

Archaeological Watching Brief of Land at Woodlands Farm, Calcott, Sturry, Canterbury, Kent

NGR TR 178 631

Site Code: CAL/WB/11

Planning Application: CA/07/01630/STU



Report for Michael Rigden

SWAT. ARCHAEOLOGY

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SUMMARY

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on the rebuilding and conversion of a 16th century barn at Woodlands Farm. A planning application (CA/07/01630/STU) for the conversion of a barn at Woodlands Farm for domestic use whereby the Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the construction work on any archaeological remains, and any additional architectural data that may be gleaned from the exposed framework of the barn. Brick foundations dating from the mid 19th century were exposed which indicated foundation repair to the 16th century timber frame.

No evidence was found for either a porch or end aisles.

The work was carried out in accordance with consultations with the Archaeological Heritage Officer, Canterbury City Council (CCC).

The archaeological investigation consisted of monitoring of the excavation of trenches for additional foundations and recording by photography the repair, rebuild and conversion of the barn.

The Archaeological Watching Brief has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives set by Canterbury City Council as a Condition

INTRODUCTION

Swale and Thanet Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by Mr Michael Rigden to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with consultation with the Archaeological Heritage Officer CCC. The watching brief was carried out between the 13th June and 20th November 2011

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located at Woodlands Farm which lies about 3km to the north of Sturry, and to the east of the A291. Access to the site is down an unmade road. The barn is located on a farm site (Fig. 1) comprising a cluster of farm buildings and it seems only the main house and the barn situated some 40m south of the main house are the only historic buildings on the site. The rest are modern structures and buildings. The site centre is NGR: TR 178 631.

PLANNING

The site has planning permission for the conversion to domestic use of the barn from Canterbury City Council. The planning reference is CA/07/01630/STU. Prior to this the Canterbury City Council planning department had requested an archaeological appraisal of the structure in order that any planning decisions could be made from an informed position with respect to the historic fabric of the barn. The Canterbury Archaeological Trust was commissioned to undertake this appraisal by Project Management & Design Services Ltd. An inspection by Canterbury Archaeological Trust was undertaken on 21st February 2005 of the building and a report was issued. Canterbury City Council on giving planning permission requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to monitor the ground works associated with the conversion of the barn.

The following Condition was attached to the planning permission.

Condition 15: 'No development shall take place until the applicant or the developer or their successors in title has made arrangements for the implementation of further historic building recording and the maintenance of an archaeological watching and recording brief, to be carried out during construction, and has given notice in writing to the local planning authority of an intention to commence the permitted operations not less than 14 days before those operations are commenced. REASON: To ensure a proper record of matters of archaeological interest.'

Subsequently the following planning requests were highlighted by the Archaeological Officer:

Further observations during conversion work to determine whether the barn had end-aisles

Observations during the cutting of service trenches

More detailed interior photography once the silos have been removed

Recording of a longitudinal section

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site is in an area of some archaeological potential relating to known discoveries close-by.

An Early-Mid Saxon occupation site was excavated at Popes Lane, Sturry (TR 16 SE 91).

A Roman cemetery was investigated at Staines Hill (TR 16 SE 8).

Woodlands Farm Barn (now called the Threshing Barn) itself was subject to a comprehensive report by Richard Austin of Canterbury Archaeological Trust in November 2007.

Further information on the potential of this area can be provided in the County Historic Environment Record held in the Heritage Conservation, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX (telephone 01622 221536)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Canterbury City Council Archaeologist has advised that the watching brief should be targeted at three aspects:

1. The stripping of ground deposits (topsoil and subsoil) to create a new foundation base for the structure. These excavations should be carried out with a flat bladed bucket under the direction of the supervising archaeologist and in a manner that would allow any archaeology present to be properly exposed, identified and investigated before subsequent disturbance by construction.
2. The archaeologist should then record and investigate any archaeology visible before stripping to full construction depth is completed.
3. A comprehensive photograph record of the building to confirm or otherwise the existence of end aisles and once the barn is cleared internally a longitudinal section to be drawn.

METHODOLOGY

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works.

Trenching for new foundations was carried out on 14th June 2011, with initially the excavation of one trench on the south-east side of the barn. The trench measured 0.65m in width and about 17m in length. Trench

location was to an agreed plan carried out by the building contractors. Subsequently additional trenches were excavated by the contractor. All were watched by SWAT Archaeology.

The trench was scanned for finds during and after excavation. Excavation was carried out using an 8 ton mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and removing the overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, or natural, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The trench was subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal any exposed features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through any features revealed would have been excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

Archaeology was revealed in the newly excavated foundation trenches of the foundations of the barn which could have indicated that at some stage a porch may have existed to the main entrance to the barn. However, on investigation the exposed foundations were seen to be constructed of frogged red clay bricks dating from the c.mid 19th century and not part of the original build which has been dated to the 16th century (Fig 3). It seems at some stage underpinning of the wooden structure had taken place after it had been built which has destroyed any evidence of a porch foundation (Plate 5).

Rupert Austin in his report on the barn (Austin R. 2005) notes that the aisle walls had been rebuilt in the 20th century and the discovery of the aisle red brick foundations confirm this scenario.

There were no foundations beyond the footprint of the building on either end, or indeed any post-holes which may suggest that end-aisles were a feature of this building.

MONITORING

Visits by the Archaeological Officer (CCC) were carried out.

RESULTS

The first activity on site was stripping of the interior followed by strip of the structure (Plate 3). Work started on this phase of development whilst SWAT Archaeology was present on site. Subsequently new foundation trenches were cut under the timber frame, again SWAT Archaeology was present for this phase of work.

The Archaeological Watching Brief continued for the rest of the groundwork's but the only archaeology revealed were later brick foundations underpinning part of the timber structure. Geology revealed was constant across the site and comprised topsoil- a grey brown sandy clay loam of about 35cm thick overlaying a darker grey brown sandy stiff clay. A metal detector survey was carried out but the ferrous and non-ferrous material recovered was modern and mostly fastenings discarded by the contractors.

FINDS

No finds were retrieved

CONCLUSION

The Archaeological Watching Brief has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Condition. A common stratigraphic sequence was recognised across the site comprising topsoil (01) overlaying subsoil (02) sealing Clay (03).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Michael Rigdin for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Cross, Canterbury City Archaeological Advisor, for his advice and assistance.

SITE ARCHIVE

The site archive consists of three permatrace drawings, four context sheets and 78 colour photographs. All will be archived at Swat Archaeology.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MiFA

APPENDIX 1 – Canterbury City Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: <i>Woodland Farm, Calcott, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4NB</i>	
SWAT Site Code: <i>CAL/W/11</i>	
Site Address: <i>As above</i>	
Summary: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out an archaeological watching brief on a barn at Woodlands Farm. A planning application CA07/01630/STU for the conversion to domestic use of a barn at the above site was submitted to Canterbury City Council (CCC) whereby Canterbury City Council requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains. The work was carried out in accordance with the requirements set out with discussions with the Archaeological Advisor, Canterbury City Council.</i> <i>The Archaeological Watching Brief consisted of watching trenches which encountered mid 19th century brick foundations underpinning part of the 16th century timber structure. No evidence for a porch or end aisles were revealed.</i>	
District/Unitary: <i>Canterbury</i>	Parish: <i>Sturry</i>
Period(s): Tentative:	
NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs): <i>NGR TR 178 631</i>	
Type of archaeological work (delete) <i>Watching Brief</i>	
Date of Recording: <i>November 2011</i>	
Unit undertaking recording: <i>Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT)</i>	
Geology: <i>Stiff Clay</i>	
Title and author of accompanying report: <i>Wilkinson P. An Archaeological Watching Brief at Woodlands Farm, Calcott, Sturry, Kent</i>	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>As above</i> <p style="text-align: right;">(cont. on attached sheet)</p>	
Location of archive/finds: <i>SWAT</i>	
Contact at Unit: <i>Paul Wilkinson</i>	Date: <i>27th Dec 2011</i>

PLATES



Plate 1. Original barn prior to work commencing (facing south-west)



Plate 2. Original barn (facing north)



Plate 3. Barn stripped prior to new build (facing north)



Plate 4. Close up of jowled post and tie beam (facing south-east)



Plate 5. Mid 19th century brick foundations on the south-east side of the barn



Plate 6. Rebuild of the barn

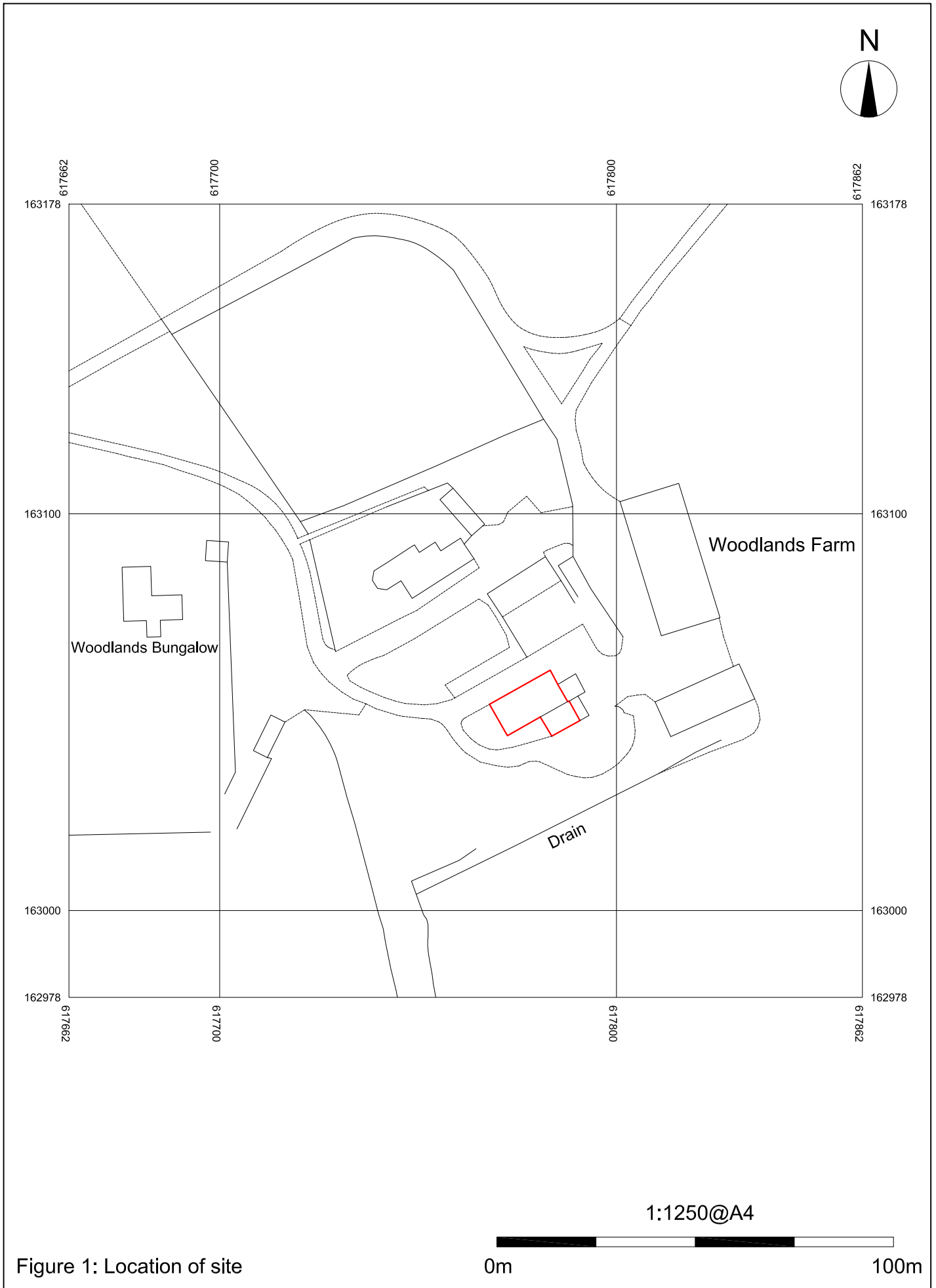
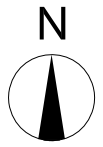


Figure 1: Location of site

0m

1:1250@A4

100m

SW

NE

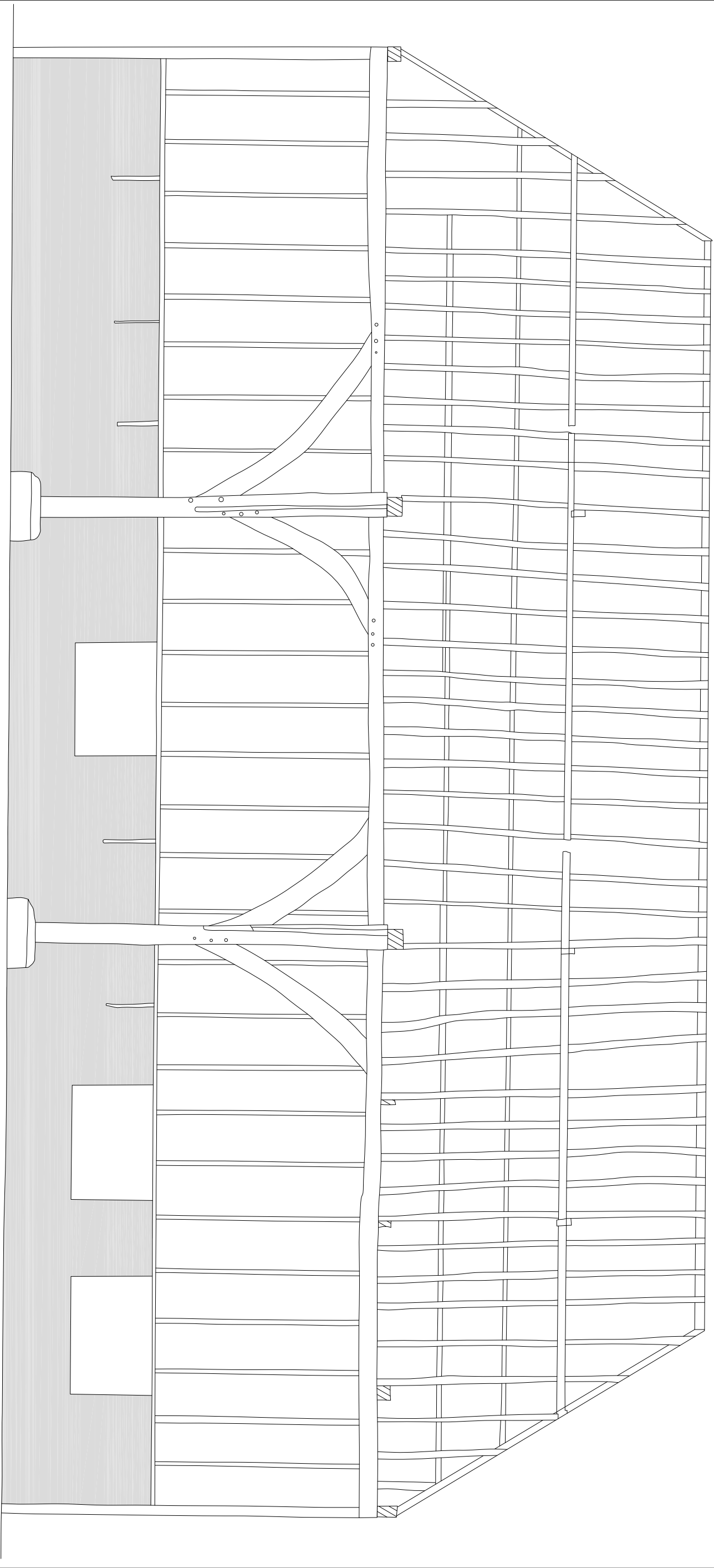
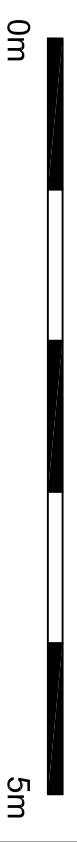
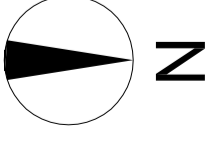


Figure 2: Calcott Barn

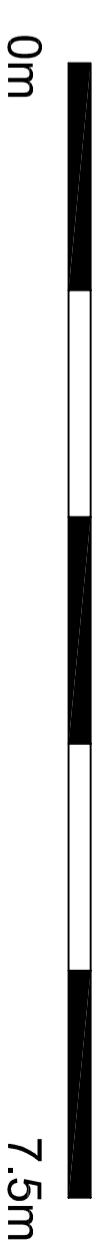
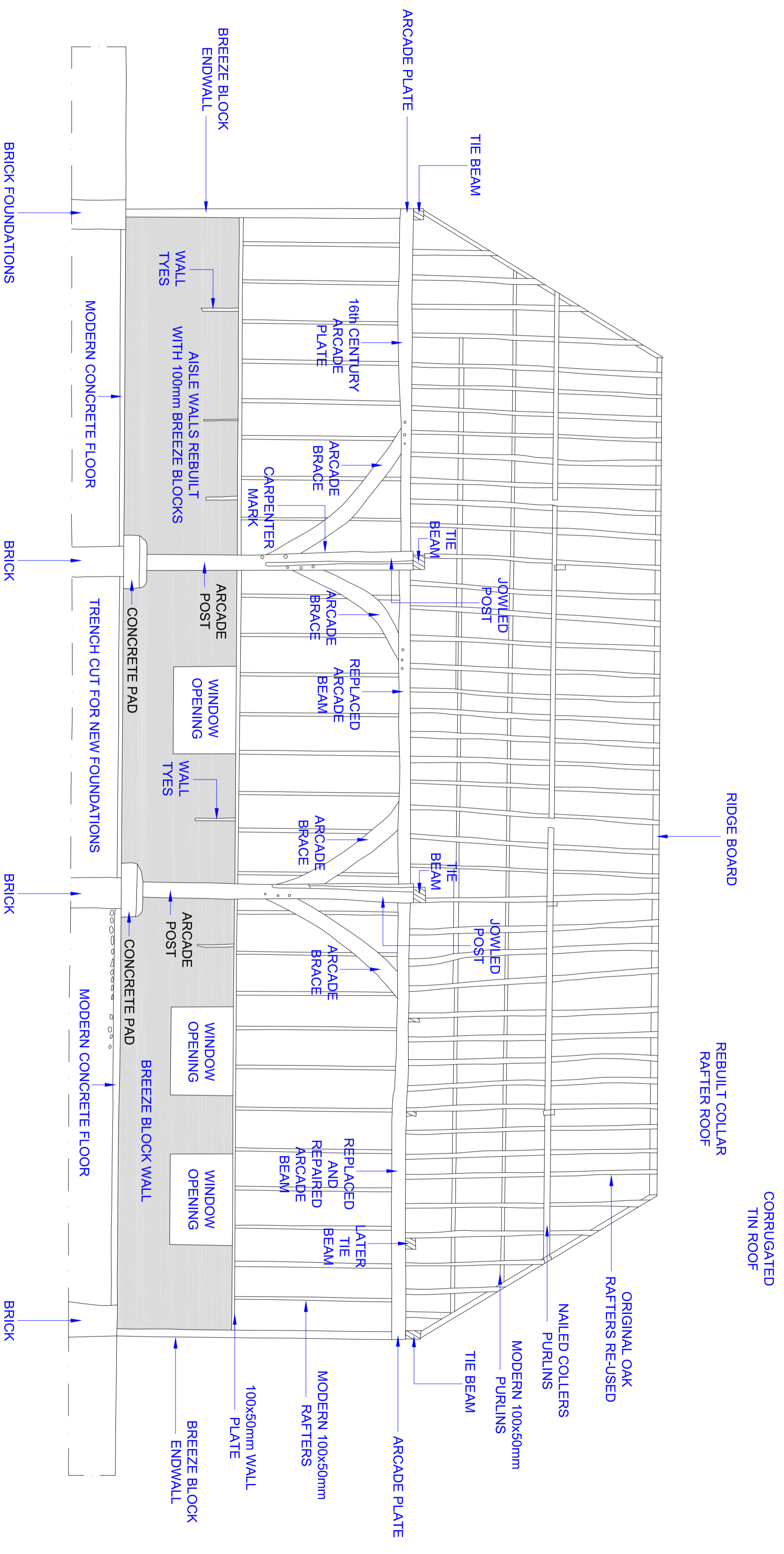
1:50@A3





SW

NE



1:50@A2

Figure 3: Calcott Barn with annotations