

**Historic building record of
barn and cart lodge at
Sparrow Hall Farm,
Sparrow Lane, Needham Green,
Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex
October 2010**

**report by
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for the
Colchester Archaeological Trust
on behalf of
Mr and Mrs R N Broad**

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Historic building record

This report provides a written and photographic record of a complex of agricultural buildings at Sparrow Hall Farm, Sparrow Lane, Needham Green, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex (NGR TL 556 157). The report has been prepared to a brief written by Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management team (Teresa O'Connor, dated March 2010) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (application nos UTT/0636/09 and UTT/0636/09/LB).

Introduction

The clients Mr and Mrs R N Broad wish to convert a large 19th-century barn and smaller attached building to domestic accommodation. I have been to the Essex Record Office and obtained extract copies of the tithe map of 1838 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (first edition, 25 inches to the mile).

I have visited the site, examined and photographed all the buildings in the farmyard, and made notes on them. Copies of historic maps were obtained from the Essex Record Office to help date all the buildings in the farm complex. This report was produced in response to a brief issued by Essex County Council in March 2010. A WSI was written by CAT in October 2010. The site was inspected on October 2010.

The report is accompanied by a DVD containing a photographic record in the form of 44 digital images (Appendix 1), but also includes printed photographs of selected features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is described in the 'List of the digital images'.

Historical context: documentary and cartographic record

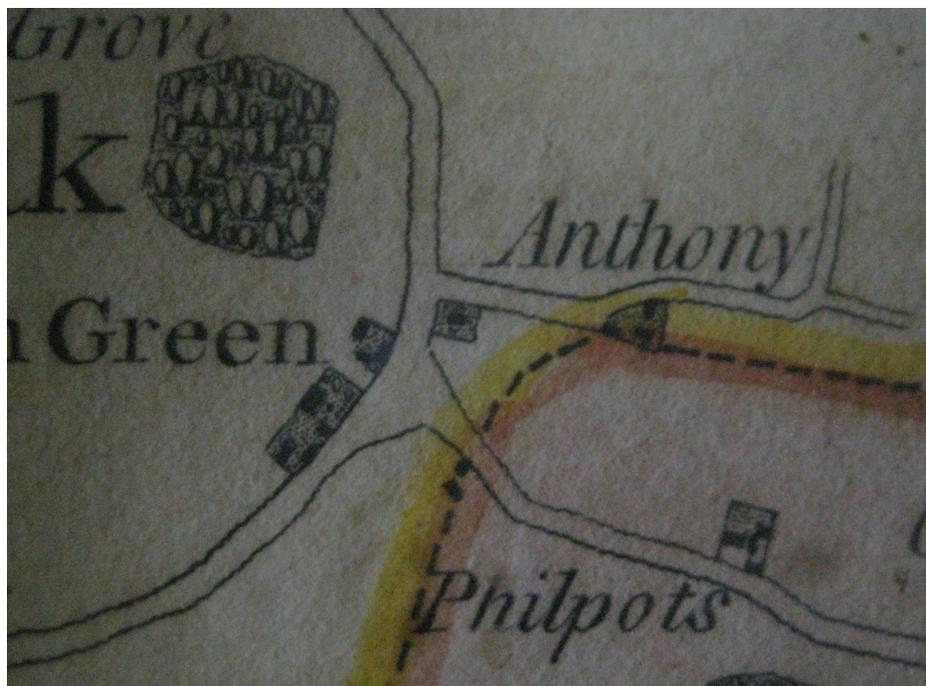


Fig 1 Chapman & André map of Essex (1777), showing Sparrow Hall Farm (in the possession of the owners).

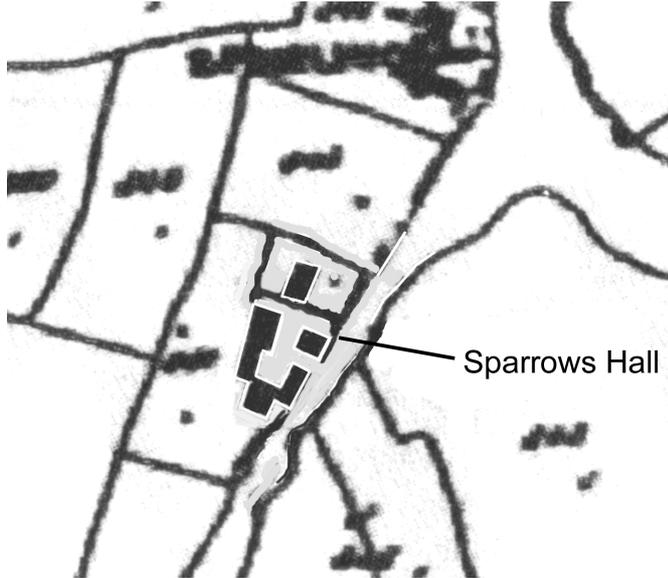


Fig 2 The tithe map of 1838, showing Sparrow Hall Farm (ERO D/CT 166B).

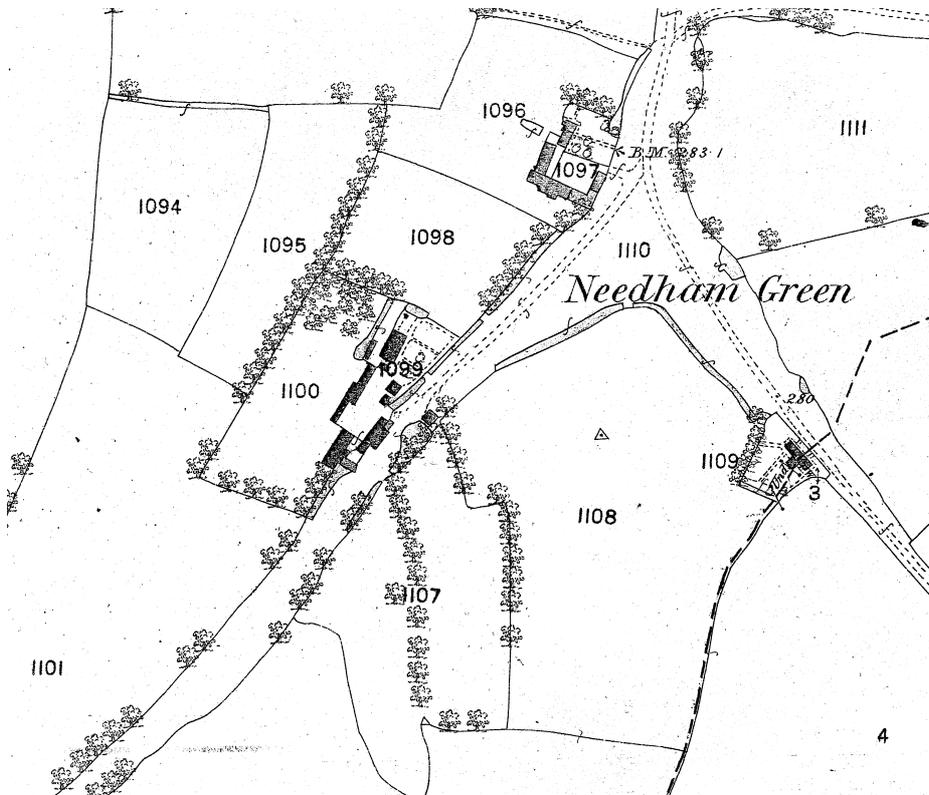


Fig 3 Extract from the first edition O.S. map of 1876, 25 inches to the mile, showing Sparrow Hall Farm.



Fig 4 Extract from the plan from auctioneer's catalogue of 1911, showing Sparrow Hall Farm (in the possession of the owners).

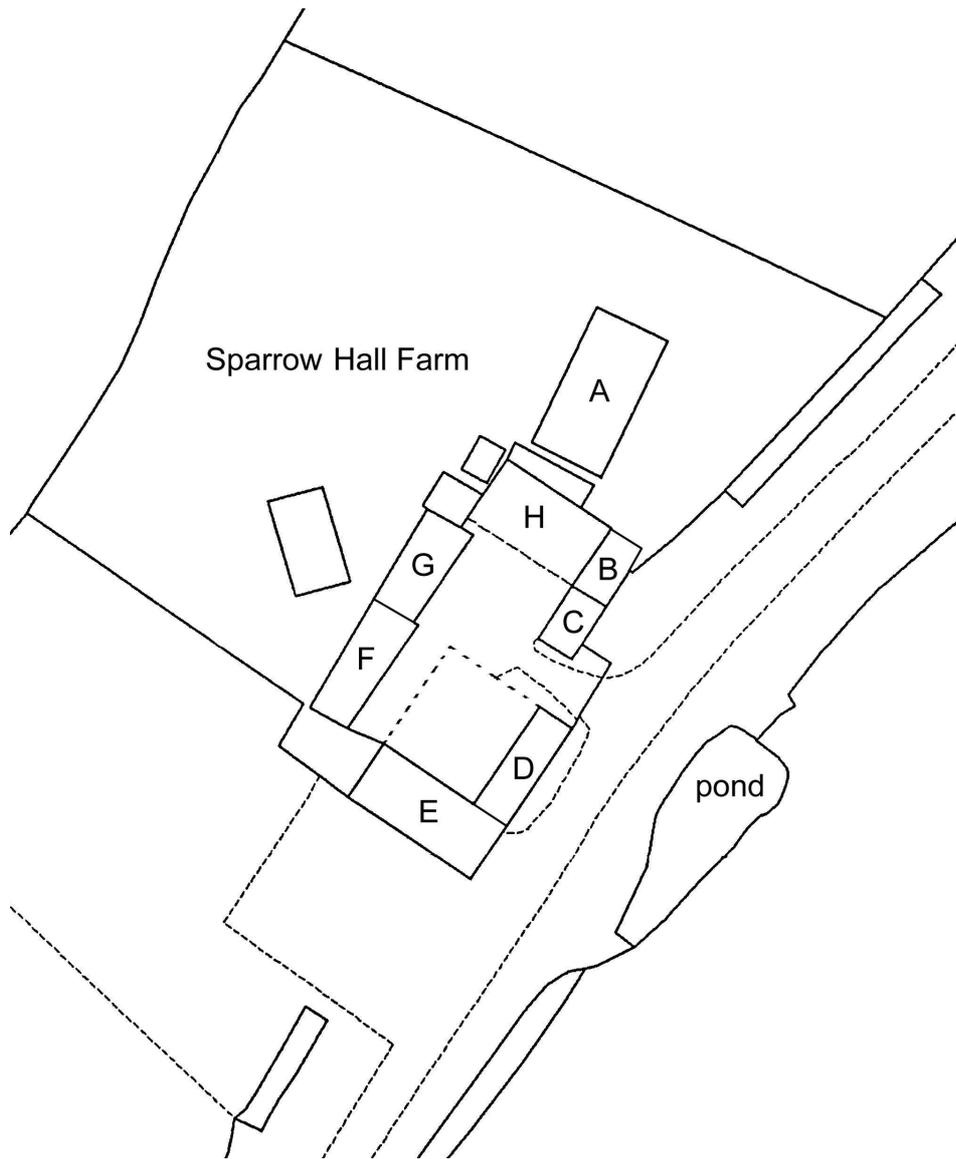


Fig 5 Block plan of Sparrow Hall Farm.

Key to plan:

- A farmhouse**
- B granary**
- C building attached to granary**
- D building attached to large barn**
- E large barn**
- F loose box/stables**
- G cart lodge attached to stables**
- H pole barn**

Plan form of site and landscape setting (Figs 5-6)

(All building letter codes refer to Figs 5-6.)

The large rectangular barn is five bays long and is set at right-angles to the road. It was built to store grain crops. When originally built, the central bay had a door on each side, so loaded carts could be pulled in through one door, unloaded and the pulled out through the opposite door. The smaller building attached to the barn is built parallel to the road and is five bays long. The three bays nearest to the barn had a pair of double doors facing the farm yard. The original purpose of these three bays is unknown but could have been for more grain storage. The final two bays were a gig house and a stable. The gig house was open to the farm yard. The stable had a half-door for the horse facing the yard entrance.

Sparrow Hall Farm is located 1.4km from Hatfield Broad Oak on Sparrow Lane which is an unclassified road. The farm is in a rural setting with only one other farm nearby. The farm complex round the yard consists of a listed farmhouse, a listed granary, a series of late 19th-century vernacular farm buildings and a 20th-century pole barn which is due to be demolished.

The farmhouse is Grade 2* listed, and it is a late 16th- early 17th-century lobby entrance farmhouse with later additions (EHER no 38098). In the front garden is a small summer house, perhaps 19th century, built of timber and thatch. Near the farmhouse is the listed granary (EHER no 38099). This has been almost totally rebuilt in a traditional style. When the present owners acquired the farm, the granary had no roof but they have built a very convincing new roof based on the roof of a nearby granary. Attached to the granary is a two-bay 19th-century building with a door facing the farm yard. The purpose of this building is unknown but it may have been a stable. North-west of the large barn is a five-bay range of buildings which may have been loose boxes for horses. The three bays to the west are one large room divided by open trusses. The next two bays were probably individual loose boxes, although the one to the west could have been a tack room. Attached to this range is a narrower range of four bays. These appear to have been cart lodges for four carts. Between this building and the granary is a mid 20th-century pole barn.

Materials, methods of construction, dimensions and architectural treatments

Introduction

The farmhouse (A) is timber-framed in oak with a clay tile roof. The walls are close studded, probably with wattle and daub as infill. The scarf joint on the rear top plate is a very simple two-peg joint, as one might expect in the early 17th century. The walls are plastered externally. In the 1930s, an extension was built all along the rear to provide a rear passage on both floors and a large modern staircase. At the north-west end is a timber-framed extension.

The rebuilt granary (B) is timber-framed with weatherboarding and a clay tile roof. It sits on a brick plinth. The weatherboarding is painted black.

All the other farm buildings except for the pole barn (C-G) are built in the same late 19th-century vernacular style. They are built of pine studs of small scantling with primary bracing. There are some iron straps tying the roof trusses to the top wall plates. All the roof braces are very similar. They consist of a tie beam, two principal rafters, two raking struts at right-angles to the principal rafters and a metal rod bolted at the apex and through the bottom of the tie beam. This gives a very strong truss held in tension. The roofs have side purlins on the outside of the main roof trusses. All the roofs are lined with pine planks, which makes the roofs very strong and provides some protection from the weather if any tiles are blown off. They also make the buildings stronger. The tile are all clay tiles of a 19th-century type. All the walls external and internal are covered in weatherboarding. The materials used are pine timbers and weatherboarding covered in black paint for the most part, clay tiles of a 19th-century design, and ironwork to strengthen the junctions

between the trusses and the top plates.

The pole barn (H) is built of re-used telegraph poles, small scantling timbers and corrugated iron and dates to the 20th century.

I will now consider each of these vernacular buildings in turn.

Buildings

Building attached to granary (C)

This small two-bay building is constructed in the same manner as the others, with small scantling studs, primary braces and standard roof trusses. It has a modern door facing the yard and a 19th-century window facing the entrance way. Inside there is metal pen, made from iron fencing, about 2 x 1 m. This structure looks as though it was made to confine animals for inspection. The concrete floor has grooves in it, which were presumably for animal-waste run-off. The corners of the building facing the entrance way are protected by a large piece of ironstone on one corner and a rounded piece of concrete on the other corner.

Building attached to large barn (D)

This five-bay building is in two parts, ie a three-bay store room/barn and a gig house and stable. The building is constructed of small scantling studs with primary bracing. The three-bay store has two trusses in tension as described above. The present double doors are modern but there is a pair of double doors leaning against the outside of the south-west side of the large barn. These doors were supported on rollers at the top (see black and white prints). The evidence for the support mechanism on the store is no longer visible. There is a pedestrian door between the store and the large barn suggesting functional connection between them. The gig house was completely open to the farm yard. The opening had support pads on top of the posts on either side of the opening, suggesting a similarity to cart lodges, which have similar pads. The gig house is only separated from the stable by a single horizontal beam, now cut away, which was pegged with two wooden pegs, at least at one end. This would make the stable very cold and draughty.

The large barn (E)

This five-bay building, like the others, is built with small scantling studs and primary bracing. The roof trusses are larger versions of the ones on the other buildings, except that at either end of the tie beams there are straight braces down to the posts. The two central bays on either side, where there used to be opposing doors, have been filled in with matching framing to the other bays. The outside of the barn is covered with weatherboarding. High up in the north-west wall and in the last bay of the adjoining south-west wall are non-opening glazed windows, which are probably original. The floor is concrete and may always have been so.

Loose box/stables/tack room (F)

This five-bay building is made up of one three-bay loose box and two single-bay rooms. The walls have close studding with primary bracing. The loose box has a central door and two windows facing the farm yard and another door in the south-west end wall. The tie beams of the two roof trusses show evidence of having been gnawed by horses. The two smaller rooms are separated from the large room and from each other by timber-framed walls covered by weatherboarding.

Cart lodge attached to stables (G)

A slightly narrower building of four bays, divided into two rooms each of two bays. The walls have close studding and primary bracing. The room nearest the stable has clear evidence of being a cart lodge as it has posts facing the yard with pads on top of them, as found in the gig house which is part of the building (D) attached to the large barn (E). I suspect that both rooms were cart lodges but the evidence does not survive in the second room.

Pole barn next to house (H)

This is a minimalist building built with the fewest components possible, that is, re-used telegraph poles, small scantling timbers and corrugated iron. The corrugated iron is partly structural, holding the building together. As the building is just a shelter for farm machines, the corrugated iron only comes down to about seven feet off the ground.

Dates of the buildings

The farmhouse is 17th century and later.

The granary may have been 18th century but is now 90 per cent 20th century. The pole barn was probably built in the 1950s or 1960s.

The rest of the buildings appear to be late 19th century. If we look at the map evidence, the tithe map of 1838 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (25 inches to the mile, first edition), we find conflicting evidence. Building (D) attached to the large barn (E) and loose box/stables (F) could be on the 1838 map. These two buildings could also be on the 1876 O.S. map, but the rest of the buildings appear to post-date 1876. In fact, all these buildings are constructed in a such a similar manner that they probably all post-date 1876 but a few of them share the same footprint as earlier buildings. The large barn, in particular, does not appear on the 1876 O.S. map.

Function and internal layout

The building attached to the granary (C)

This small two-bay building has a door to the farm yard and a window facing the farm entrance.

It has probably always housed animals, either horses or cattle. It is well suited to be a horse stable as it is close to the house and close to the farm yard entrance. Any evidence of a stable, such as feeding trough and hayrack, has long gone. The present fixtures and fittings, ie an iron holding pen and a concrete floor with drainage grooves, suggest housing for farm animals. The roof is lined with wooden boards which would keep any animals warm in winter.

The building attached to large barn (D)

The three-bay part attached to the barn has a pair of double doors facing the yard and a pedestrian door through to the large barn. It has no windows. The area enclosed by this building and the large barn was once enclosed by a brick wall with a gate in it. This means that it was a multi-purpose building, in one season storing grain and, in another, housing animals. The internal walls are lined with modern boarding but it is impossible to tell if this was always the case. The fact that the roof is lined with planks probably guaranteed that anything stored there would not be damaged by rainwater. The bay to the north-west is completely open to the yard with pads on top of the posts as in the cart lodge. Given the small size of this bay, it can only have been a gig house. The weatherboarding between the gig house and the three-bay building has been painted white, perhaps to give the gig a clean cobweb-free setting. The end bay, which is open to the gig house except for a single horizontal timber, has a half-door opening on to the farm entrance and a water pump in one corner. This was probably a stable, but it is so full of stored materials that it is impossible to see if there had ever been a feeding trough or hayrack. The pump may have been used for grooming the horse or washing the gig. It is possible that the stable was only used for short periods, perhaps when a neighbour came over with a horse for the evening. This kind of usage is also indicated by the fact that the door faces the entrance to the farm and not the farm yard itself.

Large barn (E)

This building probably had several functions but the main one would have been storing crops after harvest. The tall five-bay building originally had a door on either side in the middle bay. Loaded carts would have entered by

one door, been unloaded and then departed by the opposite door. The sheaves of grain would have been stacked in the two bays on either side of the central unloading bay. They would have been stacked right up to the tie beams. As the building is late 19th century, the central bay was probably not used for hand-flailing the crops as would have happened in earlier times; instead, a contractor probably called at the farm and threshed the crops with a traction engine and threshing machine. The tall barn gives plenty of room for storage. The three windows in the north-west end of the barn provide light for any work going on in the barn. The yard outside surrounded by a brick wall suggests that the barn may sometimes have been used to keep cattle. At the western end of the outside of the south-west wall, there is evidence of a later lean-to. This lean-to has completely gone and its function is unknown. In the second half of the 20th century, a pair of large, tall double doors was put in the south-east wall facing the road. These doors allowed loaded trucks and large agricultural machinery direct access to the barn from the road.

Loose box and stables (F)

This building has been much altered but it is clear that all five bays have housed horses at one time; this can be seen by the gnawed timbers in all the rooms. The three-bay room may once have had stalls for individual horses but there is no evidence of this. One of the rooms may have been a tack room for part of its existence. At present one of the rooms is used as a workshop for repairing farm machinery, etc.

Cart lodge attached to stables (G)

This four-bay building is likely to have been a four-bay cart lodge. The two bays nearest to the stables have clear evidence for cart lodge openings, ie the posts facing the farm yard have wide pads on them as is found in the entrance bay for the gig house. The two bays nearest to the farmhouse have been much altered to make them into domestic accommodation sometime in the 20th century.

The pole barn (H)

The pole barn was built in the 1950s or 1960s to shelter modern farm machinery from the weather. This could have included machines such as tractors, trailers and crop-spraying equipment. The central bay is much wider than the aisles, so it could accommodate wide machines. The corrugated iron only comes down to about seven feet above the ground so the building could not have protected anything from a severe frost.

Fixtures and fittings

Building attached to granary (C)

The only fixture in this building is an iron holding pen made of re-used iron railings. It is about 2 m long and 1 m wide. It appears to have been constructed in the 20th century.

Building attached to large barn (D)

This building has no old fixtures and fittings, only a modern pair of doors facing the yard and modern pedestrian door between this building and the large barn. The stable next to the farm entrance has a half-door for a horse and a pump. This traditional door has a pair of hinges for each half of the door.

Large barn (E)

The only fixtures in this building are a pedestrian door between the store and the barn, a pair of large modern doors facing the road, a pair of non-opening glazed windows high up in the north-west wall of the barn, and another non-opening glazed window high up in the south-west wall of the barn at the north-west end.

Loose box and stables (F)

The south-east elevation has two modern windows and a modern door; these probably replaced the original loose box/stable windows and doors. The door in the south-west wall appears to be a modern alteration. The two smaller rooms each have a modern door at the front and a modern window at the rear. There is large clock on the roof which appears to be 20th century.

Cart lodge attached to stables (G)

The pair of bays to the south-west seem to have been adapted to be domestic accommodation, with a recessed central modern door flanked by two modern windows. The second pair of bays have been treated in the same way except that the modern central door is not recessed.

The pole barn (H)

This building is open on three sides at ground-level and has no fixtures or fittings.

Phasing

The farmhouse (A)

This was built in the early 16th or late 17th century as a lobby entrance house. At the north-west end, a timber-framed extension was added, perhaps in the 18th century. In the 1930s, a large extension was added all along the rear of the building. This gave a corridor all along the back of the building and a convenient modern staircase. Attached to the rear of the farmhouse is a modern conservatory.

The granary (B)

This two-bay timber-framed granary was, according to the listed building list, built in the 18th century. In the 20th century, it was used as a pig sty with a concrete floor. By the time the present owners acquired the farm, the granary had lost its roof and was in a bad state. The present owners restored the building with new materials in the last 20 years.

Building attached to granary (C)

Phase 1: Two-bay building originally built late 19th century.

Phase 2: At some time in the 20th century, a holding pen was constructed for large animals and a concrete floor with drainage grooves laid.

Building attached to large barn (D)

Phase 1: three-bay multi-purpose room, one-bay gig house and one-bay stable built late 19th century.

Phase 2: gig house and stable no longer used for original purposes but used for general storage in 20th century. Three-bay room may have been used in conjunction with brick enclosed yard for keeping cattle, possibly late 19th and early 20th century.

Large barn (E)

Phase 1: five-bay barn with opposing doors in central bay built late 19th century.

Phase 2: Lean-to added to rear of south-west wall. The date of the addition and removal of this lean-to are unknown.

Phase 3: Central opposing doors blocked with framing and weatherboarding matching original barn. At the same time, new double doors put in south-east wall, facing the road. This probably happened in the second half of the 20th century.

Loose box/stables (F)

Phase 1: All five bays built to house horses in late 19th century. At some stage during this phase, one of the small rooms could have been a tack room.

Phase 2: All rooms converted to other purposes. The modern windows and door in the three-bay room suggest that it may have been used for domestic accommodation in the late 20th century. One of the small rooms has been converted into a workshop for repairing farm machinery, etc in the 20th century.

Cart lodge attached to stables (G)

Phase 1: All four bays used a cart lodges, late 19th century.

Phase 2: Each pair of bays converted to domestic accommodation in 20th century.

The context of the farm within its immediate contemporary landscape

The 17th-century farm would have been a mixed farm, keeping animals such as cattle and growing grain such as wheat and barley. The manure from the animals would have been used to fertilise the fields. This type of farming would have continued right up to the Napoleonic Wars, during which they probably concentrated on growing grain as it was so profitable. They would then have gone back to mixed farming until the 1870s, when cheap wheat from America and Australia reduced the value of wheat to half its former price. This farm, like many, probably diversified into cattle to stay profitable. They must have carried on growing some grain because, in a farm sale catalogue for 1911, we find that the farm had 142 acres and was growing crops and corn as well as timber. In the 20th century, the farm appears to have been a mixed farm again, growing crops and keeping pigs.

Acknowledgements

The Trust is grateful to Robert Crawford Associates for providing the drawings and to Mr and Mrs R N Broad for all their assistance on site.

Gillian Adams compiled the report and took the photos for Figures 1 and 4.

Appendix 1: (on accompanying DVD): full photographic record

List of the digital images

(Plates 1-10 plus 14, 17, 20, 29, 31, 50, 54, 58 included in report; Plates 1-66 included on DVD)

- Plate 1 Large barn (E) with attached building (D), viewed from north-east.
- Plate 2 Large barn (E), north-west gable, exterior, viewed from north.
- Plate 3 Large barn (E), south-west wall, exterior, viewed from west.
- Plate 4 Large barn (E), detail of south-west wall, exterior, showing glazed window.
- Plate 5 Large barn (E), south-west wall, exterior, showing position of former lean-to.
- Plate 6 Large barn (E), south-east wall, exterior, showing modern double doors, viewed from south.
- Plate 7 Large barn (E), south-west wall and south-east wall, viewed from south.
- Plate 8 Large barn (E), interior.

- Plate 9 Large barn (E), interior, north-east wall, showing blocking of central door by matching framing.
- Plate 10 Large barn (E), interior, roof truss with part of down brace to post.
- Plate 11 Large barn (E), interior, south-east wall showing modern double doors.
- Plate 12 Large barn (E), interior, north-west wall, detail of framing and windows.
- Plate 13 Large barn (E), interior, detail of brace from tie beam to post.
- Plate 14 Building attached to large barn (D), viewed from south-east.
- Plate 15 Building attached to large barn (D), showing stable door, viewed from north-east.
- Plate 16 Building attached to large barn (D), detail of stable door, viewed from north-east.
- Plate 17 Building attached to large barn (D), viewed from south-east.
- Plate 18 Building attached to large barn (D), block of ironstone protecting corner.
- Plate 19 Building attached to large barn (D), brick wall attached to north-west corner, viewed from north-east.
- Plate 20 Building attached to large barn (D), looking from gig house into stable.
- Plate 21 Building attached to large barn (D), detail of pump in stable.
- Plate 22 Building attached to large barn (D), post with mortise for dividing beam between gig house and stable.
- Plate 23 Building attached to large barn (D), pad on top of front post in gig house.
- Plate 24 Building attached to large barn (D), pad on top of opposite front post.
- Plate 25 Building attached to large barn (D), wall between gig house and three-bay room.
- Plate 26 Building attached to large barn (D), interior of three-bay room.
- Plate 27 Building attached to large barn (D), roof truss in three-bay room.
- Plate 28 Building attached to large barn (D) interior, south-east wall.
- Plate 29 Loose box/stables (F), viewed from south-east.
- Plate 30 Loose box/stables (F), showing doors to two smaller rooms, viewed from south-east.
- Plate 31 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), viewed from south-east.
- Plate 32 Loose box/stables (F) interior south-west wall, showing modern door.
- Plate 33 Loose box/stable (F), roof truss in three-bay room.
- Plate 34 Loose box/stable (F), north-east wall of three-bay room.
- Plate 35 Loose box/stable (F), interior of first small room, viewed from south-west.
- Plate 36 Loose box/stable (F), interior of first small room showing gnawed timber.
- Plate 37 Loose box/stable (F), interior of first small room, north-east wall.
- Plate 38 Loose box/stable (F), second small room, door from outside.
- Plate 39 Loose box/stable (F), second small room, interior, showing work bench.
- Plate 40 Loose box/stable (F), second small room, north-east wall behind work bench.
- Plate 41 Loose box/stable (F), second small room, detail of rear window.
- Plate 42 Loose box/stable (F), second small room, detail of north-east wall.
- Plate 43 Loose box/stable (F), second small room, detail of work bench.
- Plate 44 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), dividing wall between two pairs of bays.
- Plate 45 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), first two bays, pad above post in former cart entrance.
- Plate 46 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), first two bays, second pad above post in cart entrance.

- Plate 47 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), stone roller resting against building.
- Plate 48 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), south-east wall of second pair of bays.
- Plate 49 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), second pair of bays, showing roof truss.
- Plate 50 Pole barn (H), viewed from south-west.
- Plate 51 Pole barn (H), showing north corner, viewed from south.
- Plate 52 Pole barn (H), view of central trusses.
- Plate 53 Building attached to granary (C), viewed from north-west.
- Plate 54 Building attached to granary (C), viewed from west.
- Plate 55 Building attached to granary (C), south-east corner showing ironstone block.
- Plate 56 Building attached to granary (C), showing central roof truss.
- Plate 57 Granary (B), viewed from west.
- Plate 58 Farmhouse (A), front elevation, viewed from south-east.
- Plate 59 Farmhouse (A), detail of front elevation, showing front door.
- Plate 60 Farmhouse (A), timber and thatch summer house in front garden.
- Plate 61 Farmhouse (A), showing timber extension, viewed from north-east.
- Plate 62 Granary (B) interior, showing central roof truss.
- Plate 63 Granary (B) interior, showing side purlin of roof.
- Plate 64 Farmhouse (A) rear elevation, showing modern lean-to, viewed from north-west.
- Plate 65 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), north-west wall with double door, viewed from north.
- Plate 66 Cart lodge attached to stables (G) and loose box/stables, viewed from north-west.

Appendix 2: selected printed photographs (Plates 1-10, 14, 17, 20, 29, 31, 50, 54, 58)



Plate 1 Large barn (E) with attached building (D), viewed from north-east.



Plate 2 Large barn (E), north-west gable, exterior, viewed from north.



Plate 3 Large barn (E), south-west wall, exterior, viewed from west.



Plate 4 Large barn (E), detail of south-west wall, exterior, showing glazed window.



Plate 5 Large barn (E), south-west wall, exterior, showing position of former lean-to.



Plate 6 Large barn (E), south-east wall, exterior, showing modern double doors, viewed from south.



Plate 7 Large barn (E), south-west wall and south-east wall, viewed from south.



Plate 8 Large barn (E), interior.



Plate 9 Large barn (E), interior, north-east wall, showing blocking of central door by matching framing.



Plate 10 Large barn (E), interior, roof truss with part of down brace to post.



Plate 14 Building attached to large barn (D), viewed from south-east.



Plate 17 Building attached to large barn (D), viewed from south-east.



Plate 20 Building attached to large barn (D), looking from gig house into stable.



Plate 29 Loose box/stables (F), viewed from south-east.



Plate 31 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), viewed from south-east.



Plate 50 Pole barn (H), viewed from south-west.



Plate 54 Building attached to granary (C), viewed from west.



Plate 58 Farmhouse (A), front elevation, viewed from south-east.

Appendix 3: index to the 60 black/white photographic prints

- Print 1 Farmhouse (A), front elevation, viewed from east.
- Print 2 Farmhouse (A), rear elevation, viewed from north-west.
- Print 3 Farmhouse (A), summer house in front garden.
- Print 4 Granary (B), viewed from north-east.
- Print 5 Granary (B), viewed from west.
- Print 6 Granary (B), interior, central roof truss.
- Print 7 Granary (B), interior, end wall.
- Print 8 Building attached to granary (C), viewed from west.
- Print 9 Building attached to granary (C), showing central truss of roof.
- Print 10 Building attached to granary (C), side purlin of roof.
- Print 11 Building attached to granary (C), concrete floor with grooves.
- Print 12 Building attached to granary (C), showing iron strap on tie beam.
- Print 13 Building attached to granary (C), iron holding pen.
- Print 14 Building attached to granary (C), viewed from west.
- Print 15 Building attached to granary (C), showing ironstone boulder protecting corner of building.
- Print 16 Building attached to granary (C), concrete block protecting corner of building.
- Print 17 Building attached to large barn (D), viewed from north-west.
- Print 18 Building attached to large barn (D), viewed from north-east gable end.
- Print 19 Building attached to large barn (D), detail of stable door, viewed from north-east.
- Print 20 Building attached to large barn (D), viewed from north-east.
- Print 21 Building attached to large barn (D), brick wall round yard attached to corner of building, viewed from north-east.

- Print 22 Building attached to large barn (D), south-west wall of gig house.
- Print 23 Building attached to large barn (D), showing pegged mortise for beam separating gig house from stable.
- Print 24 Building attached to large barn (D), pad on top of post in gig house.
- Print 25 Building attached to large barn (D), showing pump in stable.
- Print 26 Building attached to large barn (D), roof truss in three-bay room.
- Print 27 Building attached to large barn (D), showing second roof truss.
- Print 28 Building attached to large barn (D), interior wall of three-bay room, viewed from north-west.
- Print 29 Large barn (E), interior, viewed from north-west.
- Print 30 Large barn (E), interior, central bay of north-east wall, showing new framing blocking old door.
- Print 31 Large barn (E), showing central door blocked by new framing, viewed from north-east.
- Print 32 Large barn (E), showing two glazed windows covered in plastic, viewed from north-west.
- Print 33 Large barn (E), viewed from south-west.
- Print 34 Large barn (E), showing former position of lean-to, viewed from south-west.
- Print 35 Large barn (E), detail of glazed window, viewed from south-west.
- Print 36 Large barn (E), showing doors facing road, viewed from south-west.
- Print 37 Large barn (E), showing double doors facing road, viewed from south-east.
- Print 38 Large barn (E), sliding door perhaps from building (D) leaning against barn.
- Print 39 Large barn (E), detail of sliding door perhaps from building (D) leaning against barn.
- Print 40 Large barn (E), detail of sliding door perhaps from building (D) leaning against barn.
- Print 41 Large barn (E); detail of weatherboarding, viewed from south-west.
- Print 42 Large barn (E) interior, detail of north-west wall.
- Print 43 Large barn (E) interior, central bay of north-east wall, showing new framing blocking old door.
- Print 44 Large barn (E) interior, truss with brace from tie beam to post.
- Print 45 Large barn (E) interior, roof truss with central tensioning bar.
- Print 46 Loose box/stables (F), doors and windows, viewed from south-east.
- Print 47 Loose box/stables (F), showing modern door, viewed from south-west.
- Print 48 Loose box/stables (F), detail of window, viewed from south-east.
- Print 49 Loose box/stables (F), interior, south-west wall.
- Print 50 Loose box/stables (F), roof truss of three-bay room.
- Print 51 Loose box/stables (F), view of rear wall of one of the smaller rooms.
- Print 52 Loose box/stables (F), dividing wall of one of smaller rooms.
- Print 53 Loose box/stables (F), dividing wall of one of the smaller rooms, showing purlin.
- Print 54 Loose box/stables (F), dividing wall of smaller room, showing horse-gnawing on timber.
- Print 55 Loose box/stables (F), dividing wall between rooms, showing weatherboarding.
- Print 56 Loose box/stables (F), showing clock on roof.
- Print 57 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), viewed from south-east.
- Print 58 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), roof truss and trimmer to rafter for possible chimney.
- Print 59 Cart lodge attached to stables (G), pad for cart lodge post in front wall.
- Print 60 Pole barn (H), viewed from south-west.

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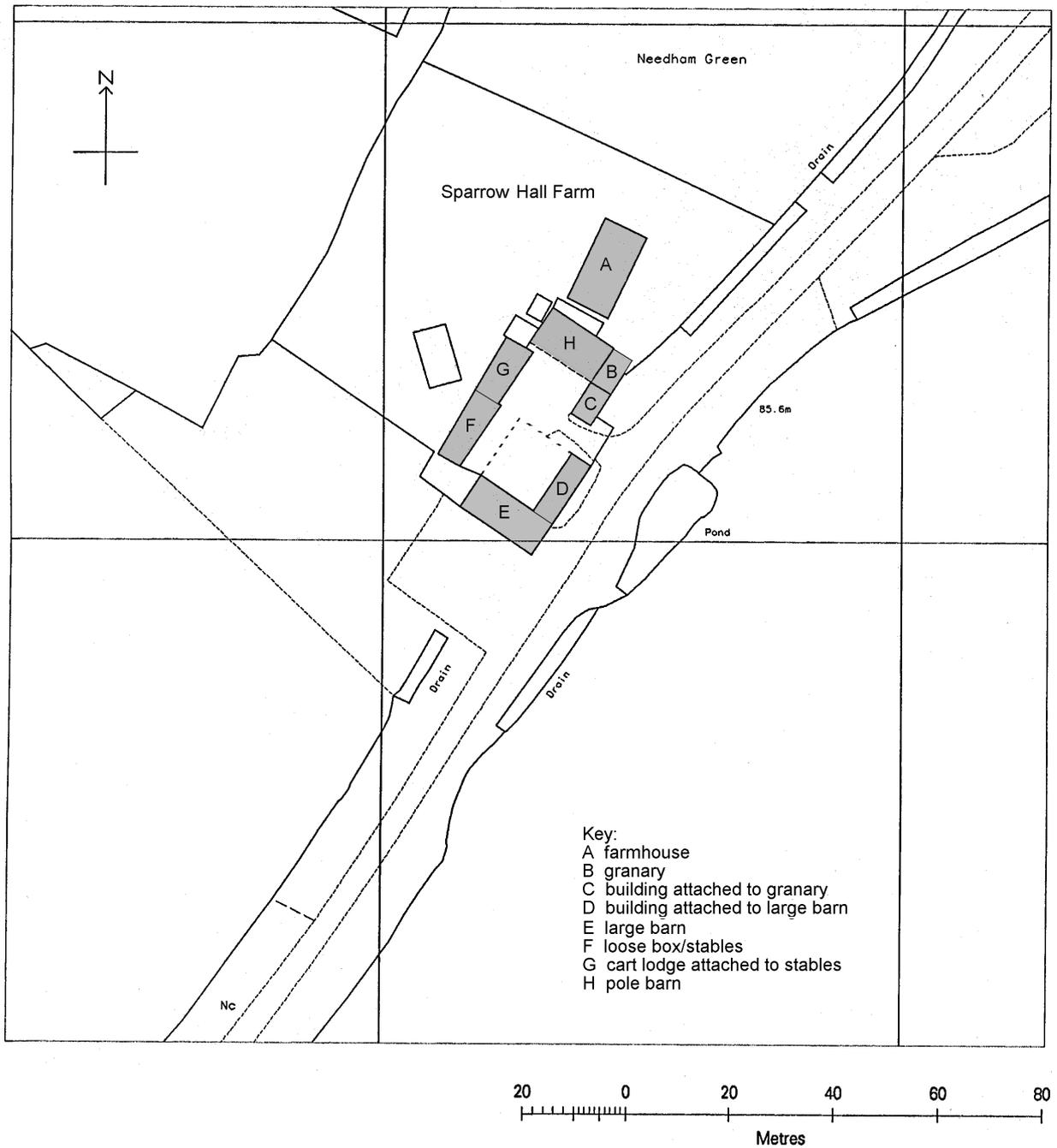


Fig 6 Site plan.

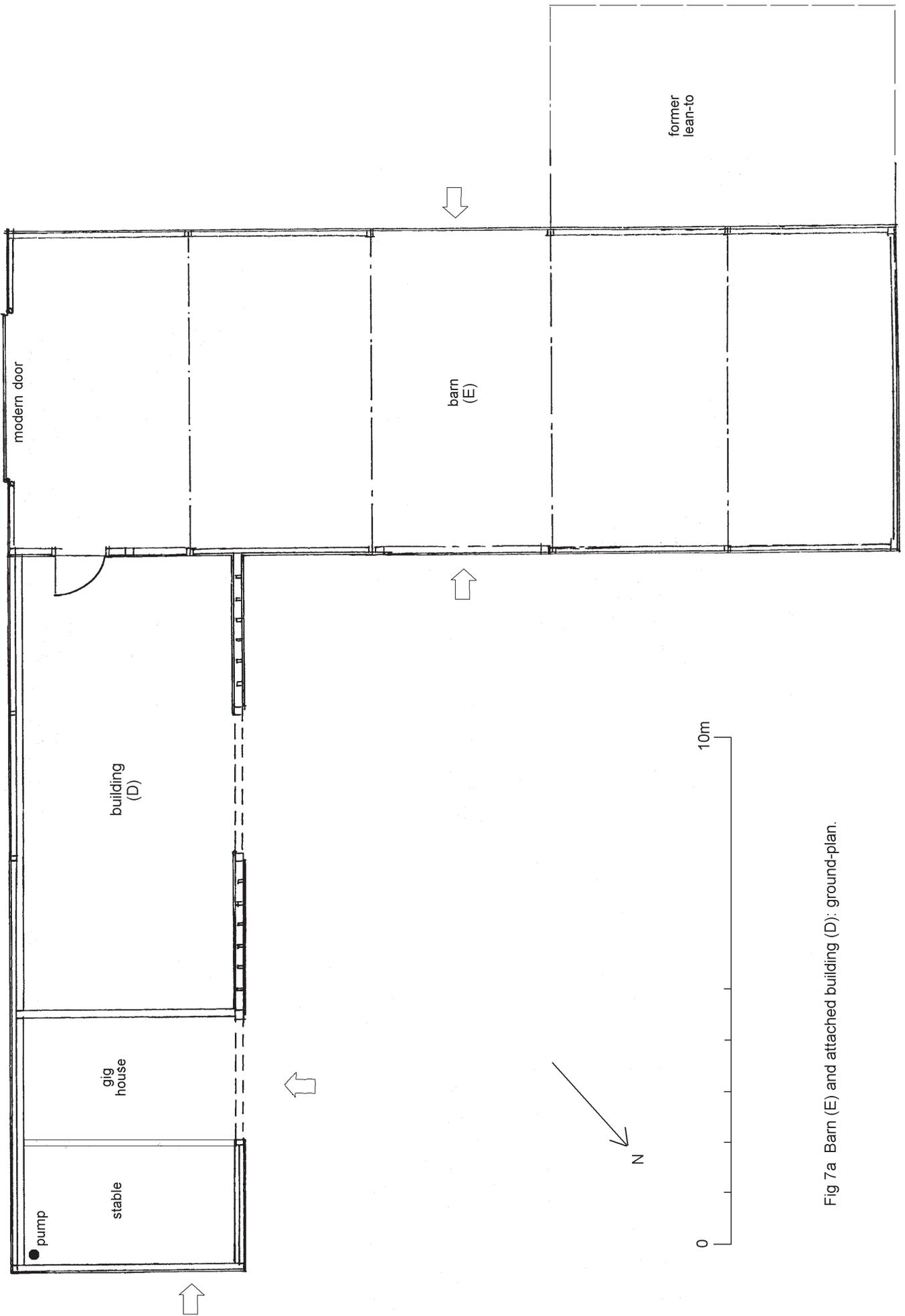


Fig 7a Barn (E) and attached building (D): ground-plan.

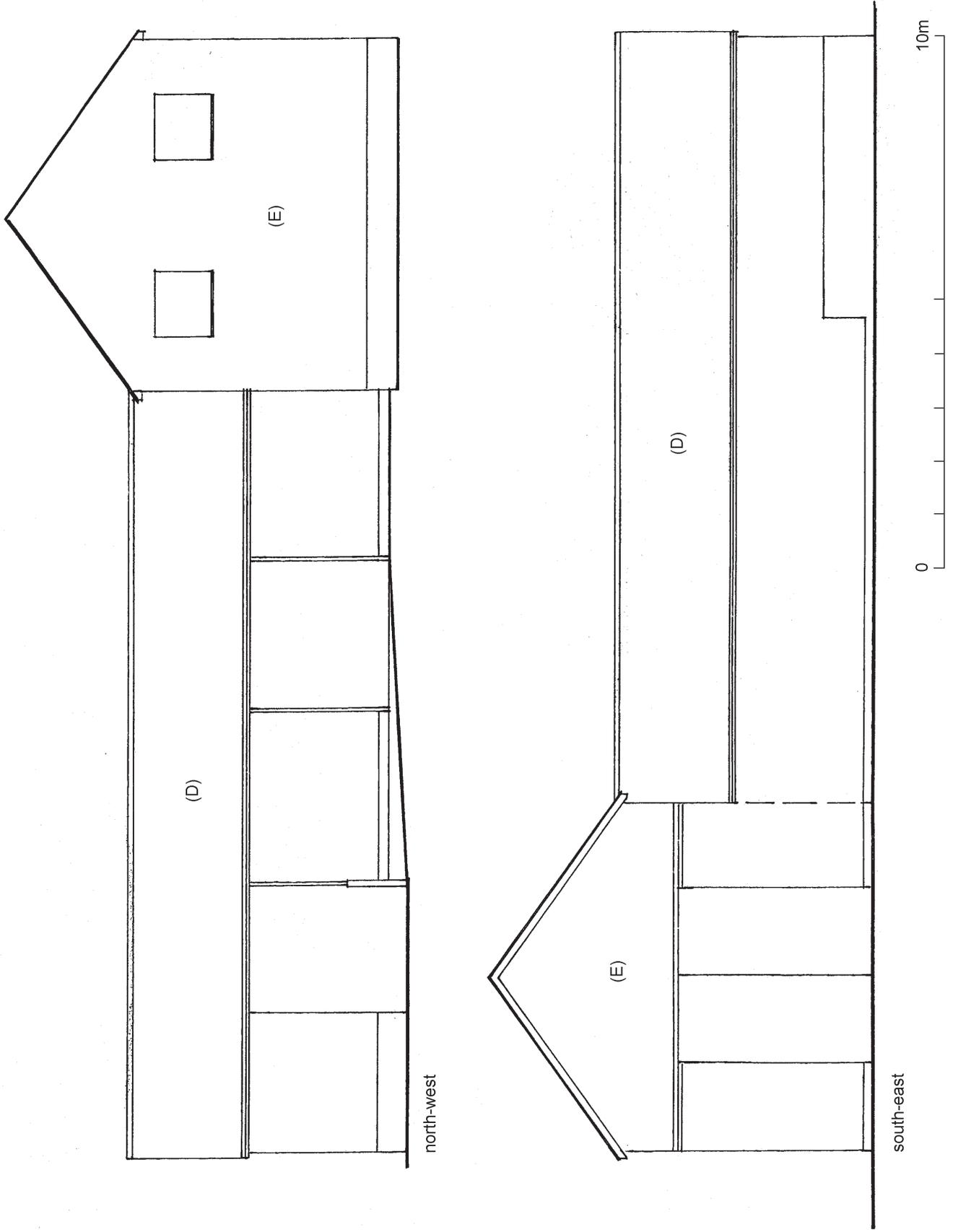


Fig 7b Barn (E) and attached building (D): elevations - north-west and south-east.

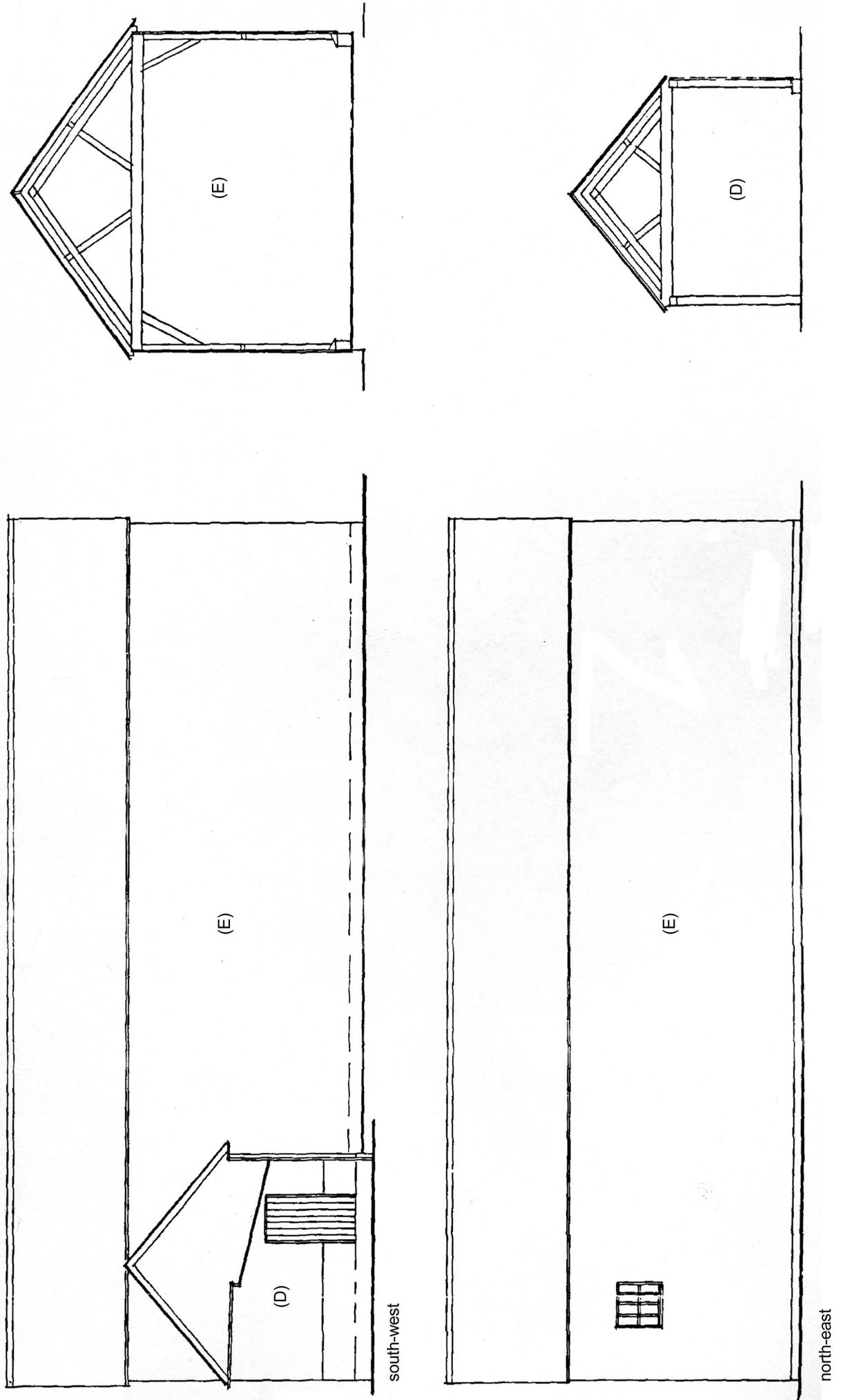


Fig 7c Barn (E) and attached building (D): elevations - south-east and north-west, and cross-sections.

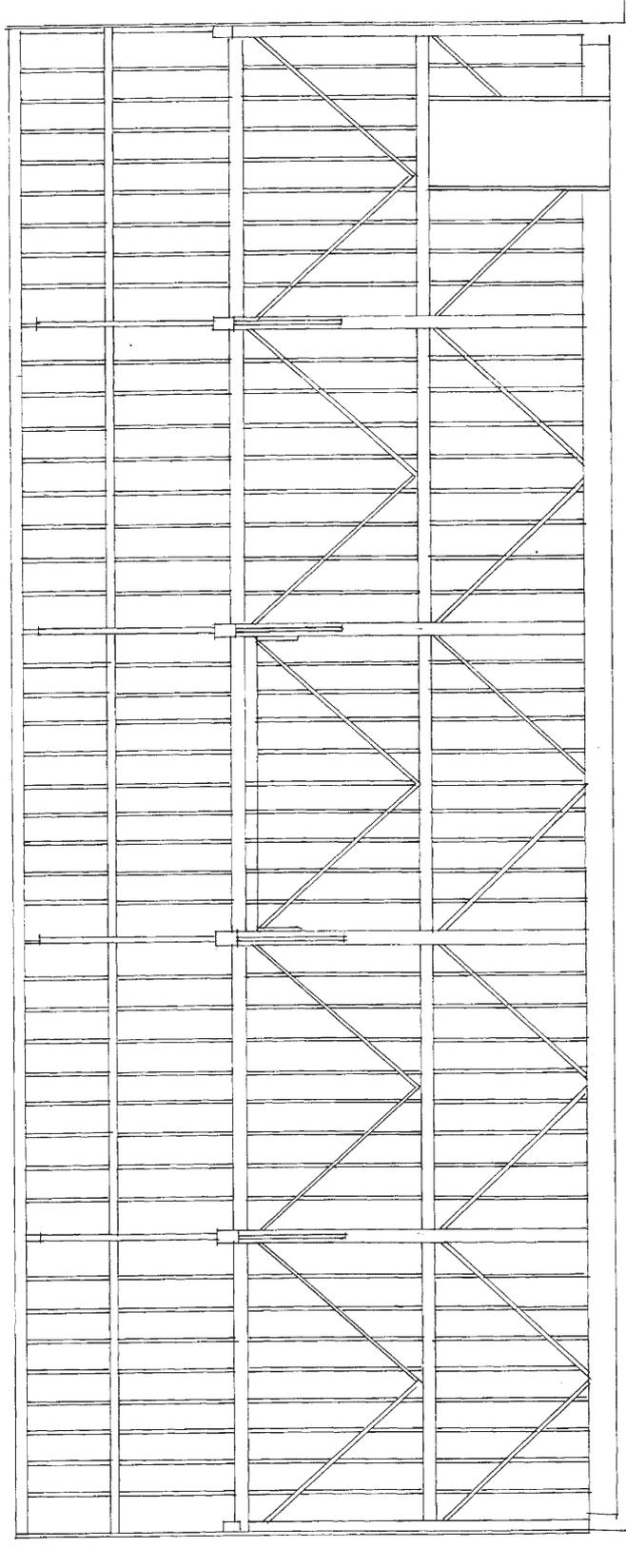


Fig 8a Barn (E): long section, looking north-east.

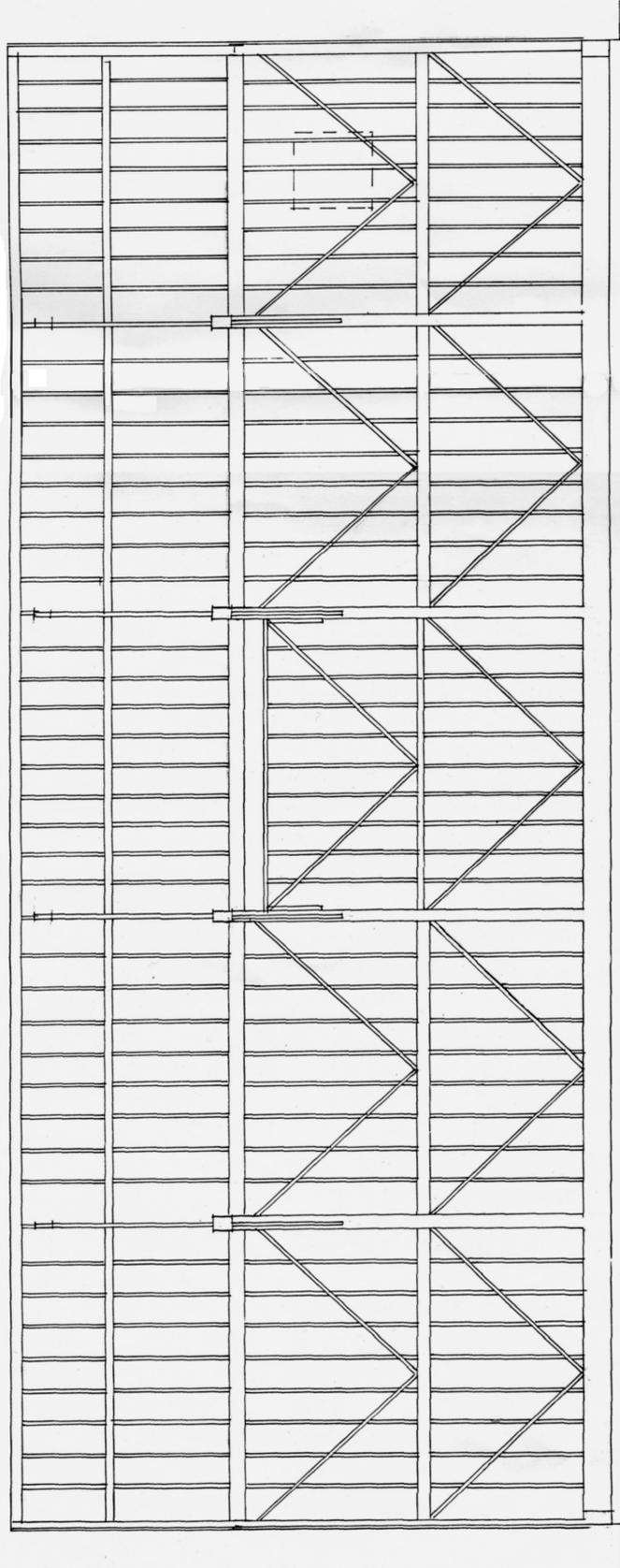
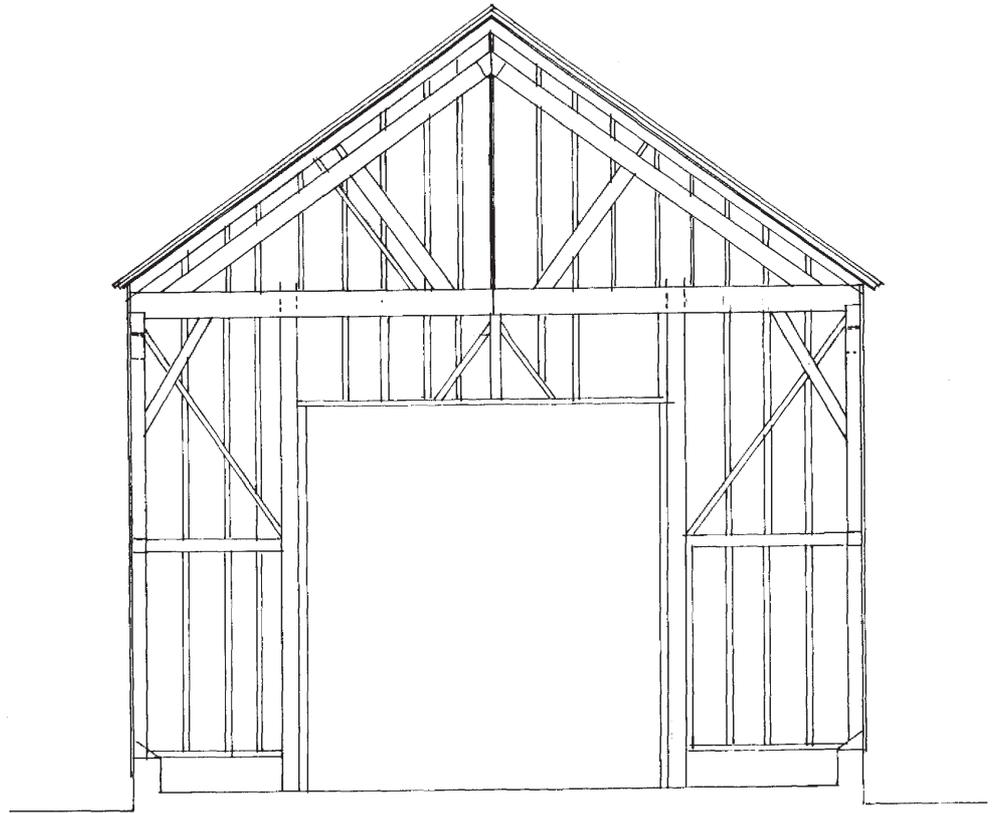
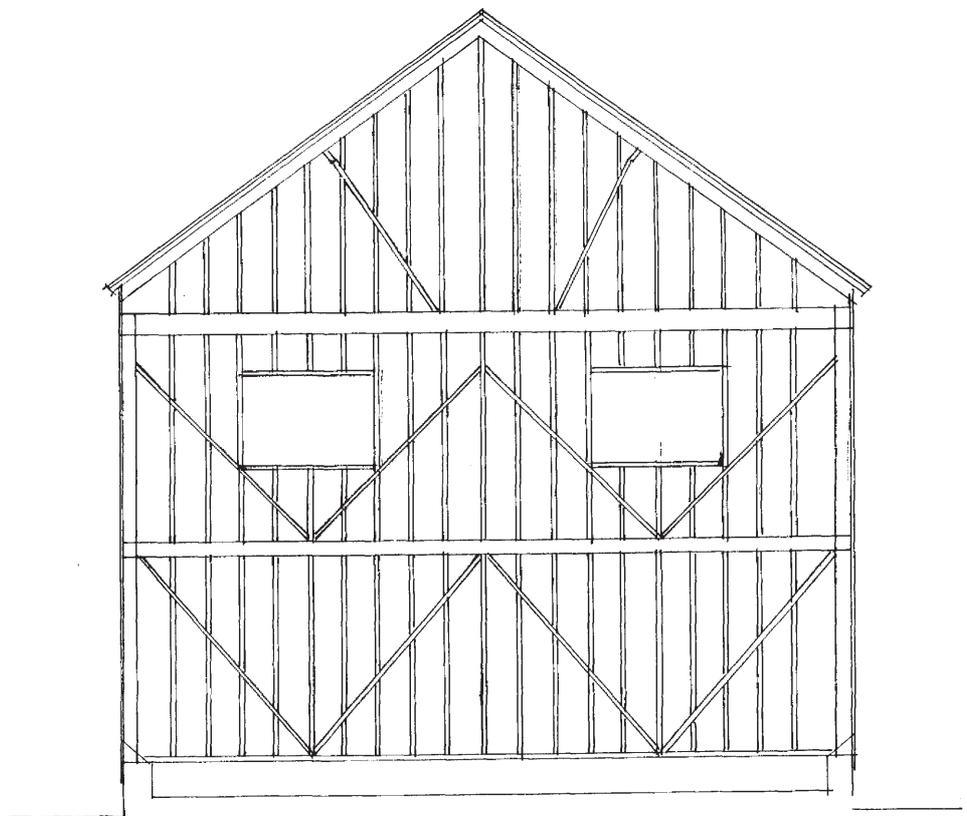


Fig 8b Barn (E): internal elevation, looking south-west.



south-east gable



north-west gable



Fig 8c Barn (E): internal elevations - of south-east gable and north-west gable.

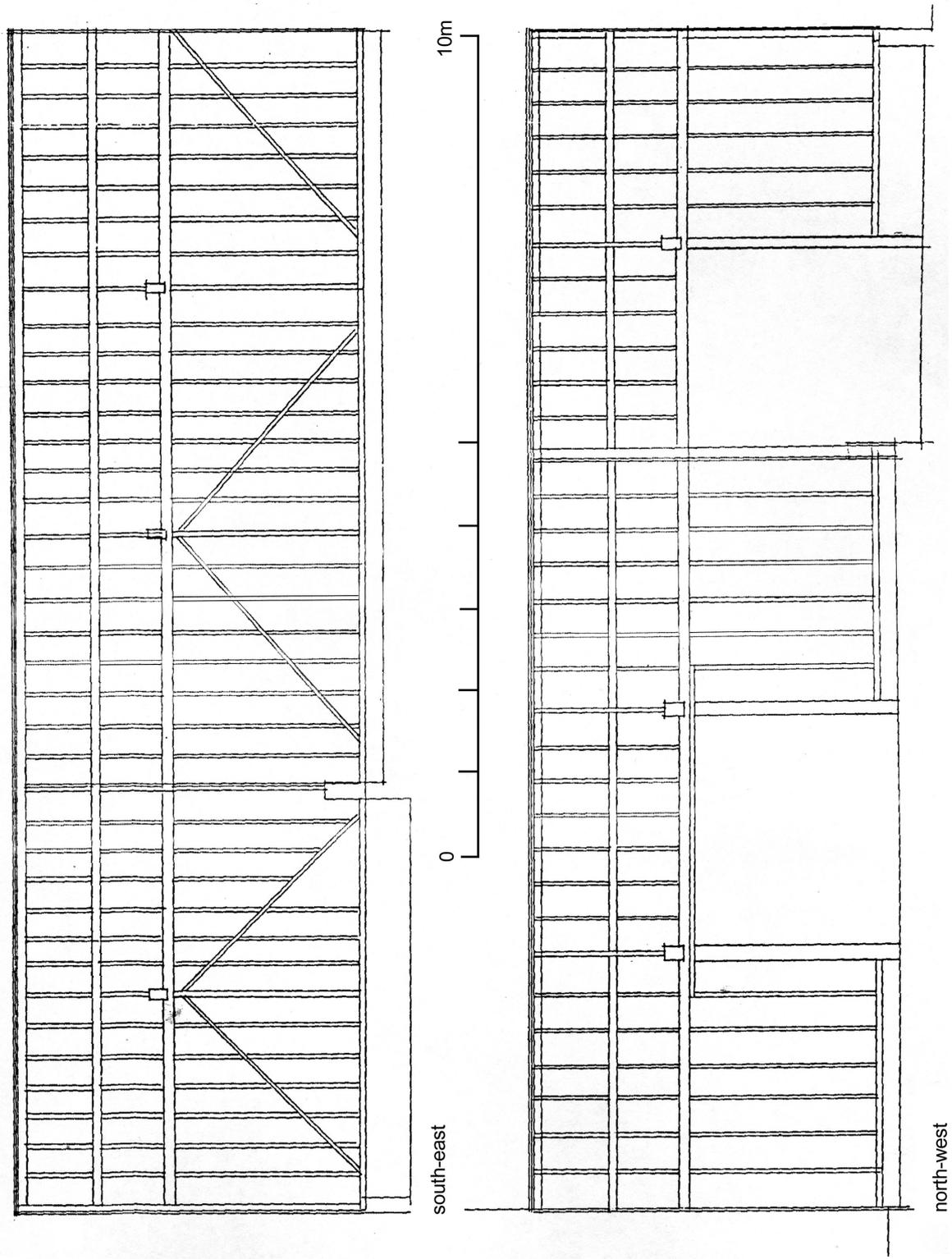


Fig 8d Building (D) attached to barn (E): internal elevations - of south-east side and north-west side, and cross-sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Sparrow Hall Farm, Sparrow Lane, Needham Green, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex	
Parish: Hatfield Broad Oak	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 556 157	Site codes: CAT - 10/9e ECC - HBO SF10 Museum accession - SAFWM 2010.55
Type of work: Building recording on two agricultural buildings	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 2010	Size of area investigated: -
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos: 38098, 38099
Final report: CAT Report 581 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of building survey: <i>The farm complex round the yard consists of a listed farmhouse, a listed granary, a series of late 19th-century vernacular farm buildings and a 20th-century pole barn which is due to be demolished.</i> <i>The farmhouse is Grade 2* listed, and it is a late 16th- early 17th-century lobby entrance farmhouse with later additions. Near the farmhouse is the listed granary. This has been almost totally rebuilt in a traditional style.</i> <i>The survey was undertaken on the large barn and the smaller building which is attached to it, both of which were built in the 19th century. The large rectangular barn is five bays long and is set at right-angles to the road. It was built to store grain crops. When originally built, the central bay had a door on each side, so loaded carts could be pulled in through one door, unloaded and the pulled out through the opposite door. The smaller building attached to the barn is built parallel to the road and is five bays long. The three bays nearest to the barn had a pair of double doors facing the farm yard. The original purpose of these three bays is unknown but could have been for more grain storage. The final two bays were a gig house and a stable.</i></p>	

Attached to the granary is a two-bay building with a door facing the farm yard; this may have been a stable. North-west of the large barn is a five-bay range of buildings which may have been loose boxes for horses. The three bays to the west are one large room divided by open trusses. The next two bays were probably individual loose boxes, although the one to the west could have been a tack room. Attached to this range is a narrower range of four bays; these appear to have been cart lodges for four carts. Between this building and the granary is the pole barn.

All the farm buildings except for the farmhouse, the granary and the pole barn are built in the same late 19th-century vernacular style. They are built of pine studs of small scantling with primary bracing, and tile roofs. All the walls, external and internal, are covered in weatherboarding.

Previous summaries/reports: None	
Keywords: barn, agricultural buildings, farm	Significance: N/A
Author of summary: Richard Shackle	Date of summary: February 2011