

Barn at Higher Ghylls
Bolton-by-Bowland civil parish, Lancashire:
Historic Building Record



March 2016

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

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Selected photographs

SUMMARY

The barn at Higher Ghylls, near Tosside (NGR: SD 76476 55081), is a stone-built, four-bay combination barn with later additions, which was standing by the 1840s but may be 18th century in origin. Its interior has been much altered so that few of its former arrangements are still apparent, though the essential arrangement of a shippon at one end is readily discerned. Historic building recording was carried out in February 2016 for the developer Mr J Wharton, prior to a residential conversion.

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS REPORT

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

Photo	Subject
1	The barn, from the north-east
2	The barn, from the south-east
3	The barn, from the north
4	The barn, from the south-west
5	Blocked doorway in south gable
6	The barn, from the west
8	The barn, from the north-west
9	The barn, from the north-east
10	Detail of window with re-used mullions, in east elevation of stable
15	Interior of barn, ground floor, north-east corner with entrance from porch
17	Interior of barn, ground floor, south-west corner
18	Interior of barn, ground floor, east wall, south end
19	Interior of barn, first floor, north-east corner, towards porch
21	Middle roof truss in barn, from the north
24	Detail of numbering at east end of middle roof truss, north side of tie beam
28	Former stable in outshut, from the south-east
29	Former stable in outshut, from the north-west
31	Interior of north-east outshut, from the north-west

BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS, BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND CIVIL PARISH, LANCASHIRE: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

1 Introduction

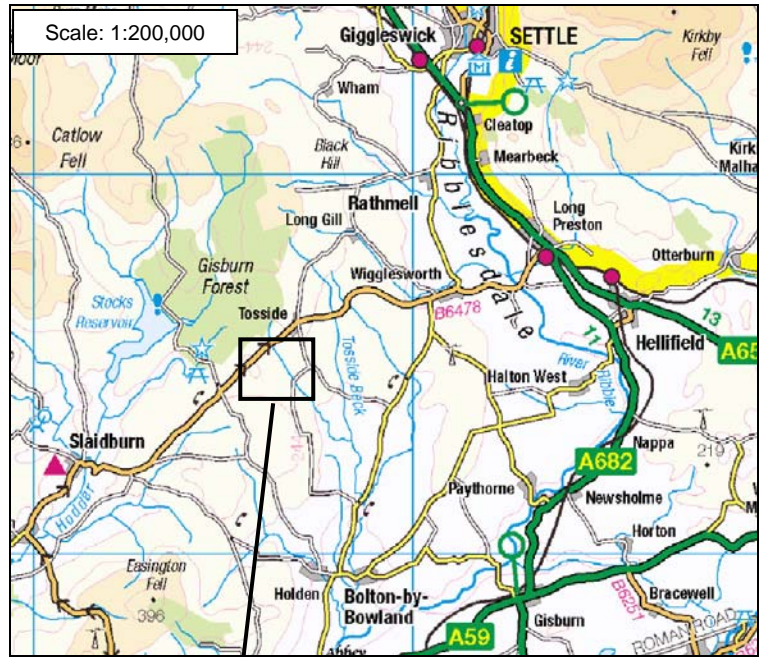
- 1.1 This report presents the results of the recording of the barn at Higher Ghylls, near Tosside and in Bolton-by-Bowland civil parish, Lancashire, and was commissioned by the owner Mr Joseph Wharton, to fulfil a condition of planning consent from Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC), for the conversion of the building to two dwellings. The survey was carried out in February 2016.
- 1.2 The barn recorded is of uncertain date but was certainly extant by the 1840s, and is four bays long and built from stone. It was built as a “combination barn” typical of the district, but has been extended by a number of small additions and was more radically altered in the 20th century by internal work.
- 1.3 The recording work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted in advance to RVBC (Appendix 1), and included a photographic record and measured survey, as well as a study of historic maps and other sources. This report will be submitted to the client, the local planning authority and Lancashire County Archaeology Service, and will be published on the internet via the Oasis Project¹. The project archive will be deposited with Lancashire Archives.

2 Location and current use

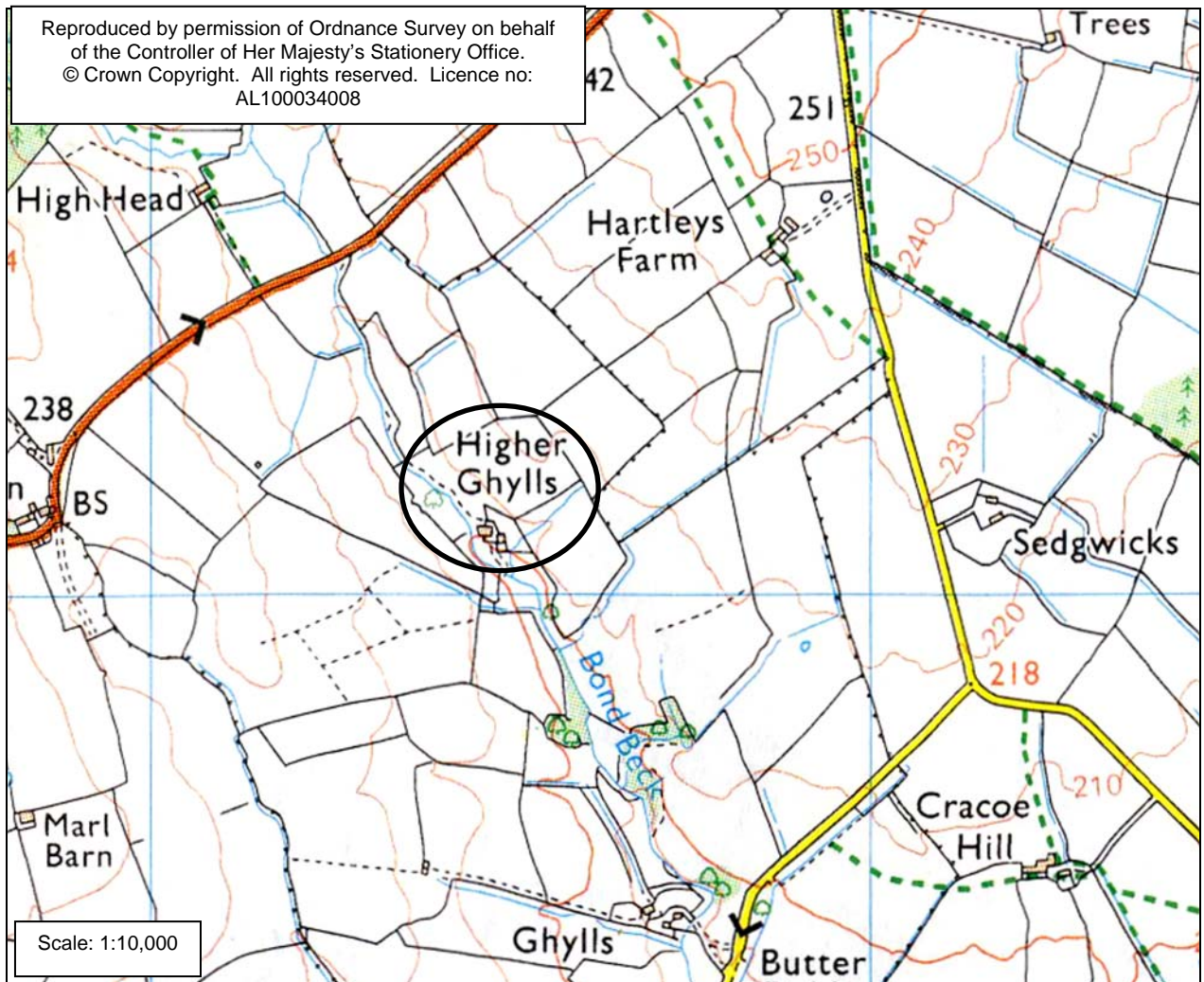
- 2.1 Higher Ghylls is an outlying farmstead situated 1km south-west of Tosside, 500m off the B6478 Slaidburn to Long Preston road, from which it is reached down a private track (figures 1 & 2). The barn itself is detached and stands on the east bank of the Bond Beck, at the north-west corner of a group of buildings, which also includes the farmhouse and a 20th century stable block and garage. The barn’s NGR is SD 76476 55081, and it lies at approximately 225m above sea level (figure 3). The surrounding area, which forms part of the Forest of Bowland AONB, is characterised as “rolling upland farmland”²; historically this formed part of the West Riding of Yorkshire.
- 2.2 The barn is presently disused and has not been in agricultural use for some years. Since then, it has been adapted slightly to form what is in effect a domestic outbuilding.

¹ Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations

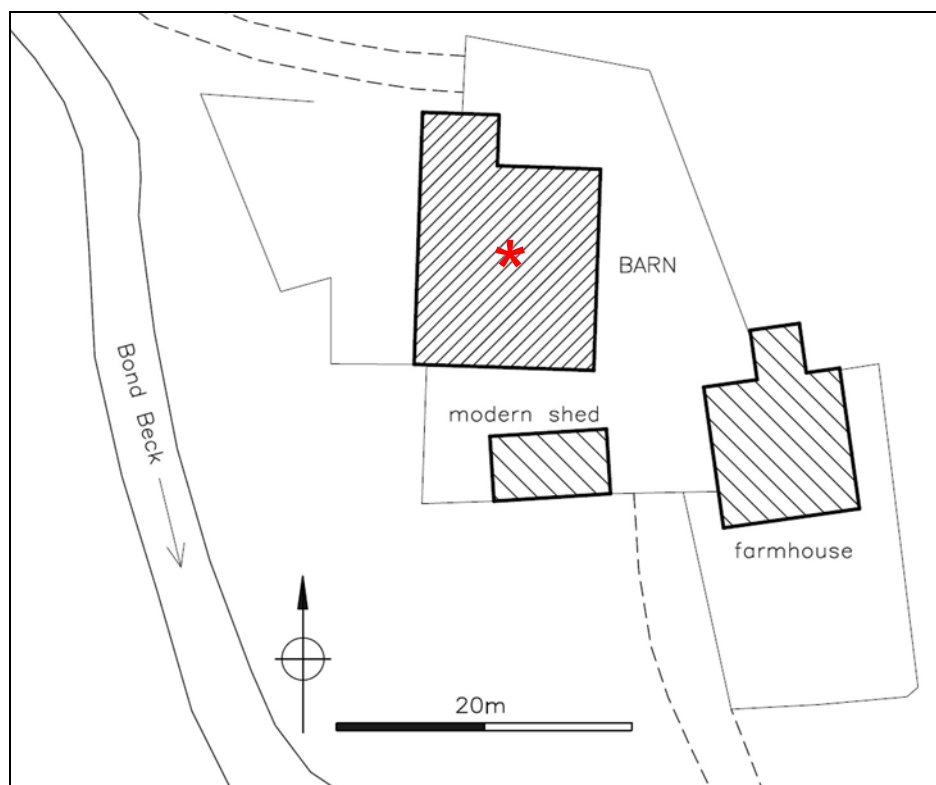
² Lancashire County Council online mapping *MARIO*



1: Location map (i)



2: Location map (ii)



3: Site plan, 1:500

3 Planning background

- 3.1 None of the buildings at the site are listed as having special architectural or historic interest, or lie within a conservation area. Planning consent was granted by RVBC on 15 January 2016 for the “conversion of barn to form two dwellings” (application number: 3/2015/0748), and on the advice of the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, condition 3 of the decision notice requires the implementation of a programme of building recording and analysis. It is anticipated that the contents of this report and the associated archive will permit this condition to be discharged.

4 Previous investigative work

- 4.1 No previous investigative work of this type concerning Higher Ghylls is known to have been carried out.

5 Historical background

- 5.1 Little is known of the history of Higher Ghylls, but historic maps go some way to elucidating the development of settlement and buildings at the site. The earliest map known to show it is the 1841 Bolton-by-Bowland tithe map (figure 4), and at that date the barn stood alone on the east bank of the beck, where it is shown with a T-shaped plan, with a projection on its east side. It falls within a field

numbered 1371, described in the tithe award as “Sawpit Hill”, which formed part of a 74 acre holding known as “Hartleys Tenement”, owned by Henry Heaton and occupied by Richard Hitchen. Hartleys or Hartleys Farm is located 300m to the north-east of Higher Ghylls (and was formerly in Gisburn Forest township), which suggests that the landholding had begun as one held by the occupant of that neighbouring site, but had subsequently become independent from it. The tithe award indicates that in the 1840s Hartleys Tenement was farmed from a house near the present barn but on the west bank of the beck, identified in the award as “House Barn fold Garden &c” (1353), and all 74 acres were down to pasture, meadow or waste, except for 2 roods of arable, known as the “potato garth” (1376). Today, no buildings remain standing on the west bank of the beck where the then farmhouse must have stood.



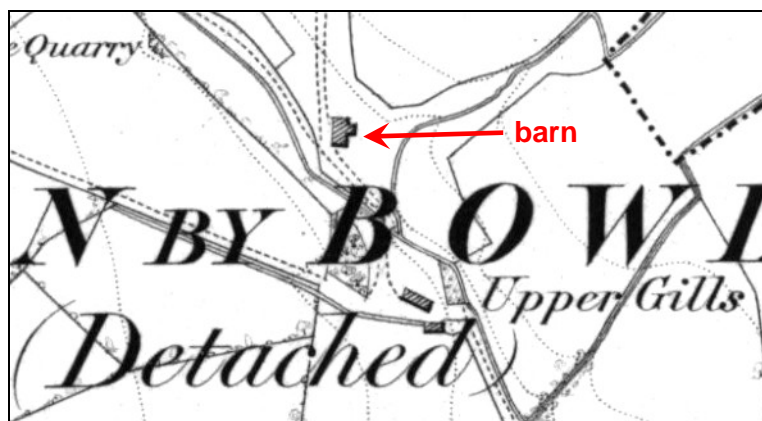
4: Tithe map, 1841³

- 5.2 The first edition Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, surveyed in 1847 (figure 5), identifies the farmhouse on the west bank as “Upper Gills” rather than Hartleys Tenement, but also shows the present barn as a detached, T-shaped building.
- 5.3 Between 1847 and 1893, when the larger scale first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map was surveyed⁴, it can be inferred that the present farmhouse was erected to the south-east of the barn and the earlier buildings across the beck were demolished, although the name Upper Gills continued to be used. It also appears that the barn was enlarged, by the addition of a pair of outshuts along the east elevation, to either side of the earlier projecting porch, and by a small lean-to at the north-west corner. The situation was much the same when this

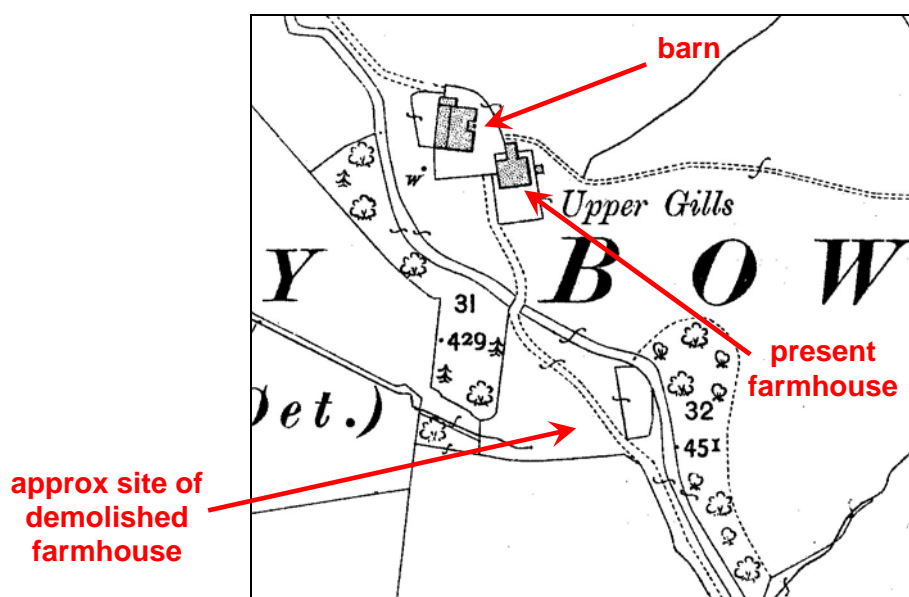
³ *Map of the Parish of Bolton by Bowland in the West Riding of the County of York 1841* (Lancashire Archives, PR 3431 - reproduced by kind permission)

⁴ Yorkshire, sheet 148.16, published 1894; not available locally but can be seen online at <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/376476/455082/12/100392>

map was revised in 1907 (figure 6), although this later edition also appears to show a division running north-south within the barn, which does not correspond to any present-day feature. The name “Higher Ghylls” must have been coined subsequently.



5: OS 1:10560 map, 1850⁵



6: OS 1:2500 map, 1909⁶

6 Recording methodology

- 6.1 The present recording was carried out during a site visit on 18 February 2016, and involved detailed inspection of all parts of the barn. During the visit a measured survey, photography, and a written account were all undertaken.

⁵ Yorkshire, sheet 148. Surveyed 1847. Enlarged in this extract.

⁶ Yorkshire, sheet 148.16, revised 1907

- 6.2 The drawn record comprises ground and first floor plans of the building, at 1:100 scale, based on existing surveys provided by Peter Hitchen Design, but checked and enhanced with additional relevant information. A new cross-section through the barn was also produced at 1:50. The drawings show all significant detail and employ conventions based on those specified by English Heritage⁷.
- 6.3 The photographic record was made using a digital SLR camera (12 megapixels), and both external and internal photographs were taken, generally using a scale in the form of a 1m/2m ranging pole marked with 0.5m graduations, or a 0.5m baton with 0.1m graduations. Images were captured as camera raw (NEF) files, which were converted to 8 bit TIFF files and printed at approximately 5 x 7", to form part of the project archive, in accordance with Lancashire County Archaeology Service requirements. Their locations are shown on copies of the plans, and a selection is copied at the end of this report; in the text they are referred to by numbers in **bold**.

7 Description of the barn

- 7.1 The barn is overall essentially square in plan and east-facing (**1**), with a small lean-to along part of the north elevation. It is built from local sandstone rubble with projecting throughstones and has a variety of sandstone dressings, though for the most part these are plain, and there is no ornamentation. The present blue slate roof dates from 1999, when the upper parts of the gables were also probably rebuilt, but no doubt originally the building was covered with stone slate.
- 7.2 That the present square plan is the result of enlargement is clear from the gable elevations, where straight joints show the addition of a pair of outshuts to either side of the main entrance (**2,3**), so the main building can be seen to have been 8.6m wide originally, rather than 12.7m as it is today. However, as the historic maps suggest, in the 1840s the main east entrance was set within a projecting porch, as is commonly the case with barns in the district, though no straight joints exist in the east elevation of the porch to bear this out, perhaps because of rebuilding in this area.
- 7.3 Modern changes have been made to the pattern of openings in the south gable, but the original arrangement can be partly discerned, and comprised a pair of doorways at the outer ends with tie-stone jambs, but whether or not the central doorway was then a third opening, or is a later insertion (it has a concrete lintel), cannot be determined (**4,5**). The pair of doorways indicates that this south end of the barn was occupied by a shippon with two rows of stalls running north-

⁷ English Heritage 2006 Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice

south, facing onto a central feeding passage; this common arrangement is in many examples provided with a central doorway to the feeding passage, but not in all cases.

- 7.4 The rear, west elevation has a central pedestrian or “winnowing” doorway, with a small opening to the right, perhaps intended for mucking out from the shippon, and there is a second, blocked opening near it. The forking hole at first floor level is probably a modern insertion (6). At the north end of the barn stands the single storey lean-to (probably dating to between 1847 and 1893). It has a low, blocked doorway in its north side and a crude doorway opening in its east side, and is likely to have been a dairy or store (7-9).
- 7.5 The pair of outshuts added to the east side of the barn, also between 1847 and 1893, have some notable differences in the form of openings to those in the original building. At the south end is a pair of doorways with heavy monolithic jambs, the taller opening being to a two-horse stable, the smaller one to the south to a smaller room, perhaps a tack room or, as it is today, a coal store (2). Both of these rooms have windows with re-used window dressings, including a number of ovolo moulded mullions, perhaps derived from the nearby demolished farmhouse, and possibly 17th century in date (10). There is also a plain forking hole in the south end of the outshut, to a hay loft over the stable (11). The north-east outshut is plainer, and is now entered from within the porch, though formerly had a wide doorway in the north end, since reduced to a window, and changes have been made in its east side.
- 7.6 The cart entrance into the main body of the barn is located within the former porch; the doors are likely to have been positioned on the west, inner side of this, but the lintel here has been replaced by one of steel. Evidence for a loft within the porch (another typical feature of such barns) is also apparent in the form of beam sockets in the north and south sides (12).
- 7.7 The main body of the barn now forms a single undivided space with concrete floor, from which all remains of the original shippon in the south end have been removed, though a step up near the middle of the building probably represents an original change in level between the shippon and the northern half of the barn (13). A new first floor on steel beams runs the length of the building, and no doubt replaced an earlier hay loft over the south shippon, probably about 0.7m lower than the present loft. Within the north end are three mid 20th century concrete boskins or stall dividers, suggesting that the whole of the ground floor was then given over to cow housing, but there are no original fixtures here and it is likely that this end was open to the roof originally, as a threshing bay and “mewstead” or storage area for hay, other crops, or implements (14,15). Among

the various openings in the south end are a small recess in the east side, perhaps a lamp-hole, as well as two larger blocked holes, one of which communicated with the stable (16-18).

- 7.8 There are no original fittings at first floor level in the barn, though it is useful to note the former, inserted doorway in the east side which communicates with the outshut loft, but is now slighted by the much raised loft level (19).
- 7.9 The barn's roof structure is significant in that it is of pegged imported softwood and there are three trusses all of the same pattern, comprising principal rafters, tie beam and collar, and carpenter's numbering has been applied, though this seems to have been confined to identifying the right-hand and left-hand components (21-27). Although it cannot be said with any certainty, the form of the trusses raises the possibility that they are not original to the barn and may be 19th or even early 20th century replacements.
- 7.10 The interiors of the other, later parts of the barn are of limited interest, with the most significant perhaps being the former stable, in the south-east outshut. This was for two horses, with the stalls once having been separated by a timber division, its former presence indicated by two mortices in the underside of the overhead beam (28,29), but this space was later made into housing for young cattle, and the layout changed accordingly. It is worth noting that the wall dividing this from the adjacent small store is of brick (30). The corresponding space to the north of the barn porch has no divisions or fixtures and may have been a store, to judge from the wide northern doorway, or was perhaps additional livestock housing (31,32). Similarly, the north-west lean-to has no distinguishing internal features (33).

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 In many respects the barn at Higher Ghylls seems to have been typical of the combination barns built as multi-functional farm buildings in this part of the Pennines, particularly during the 18th and early 19th centuries, and it is clear that it was extant by the 1840s, but whether or not it was much earlier in date, or was erected only in the early 19th century, cannot be determined. It has few datable or distinguishing features within the masonry; whether this is attributable to an early date, or is simply the manner in which it was built, evades certainty. The roof trusses do suggest a 19th century date but they may not be the original ones. The barn's location, formerly separated from its farmhouse by the beck, is interesting, and may be accounted for by the restricted availability of level sites, but it may also indicate that when built it was an "outbarn", perhaps serving an

outlying portion of land farmed from Hartleys, before becoming part of the Upper/Higher Ghylls holding.

Appendix 1: Written scheme of investigation

BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS, TOSSIDE, LANCASHIRE:

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) sets out the work proposed for the recording of the historic barn at Higher Ghylls, as commissioned by the owner Mr Joe Wharton. The work is required by a condition of planning consent from Ribble Valley Borough Council for the conversion of the barn to form two dwellings (application no: 3/2015/0748), attached on the recommendation of the Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS).

2 Location

- 2.1 Higher Ghylls is an outlying farmstead in Bolton-by-Bowland civil parish, situated 1km south-west of Tosside, 500m off the B6478 Slaidburn to Long Preston road. The barn itself is detached and stands at the south-east side of the group of buildings, at NGR: SD 76495 55069.

3 Project context

- 3.1 None of the buildings at the site are listed, or lie within a conservation area, but the LCAS consider the barn to be of some historic interest, and on their advice, the planning authority attached a condition to the consent (no 5), requiring that:
- “No works shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of building recording and analysis. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”
- 3.2 It is understood that implementing this programme of work, by carrying out its first stage, ie on-site recording, will permit development to take place on the site, as far as condition no.5 is concerned. Full discharge of the condition would however only be accomplished when a satisfactory report and details of the archive have been deposited.

4 Archaeological and historical background

- 4.1 The site has not yet been visited by this author but information submitted with the planning application and in the LCAS consultation response suggests that the barn is likely to date from the first half of the 19th century or earlier. This part of the former West Riding is characterised by numerous scattered farmsteads, many established in the 17th or 18th century, and there are numerous good examples of combination barns, from this period and later. The building at Higher Ghylls is likely to have originated as such, though it is believed to have been changed in recent years by the insertion of new first floor beams.

5 Aims of the project

- 5.1 The conversion of the building will lead to the loss or masking of some historic features and the building's historic character. The aim of the project is to identify, interpret and record significant evidence relating to its historic character and development, and place this in the public domain by deposition with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record and Lancashire Archives.

6 Statement of recording standards

- 6.1 All work which forms part of this project will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance issued by the Institute for Archaeologists.

7 Methodology

- 7.1 Recording will be carried out with the buildings as found and will include drawn, photographic and written records. Limited historical research will also be carried out.
- 7.2 The drawn record will comprise plans of the ground and first floors at 1:100 scale, based on an existing survey by the applicant's agent where feasible, but enhanced to show all significant fixtures and fittings. A cross-section at 1:50 will also be produced where it will contribute significantly to an understanding or interpretation of the building. Conventions used will be those specified by English Heritage.⁸
- 7.3 A photographic record will be made, to comprise general photographs of the exterior and interior of the building complex, along with photographs of the site and setting, and detailed photographs of any structural and decorative features that are relevant to the building's design, development and use and which are not adequately recorded on the general photographs. Such detailed photographs will be taken at medium to close range and framed in such a way as to ensure that the element being photographed clearly constitutes the principal feature of the photograph.
- 7.4 Detailed photographs will contain an appropriately positioned graduated photographic scale (not measuring tapes or surveying staffs). The photographic scale will also include a standard colour bar where colour is considered important. A graduated ranging-rod, discretely positioned, will be included in a selection of general shots, sufficient independently to establish the scale of all elements of the building and its structure. The size, graduations, and any other relevant data relating to the scales and ranging-rods so utilised will be specifically noted in the methodology section of the written report.
- 7.5 Photographs will be taken using a digital camera with a resolution of 12 mega pixels, using RAW format files for image capture and converted to 8 bit TIFF files for archive purposes. Prints will be produced for the archive at approximately 5 x 7".
- 7.6 A rapid desk-based study of the site will take place, which will examine historic maps and any other readily available documents, photographs and secondary sources held at local repositories, including Clitheroe Library and Lancashire Archives.

8 Report preparation

- 8.1 A report on the recording will be produced within 8 weeks of completion of the fieldwork. Copies will be supplied to the client and the Lancashire County Archaeology Service, and the owner or his agent will submit it to the local planning authority when applying for the condition to be discharged. It will also be published on the internet via the OASIS project. The report will be illustrated appropriately, with location maps, extracts from historic maps, copies of the survey drawings, and selected photographs.

9 Archive deposition

- 9.1 The project archive (including a copy of the report) will be submitted to Lancashire Archives. Photographic data will be uploaded to two separate servers.

10 Timetable

- 10.1 The site work is expected to take place during February 2016.

11 Personnel

⁸ English Heritage 2008 *Understanding Historic Buildings*

- 11.1 All work will be undertaken personally by Stephen Haigh MA, an experienced buildings archaeologist with several years experience of investigating and recording historic buildings in Lancashire and elsewhere. He reserves the right to seek amendments to this project design where dictated by professional judgement or health and safety considerations for example, but any changes will be agreed with the client and the LCAS as appropriate.

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Appendix 2: Contents of the project archive

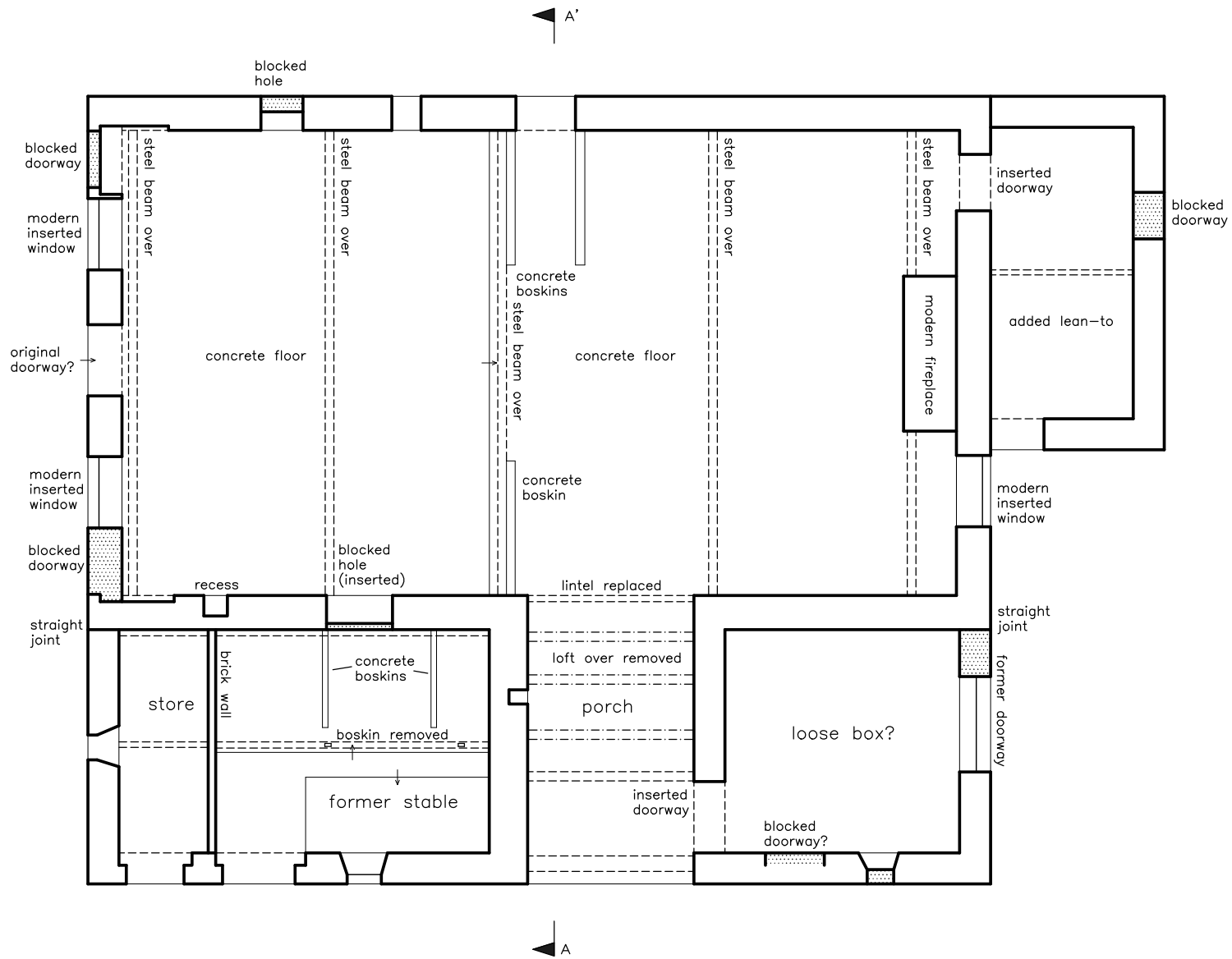
To be deposited with Lancashire Archives, Preston (reference DDX 2204)

Archive contains:

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

Complete list of photographs taken

Photo	Subject
1	The barn, from the north-east
2	The barn, from the south-east
3	The barn, from the north
4	The barn, from the south-west
5	Blocked doorway in south gable
6	The barn, from the west
7	The barn, from the north-west
8	The barn, from the north-west
9	The barn, from the north-east
10	Detail of window with re-used mullions, in east elevation of stable
11	South gable of barn, from the east
12	Interior of barn porch, from the south-east, showing position of former loft
13	Interior of barn, ground floor, north-west corner
14	Interior of barn, ground floor, north end
15	Interior of barn, ground floor, north-east corner with entrance from porch
16	Interior of barn, ground floor, west wall, south end
17	Interior of barn, ground floor, south-west corner
18	Interior of barn, ground floor, east wall, south end
19	Interior of barn, first floor, north-east corner, towards porch
20	Interior of barn, first floor, west wall, showing present forking hole
21	Middle roof truss in barn, from the north
22	Middle roof truss in barn, from the north-west
23	Middle roof truss in barn, from the north-east
24	Detail of numbering at east end of middle roof truss, north side of tie beam
25	Detail of numbering at west end of middle roof truss, north side of collar
26	Detail of numbering at east end of middle roof truss, north side of collar
27	Detail of numbering at ridge of middle roof truss, north side
28	Former stable in outshut, from the south-east
29	Former stable in outshut, from the north-west
30	Store in south end of south-east outshut, from the east
31	Interior of north-east outshut, from the north-west
32	Interior of north-east outshut, from the south-east
33	Interior of north outshut, from the west



KEY
 [stippled box] blocking or infill
 [arrow pointing up] step up

10m
 BASED ON ORIGINAL SURVEY BY PETER HITCHEN DESIGN

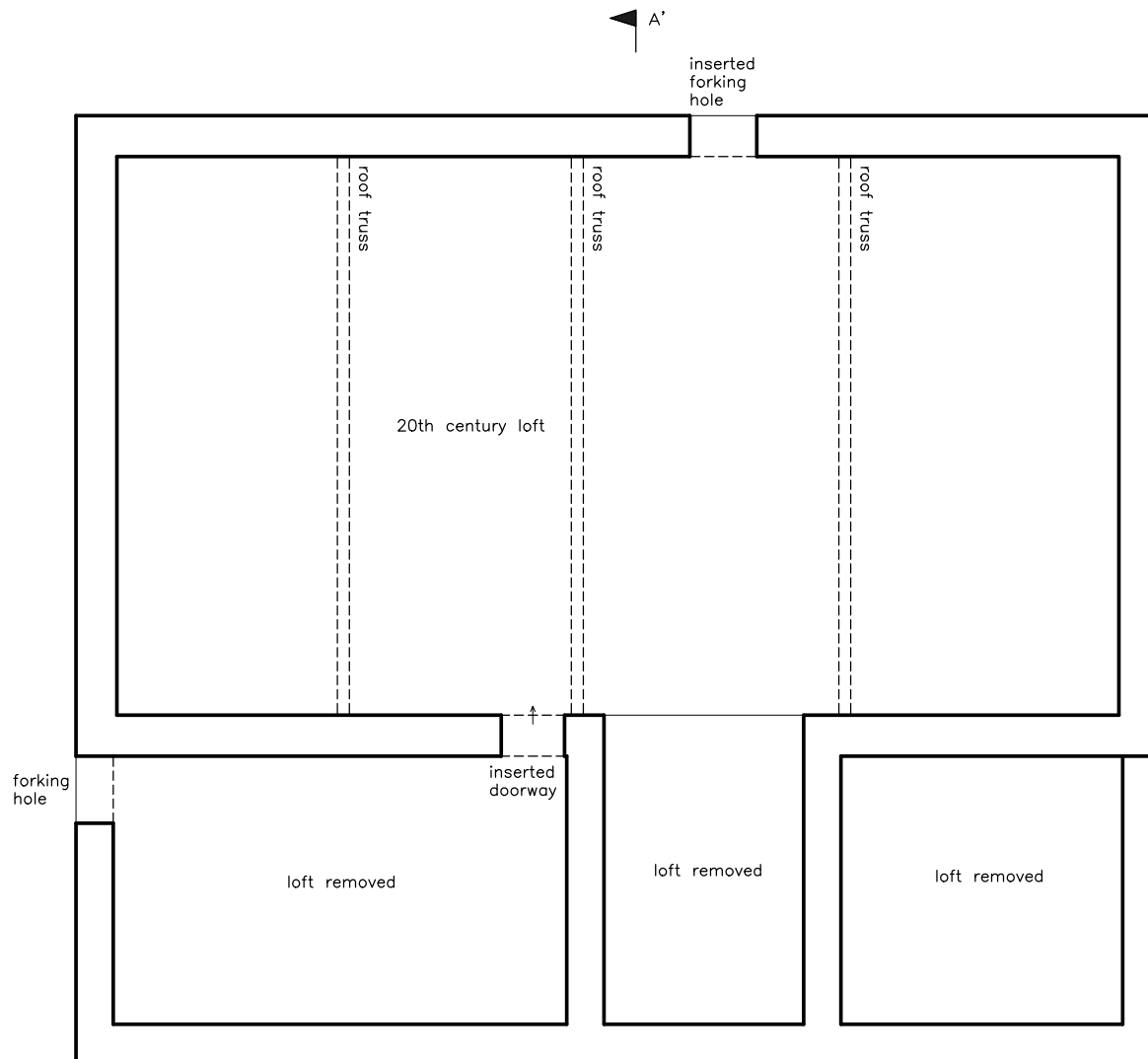
BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND CP
 LANCASHIRE
 (NGR: SD 76476 55081):
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 7:
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

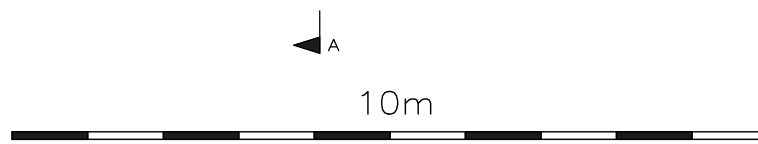
DATE OF SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2016

STEPHEN HAIGH
 Buildings Archaeologist



KEY

- blocking or infill
- step up



BASED ON ORIGINAL SURVEY BY PETER HITCHEN DESIGN

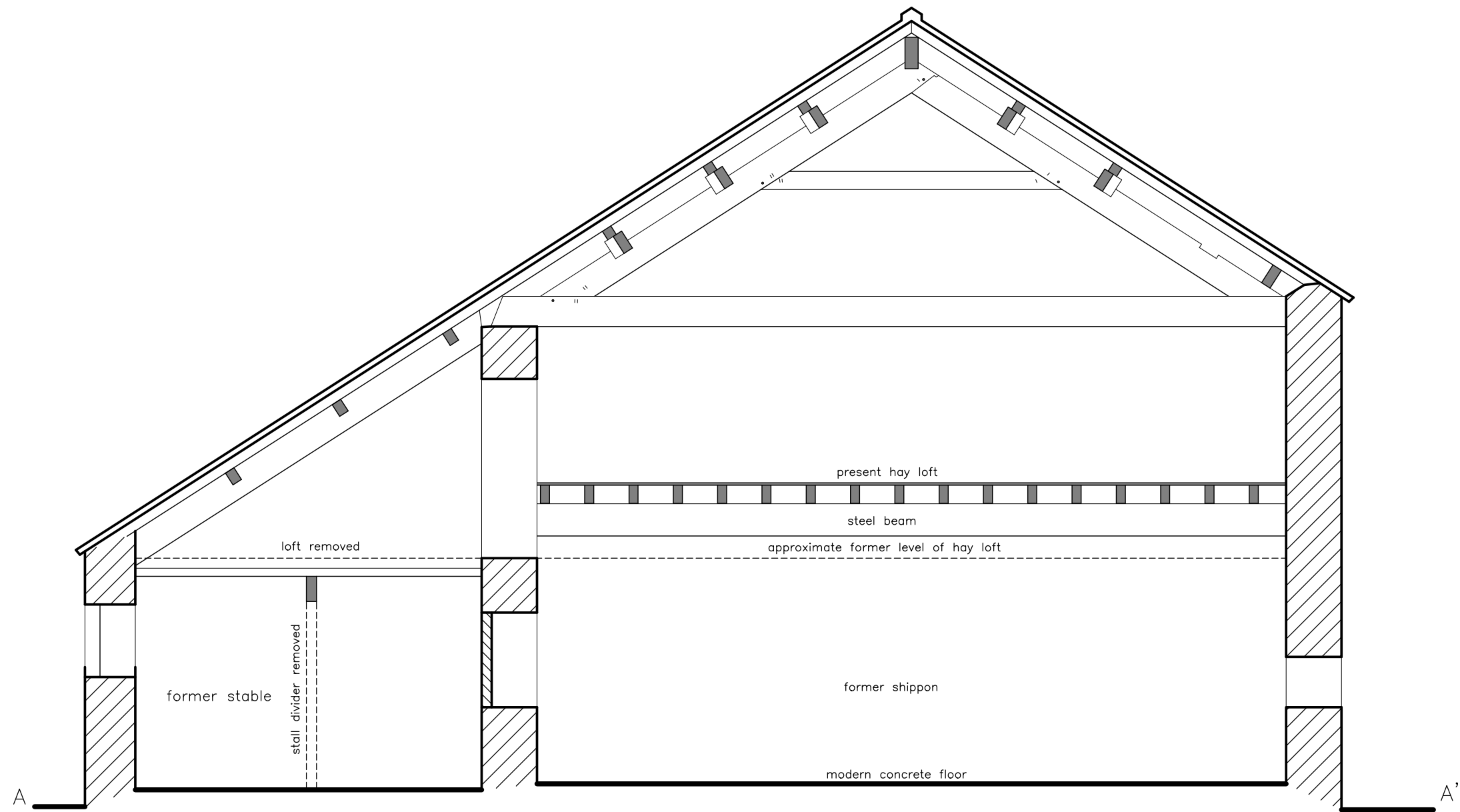
BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND CP
 LANCASHIRE
 (NGR: SD 76476 55081):
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 8:
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2016

STEPHEN HAIGH
 Buildings Archaeologist



5m



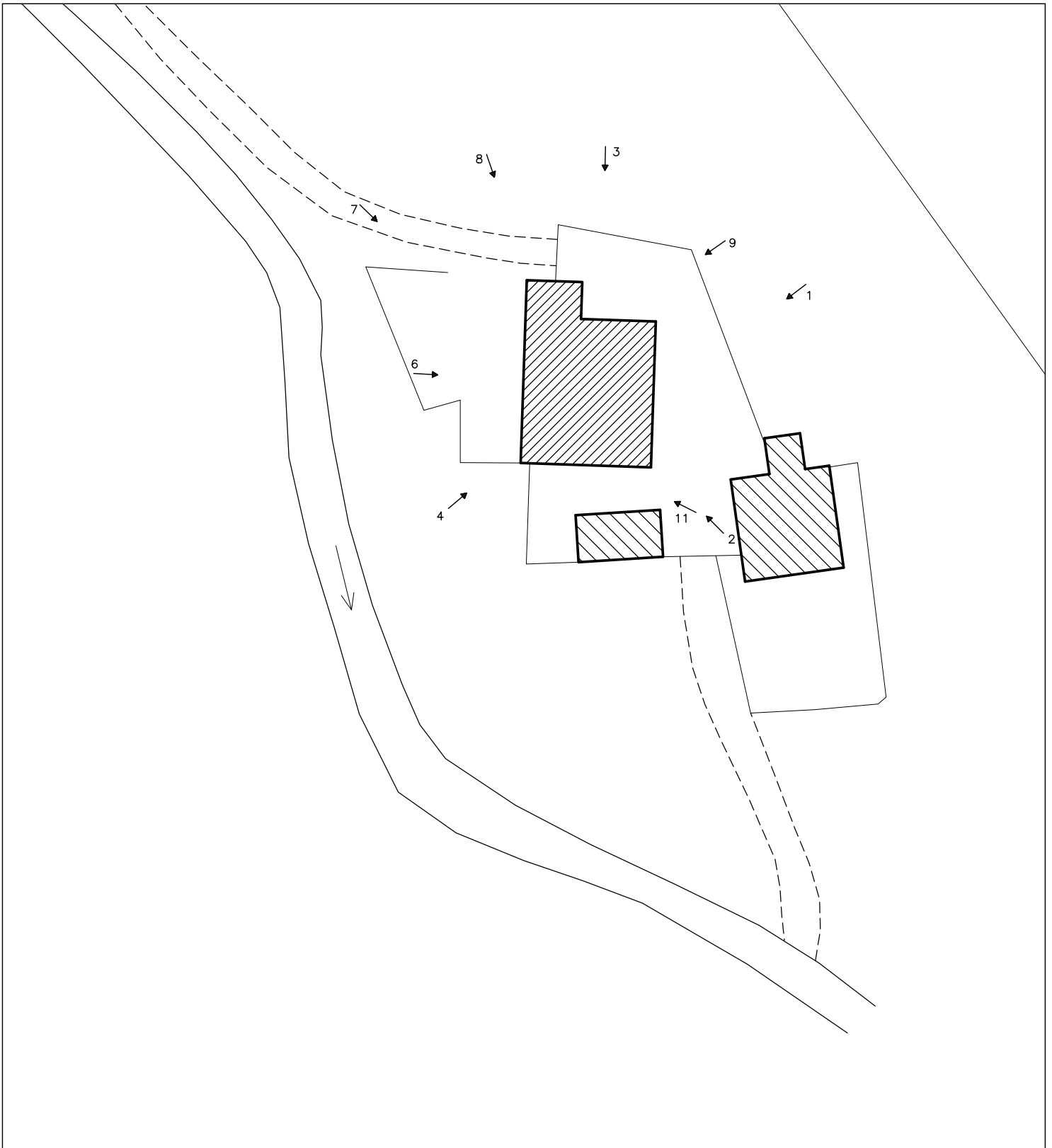
BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND CP
 LANCASHIRE
 (NGR: SD 76476 55081):
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 9:
 CROSS-SECTION

SCALE: 1:50 (at A3)

DATE OF SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2016

STEPHEN HAIGH
 Buildings Archaeologist



↗ 1: photograph direction and number

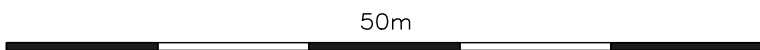
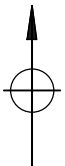
BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND CP
 LANCASHIRE
 (NGR: SD 76476 55081):
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

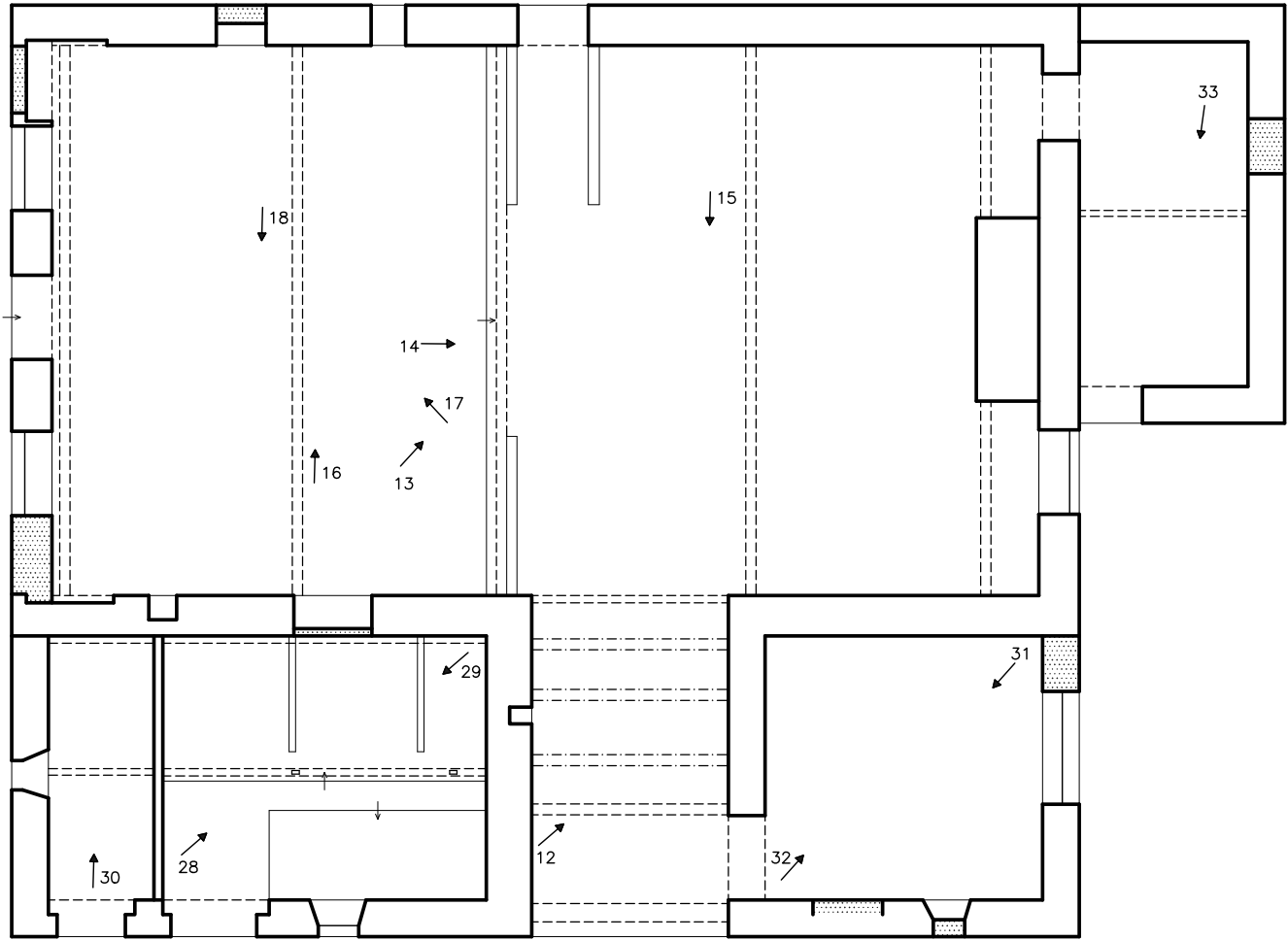
FIGURE 10:
 SITE PLAN
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:500 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2016

STEPHEN HAIGH
 Buildings Archaeologist





KEY
 ↗ 1: photograph direction and number

↑ 10
 10m
 BASED ON ORIGINAL SURVEY BY PETER HITCHEN DESIGN

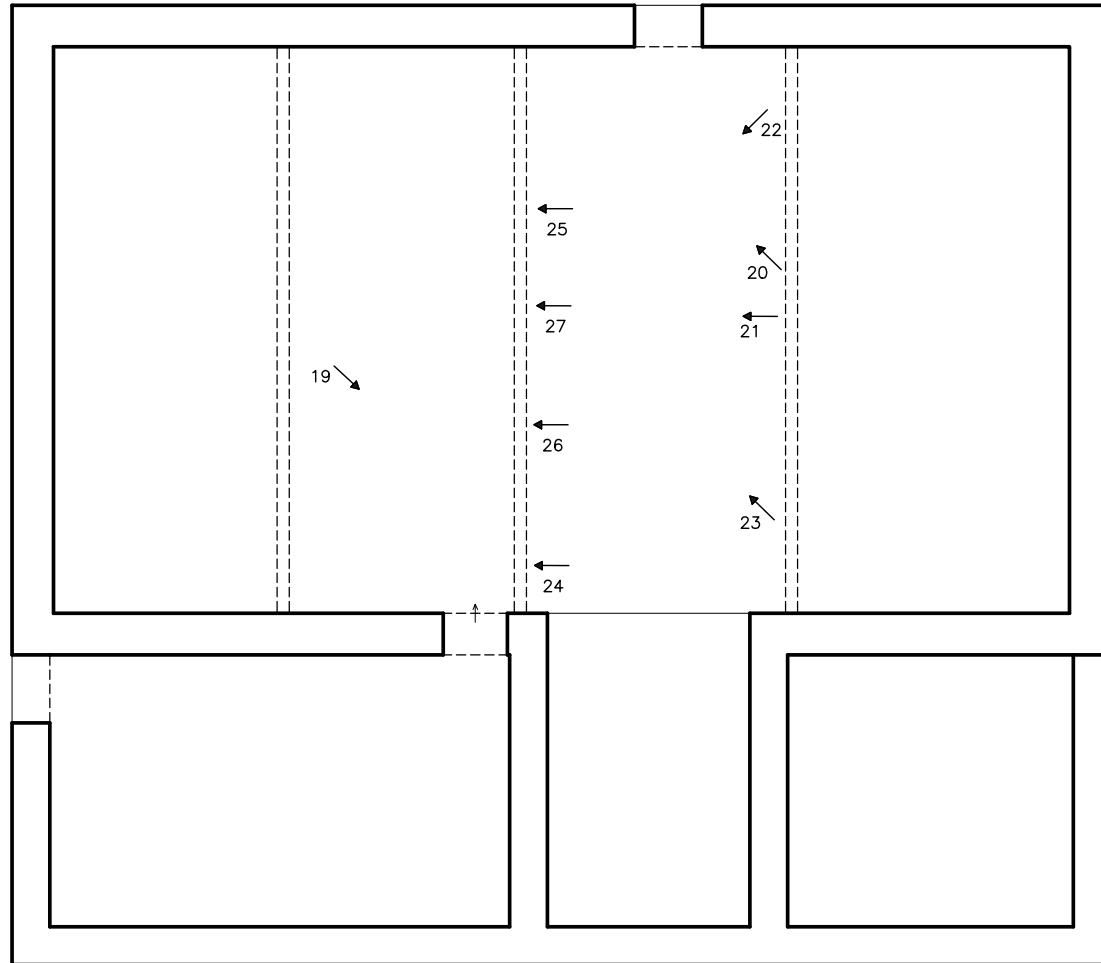
BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND CP
 LANCASHIRE
 (NGR: SD 76476 55081):
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 11:
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2016

STEPHEN HAIGH
 Buildings Archaeologist



KEY

↗ 1: photograph direction and number



BASED ON ORIGINAL SURVEY BY PETER HITCHEN DESIGN

BARN AT HIGHER GHYLLS
 BOLTON-BY-BOWLAND CP
 LANCASHIRE
 (NGR: SD 76476 55081):
 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD

FIGURE 12:
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 WITH KEY TO PHOTOGRAPHS

SCALE: 1:100 (at A4)

DATE OF SURVEY: FEBRUARY 2016

STEPHEN HAIGH
 Buildings Archaeologist



Photo 1: The barn, from the north-east



Photo 2: The barn, from the south-east



Photo 3: The barn, from the north



Photo 4: The barn, from the south-west



Photo 5: Blocked doorway in south gable



Photo 6: The barn, from the west



Photo 8: The barn, from the north-west



Photo 9: The barn, from the north-east



Photo 10: Detail of window with re-used mullions, in east elevation of stable



Photo 15: Interior of barn, ground floor, north-east corner with entrance from porch



Photo 17: Interior of barn, ground floor, south-west corner



Photo 18: Interior of barn, ground floor, east wall, south end



Photo 19: Interior of barn, first floor, north-east corner, towards porch



Photo 21: Middle roof truss in barn, from the north



Photo 24: Detail of numbering at east end of middle roof truss, north side of tie beam



Photo 28: Former stable in outshut, from the south-east



Photo 29: Former stable in outshut, from the north-west



Photo 31: Interior of north-east outshut, from the north-west