plot 416 to the west and 423 to the south. All of the land was owned by John Browne and occupied by William Browne at the time.



Plate 1: Extract from the tithe map of 1837

Plot	Landowner	Occupier	Description
404	John Browne	William Browne	Orchard Field
405	John Browne	William Browne	Orchard Croft
406	John Browne	William Browne	Old Lane Field
413	John Browne	William Browne	Acre
414	John Browne	William Browne	Garden
415	John Browne	William Browne	House Outbuildings & C
416	John Browne	William Browne	Hill Field
423	John Browne	William Browne	Part Race

Table 1: Plot details recorded in the tithe apportionment (NA IR 29/18/101 1838)

3.1.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1847:** this edition of the Ordnance Survey map was surveyed in 1844 and produced at a scale of 1:10,560. The barn is shown as a long linear north-east/south-west range (Plate 2). Outbuildings 1 and 2 are not shown. The Written Stone is marked as just 'Stone' to the east of the house.

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1895:** the 1895 1:10,560 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was re-surveyed in 1891-92. The barn had been extended on the north-west elevation and a detached outbuilding (corresponding with the position of Outbuilding 1) is shown to the east (Plate 3). The 'Written Stone' to the east of the house is not apparently shown, although it is named in Gothic script.



Plate 2 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1847



Plate 3 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1895

3.1.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1912:** the 1912 1:2,500 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was revised in 1910. More detail is shown, including internal divisions within the barn and outbuilding to the east (Plate 4). The 'Written Stone' is again marked in Gothic script and apparently shown as a rectangular block in its current location, although a point is also marked by a cross in the middle of the road.

3.1.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1932:** the 1932 1:2,500 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was revised in 1930. The barn and outbuilding to the east appear unchanged (Plate 5). A second detached outbuilding has been constructed to the south-west of the barn, which is now no longer extant, and a small outbuilding has been added to the north-west of the house.

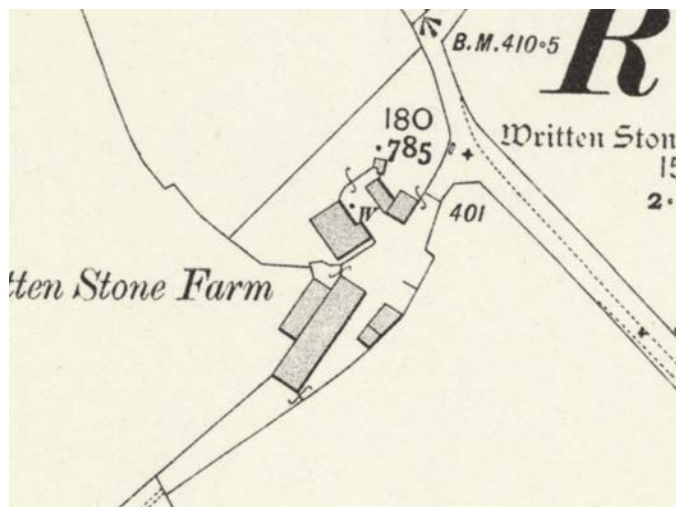


Plate 4 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1912

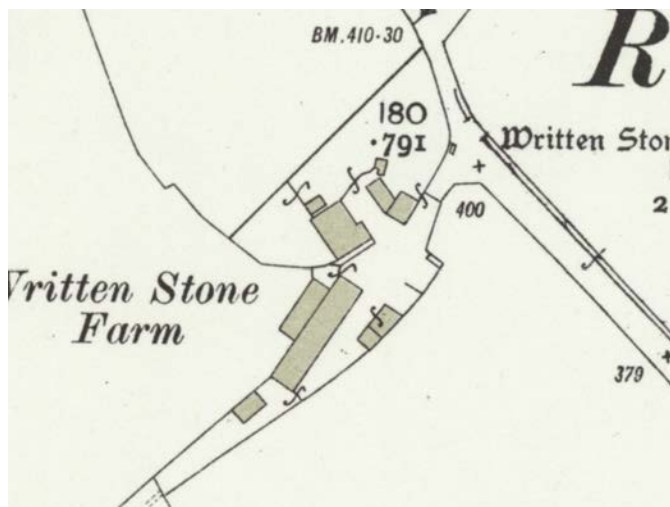


Plate 5 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1932

3.2 Site History

3.2.1 **Origins:** the farm presumably gets its name from 'The Written Stone', an inscribed stone immediately to the east, dated 1655 (Historic England 2025a; see *Appendix 2*). The farmhouse is clearly late 18th century and Listed Grade II (Historic England 2025b). The history of the Written Stone is somewhat shrouded in legend, but its story, as first recorded in detail by Smith (1888, 27-30), at least demonstrates that a property existed on the site before 1655. Smith describes the stone and its story as follows:

'A huge stone about eight feet long, two feet wide, and eighteen inches deep, with the following inscription on it:-

RAVFFE Radcliffe laid this stone

To lye for ever. A.D. 1655.

The characters are not the raised letters so prevalent in the seventeenth century, but deeply cut into the stone.

Rafe or Ralph Radcliffe was a large property owner in the district at this time, and was probably a descendant of that Duke of Lancaster's (John of Gaunt) "dear Squire Thomas de Radclyff," who was one of the Duke's trustees to his will on his death in 1399. Why Radcliffe laid this stone I cannot tell, except to commemorate the death of some dear relative, or of himself. But, while history is silent upon this point, as about every old curious thing, so about this stone, numerous legendary stories are current in the locality, and are more or less believed in by the residents. The date on the stone speaks of the days of sorcery and witchery. Tradition declares this spot to have been the scene of a cruel and barbarous murder, and it is stated that this stone was put down in order to appease the restless spirit of the deceased, which played nightly gambols long after the body had been "hearsed in earth". A capital story is told of one of the former occupants of Written Stone Farm, who thinking the stone would make a capital "buttery stone", removed it into the house, and applied it to that use. The result was that the indignant or liberated spirit would never suffer the family to rest. Whatever pots, pans, kettles, or articles of crockery were placed upon the stone were tilted over, their contents spilled, and the vessels themselves kept up a clattering sound the livelong night and the beck of the unseen spirit. Thus, worried out his night's rest, the farmer soon found himself compelled to have the stone carefully conveyed back to its original resting-place, where it has remained ever since, and the good man's family were never after disturbed by inexplicable nocturnal noises...

A writer in the "A Stonyhurst Magazine" gives a long and interesting account of his visit to the celebrated stone. "This stone," he says, "is the terror of the neighbourhood. It is said to be haunted!" After relating the "buttery-stone" incident, in a somewhat different manner to what I have done, he goes on to speak of "an old man, still said to be living, whose daughter inhabits a farm further up the haunted lane, who was wending his way homeward, late one evening, when close to the stone he saw a female figure which moved along in front of him; he mended his pace to see who it was, but in spite of every effort he never gained on it. During the whole time he was very close, but could never draw closer, and finally his pursuit ended by the disappearance of its object.

"This was the sprite at play", continues the writer, "but sometimes it was more serious, perhaps in a bad humour. A local doctor, dead many years ago, was driving down the lane late one night. Passing the stone, his horse shied and plunged in a state of extreme terror. It then, in spite of bit and rein, galloped forward at a headlong pace, nor was the doctor able to restrain it until he was a mile or two away from the spot. As soon as he had succeeded in stopping, he got down to see it had anything the matter with it. It was covered with blood! It is related this same doctor, or of another, that he was one night in a public-house in the vicinity, when the conversation turned on the Written Stone. He had been drinking freely, and, unmindful of his former adventure, wagered that he would there and then ride to the stone, boasting that he cared nothing for the imp, if indeed such a being existed. Half-an-hour had passed from the moment when he had started, when suddenly he was described galloping back at a furious speed, but it was not until after the lapse of some time that he gained sufficient courage to relate his adventure. He had ridden boldly up to the stone, when suddenly a shapeless mass appeared, and he was violently

seized about the waist and dragged from his saddle, and then so tightly embraced by the monster that he nearly died in the process”.

3.2.2 The actual origins of the Written Stone are, however, otherwise unknown. It clearly stood or was located near to the site prior to 1655; it is conceivable that it is actually quite ancient, perhaps a standing stone of prehistoric date or even a milestone of Roman origin. It is noteworthy that it is located close to a possible route of the Roman road between the forts at Ribchester, to the south, and Lancaster, to the north (Ratledge 2018).

3.2.2 **Owners and occupiers:** the earliest owners and presumably occupiers of the suite appear to have been members of the Ratcliffe family, as already mentioned, who were resident in the area from at least the early decades of the 17th century, with the last of that family resident in the area being George Ratcliffe (Smith 1888, 144-145). The current house was apparently constructed by the Bourn family (*op cit*, 145). The dated hopper of 1784 with the initials ‘WBE’ (and also presumably the partially legible datestone) on the house presumably relate to William and Ellen (nee Alston) Bourn, who were married at St Wilfrid’s Church Ribchester on the 4th February 1776 (Lancashire Parish Clerk Online nd). The later datestone of 1892, with the initials ‘WEB’ also indicates that the Bourn family were still present at the site at that time, which is confirmed by the census details, which list them as living at the property until at least 1881 (see *Appendix 2* and *Table 2* below).

3.2.3 A summary of the information of the occupiers found in the census returns is provided in *Table 2* (for more detail see *Appendix 1*). These demonstrated that at certain points the property was considered to be two households and so was presumably split in some form, but it always least partly comprised a working farm.

Year	Occupier	Occupation	Source
1841	Thomas Jump and family	Independent means	Census
	William Bourn and family	Farmer	Census
1851	Elizabeth Bourn and family	Famer of 40 acres	Census
1861	John Bourn and family	Farmer of 40 acres	Census
1871	Robert Bourn and family	Farmer of 38 acres	Census
1881	Robert Bourn and family	Farmer of 28 acres	Census
1891	Sarah Wallbank and family (listed as ‘Cottam House Farm’)	Farmer/cotton weavers	Census
	Richard Fare	Farmer	Census
1901	Richard Fare and family	Farmer	Census
1911	Mr Dagger and family	-	Census

Table 2: Occupiers of Written Stone Farm, 1841 to 1911

3.2.4 **The building:** apart from the map evidence (see *Section 3.1* above) there is relatively little historical information about the barn and two outbuildings. Smith describes Written Stone House as a ‘modern building. No traces of the old residence of the Ratcliffe family are now to be seen’ (Smith 1888, 144).

4. Building Recording

4.1 General Site Arrangement

4.1.1 The farmstead comprises a group of buildings, with the farmhouse on the north side and additional outbuildings to the east (not part of this project), the barn to the south-west and the outbuildings recorded as part of this project to the south-east of that. The house is thought to have originated in the 18th century. A very worn datestone in the front of the house confirms the date, reading '17[??]' with the initials 'WE' above; the rest is illegible. However, a hopper immediately to the east of this is dated 1784 and has the initials 'W B E' (Plate 8). There are earlier architectural elements, most likely 17th century, reused within the rear part of the house and in the building to the east, and more are evident within the barn (see *Section 4.3* below).



Plate 6 (left): Front (south) elevation of the house, viewed from the south



Plate 7 (right): Datestone on the front (south) elevation of the house, viewed from the south



Plate 8: Dated hopper on the front (south) elevation house, viewed from the south



Plate 9 (left): Earlier window reused in the west elevation of the house, viewed from the west



Plate 10 (right): Outbuilding to the east of the house, viewed from the north-west



Plate 11 (left): Outbuilding to the east of the house, viewed from the south



Plate 12 (right): Earlier door reused in the west elevation the outshut to the east of the house, viewed from the west

4.2 Barn – Arrangement and Fabric

4.2.1 **Arrangement:** the barn is orientated approximately north-east/south-west and fronts the south-east with lower extensions to the south-west and to the north-west (Plate 13).

4.2.2 **Fabric:** the barn is built from local yellow gritstone in roughly dressed blocks in fairly good courses. Details around the doors and windows are dressed in the same material, although some brick is used in places. It has a grey slate roof with sandstone ridge tiles and corrugated concrete to the rear (north-west) section. The lower south-west end has flagstone roof with stone ridge. It has plastic rainwater goods. Internally, the timber is a mix of sawn and hand-finished and concrete is used in the floors and for the stalls.



Plate 13: General view of the barn from the east

4.3 Barn – External Detail

4.3.1 **North-east external elevation:** the north-east elevation forms the gable end with dressed quoins forming the main part (Plate 14). There is an inserted chute at floor level south-east of centre with a timber surround leading to a hole in the floor. There are two doorways to the north-west (Plate 15). The one to the south-east was probably a window originally that has been extended as the lower parts of the jambs are concrete. It now houses a plain modern panel door and has dressed stone surrounds. The north-west door has dressed, chamfered (stop-chamfer on the north-west side) quoins and moulded head of 17th century or earlier type and is presumably reused. There is a doorway to the upper floor in the centre of the elevation, which is also probably extended from a window as the lower part of the jambs and step are concrete. It otherwise has dressed stone surrounds. There is a row of six vents above, and three more over formed by ceramic drain pipes, and an owl hole in the apex formed by a larger ceramic pipe.



Plate 14 (left): North-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-east

Plate 15 (right): Doorways on the north-west side of the north-east external elevation of the barn viewed from the north-east

4.3.3 The elevation is extended to the north-west by a lower gable (Plate 16). There is a pedestrian doorway on the south-east side with dressed stone surround. The south-east jamb is formed by the adjoining wall. It houses a tongue and groove door with three slots and has chamfered jambs to the south-east. There is a wider doorway to the north-west with a modern panel door and concrete blocks in the south-east jambs (Plate 17). There is a vent at the apex formed by a group of four ceramic pipes.



Plate 16 (left): North-west side of the north-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 17 (right): Doorway on the north-west side of the north-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-east

4.3.2 **North-west external elevation:** the north-east end of the main barn is plain, quoined at the corner, and has a row of four ceramic pipe vents at upper level extending over the roof of the extension (Plate 18). The elevation of the main barn is otherwise mostly obscured by the later, lower, addition to this side (Plate 19). The extension is a fairly rough build compared to the main barn, although there is some difference between the upper and lower halves. There are two windows with square stone surrounds, both of which are blocked with concrete blocks (Plate 20 and Plate 22) and the quoins are particularly neat at the south-west end where it returns to the main elevation. There is a possible blocked opening or rebuilt section near the centre (Plate 23). After the return is a lower section relative to the main barn. It is initially concrete rendered with a small window at high level covered with a corrugated metal sheet. There is a slight step to the south-west of this and then the elevation is roughly coursed stone with thick pointing and two three-pipe vents at high level and good quoins at the south-west end.



Plate 18 (left): North-east end of the north-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 19 (right): General view of the north-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 20 (left): Blocked window on the north-east side of the lower extension to the north-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 21 (right): Blocking/rebuild in the centre of the lower extension to the north-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 22 (left): Blocked window on the south-west side of the lower extension to the north-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 23 (right): South-west end of the north-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the north-west

4.3.4 **South-west external elevation:** the north-west side of the south-west external elevation comprises the gable of the lower addition. It is quoined at the north-west end and has six pipe vents in two rows of three and a group of four at the apex (Plate 24). There is a concrete scar of a mono-pitch roof across it. The doorway on the south-east side has a rough north-west jamb and dressed stone lintel and the south-east jamb is formed by the adjoining wall of the main barn, which is concrete-rendered (Plate 25).



Plate 24 (left): North-west extension of the south-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south-west

Plate 25 (right): Detail of the doorway in the north-west extension of the south-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south-west

4.2.5 The south-east side of the elevation comprises the gable of the lower extension to the south-west end of the main barn (Plate 26). It has a patchy concrete render over brick of fairly late machine-made type and stone quoins remaining. There are two windows on the lower level with concrete sills and stop-chamfered concrete lintels and remains of two-light hinged-top casements in each and iron bars on the interior (Plate 27). There is also a central doorway, which has the same style lintel and is blocked. The loading door over has the same lintel and modern panel door and plastic corrugated sheet over a central window. There is a smaller opening over that, with a plain concrete lintel, that is filled by a timber sheet. There is a massive upright stone quoin on the south-east side at the base on the corner.



Plate 26 (left): Main part of the south-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south-west

Plate 27 (right): Detail of a window in the south-west external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south-west

4.3.5 South-east external elevation: this comprises a single long elevation across the 'front' of the building (Plate 28 and Plate 29). There is a skim of concrete over the lower part of the south-west corner of the south-east external elevation, which is otherwise roughly dressed stone in rough courses with two three-pipe vents in the top. There is a wide doorway at low level, with concrete jambs and modern panel door with a metal mesh in the top (Plate 30). There is a single light window over, which also has concrete jambs. There is a lot of repointing in the wall at this point. There is a further round window at upper level to the north-east, with stone surround and pintles and catch for a shutter, but it is now covered by corrugated plastic. There is an obvious butt joint with the main barn to the north-east, but only fairly small quoins apparent (Plate 31). The main barn has an upper-level opening inserted on the south-west side, with a stop chamfered concrete lintel and rebuilt jambs (Plate 32). There is an attached iron and concrete pen below and two rows of pipe vents (five in the lower and 17 in the upper). There is central wagon doorway now with sliding double doors of tongue and groove planks and modern boards (Plate 33). There are recessed areas on each side with dressed stone surrounds (for the original doors) and quoins on the inner opening. The north-east recess has a window inserted into it of two-light fixed casement with a thin timber lintel. There is a massive rough timber lintel over the main opening. The datestone over reads "W.E.B. | 1892" (Plate 34). The north-east end of the elevation has an extant lower floor window with dressed surround in stone and single-light casement. There are remains of a further window to the north-east, the lower part of which has been blocked to the dressed sill and there is a small two-light casement in the top below a thin timber lintel (Plate 35). The doorway to the north-east has chamfered quoins and lintel, which may be 17th century or earlier and is presumably reused (Plate 36). The doorway is blocked with stone and the end of the elevation now has a concrete block wall and gatepost against it. The upper-level window this end has a concrete lintel and jambs and tongue and groove plank door.



Plate 28 (left): General view of the south-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south

Plate 29 (right): General view of the south-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the east



Plate 30 (left): South-west end of the south-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south-east

Plate 31 (right): Junction between the south-west extension and main part of the barn evident in the south-east external elevation, viewed from the south-east



Plate 32 (left): Centre and north-east end of the south-east external elevation, viewed from the west

Plate 33 (right): Wagon doorway in the south-east external elevation, viewed from the south-east



Plate 34 (left): Datestone over the wagon doorway in the south-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south-east



Plate 35 (right): North-east end of the south-east external elevation of the barn, viewed from the south-east



Plate 36: Reused door surround at the north-east end of the south-east external elevation, viewed from the south-east

4.4 Barn – Internal Detail

4.4.1 Ground floor Room 1 (G1): this room, at the north-east end of the main barn, has a concrete floor. The south-west end is flat (Plate 37), with two test pits excavated through it exposing the underlying natural clay (Plate 38), while the north-east end steps up to the timber stalls below the hay loft (Plate 39). Just the posts remain on the south east side (Plate 40), some of which are stop chamfered (Plate 41), but the planks of the sides of some of the stalls are present on the north-west side of the room (Plate 42), and a small 'porch' constructed from further planks added around the posts, with a sliding hatch on the south-west side, has been divided off in the north corner around a doorway (Plate 43). The room is open to the roof in the most part, with the hayloft at the north-east end, the sawn floorboards on beams, which are supported on sawn beams above the stall posts (Plate 44). There are additional slots in the undersides of the beams, presumably for earlier stall posts. The walls are

whitewashed at the north-east end and the lower part of the rest. Otherwise, it is exposed stone with thick pointing.



Plate 37 (left): Concrete floor in the south-west end of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 38 (right): Test pit through the concrete floor on the north-west side of the south-west end of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the east



Plate 39 (left): Floor in the north-east end of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south



Plate 40 (right): Stall posts on the south-east side of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the west



Plate 41 (left): Detail of a stall post on the south-east side of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the west

Plate 42 (right): Stalls on the north-west side of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south

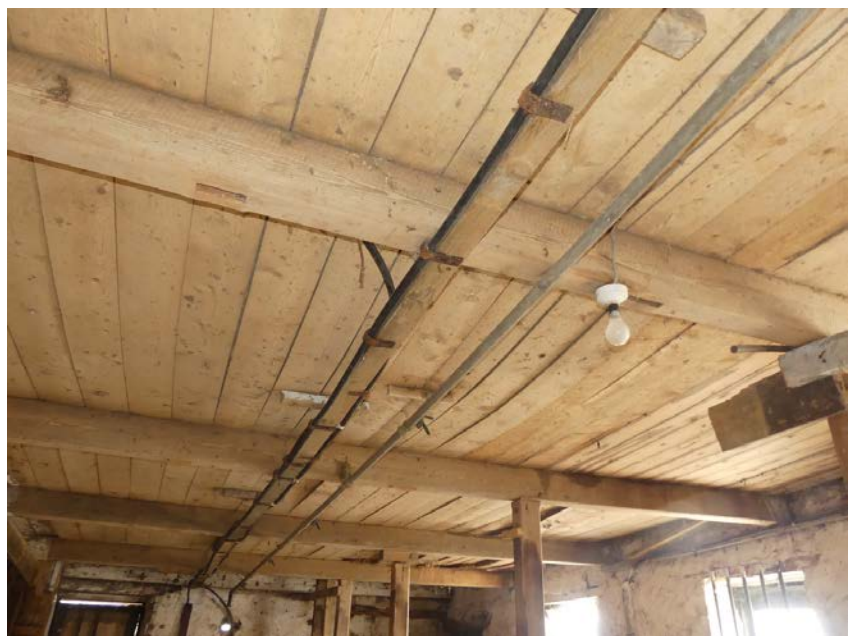


Plate 43 (left): 'Porch' in the north corner of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south

Plate 44 (right): Ceiling at the north-east of Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south-west

4.4.2 The north-east elevation is mostly plain. The doorway north-west of centre has a timber lintel and door and brick in the south-east jamb (Plate 45). There is another door to the north-west inside the small 'porch'. This too has a timber lintel and plank and batten door. A recess to the south-east of this, at the east corner, has a timber lintel (Plate 46). There is a metal water trough and hinged iron cover over the low opening between these. The south-east elevation has a doorway on the north-east side with a timber lintel. It is blocked with stone (Plate 47). There is a narrow window to the south-west, which is blocked below from an originally taller window (Plate 48). There are two more tall windows to the south-west, with thin timber lintels and iron bars over and stone sills (Plate 49). The wagon doorway to the south-west has dressed quoins and double plank and batten sliding doors beneath a reused, hand-finished timber lintel (Plate 50). There is one further window at the south west end, which is clearly inserted and has a stop-chamfered concrete lintel (Plate 51). The south-west elevation, the gable, is plain except for an

upper-level doorway with a thin timber lintel and modern board door and owl hole at the apex (Plate 52). The north-west elevation is fairly plain on the south-west side (Plate 53), except for a low window on the south-west side with a timber lintel and sill (Plate 54). There are handmade bricks in the jambs. There is a wider doorway to the north-east with two stone steps (Plate 55) and an iron rail in the base for a sliding door, that continues into a recess to the north-east (Plate 56). There are concrete blocks in the north-east jamb against the original quoins. There is a recessed area to the north-east for the original door and iron I-beam lintels over the door and quoins to the south-west. There is a reused stone with a long groove incorporated into the wall on the south-west side, perhaps a rail for a stud wall. The wall effectively returns north-east of this at the hay loft, where there is a metal gate, but are otherwise plain within the area of the stalls (Plate 57).



Plate 45 (left): South-east doorway in the north-east elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south-west

Plate 46 (right): Recess on the south-east side of the north-east elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the west



Plate 47 (left): Blocked doorway in the south-east elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 48 (right): North-east side of the south-east elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the north



Plate 49 (left): Window, south-east elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 50 (right): Wagon doorway, south elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 51 (left): South-west end of the south-east elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south



Plate 52 (right): South-west elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 53 (left): South-west side of the north-west elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south-east



Plate 54 (right): Window in the south-west side of the north-west elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south-east



Plate 55 (left): Door and recess in the centre of the north-west elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south-east

Plate 56 (right): Iron rail in the floor in front of the doorway and recess in the north-west elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the east



Plate 57 (left): Return at the stalls on the north-east side of the north-west elevation, Room G1 of the barn, viewed from the south-west

4.4.3 Ground floor Room 2 (G2): the extension to the north-west has a concrete floor that is raised in the middle to house seven concrete stalls on the south-east side of the Room (Plate 58 and Plate 59), some of which are clad around earlier stop-chamfered posts (Plate 60 and Plate 61). These are either below the trusses or sawn-off beams, the ends of which are still present in the north-west and south-east walls. The stalls have some iron tethers and iron water troughs remaining (Plate 62) and there is an access passageway along the south-east side of the stalls (Plate 63). The roof is supported by three trusses, all of king post type with sawn timbers (Plate 64 and Plate 65). They support a single purlin per pitch and there is an additional horizontal beam on the south-east side. There is a corrugated sheet roof over with four corrugated plastic sheet skylights in the north-west side. There is a massive iron gutter in the valley on the south-east side supported on a row of roughly dressed stone corbels (Plate 66 and Plate 67). The walls are finished with remnants of limewash over the stone to the south-east and concrete skim to the north-east, north-west and south-west.



Plate 58 (left): Stalls on the south-east side of Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the north



Plate 59 (right): Stalls on the south-east side of Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the west



Plate 60 (left): Detail of stall, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the west



Plate 61 (right): Detail of stall partition, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south-west



Plate 62 (left): Metal water trough attached to the north-east end of the stalls, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the north-west

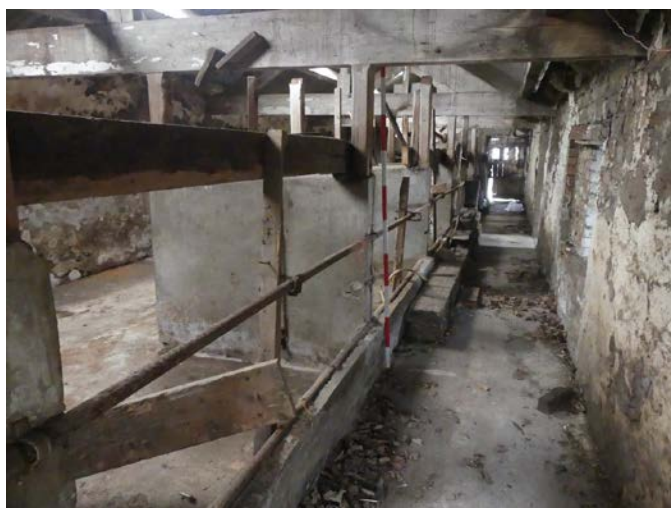


Plate 63 (right): Passageway along the south-east side of Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south-west



Plate 64 (left): South-west truss, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 65 (right): North-east truss, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south-west



Plate 66 (left): Corbels supporting the gutter along the south-east side of Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the west

Plate 67 (right): Corbels supporting the gutter along the south-east side of Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the north-east

4.4.4 The north-east elevation has a wide doorway on the north-west side, housing a panel door, with concrete lintel and concrete in the jambs and rebuild over (Plate 68). There is a smaller doorway to the south-east with a plank and batten door and timber lintel (Plate 69). The south-east elevation is mostly plain with a central doorway with concrete blocks on the north-east side and iron I-beam lintel (Plate 70). The window to the south-west has handmade brick in the jambs and extends into the recess on north-east side beneath a long timber lintel (Plate 71). The south-west elevation has a doorway on the south-east side with remains of a plank and batten door and thing frame below a thin timber lintel (Plate 72). The north-west elevation has three blocked windows in it (Plate 73). The north-east one has blocks visible whereas the others are concreted over, the south-west leaving an alcove (Plate 74 and Plate 75).



Plate 68 (left): Doorway on the north-west side of the north-east elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south-west



Plate 69 (right): Doorway on the south-east side of the north-east elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south-west



Plate 70 (left): Doorway in the south-east elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the north



Plate 71 (right): Window in the south-east elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 72 (left): Doorway on the south-east side of the south-west elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the north-east

Plate 73 (right): North-west elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south



Plate 74 (left): Blocked window, south-west side of the north-west elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south-east

Plate 75 (right): Blocked window, centre of the north-west elevation, Room G2 of the barn, viewed from the south-east

4.4.5 Ground floor Room 3 (G3): the barn extension to the south-west has a concrete floor that steps up to the north-corner and along the south-west side, with two low concrete walls north-east/south-west housing timber feed troughs constructed from thick timber planks with iron bars over the tops (Plate 76 and Plate 77). There is an additional concrete pillar near the centre, supporting a timber and wire hay rack to the north-west and a gate below (Plate 78) with some iron water troughs attached (Plate 79). The south-west side of the room is below the hayloft of sawn joists supporting narrow sawn boards on an iron I-beam north-east/south-west, accessed by a ladder from the south-east side. The walls are skimmed with concrete to the north-west, south-west and south-east and some visible is visible in the south-west.



Plate 76 (left): Raised floor and feed trough on the north-east end of the north-west side of Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the south



Plate 77 (right): Feed trough on the south-west end of the north-west side of Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the east



Plate 78 (left): Concrete division and hay rack on extending across the centre of the north-west side of Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the east



Plate 79 (right): Water trough attached to the concrete division in Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the north-east

4.4.6 The north-east elevation has a row of three stone corbels but is otherwise essentially plain. Two semi-circular hay racks are attached on the south-east side (Plate 80). The south-east elevation has a corbel high on the north-east side and two square alcoves with stone lintels to the south-west (Plate 81). There is a wide doorway beyond with concrete over the jambs and concrete lintel (Plate 82). The south-west elevation has two windows with iron bars attached, one either side of the blocked central doorway (Plate 83 to Plate 85). The north-west elevation is plain on the south-west side, although the north-east side is evidently rebuilt in concrete blocks and skimmed with concrete (Plate 86).



Plate 80 (left): North-east elevation, Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the south-west

Plate 81 (right): North-east side of the south-east elevation, Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 82 (left): Doorway in the centre of the south-east elevation, Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the north-west

Plate 83 (right): South-west elevation, Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the east



Plate 84 (left): South-east window, south-west elevation, Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 85 (right): North-west window, south-west elevation, Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 86: North-east side of the north-west elevation, Room G3 of the barn, viewed from the west

4.4.7 **Upper-level Room 1 (F1):** the upper floor of the main barn comprises a board floor for a hayloft at the north-east end. It is open to the roof and there are four trusses, all of sawn timber and king post type, with the king post bolted to tie beam and pair of angled queen braces (Plate 87). The north-east one is hand-finished but with longer sawn queen braces coming from the king post and an iron strap between the tie beam and king post (Plate 88). The principal rafters are very curved, perhaps reused crucks. There are two purlins per pitch, all hand-finished and overlapping at the trusses, and a ridge plank and sawn rafters. There are five skylights in the south-east side. The walls are exposed stone with mortar.



Plate 87 (left): Central truss, Room F1 of the barn, viewed from the south-west



Plate 88 (right): North-east truss, Room F1 of the barn, viewed from the south-west

4.4.8 The north-east elevation has a row of five square vents and three over and an owl hole above. There is a pitching door below with a timber lintel. The south-east elevation has a row of at least 14 square vents along the top and five below to the south-west. The pitching door to the north-east has a sliding plank and batten door on an iron rail. The south-west elevation has a central pitching door with timber lintel and square owl hole over. The north-west elevation has a row of at least 12 square vents and a row of at least 11 more above these.

4.4.9 **Upper-level Room 2 (F2):** the upper level of the extension to the south-west of the main barn has a timber board floor for the hayloft on the south-west side. The room is otherwise open to the roof from the floor below. There are two hand-finished king post trusses each with a single angled brace remaining (Plate 89 and Plate 90). The north-east truss has rough queen braces and the south-west one has timbers attached on the north-east face. There are Baltic marks on both tie beams (Plate 91 and Plate 92). There are two purlins per pitch, a mix of hand-finished and sawn timbers, and sawn rafters.



Plate 89 (left): North-east truss, Room F2 of the barn, viewed from the north



Plate 90 (right): South-west truss, Room F2 of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 91 (left): Baltic marks on the north-east face of the north-east tie beam, Room F2 of the barn, viewed from the north-east



Plate 92 (right): Baltic marks on the north-east face of the south-west tie beam, Room F2 of the barn, viewed from the north-east

4.4.10 The north-east elevation is plain except for the central pitching door, which has a rough, reused timber lintel (Plate 80). The south-east elevation has a circular pitching window to the north-east with a stone surround in a square inner opening with a timber lintel (Plate 93). The second pitching door to the south-west is covered by a plain panel door. The south-west elevation is exposed brick, with a lower pitching door with an iron I-beam and lintel and smaller opening above also with an I-beam lintel (Plate 94). The bricks are handmade and in English Garden Bond in a ratio of five rows of stretchers to one row of headers. The north-west elevation has two square vents on the south-west side. The north-east end steps out to form a column below the truss of concrete block construction as per the rest of the elevation to the north-east. There is a single window in this part with a concrete lintel.



Plate 93 (left): Circular pitching window in the south-east elevation, Room F2 of the barn, viewed from the north-west



Plate 94 (right): South-west elevation, Room F2 of the barn, viewed from the east



NORTH-WEST EXTERNAL ELEVATION

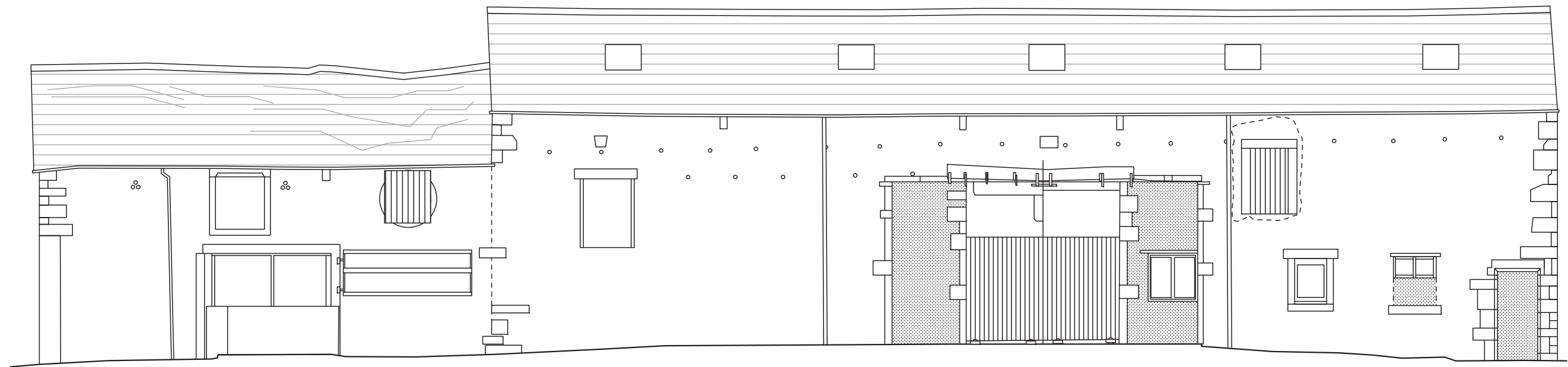
Key: --- edge uncertain ▨ blocked feature

0 5m



NORTH-EAST EXTERNAL ELEVATION

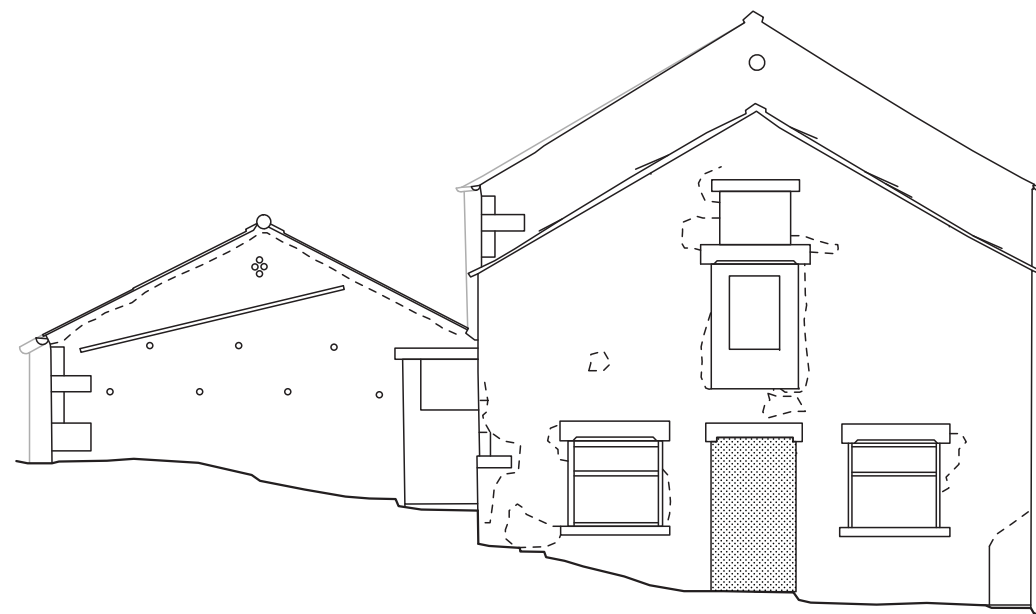
Figure 2: North-west and north-east external elevations of the barn



SOUTH-EAST EXTERNAL ELEVATION

Key: --- edge uncertain ■ blocked feature

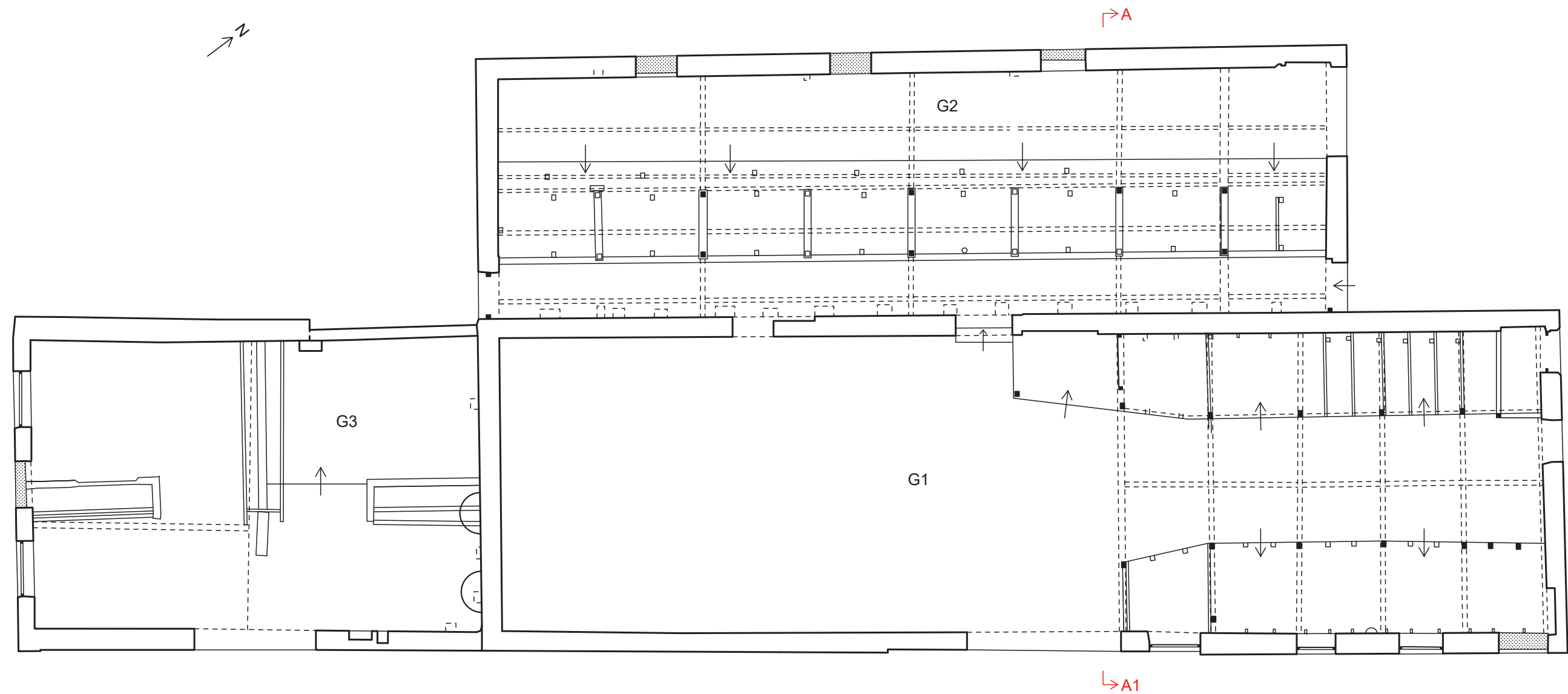
0 5m



SOUTH-WEST EXTERNAL ELEVATION

Figure 3: South-east and south-west external elevations of the barn

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



Key: --- overhead feature ■ cross-sectional timber ▨ blocked feature
 → step up (in direction of arrow) G1 room number A1 ↗ cross-section



Figure 4: Ground floor plan of the barn

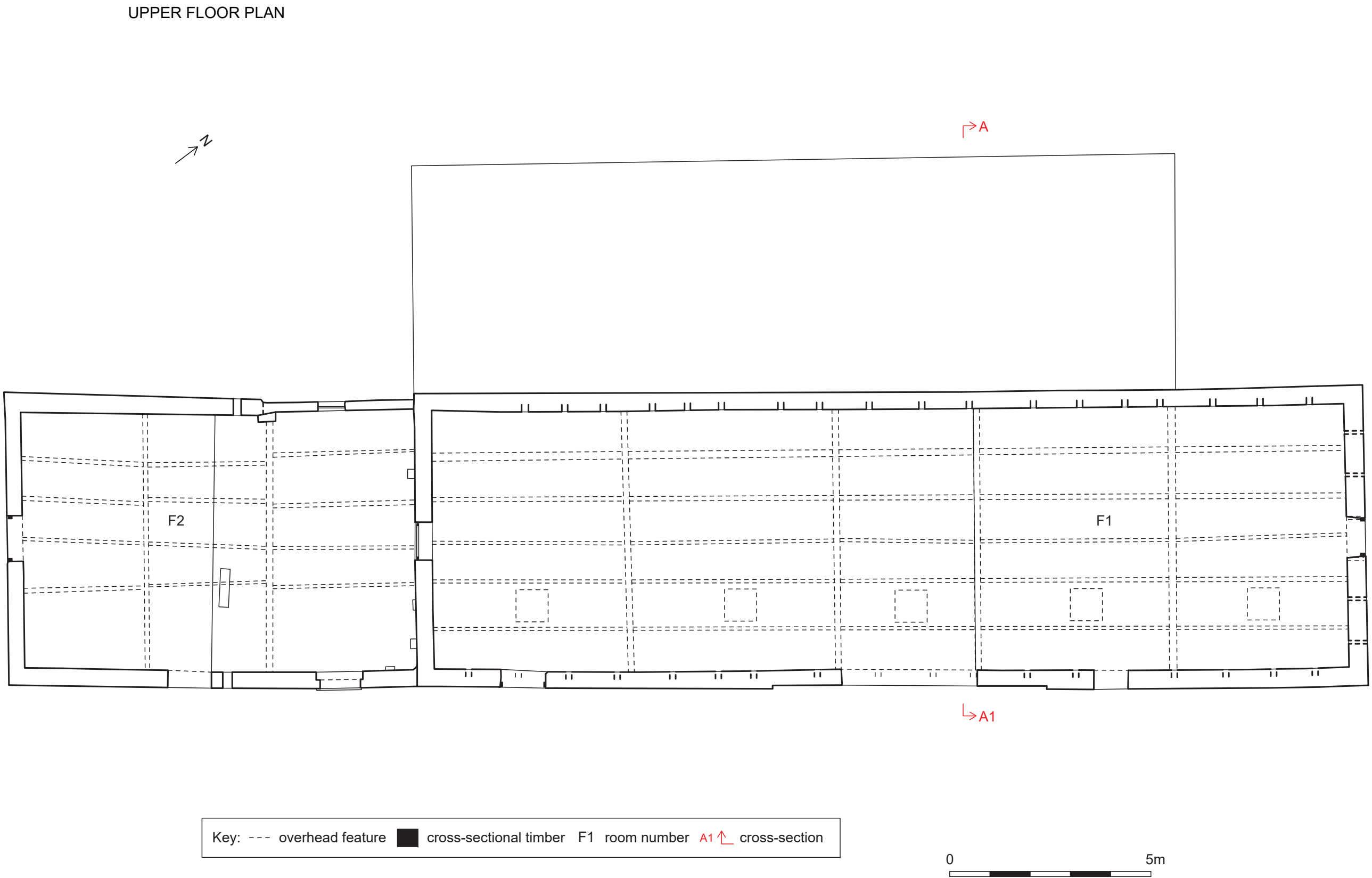


Figure 5: Upper floor plan of the barn

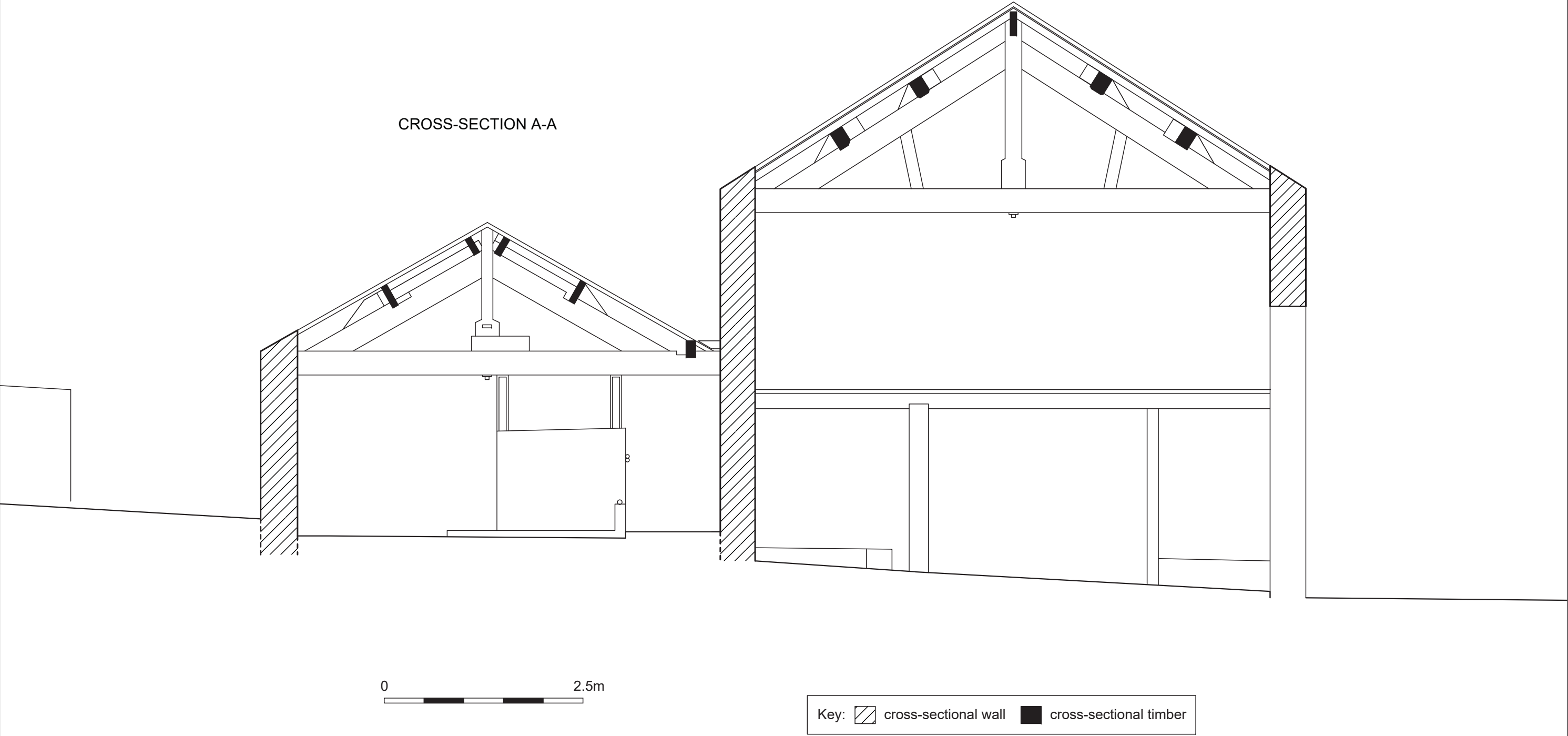


Figure 6: Cross-section A-A1

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Figure 3: East and north external elevations of the barns

4.5 Outbuilding 1 – Arrangement and Fabric

4.5.1 **Arrangement:** this small, single-storey mono-pitch structure is orientated approximately north-east/south-west, with roof sloping down to the south-east (Plate 95).



Plate 95: General view of the exterior of Outbuilding 1, from the east

4.5.2 **Fabric:** the roof is corrugated concrete. Externally, it is concrete rendered over stone.

4.6 Outbuilding 1 – External Detail

4.6.1 **North-east external elevation:** the north-east external elevation is mostly plain concrete render with iron straps for the roof and some brick exposed below the roof on the south-east side and stone exposed elsewhere. There is a single doorway on the south-east side, with a plain, modern panel door on strap hinges in a thin frame. The elevation is extended by a concrete block wall to the north-west side.



Plate 96: North-east external elevation, Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north-east

4.6.2 **North-west external elevation:** this elevation is finished with a plain concrete render. There are three windows all with concrete sills and two with two-light hinged casements. The doorway on the north-east side houses a plank and batten door. There are ceramic (stoneware) pipe vents over each window.

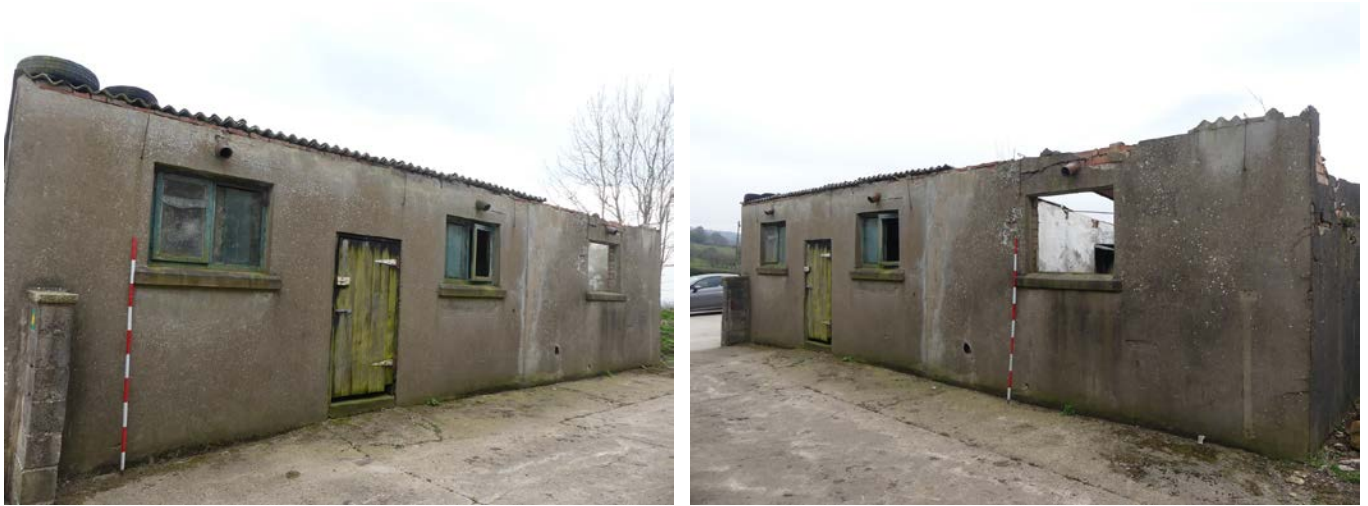


Plate 97 (left): North-west external elevation, Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north

Plate 98 (right): North-west external elevation, Outbuilding 1, viewed from the west

4.6.3 **South-west external elevation:** the south-west elevation is partly collapsed and shows machine-made brick construction. There is a doorway on the south-east side, but no door.



Plate 99: South-west external elevation, Outbuilding 1, viewed from the south-west

4.6.4 **South-east external elevation:** the south-east external elevation has a row of high-level small windows with the remains of two-light timber hinged casements. There is a pipe projecting low down on the north-east side. The brick evident on the south-west side is clearly clad over the underlying stonework and sat on top of the retaining wall.



Plate 100 (left): South-east external elevation, Outbuilding 1, viewed from the south-west



Plate 101 (right): Brickwork and adjoining retaining wall on the south-west side of the south-east external elevation, Outbuilding 1, viewed from the south-west

4.7 Outbuilding 1 – Internal Detail

4.7.1 **Ground floor Room 1 (G1):** this room has a concrete floor with low brick dividing walls finished with concrete skim across the centre and along the south-east side (Plate 102), with a small timber gate remaining (Plate 103) and an attached metal water trough (Plate 104). There is a concrete trough with ceramic top along the north-west/south-east dividing wall and against the north-west and south-west walls (Plate 105). The room is open to the corrugated concrete roof, which is supported by machine sawn purlins north-east/south-west on an iron I-beam north-west/south-east (Plate 106). The walls are painted over the concrete skim.



Plate 102 (left): Internal dividing walls, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north-west



Plate 103 (right): Internal dividing walls, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the west



Plate 104 (left): Metal water trough, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north-west



Plate 105 (right): Ceramic trough against the north-west and south-west elevations, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north-east



Plate 106: Roof, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the west

4.7.2 The north-east elevation is plain apart from the doorway on the south-east side with a modern panel door (Plate 107). The south-east elevation has two windows, with the remains of two-light hinged casements (Plate 108). The south-west elevation is plain with a doorway on the south-east side, blocked with various materials (Plate 109). There is a shelf on iron brackets to the north-west. The north-west elevation has a window on the south-west side, with a two-light hinged casement (Plate 110). The doorway to the north-east has a plank and batten door. A second window to the north-east is the same as the one to the south-west. Both have concrete lintels and are recessed into the wall.



Plate 107 (left): North-east elevation, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the south-west



Plate 108 (right): South-east elevation, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north-west



Plate 109 (left): South-west elevation, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north-east



Plate 110 (right): North-west elevation, Room G1 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the east

4.7.3 Ground floor Room 2 (G2): the room to the south-west was inaccessible. The roof has collapsed apart from one remaining iron I-beam. The concrete(?) floor is obscured by debris. The walls are concrete skim over painted brick, which is exposed to the south-east.

4.7.4 The north-east elevation has a doorway on the south-east side of which the thin frame remains (Plate 111). There is a single window on the south-east elevation with a concrete lintel and remains of a two-light hinged casement (Plate 112). Patches of brick are visible to the north-east of these where some of the concrete render has come away. The south-west elevation has a door on the south-east side (Plate 113). The north-west elevation has a central window.



Plate 111 (left): North-east elevation, Room G2 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the west

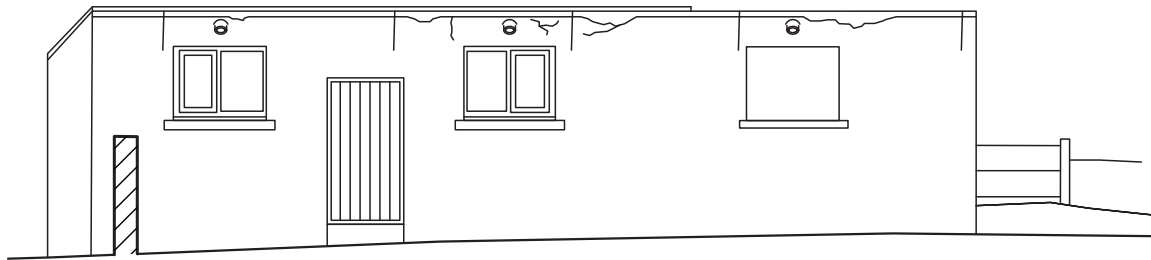


Plate 112 (right): South-east elevation, Room G2 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north-west

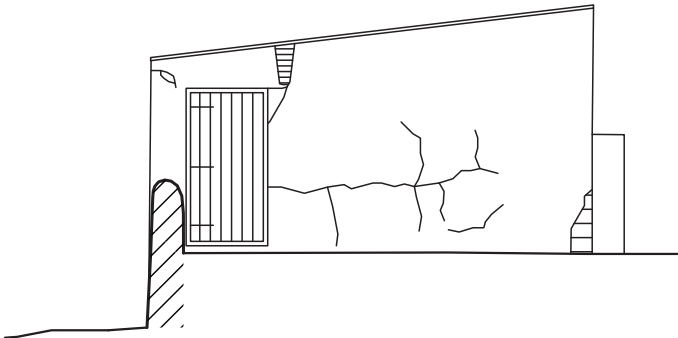


Plate 113: South-west elevation, Room G2 of Outbuilding 1, viewed from the north

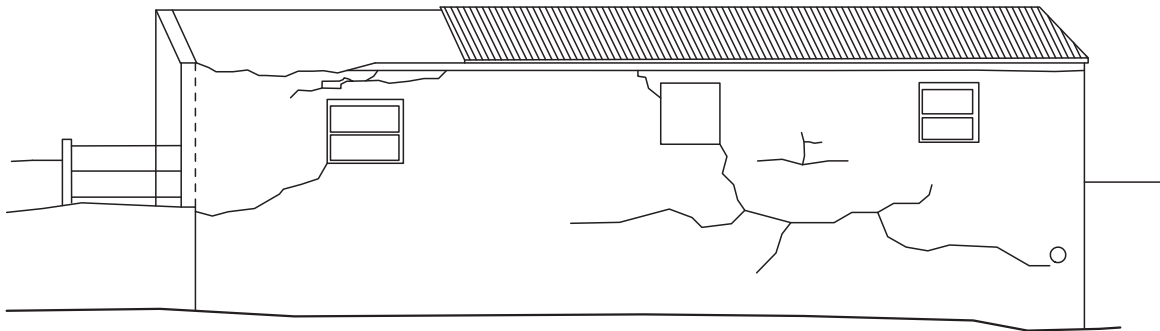
NORTH-WEST EXTERNAL ELEVATION



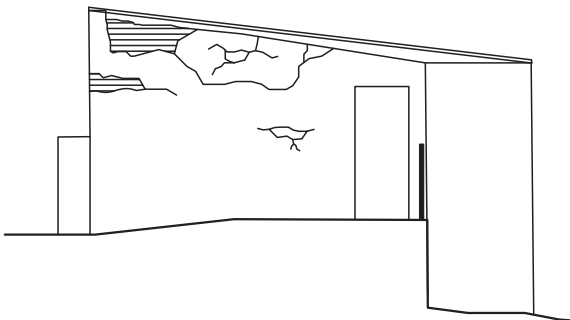
NORTH-EAST EXTERNAL ELEVATION



SOUTH-EAST EXTERNAL ELEVATION



SOUTH-WEST EXTERNAL ELEVATION



Key:

cross-sectional wall

cross-sectional timber



Figure 7: External elevations of Outbuilding 1

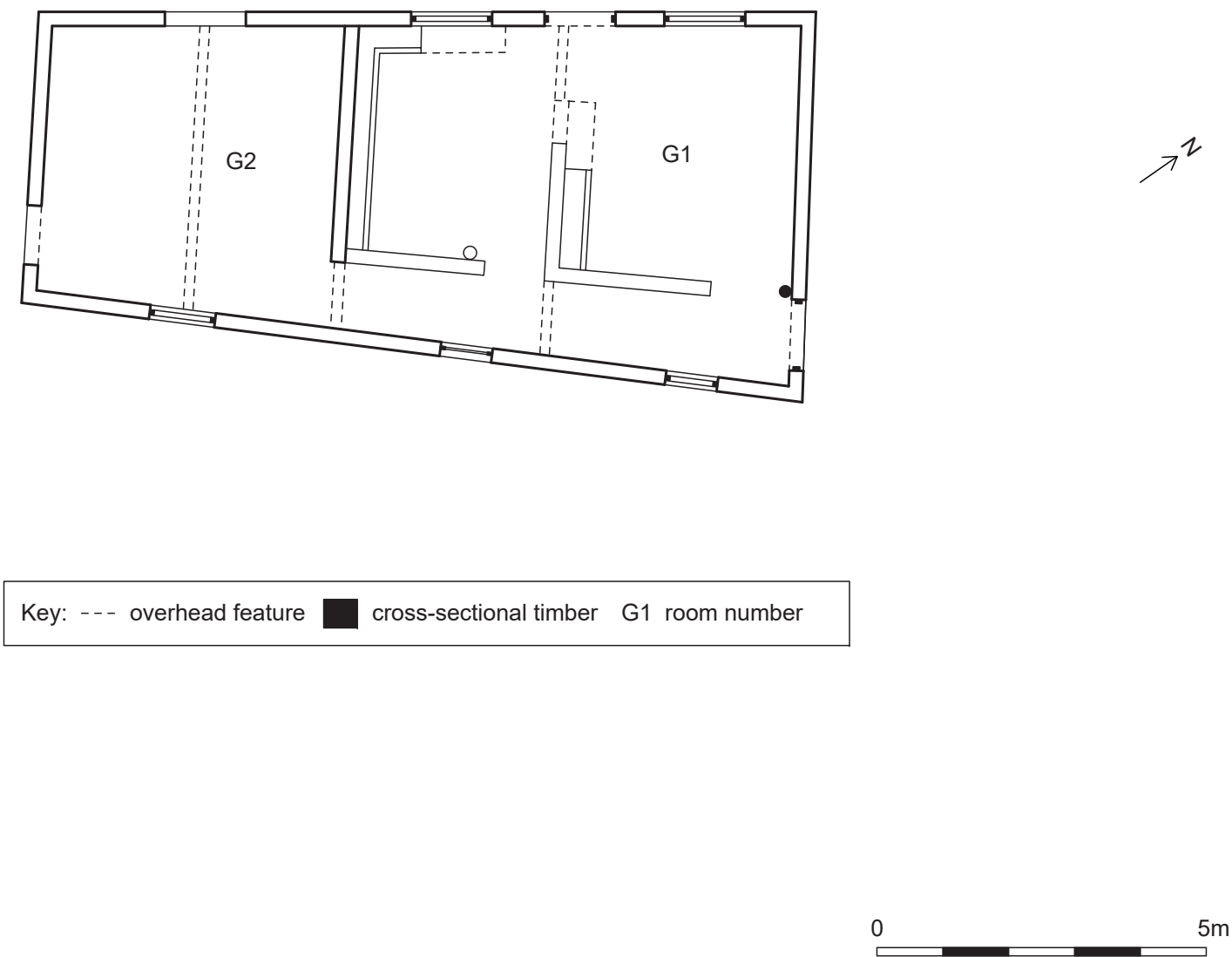


Figure 8: Ground floor plan of Outbuilding 1

4.8 Outbuilding 2 – Arrangement and Fabric

4.8.1 **Arrangement:** the building comprises a small, now roofless, structure, is open on its north-west side and with a monopitch roof (Plate 115 to Plate 118). Internally it is clearly a single room.

4.8.2 **Fabric:** this outbuilding is of 20th century machine-made brick construction, principally in English Garden Bond in a ratio of five rows of stretchers to a single row of headers. The exterior to the south-east is concrete rendered and it has two iron I-beam columns on its open (north-west) side. Internally the walls are exposed brick, with buttresses on the south-east side corresponding with the positions of the columns to the north-west, which presumably originally supported two trusses (Plate 119 to Plate 121).



Plate 114 (left): North-east external elevation of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the north-east



Plate 115 (right): South-east external elevation of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the south-east



Plate 116 (left): South-east and south-west external elevations of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the south



Plate 117 (right): South-west external elevation of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the south-west



Plate 118 (left): North-west external elevation of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the north-west



Plate 119 (right): North-east internal elevation of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the south-west



Plate 120 (left): South-east internal elevation of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the north-west



Plate 121 (right): South-west internal elevation of Outbuilding 2, viewed from the north-east

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 While it is apparent that the site of Written Stone Farm was occupied from at least the 17th century, all of the current buildings on the site, including those recorded as part of this project are likely to be late 18th century in date at the earliest. There are, however, numerous pieces of reused fabric from an earlier building or buildings on the site, some of which are incorporated into the barn, as well as the house.

5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 **Introduction:** the limited documentary evidence combined with the results of the building recording have allowed *** phases of development to be determined.

5.2.2 **Phase 1 (early-mid 17th century):** the barn contains a number of pieces of reused material, notably the door surround on the north-west side of the north-east wall of the main gable end of the barn, and another at the north-east end of the south-east wall. Both of these are of at least early 17th century style and are matched by another in the (unrecorded) outbuilding to the east of the house, as well as the early window in the south-west side of the house. These, and the beam over the wagon doorway in the south-east wall of the barn, were clearly taken from an earlier building, probably a predecessor to the current farm on the same site, most probably that occupied by the Ratcliffe family.

5.2.3 **Phase 2 (late 18th to early 19th century):** the current barn was evidently initially constructed before the tithe map of 1837 was produced. It initially comprised just the larger north-east end of the structure (Rooms G1 and F1), forming a large threshing barn with wagon doorway on the south-east side and an opposing winnowing door to the north-west and multiple ventilation slots across the long elevations. Both of these doors had recessed areas to one or both sides, clearly to house the doors when fully opened during threshing: the bar in the floor for the roller mechanism appears to be original but the fixings at the top appear later and it is possible that the original doors were hinged or on pivots. The north-east end also probably housed a hay loft with cattle stalls below from this phase, with a pitching window above at the north-east end (later extended to form a doorway). This building was a good example of a combination barn, one designed to both house cattle in a cow house (known in Lancashire as a 'shippon'), with hay storage above, and provide space for threshing grain. These are a fairly typical type of barn found in Lancashire and the rest of the north-west during this period (Brunskill 1999, 111-113). The truss forms are also typical of this period, although they have likely seen some later repair and modification.

5.2.4 **Phase 3 (late 18th century to early 19th century):** it is clear that the south-west end of the original barn (comprising Rooms G3 and F2) was a later addition, but the map evidence shows that this too was constructed before 1837. This was undoubtedly to allow further animal housing, presumably for cattle, but perhaps stabling for horses, again with a hay loft above, accessed by at least one pitching eye to the south-east and possibly also one from the main room to the north-east. The presence of Baltic timbers in this part of the building is further evidence of a late 18th to 19th century date, when such material was being widely imported into the country due to a lack of suitable timber, the marks denoting the place of origin and quality of the timber (Vabdenabeele *et al* 2016).

5.2.5 **Phase 4 (late 19th century):** the north-western part of the barn (Room G2) was clearly also a later addition, with the map evidence showing that it was constructed before 1895. This too was evidently constructed to provide additional housing for cattle, with a central row of stalls accessed by doorways to a passageway along the south-east side. This phase also saw the addition of Outbuilding 1. The purpose of this is unclear as it was substantially altered in later phases, but it too was probably related to the keeping of cattle, perhaps forming loose boxes for calves or for dairying purposes. Such increases in dairy production were widespread during the late 18th and throughout the 19th century as the demand for related products increased as a result of the increasing population during the Industrial Revolution (Brunskill 2007, 67). It is likely also that there were some modifications to the windows and pitching doors in the Phase 1 barn and that evident rebuilding of the south-west end of the Phase 2

extension also occurred during this period, when changes in agricultural theory led to improvements in light and ventilation in many existing cow houses (*op cit*, 64-65). The datestone of 1892 in the south-east elevation of the barn is likely to relate to this phase of alterations, rather than the date at which the barn was first built.

5.2.6 Phase 5 (20th century): more recent alterations have been relatively minimal, with the use of concrete in many areas – for example, externally and internally finishing Outbuilding 1, and for the construction of new stall partitions with incorporated water troughs fed by pipes in Rooms G2 and G3, becoming evident in this period. Elsewhere some of the earlier doorways were blocked up or enlarged, and the windows in the north-west elevation of the Phase 2 extension were all blocked, presumably as the uses of the buildings changed. A large section of the north-west wall of the Phase 2 extension was rebuilt in concrete block, presumably to repair a structural problem, and the Phase 3 extension to the north-west was reroofed in the current corrugated concrete sheeting. Outbuilding 2 was also constructed during this period. Its original function is unclear but it was presumably just a cart shed or for some other form of storage that didn't need to be entirely covered on all sides.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 The site is of some historical interest as a whole due to its connections with the Written Stone from which it takes its name and the local important Ratcliffe family. However, the barn is really most important as a good example of a combination barn, once common in the area, with later extensions and modifications reflecting the typical pattern of development of cattle housing during the 19th century. The two outbuildings are of less interest, as minor ancillary structures, with Outbuilding 1 much altered, but they too show the manner in which sites such as these developed into the 20th century.

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RG10/Piece 4216/Folio 74/Page 7, 1871 *Census*

RG11/Piece 4245/Folio 91/Page 16, 1881 *Census*

RG12/Piece 3446/Folio 79/Page 21-22, 1891 *Census*

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Appendix 1: Census information 1841-1911

1841 Census (HO107/Piece 505/Book 10/District 4/Folio 25/Page 17 1841)

Place	Name	Age		Profession	Whether born in same county
Written Stone	Thomas Jump	75		Independent means	Yes
	Nanny Jump	68		Independent means	Yes
Written Stone	William Bourn	30		Farmer	Yes
	Alice Bourn	30		-	Yes
	Ann Chadwick	16		Female Servant	Yes
	James Wearing	17		Male Servant	Yes

1851 Census (HO107/Piece 2268/Folio 412/Page 14 1851)

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
Written Stone	Elizabeth Bourn	65	Head	Farmer of 40 acres	Yorkshire, Dinkling Green Bowland
	Margret Bourn	36	Daughter	Employed at home	Lancashire, Dilworth
	Richard Highton	59	Servant	Agricultural labourer	Lancashire, Chagley [Chaigley?]

1861 Census (RG 9/Piece 3142/Folio 53/Page 9 1861)

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
1 Written Stone	John Bourn	76	Head	Farmer of 40 acres	Lancashire, Dilworth
	Margreat Bourn	47	Daughter	-	Lancashire, Dilworth
2 Written Stone Cottage	Uninhabited	-	-	-	-

1871 Census (RG10/Piece 4216/Folio 74/Page 7 1871)

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
Written Stone	Robert Bourn	54	Head	Farmer of 38 acres	Lancashire, Ribchester
	Ellen Bourn	52	Wife	Farmer's wife	Lancashire, Blackburn
	Elizabeth Bourn	21	Daughter	-	Lancashire, Mytton
	Robert Bourn	19	Son	Grocer	Lancashire, Mytton
	Thomas Bourn	17	Son	Farmer's son	Lancashire, Mytton
	William Bourn	14	Grandson	Orphan	Lancashire, Mytton

1881 Census (RG11/Piece 4245/Folio 91/Page 16 1881)

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
Written Stone	Robert Bourn	64	Head	Farmer of 28 acres Employing 1 servant	Lancashire, Hothersall
	Ellen Bourn	62	Wife	Farmer's wife	Lancashire, Dinkley

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
	Elizabeth Bourn	31	Daughter	Farmer's daughter	Lancashire, Aighton
	Margaret Bourn	67	Sister	Annuitant	Lancashire, Dilworth
	John Bradley	16	Servant	Farm Servant (Indoor)	Lancashire, Bailey

1891 Census (RG12/Piece 3446/Folio 79/Page 21 1891)

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
Written Stone (Cottam House Farm)	Sarah Wallbank	48	Head	Farmer	Lancashire, Chipping
	Alfred Wallbank	22	Son	Cotton-weaver	Lancashire, Dilworth
	Elizabeth Wallbank	20	Daughter	Cotton-weaver	Lancashire, Thornley
	William Wallbank	19	Son	Cotton-weaver	Lancashire, Thornley
	Mary Wallbank	18	Daughter	Cotton-weaver	Lancashire, Thornley
	Margaret Wallbank	16	Daughter	Cotton-weaver	Lancashire, Thornley
	Sarah Jane Wallbank	14	Daughter	Assistant on farm	Lancashire, Dilworth
	Henry Wallbank	12	Son	Scholar	Lancashire, Dilworth
	Alice Wallbank	10	Daughter	Scholar	Lancashire, Dilworth
	Maria Wallbank	8	Daughter	Scholar	Lancashire, Dilworth
Written Stone	Richard Fare	36	Head	Farmer	Lancashire, Broughton
	Elizabeth Fare	39	Wife		Lancashire, Balderstone
	Emma Fare	11	Boarder	Scholar	Lancashire, Wigan
	William Davies	16	Servant	Farm Servant	Lancashire, Garstang

1901 Census (RG13/Piece 3959/Folio 81/Page 10-11 1901)

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
Writtenstone	Richard Fare	46	Head	Farmer	Lancashire, Broughton
	Elizabeth Fare	48	Wife		Lancashire, Osbaldestone
	Emma Fare	20	Daughter	Farmer's Daughter	Lancashire, Barrow
	Thomas Fare	80	Father	Living on own means	Lancashire, Poulton le Fylde
	Sussanah Fare	76	Mother	Living on own means	Westmorland, Milnthorpe
	Samuel Worthington	12	Boarder	Scholar	Lancashire, Preston
	Rachel Worthington	4	Boarder	Scholar	Lancashire, Preston
	George Morton	21	Servant	Cow man	Lancashire, Accrington

1911 Census Summary Book (RG78/Piece 1450 1911)

Place	Name	Age	Relationship to head	Profession	Place of birth
Writtenstone	Mr Dagger				
	+1 Male				
	+1 Female				

Appendix 2: Listed Building Information Summary

List Entry Name: The Written Stone (Historic England 2025a)

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1147440

Date first listed: 22-Nov-1983

Statutory Address: The Written Stone, Written Stone Lane

County: Lancashire

District: Ribble Valley (District Authority)

Parish: Longridge

National Grid Reference: SD 62617 37902

Details: inscribed stone, 1655. Sandstone. About eight feet long, two feet wide and 18 inches deep. The following is written in incised letters: 'RAVFFE RADCLIFFE LAID THIS STONE TO LYE FOR EVER AD 1655'.

For legends about the stone see Smith, TC, 1888 *A History of Longridge*, Preston, pp27-30.

List Entry Name: Written Stone Farmhouse (Historic England 2025b)

Heritage Category: Listed Building

Grade: II

List Entry Number: 1362273

Date first listed: 22-Nov-1983

Statutory Address: Written Stone Farmhouse, Written Stone Lane

County: Lancashire

District: Ribble Valley (District Authority)

Parish: Longridge

National Grid Reference: SD 62585 37882

Details: house, probably late 18th century. Sandstone rubble with slate roof. L-plan. Two storeys. Façade of three bays with chamfered quoins and windows of three lights with square stone mullions and plain stone surrounds, except for the central window on the first floor which has a plain stone surround with semi-circular head. The door has a plain stone surround with a semi-circular head.

Appendix 3: Photograph Record Index

Project name:		Written Stone Farm, Written Stone Lane, Longridge, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording		Film type:	Digital
Project Code:		G1630	Site Code:	WF25	Film No.: 1
Shot No.	Area	From	Description	Scale size	Initial/date
1	Outbuilding 2	N	Iron I-beams to NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
2	Outbuilding 2	NW	Iron I beams to NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
3	Outbuilding 2	W	SW end	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
4	Outbuilding 2	W	SW and SE external elevations	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
5	Outbuilding 2	SE	SE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
6	Outbuilding 2	E	SE and NE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
7	Outbuilding 2	NE	NE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
8	Outbuilding 2	SW	NE internal elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
9	Outbuilding 2	NE	SW internal elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
10	Outbuilding 2	NW	SE internal elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
11	Barn	NE	NE external elevation of main part	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
12	Barn	NE	NE external elevation of whole barn	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
13	Barn	NE	NE external elevation, doors to NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
14	Barn	NE	NE external elevation, SE door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
15	Barn	NE	NE external elevation, NW door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
16	Barn	NE	NE external elevation, extension to NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
17	Barn	N	NE external elevation, extension to NW, door to SE	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
18	Barn	NE	NE external elevation, extension to NW, door to NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
19	Barn	NW	NW external elevation, NE side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
20	Barn	NW	NW external elevation, lower extension to SW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
21	Barn	NW	NW external elevation, NE window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
22	Barn	NW	NW external elevation, blocked opening in centre	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
23	Barn	NW	NW external elevation, SW window	1m	DWE 21/03/2025
24	Barn	NW	NW external elevation, SW end	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
25	Barn	NW	NW external elevation, SW end rendered section	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
26	Barn	SW	SW external elevation, NW side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
27	Barn	SW	SW external elevation, door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
28	Barn	SW	SW external elevation, SE side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
29	Barn	SW	SW external elevation, door etc	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
30	Barn	SW	SW external elevation, NW window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
31	Barn	S	SE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
32	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, SW side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
33	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, SW side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
34	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, SW side, door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
35	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, junction	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
36	Barn	S	SE external elevation, centre	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
37	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, centre	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
38	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, centre, door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
39	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, centre, door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
40	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, centre, NE side of door, window in recess	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
41	Barn	S	SE external elevation, NE side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025

Project name:		Written Stone Farm, Written Stone Lane, Longridge, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording			Film type:	Digital
Project Code:		G1630	Site Code:	WF25	Film No.:	1
Shot No.	Area	From	Description	Scale size	Initial/date	
42	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, NE side, doors etc	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
43	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, NE side, door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
44	Barn	E	SE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
45	Barn	E	SE and NE external elevations	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
46	House	SE	Front (south-east) external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
47	House	SE	Front (south-east) external elevation, door and blind window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
48	House	SE	Front (south-east) external elevation, datestone	-	DWE 21/03/2025	
49	Barn	SE	SE external elevation, datestone	-	DWE 21/03/2025	
50	House	S	SW external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
51	House	S	SW external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
52	House	SW	SW external elevation, windows	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
53	House	W	NW and SW external elevations,	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
54	House	NW	NW external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
55	House	NE	NE external elevation, SE side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
56	House	NE	NE external elevation, NW side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
57	Building E of House	W	SW external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
58	Building E of House	SW	SW external elevation, door to NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
59	Building E of House	SW	SW external elevation, door to SE	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
60	Building E of House	SE	SE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
61	Outbuilding 1	E	NE and NW external elevations	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
62	Outbuilding 1	NE	NE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
63	Outbuilding 1	E	NW external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
64	Outbuilding 1	N	NW external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
65	Outbuilding 1	NW	NW external elevation, window etc	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
66	Outbuilding 1	SW	SW external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
67	Outbuilding 1	W	SE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
68	Outbuilding 1	SE	SE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
69	Outbuilding 1	SE	SE external elevation, brick to SW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
70	Outbuilding 1	S	SE external elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
71	House	SE	Dated hopper to front (SE) external elevation	-	DWE 21/03/2025	
72	Outbuilding 1	E	Room G1, dividing walls	1m	DWE 21/03/2025	
73	Outbuilding 1	NW	Room G1, dividing walls	1m	DWE 21/03/2025	
74	Outbuilding 1	NW	Room G1, water trough	1m	DWE 21/03/2025	
75	Outbuilding 1	N	Room G1, roof	-	DWE 21/03/2025	
76	Outbuilding 1	SW	Room G1, NE elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
77	Outbuilding 1	NW	Room G1, SE elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
78	Outbuilding 1	NE	Room G1, SW elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
79	Outbuilding 1	NE	Room G1, ceramic troughs to SW and NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
80	Outbuilding 1	S	Room G1, NW elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	
81	Outbuilding 1	W	Room G2, NE elevation	-	DWE 21/03/2025	
82	Outbuilding 1	NW	Room G2, SE elevation	-	DWE 21/03/2025	
83	Outbuilding 1	N	Room G2, SW elevation	-	DWE 21/03/2025	
84	Barn	S	Room G1, floor at NE end	2m	DWE 21/03/2025	

Project name:		Written Stone Farm, Written Stone Lane, Longridge, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording		Film type:	Digital
Project Code:		G1630	Site Code:	WF25	Film No.: 1
Shot No.	Area	From	Description	Scale size	Initial/date
85	Barn	W	Room G1, stalls to SE	1m	DWE 21/03/2025
86	Barn	W	Room G1, chamfered stall post to SE	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
87	Barn	S	Room G1, stalls to NW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
88	Barn	W	Room G1, ceiling at NE end	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
89	Barn	NE	Room G1, Floor to SW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
90	Barn	E	Room G1, test pit on NW side 'porch' in N corner	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
91	Barn	S	Room G1, 'porch' in N corner	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
92	Barn	SW	Room G1, NE elevation door etc, blocked door to NE	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
93	Barn	W	Room G1, NE elevation recess	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
94	Barn	NW	Room G1, SE elevation, blocked door to NE	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
95	Barn	N	Room G1, SE elevation, windows	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
96	Barn	NW	Room G1, SE elevation, windows to SW	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
97	Barn	NW	Room G1, SE elevation, wagon doorway	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
98	Barn	N	Room G1, SE elevation, SW end	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
99	Barn	NE	Room G1, SW elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
100	Barn	S	Room G1, NW elevation, SW side	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
101	Barn	SE	Room G1, NW elevation, window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
102	Barn	SE	Room G1, NW elevation, central door and recess	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
103	Barn	S	Room G1, NW elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
104	Barn	SW	Room G1, stalls at NE end	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
105	Barn	SW	Room G1, NE end	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
106	Barn	SW	Room F1, NE truss	-	DWE 21/03/2025
107	Barn	SW	Room F1, SW truss	-	DWE 21/03/2025
108	Barn	N	Room G2, stalls	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
109	Barn	W	Room G2, stalls	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
110	Barn	W	Room G2, stall detail	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
111	Barn	SW	Room G2, stall detail	1m	DWE 21/03/2025
112	Barn	NW	Room G2, water trough	-	DWE 21/03/2025
113	Barn	SW	Room G2, SE side of stalls	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
114	Barn	SW	Room G2, SE side of stalls	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
115	Barn	SW	Room G2, NE elevation, NW door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
116	Barn	SW	Room G2, NE elevation, SE door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
117	Barn	N	Room G2, SE elevation, door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
118	Barn	W	Room G2, SE elevation, corbels	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
119	Barn	N	Room G2, SE elevation, corbels	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
120	Barn	NW	Room G2, SE elevation, window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
121	Barn	NE	Room G2, SW elevation, door	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
122	Barn	S	Room G2, NW elevation	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
123	Barn	SE	Room G2, NW elevation, SW window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
124	Barn	SE	Room G2, NW elevation, central window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
125	Barn	SE	Room G2, NW elevation, NE window	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
126	Barn	NE	Room G2, SW truss	-	DWE 21/03/2025
127	Barn	SW	Room G2, central truss	-	DWE 21/03/2025
128	Barn	SE	The Written Stone	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
129	Barn	N	Room G1, inside 'porch'	2m	DWE 21/03/2025
130	Barn	S	Room G3, NE trough	2 x 1m	DWE 21/03/2025

Project name:		Written Stone Farm, Written Stone Lane, Longridge, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording			Film type:	Digital
Project Code:		G1630	Site Code:	WF25	Film No.:	1
Shot No.	Area	From	Description		Scale size	Initial/date
131	Barn	E	Room G3, SW trough		1m	DWE 21/03/2025
132	Barn	E	Room G3, concrete pillar and hay rack		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
133	Barn	NE	Room G3, water trough		10cm	DWE 21/03/2025
134	Barn	SW	Room G3, concrete pillar and hay rack		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
135	Barn	SW	Room G3, NE elevation		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
136	Barn	NW	Room G3, SE elevation, NE side		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
137	Barn	NW	Room G3, SE elevation, alcoves		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
138	Barn	NW	Room F2, SE elevation, circular window		-	DWE 21/03/2025
139	Barn	NW	Room G3, SE elevation, doorway		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
140	Barn	NE	Room G3, SW elevation		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
141	Barn	NE	Room G3, SW elevation, SE window		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
142	Barn	NE	Room G3, SW elevation, NW window		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
143	Barn	S	Room G3, NW elevation, NE side		2m	DWE 21/03/2025
144	Barn	SE	Room F2, NW elevation		-	DWE 21/03/2025
145	Barn	E	Room F2, SW elevation		-	DWE 21/03/2025
146	Barn	N	Room F2, NE truss		-	DWE 21/03/2025
147	Barn	NE	Room F2, SW truss		-	DWE 21/03/2025
148	Barn	NE	Room F2, Baltic marks, NE truss		-	DWE 21/03/2025
149	Barn	NE	Room F2, Baltic marks, SW truss		-	DWE 21/03/2025
150	Barn	E	Room G1, NW elevation, iron rail below door		2m	DWE 21/03/2025

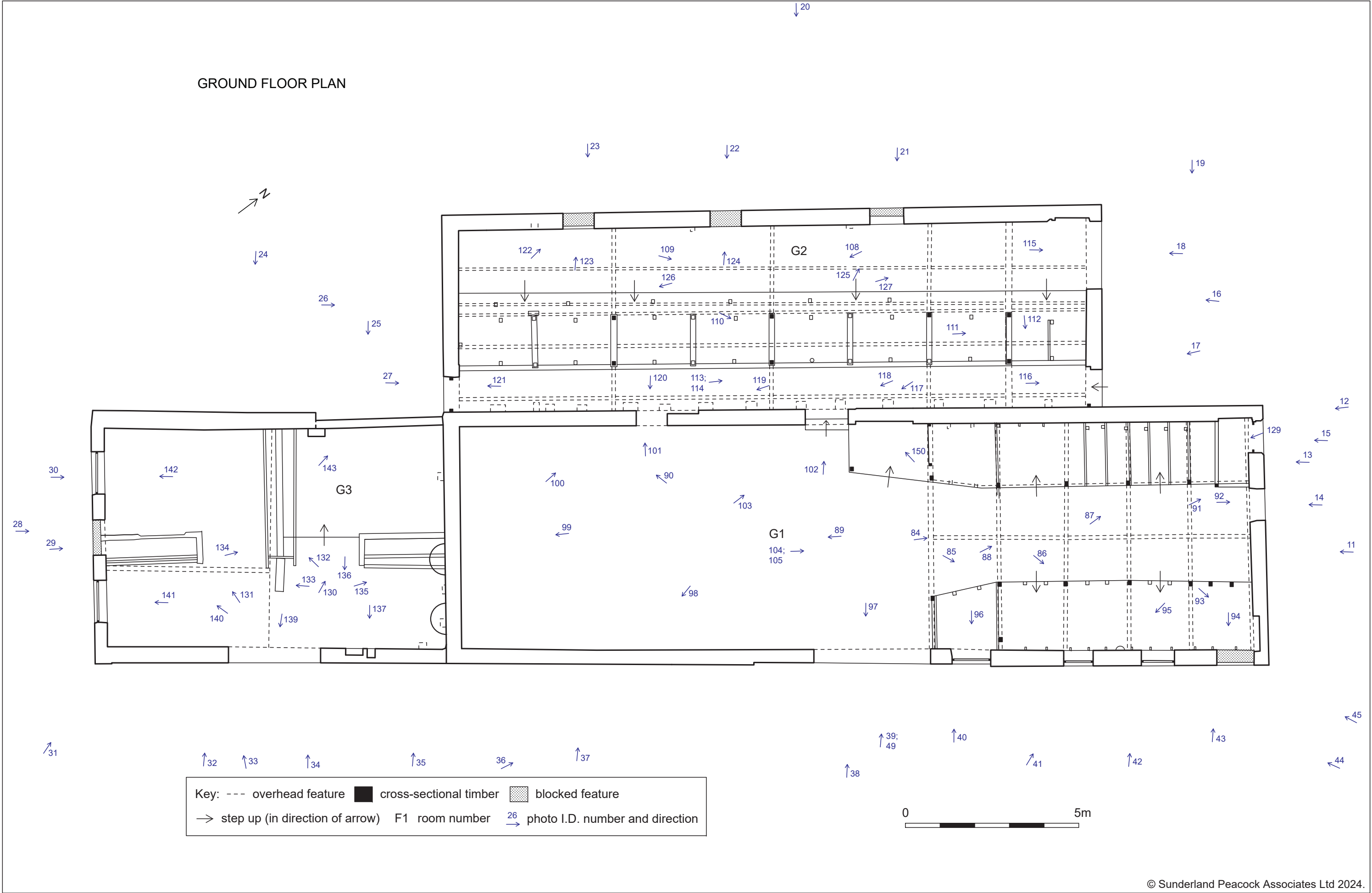
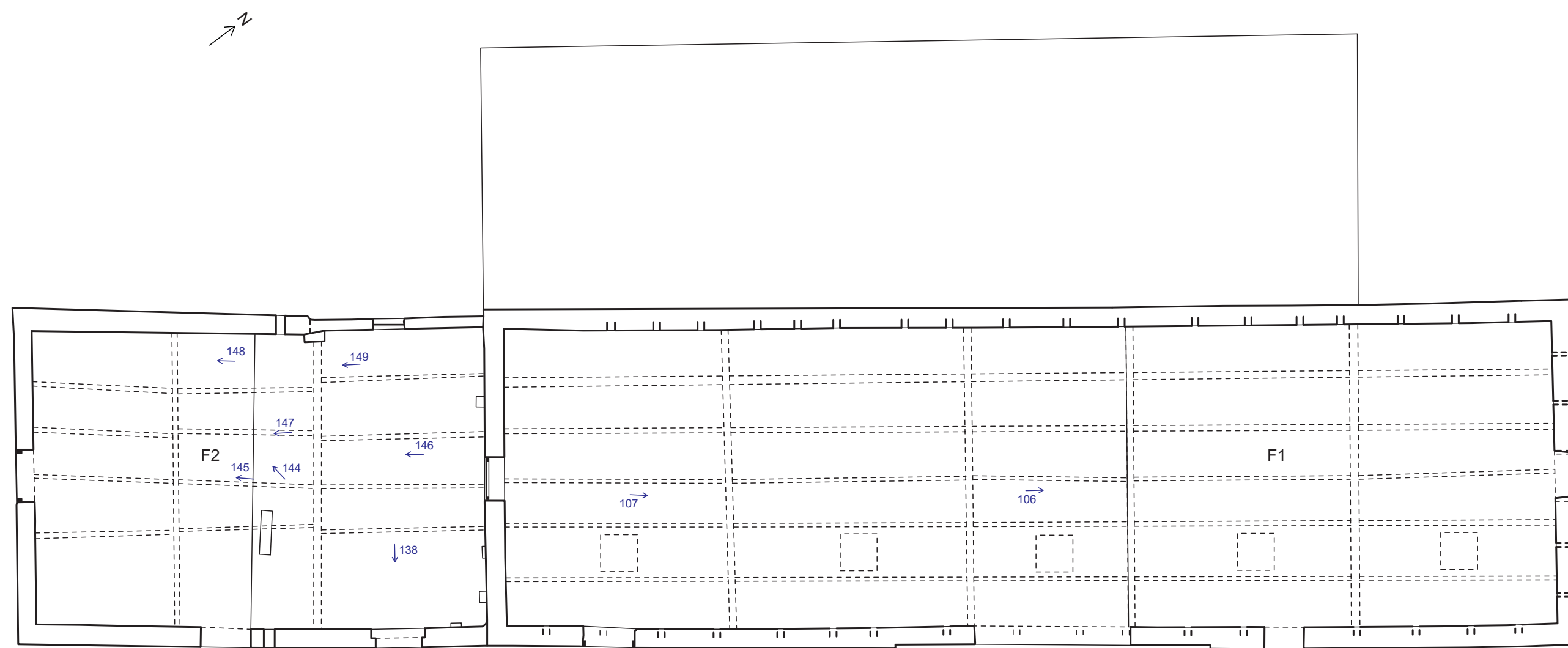


Figure 9: Ground floor plan of the barn, showing the location and direction of photographs taken

UPPER FLOOR PLAN



Key: --- overhead feature ■ cross-sectional timber ▨ blocked feature
 → step up (in direction of arrow) F1 room number 144 → photo I.D. number and direction

0 5m

Figure 10: Upper floor plan of the barn, showing the location and direction of photographs taken

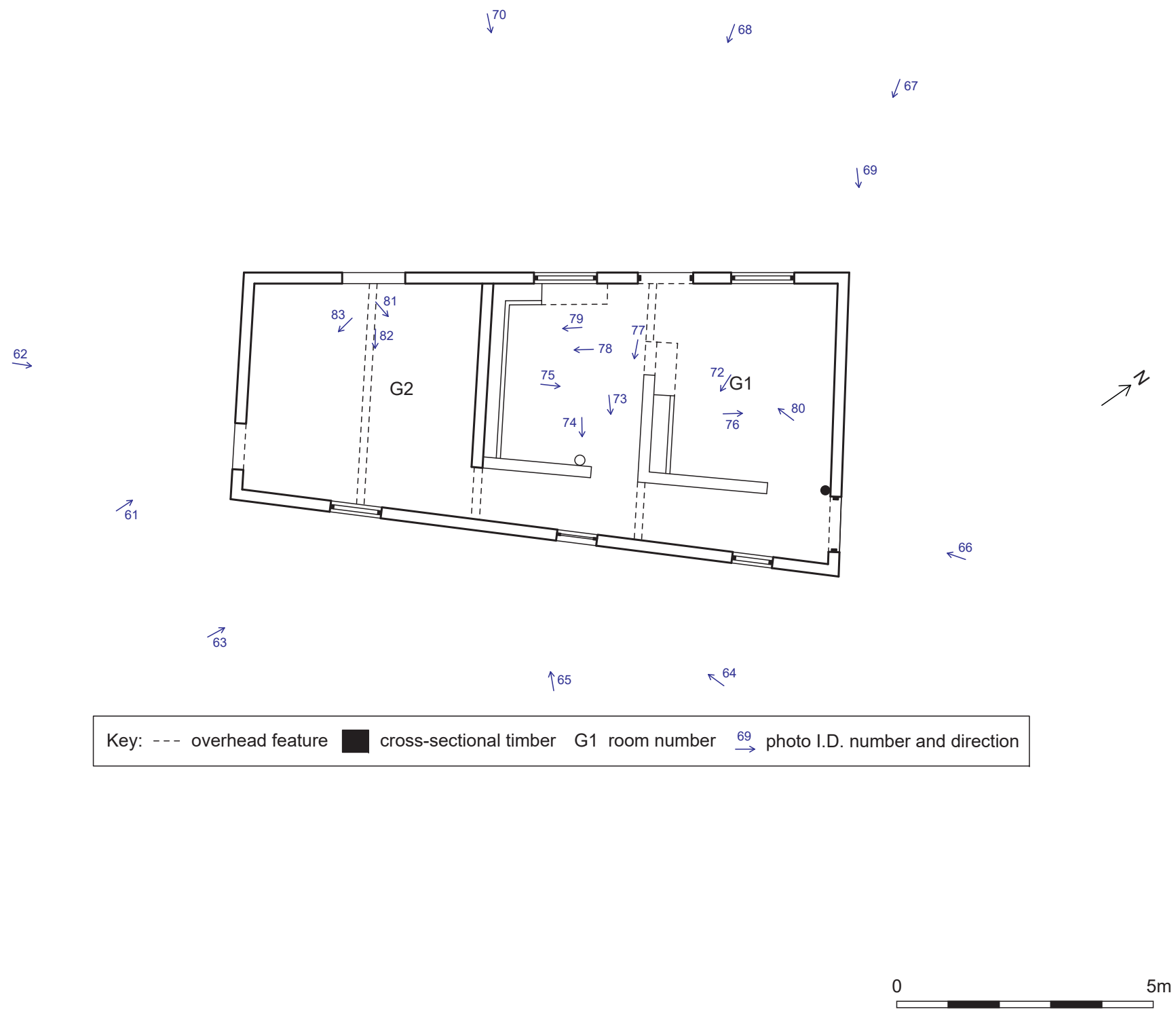


Figure 11: Ground floor plan of Outbuilding 1, showing the location and direction of photographs taken

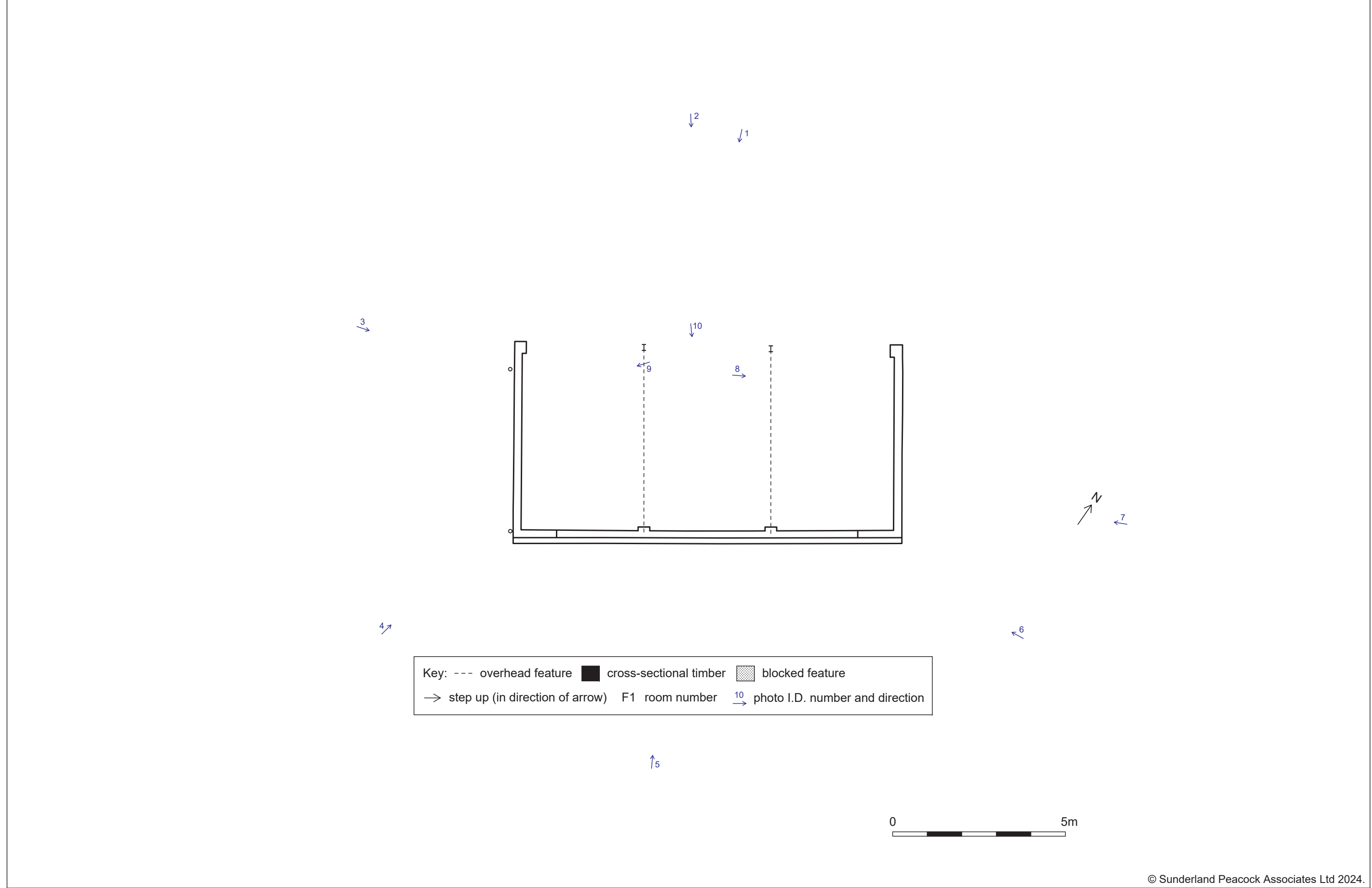


Figure 12: Ground floor plan of Outbuilding 2, showing the location and direction of photographs taken



Client: Clare Hargreaves-Norris and Darren Norris

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Figure 13: Site location plan, showing the location and direction of photographs taken

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Appendix 4: Archive Index

Project name:	Written Stone Farm, Written Stone Lane, Longridge, Lancashire: Archaeological Building Recording		
Project Code:	G1630	Site Code:	WF25
Description	Material	Size	Quantity
Report	Paper	A4 and A3, comb-bound	37 pages, double-sided
Fabric record sheet	Paper	A4	3 sheets, single-sided
Elevation record sheet	Paper	A4	5 sheets, double-sided
Room record sheet	Paper	A4	7 sheets, double-sided
Photo record sheet	Paper	A4	2 sheets, double-sided
Drawing index	Paper	A4	1 sheet, single-sided
Drawings	Paper	A3	5 annotated sheets, single and double-sided
Digital archive index	Paper	A4	1 sheet, single-sided
Digital archive	DVD	-	1