

**Archaeological Investigation
at Leaden Hall Farm,
Leaden Roding, Essex
April - November 2011**



**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
Foxley Builders**

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1 Summary

A programme of building recording and archaeological monitoring was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on a complex of seven buildings at the historic moated Leaden Hall Farm, Leaden Roding, Essex between April and November 2011. The work was commissioned by Foxley Builders. The complex includes a Grade II listed c1600 barn, a Grade II listed late 17th-century barn and later curtilage listed structures (including a granary and cart shed) from the 19th and 20th centuries, grouped around an open farmyard. The seven structures surveyed at Leaden Hall Farm illustrate the development of an Essex farm from the 17th through to the 20th century, and the complex forms a varied group whose buildings and environment have survived essentially unaltered.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

This is the archive report on detailed building recording of the structures prior to their conversion, and the monitoring by an archaeologist of all groundwork associated with the proposed conversion at Leaden Hall Farm, Leaden Roding, Essex. The work was carried out on behalf of Foxley Builders by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 19th April and 14th November 2011. The development site consists of a c1600 century barn, a late 17th-century barn and five later buildings located at Leaden Hall Farm, NGR TL 5893 1340, to the west of the village of Leaden Roding.

A planning application for the conversion of a range of farm buildings at Leaden Hall Farm was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in June 2010 (UTT/0969/10/FUL).

Given the impact of the proposed works upon the historic integrity of the farm and the archaeological interest of the site, a full archaeological condition was recommended to be attached to the planning consent. This recommendation followed Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. A brief detailing the required archaeological work (archaeological building recording and detailed monitoring and recording by watching brief) was written by the HEM officer (Richard Havis: HEM 2011). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT in response to the HEM team brief and agreed with the HEM team (CAT 2011).

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2008a) and *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (2008b) as well as *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2008), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological and historical background (Fig 1)

The farm buildings at Leaden Hall Farm lie at the end of a track from the road linking Leaden Roding to White Roding, the modern A1060, east of the River Roding. They form part of a medieval church/hall complex in the parish of Leaden Roding. The Hall itself lies within a moated enclosure probably dating back to the 12th or 13th centuries (EHER 4366 and 4367), while the Church of St Michaels and All Angels contains elements dating back to the 11th century. The listed barns proposed for conversion date from the 17th century with the remainder of the buildings comprising a number of brick and timber-framed curtilage structures dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. There is a high potential of earlier phases of building being located under the present structures. Leaden Roding Hall to the east of the barns originally dates from c1400 but has subsequently been enlarged and converted into cottages.

4 Documentary and cartographic survey (Illustrations 1-5)

A documentary and cartographic search was undertaken at the Essex Records Office (ERO) to understand the development of the farm. The earliest reference is

from Domesday which records William of Walter holding one manor and three and a half hides of land from the lord of Leaden Roding, William de Warenne. The earliest source located referring to the time of the oldest farm buildings (i.e. those buildings in the survey) are deeds for the manor of Leaden Roothing (a variant on Roding) from 1621 (ERO D/DHf T49). These record the owner as Robert Barrington, who granted the manor to his daughter and her new husband. The earliest map evidence is the Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777 (Illustration 1). This shows the moated Hall and buildings ranged along the west side of the complex.



Illustration 1 Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777 (Plate XII)

Two barns (Buildings A and B) can be made out with an additional structure shown on the south edge of a field to the south of the moat. This may be an inaccurately located depiction of the granary (G) or an early building that was subsequently removed. The field is shown on the tithe map of 1846 (Illustration 2) and subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping, but the structure is absent from these.

The tithe map clearly shows buildings A, B, C and G as being present by 1846, with the tithe award stating that the land was owned by Lord Thomas Dacre and rented by Daniel Alger.

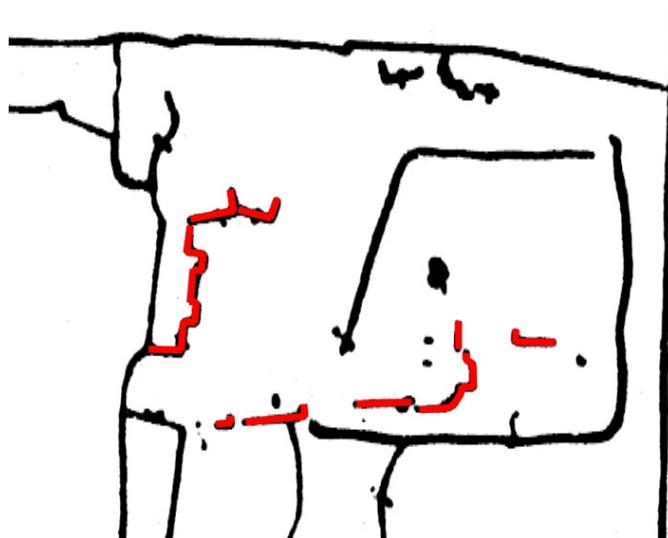


Illustration 2 1846 tithe map of Leaden Hall (ERO D/CT 297B) with buildings picked out in red.

An auction catalogue from 26 July 1870 for Leaden Roothing Hall (ERO D/DU 1260/1) provides a further example for the evolution of the farm. Although the catalogue itself has a detailed inventory of the farm buildings (including 'wheat, barley and oat barns, lean-to open sheds and granary, cattle and cart sheds, cart horse and nag stables') the accuracy of the accompanying plan has to be called into question.

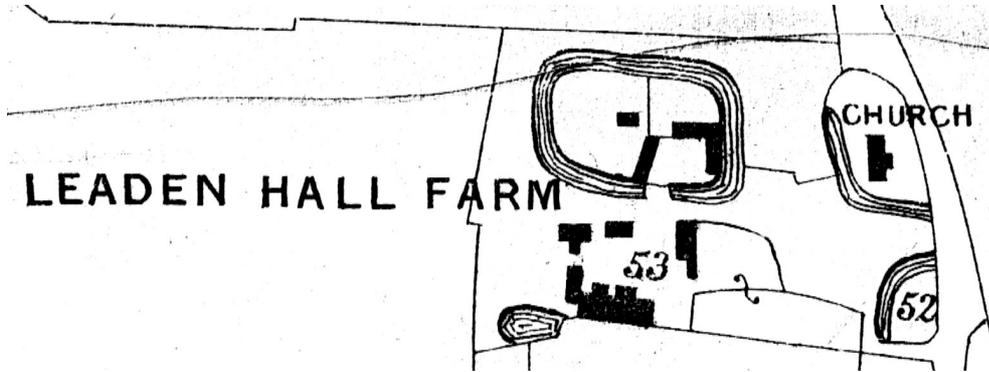


Illustration 3 1870 sales map (ERO D/DU 1260/1) with north to the left.

Although this is the first map to include Buildings E and F, E is depicted with a much larger distance between it and the end of the cart shed (Building C) than is actually the case and F is shown as being in line with E when it is actually offset. The angle between the two barns (A and B) has been reduced and barn B and cart shed C have been amalgamated into one rectangular building when they in fact form an angled range. The granary (G) is shown much further north than it actually is and has been rotated slightly to form a more regular pattern with the other buildings around the farmyard. Similarly the Leaden Hall farm cottages within the moated enclosure have been squared off, and several structures present on both earlier and later maps have been omitted. Of course this particular map is intended for the attention of potential purchasers and it may be that these alterations have been deliberately included to make the farm layout resemble more modern model farms, with their planned layout, rather than the loose farmyard layout that was the case at Leaden Hall Farm in 1870.



Illustration 4 First edition 6" OS map, 1881 (sheet 42).

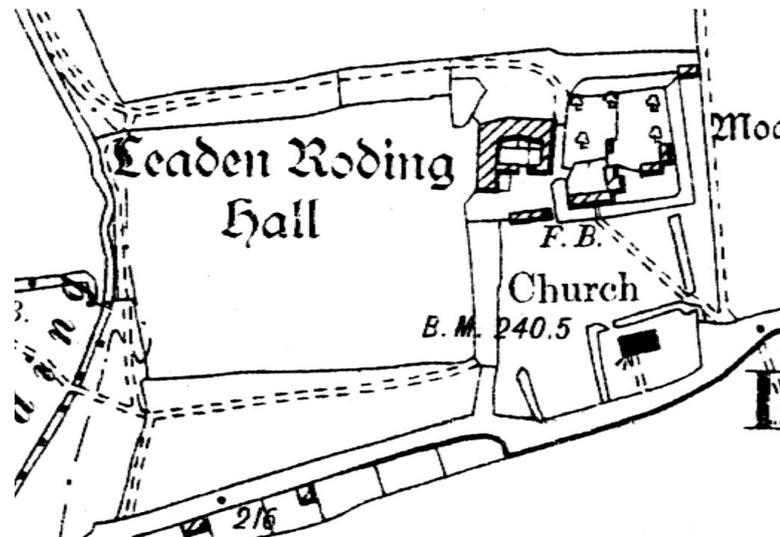


Illustration 5 Second edition 25" OS map, 1897 (sheet 42 NE).

By the end of the 19th century (as represented by Illustrations 4 and 5) the range of farm buildings to the east has been increased by the addition of an extension to shed F, which fills the gap between E and F. There are also a few small additions to the buildings that have subsequently been removed during the 20th century. Building D is not present on the 1897 map, and thus, must date to the 20th century.

5 Descriptive record

The farm buildings are a combination of brick and timber-framing, arranged around a large farmyard with the moated Hall to the east and modern cow sheds to the south-west. Buildings A and B were surveyed to RCHME level 3, whilst Buildings C-G were surveyed at RCHME level 2.

Building A: late 17th-century barn (Figs 2-8)

Building A, on the west side of the farmyard, is a barn of timber-frame construction with black-painted horizontal weatherboarding, set upon a dwarf wall comprising red bricks with dimensions of c.220 x 110 x 60mm laid in English bond. It has a plain tile roof that is half-hipped at either end (Plate 1). The barn is aligned roughly north to south and has eight bays, with two midstreys to the east at bays 3 and 6. A lean-to extension with a plain tile mono-pitch roof is to the east of bay 1-2 and one with a roof of corrugated iron sheeting is to the east of bay 7-8. A shut-in is located between the midstreys and a brick extension with a ridged asbestos sheeting roof extends from the middle of the west elevation. Both midstreys have been weatherboarded and have gabled roofs of plain tiles. The south midstrey has a rectangular opening in its east elevation, boarded-over with marine ply. The north midstrey has a large rectangular opening in its west elevation, the extents of which are weatherboarded. A shallow iron hood projects above this. There is a small opening in the weatherboarding of the shut-in. The south elevation contains one of two large sliding doors to the barn. The west elevation contains the second of these, which is located at the end of bay 6 directly in line with the north midstrey. The brick extension to the west elevation has a single plank door and a metal-framed window of six lights. An opening cut into the side of the barn grants entry from this extension into bay 5. South of the brick extension, at the west end of bay 3 is a large opening that has been infilled with weatherboarding down to ground level. Set in to the centre of this near the base is a small outward opening hatch. The north elevation presents a plain weatherboarded exterior.

The eight bays of the interior are each 4.35m wide, with bays 1-3 in a better state of preservation and separated from bays 4-8 by a modern dividing wall. The floor throughout is of concrete. The main frame is of long, large-section pine posts and beams linked by joggled girts, with trusses comprising jowled storey posts with

straight tie beams and arched braces, inclined queen posts and a high collar beam (Plate 2). Each roof pitch has two through purlins supporting common rafters. There is pegged jointing throughout. Original studwork is visible in the walls of bays 1 and 2, which have eleven studs tenoned to the sill beam and wall plate. In bay 1 the studs above the girding beam are reinforced by angled straight bracing falling from the storey posts, in bay 2 the same bracing is present in the studwork below the girding beam. Average stud dimensions are 80mm wide by 130mm deep, with gaps of 300mm. The original doorway to the midstrey to the east of bay 3 has been filled in with a dwarf wall of modern brick and modern studwork supporting the external weatherboarding. The original posts of the midstrey doors survive complete with the original hanging knee braces to the midstrey tie beam (Plate 3). The internal walls of the midstrey (below the level of the girding beams) are covered with modern boarding. Opposite the midstrey in the west wall is a blocked original doorway. Seven modern studs fill the space between two large doorposts that interrupt the dwarf wall and are clasped by the sill beam (Plate 4). The lintel of this doorway was formed by the girding beam, above which is surviving studwork reinforced by angled straight braces falling from the central stud. In bays 4-8 modern foam insulation has obscured the studwork leaving only the posts and beams of the main framing visible. The roof here has been obscured by the insertion of a loft, although the arched braces and straight tie beams of the trusses are still visible. The same foam has been applied to the walls of the north midstrey at bay 6, the doorway of which has also been blocked. Opposite the north midstrey, in the west wall, is a second original doorway, identical to that in bay 3. This is still in use, although the original plank doors have been replaced with a modern sliding arrangement.

Scarf joints are visible in the sill beam of the east wall of bay 2 and in the wall plate of the west wall of bay 3. Further scarf joints can be seen in the lower purlins of bays 2 and 3. These also exhibit carpenters' marks. The west side purlins at the north end of bay 2 have an 'IIII' mark, whilst those on the east side display 'V' at the north end of bay 3 and 'VI' at the south end. Additional carpenters' marks are present on the storey posts and arched braces of the north midstrey. The north post has a 'VI' mark, whilst the south post has a 'V'.

The shut-in on the east wall has two entrances, one from each of the midstreys. The north doorway has been obscured by modern boarding whilst that to the south is unblocked. The shut-in has two equal-sized chambers separated by a partition in line with truss D (Plate 5). The rear wall and partition of these chambers are both clad in broad weatherboarding, different to that covering the rest of the building.

Building B: c1600 barn (Figs 2, 9-14)

Building B is a barn of timber-frame construction and is the oldest structure on the farm complex (Plate 6). Together with Building C it forms a northern edge to the farmyard. The barn is set upon a dwarf wall comprising red bricks with dimensions of c.220 x 110 x 60mm laid in Flemish bond, although later repairs to parts of this wall show little regard to bond. The barn is aligned north-east to south-west and comprises four bays with a midstrey to the south-east of bay 3. Opposite the midstrey, in the north-west wall, is a large opening, the entire width of the bay. Both the main structure and the midstrey have gabled roofs of rusty corrugated iron sheeting. The whole of Building B is clad with black-painted horizontal weatherboarding. Flanking the midstrey are lean-tos: that to the south-west has a mono-pitch roof of corrugated iron sheeting and joins with the lean-to outside of Building A; that to the north-east has a mono-pitch roof of corrugated asbestos sheeting. The midstrey has a doorway that has been blocked off by beams and the insertion of a wagon side at its base. The north-west elevation is plain apart from the large opening to bay 3. Above and off-centre to this opening is a square door.

Bays 1 and 2 of the interior are each 3.3m wide with bay 3 and the midstrey 3.6m wide and bay 4 3.1m wide. The floor is of bare earth. The frame is of large-section posts and beams linked by girding beams, all tenoned and pegged (Plate 7). The posts are jowled with arched braces to the tie beams. Trusses B and C have inclined queen posts and the roof is of joggled butt purlins. Studwork is visible in all of the walls except for the lower register of the south-west wall, which is covered with horizontal planking, and the lower registers of the side walls of the midstrey, which

are clad in corrugated iron sheeting. The bays' lower registers have four studs, increasing to five above the girding beams. The exception to this is bay 1 where there are seven studs below and above the girding beams. Bay 4 has angled straight bracing in the upper register, falling from the main posts to the base of the central stud. Bay 2 has only one brace to either side. The flying tie beam to the midstrey in bay 3 has two short straight braces. Opposite this, the flying wall plate above the opening in north-west wall is braced by modern steel brackets and a square door inserted above the girding beam has altered the original studwork of this register. Bay 1 has no bracing apart from two short straight braces on the north-west wall, which have cut the studwork and appear to be a later insertion. The frame of the north-east wall has a central post that is double-pegged to sill beam and wall plate with four studs to either side. The upper register of this has angled straight bracing falling from the main posts to the girding beam. The south-west wall has no centre post but instead has a girding beam that spans the entire width of the wall, with eight evenly spaced studs. Angled straight bracing falls from the main posts to this girding beam. The upper registers of the midstrey each have a single angled straight brace falling from the wall plate to the girding beam. Doors have been inserted into the north-east wall of the midstrey and the south-east wall of bay 4. Mortise holes in the sill beams and girding beams attest to these doorways being later additions. The doorway to the midstrey has been blocked by the insertion of mismatched wooden doors, nailed into position. Above these can be seen the original doorposts of the midstrey. These are straight posts joined to the midstrey tie beam by hanging knee braces. The space above the later blocked doorway has been filled with eight studs, nailed to the underside of the tie beam (Plate 8).

Carpenters' marks can be seen where the queen posts are pegged and jointed to the tie beams of trusses B and C and where the arched braces supporting the tie beams meet the jowled storey posts. On truss B the queen post closest to the midstrey is marked with an 'III', whilst the other has an 'IIII'. The brace to the south-east is marked with an 'II', whilst the other has an 'I'. Truss C is marked on the tie beam with an 'II' (closest to the midstrey) and an 'I', whilst the braces are marked with an 'II' (closest to the south-east wall) and an 'I'. In contrast to trusses B and C, truss A has no queen posts inclining from the tie beam and instead has a collar beam. Two scarf joints were observed in the wall plates either side of bay 2. These joints and those connecting the majority of the tie beams to the wall plates have been strengthened by iron bolts and staples.

Building C: 19th-century cart shed (Fig 15)

Building C is an open-fronted, timber-frame cart shed aligned roughly east to west abutting Building B at its west end (Plate 9). A lean-to is attached to the south side of the structure. Building C has a steeply-pitched roof with clasped purlins supporting a roof of corrugated iron sheeting. Four bays are formed by tie beams jointed to jowled posts in the south wall and plain posts protected by concrete bases on the north side. There is no visible evidence of a sill beam but, when Building C is viewed from the farmyard, it becomes clear that the timbers of the south wall rest on a dwarf wall. As the floor is of concrete it is likely that the sill beam has been obscured. The open side faces onto the fields to the north of the farm. The east and south walls are clad in vertical planking held on inserted cross-rails, although the east wall is very dilapidated. There is no west wall, instead the roof extends until it meets the north-east wall of Building B. The jowled posts have three-way straight bracing to the tie beams and wall plate. The plain posts at the open side of the structure also have three-way bracing, although here only the brace to the tie beam is straight – those supporting the wall plate are arched. The posts, braces and wall plate of the open front have all been painted black (Plate 10). Two warped rails supporting rough vertical planks are nailed to the posts of the south wall.

Apart from the inserted rails supporting the upright planks of the south wall (which are nailed to the posts) all of the joints in the structure are pegged. There are also two scarf joints, one in the south wall plate, and the other in the north wall plate. Both of these have been strengthened by an iron bolt. The posts in the south wall and their associated braces all display carpenters' marks, 'I' to 'V' in sequence from the east to the west.

Building D: 20th-century machine shed (Fig 16)

Building D is a modern machine shed constructed from concrete blocks with brick finishing above, and forms the north end of a range of buildings comprising Buildings D to F (Plate 11). An open-fronted porch projecting from the north side has been added to the structure and the south wall is formed by Building E. The corrugated plastic roof is supported by four un-trussed rafters with through purlins nailed to them. The interior walls are clad in corrugated zinc sheeting and the floor is of concrete.

Building E: mid 19th-century stable (Fig 16)

Building E forms the central structure of the range of buildings D to F, located on the east side of the farmyard (Plate 12). It is a timber-frame construction clad in black-painted horizontal weatherboarding. It has a plain tile roof that is half-hipped at both ends, and an extension projecting from the west wall. A stable door is centrally located in the east wall; this is flanked by two small un-glazed openings with wooden shutters.

The interior is divided into three un-equal bays ranging from 2.5m to 3m in width. The frame is of straight posts rising from sill beams that lie on the dirt floor (when viewed from the farmyard it becomes apparent that the south wall at least is supported on a brick dwarf wall). The straight posts support a wall plate, the longitudinal sections of which comprise short lengths of timber scarfed above each post (Plate 13). The straight tie beams of the trusses sit upon the wall plate and are supported by arched braces. Each roof pitch has a single through purlin clasped by a collar beam. There are six studs between each post on the east and west walls, except for the west side of the central bay where a 20th-century door (granting access to the extension), has been inserted, opposite the stable door to the east. The north and south walls have a central post supporting a wall plate formed from a single, long timber. Straight braces fall from the central post to the sill beam. The interior walls, north of the two doors, have been rendered to just over half their height, whilst those to the south are clad in horizontal planking (Plate 14). The internal walls of the extension are covered by modern plywood sheeting.

Building F: 19th-century shed (Fig 16)

Building F is the southern structure in the range D to F on the east side of the farmyard (Plate 15). It is on the same principle alignment as Buildings D and E but projects further east, abutting Building E at its north-west corner. Building F is technically two structures that have been combined, although they remain separate entities below a roof of corrugated asbestos sheeting. The structure at the south end has a timber-frame of straight posts, rising from a sill beam placed on a low dwarf wall, with closely spaced studs joined by rails. The short elevations have straight braces falling either side of a central post (pegged to the wall plate), whilst the longitudinal elevations have straight braces falling from each corner post. The panels are infilled with brick noggin. A plank door is centrally located in the east wall of the south end and a metal-framed window of ten lights has been inserted north of this. The north-east corner of the timber-frame has been replaced by brick. South of the entrance the infilled frame is covered with black-painted horizontal weatherboarding; the south and west elevations display the exposed frame and brick noggin.

The interior of the south structure is divided into three bays by cambered tie beams that sit upon the wall plate. The timber-frame and brick noggin is visible on three of the walls; however, the south wall is obscured by horizontal planking. The floor is of concrete and has obscured the sill beam. From inside, the roof is observed to be hipped with collar-clasped purlins (Plate 16). Externally the structure has a weatherboarded gable end, clearly a later addition to the building.

The north end of the building has an east wall built entirely of modern brick with a centrally located stable door. The north wall has horizontal planking on the interior and weatherboarding outside. This has obscured the wall's construction technique. The west wall has the same internal and external cladding but it is possible to see a brick dwarf wall below the weatherboarding. This suggests the wall is probably timber-framed.

The interior has a concrete floor and the roof is supported on clasped through purlins, there are no tie beams.

Building G: 19th-century granary (Fig 17)

Building G is of timber-frame construction and stands on c1m high brick dwarf walls, rendered and painted black (Plate 17). It is located south of the farmyard, approximately 10m west of the surviving moat and is roughly aligned east-west. It has a half-hipped roof of plain tiles and is clad in black-painted horizontal weatherboarding. Access is via three concrete steps to a stable door in the centre of the north wall. There is a large square opening to the east of this. A wall of concrete-blocks has replaced the timber-framing of the west wall.

The interior of Building G is divided into three bays by two straight tie beams that sit on the wall plate. These are supported by arched braces. Three additional posts (later insertions) are nailed to the beams, providing the building with extra support (Plate 18). The east wall has straight braces that fall either side of a central post to the sill beam, whilst the bracing on the north and south walls falls from studs rather than the posts. The roof is supported on clasped through purlins.

No scarf joints were observed but carpenters' marks were present on three studs in the south wall (XIII, X and VIII) and externally behind the weatherboarding of the north wall (XVIII, XIII, XX and VX).

6 Watching brief (Fig 2)

By Adam Wightman

With the exception of a small extension on the south side of Building B, the development has been confined to the conversion of the existing buildings. The extension to Building B was built on a raft foundation and consequently no archaeological deposits were disturbed. The 20th-century machine shed, Building D, has been demolished and the pond to the west of Building A has been infilled.

The internal floor level has been raised considerably throughout all of the buildings. Any earlier floor surfaces should be preserved beneath the new floor. Additional support for the buildings has been provided by the construction of supporting frames within the existing frames of the structures. The footings of the buildings have not been underpinned and the new brickwork has been laid directly onto the existing brick foundations. If any earlier phases of building survive beneath the present buildings, these should be preserved by the current renovations.

The ground level has been raised significantly in the farmyard and in the area west of Building A. This was done using crushed concrete and hard standing from surfacing to the north and west of the farm complex. Imported topsoil was then deposited over the areas where the concrete was removed, in order to landscape them for gardens. The ground level was raised by between 600mm and 800mm. Almost all of the services to the barns were laid into the 'made-up' ground and damage to any buried archaeological deposits was avoided. The exception to this was the installation of a self-contained waste water treatment plant. This required the excavation of a 3m x 3m pit over 5m deep. This pit was located 4.5m south-west of Building A. The excavation of the pit was undertaken by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The area selected for the pit had previously been covered by the concrete farmyard surface. Modern hoggin overlay a clayey silt which was black with pollutants and had been cut by two modern waste-water pipes. Beneath the clayey silt was a blue/grey clay with small chalk nodules which continued down to the underlying chalk. No archaeological deposits relating to the upstanding buildings or the associated church/hall complex were observed in the pit.

The proposal to build a road into the complex has been abandoned. Instead Foxley Builders have acquired the cattle barn complex to the west of the existing roadway. The plan is to demolish these barns and replace them with further dwellings when the existing road will be replaced.

7 Discussion

The agricultural buildings at Leaden Hall Farm span three centuries of British farming and reflect the changes that took place over that time. The Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 1530's had benefited landowners and larger farmers, and the doubling of the population to over five million (with an associated rise in grain prices) made arable farming an attractive prospect (*Historic Farmsteads, Preliminary Character Statement: East of England Region*, 24). As population growth continued in the following centuries, there was an increased pressure on British farmers to produce enough food to feed the country. Reclamation of marginal land was the traditional way of increasing agricultural output, but it was becoming clear to landowners that an alternative approach was needed. The alternative to more farming was better farming (Harvey 1984, 64). This meant a change in existing farming practices. Innovations in technology and crop types meant greater productivity. New fodder crops increased the number of livestock a farm could rear. But these changes required radical alterations to the traditional open-field cropping systems, and the degree of control needed for selective breeding meant an end to communal grazing. The Parliamentary enclosure movement allowed greater and easier exploitation of these new possibilities.

Arable farming was taking place at Leaden Hall Farm in the 17th century and this is when the oldest structure, Building B, is dated to. The listing for this building gives a date of c1600 which is supported by the 1621 deeds to the manor. The characteristics of this building suggest it is a threshing barn. It has internal space for the storage of both the unthreshed crop and the threshing floor where grain was beaten with flails. The midstrey allowed laden wagons to draw up to the threshing floor and unload the crop. The large doors of the midstrey and the opposing opening allowed for the winnowing of the grain from the chaff in the cross draught. The fact that the barn is four bays long and the midstrey is in line with bay 3 (see Fig 9) suggests that bay 1 may be a later addition to the building. This theory is supported by the extra number of studs in the walls of bay 1 and the scarf joints that link the wall plates of bay 1 to bay 2. The lack of a central post in the south-west wall also indicates this end of the barn has been altered. This extension to the barn may represent a need to store and process an increased yield. Clearly productivity was rising on the farm as a second, larger threshing barn was erected later in the century. The small door above the large opening in the north wall may represent a door to a hay loft, although there is no evidence of any surviving loft timbers.

The second threshing barn, Building A, is significantly larger than its predecessor. The listing for the building identifies the wood as Baltic pine, contemporary with the use of this imported softwood in the rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666. The plank cladding behind the shut-in may be the original weatherboarding but is more likely to be early machine-sawn softwood from the 18th century. Together, Buildings A and B form the start of a loose farmyard plan typical of arable farms built in the East in the 17th century (*Historic Farmsteads, Preliminary Character Statement: East of England Region*, 8). The two barns may indicate that wheat and barley were threshed separately. This would be in keeping with the 1870 auction catalogue that inventories 'wheat, barley and oat barns' at Leaden Hall Farm. Both of these barns would have originally been thatched with longstraw, but this was replaced by plain tiles, probably in the 19th century. Building B eventually received a roof of corrugated iron sheeting (as did Building C, next to it) probably in the early 20th century after World War 1, when it became common practice in farming to use this material for repairs.

The remaining buildings all date to the 19th or 20th centuries, with the possible exception of Building G. Although this is clearly visible on the 1846 tithe map, there is a strong case to make for Building G being either inaccurately located on the 1777 Chapman and André map, or a successor to the structure that is shown. If we assume that the provision for two barns indicates an increased output, then it is logical that a granary would have been needed to store this increase. Building G, or the structure on the Chapman and André map, is likely to have fulfilled that role. Leaden Hall Farm certainly had a granary, as it is mentioned in the 1870 auction catalogue. Further evidence for this building being the granary comes from a change in farming practice. Prior to 1750 it was common practice for grain to be stored in the

loft of the farmhouse, but after this date, due to the increase in yields, purpose-built granaries appear in East Anglia. Building G fits the criteria for such a granary. Although it is not raised on staddle stones, it does sit upon a high dwarf wall and is only a single storey in height. As it is accessed by a flight of steps, it clearly was not used by animals.

Map evidence indicates that Building C was constructed by 1846 and the design and location of the structure suggest it was a cart shed. Cart sheds typically faced north away from the farmyard, to protect their contents from the sun and rain (Harvey 1984, 125) and gave direct access to the fields. The worn boards attached to the two warped rails may have acted as buffers preventing carts from damaging the south wall of the shed. Likewise, the protective concrete around the bases of the posts of the open side signify a later intent to protect the posts from damage when the building was used for modern machinery rather than carts.

Building D is of no significant archaeological interest apart from its use in illustrating the continuation of the agricultural need to house farm vehicles, whether wooden carts (as in Building C) or modern machinery.

The remaining buildings (E-F) date to the 19th century and emerged from the changes associated with the Parliamentary enclosure movement. One facet of this movement was an emphasis on the planning and construction of new farm buildings. Farms saw an increase in the quantity of equipment, crops and livestock which were house, stored or processed there, and it was considered that every farmer should have a suitable shed for implements, activities or livestock (Harvey 1984, 123). This was encouraged from 1849 by an act of Parliament that provided loans for investment in new farm buildings. Building E was constructed sometime between 1846 and 1870, most likely (given its proximity to the cart shed) as a stable. Later alterations have removed any traces of individual stalls, but it is possible that the horizontal wooden planking around the south walls was intended to protect the frame of the building from the equine occupants. The plain tile roof is probably original and suggests Building A was re-roofed at the same time that the stable was constructed.

Building F was originally a small, three-bay shed standing alone to the south east of the stable, Building E. The map evidence suggests it was probably constructed at the same time, as does the shape of its original hipped roof which is highly likely to have been covered in plain tiles. The small extension to building E is later than 1870 but dates to before 1881. This probably had a simple gabled roof, extended to cover the earlier structure in the 20th century when the tiles were replaced with corrugated asbestos sheeting.

The carpenters' marks displayed on some of the timbers are useful for dating the buildings. The earliest marks were usually sweeping scratches made by a knife, whilst those from the 17th century were more carefully made with a knife or chisel. Those from the 18th and 19th centuries were characteristically small, deep and neat, made with a chisel (Brunskill 1994, 34). The marks in Building A closely match the style assigned to the 17th century, supporting the construction date. However, several of the marks observed in the earlier Building B appear to date to the style used in the 18th and 19th centuries. This suggests replacement timbers have been inserted, in particular the arched braces of trusses B and C. This makes sense as Building B has been extended, possibly causing undue stress to the frame. The lack of opposing roof support (half-hipping) and the hay loft above the tie beams (if there was one) may also have contributed to damaging these timbers. The timbers of Building C, the cart shed, all appear to be contemporary machine-cut timbers with the neat, deep chisel marks characteristic of the 19th century. This is also the only building with a sequential (I-V) set of carpenters' marks. The timbers of Buildings E and F are also contemporary machine-cut timbers, apart from the tie beams in the south end of Building F which are re-used. Building G, the granary, has timbers that are machine-cut and broadly contemporary. The carpenters' marks, which are broad and chiseled, are all located on studs rather than at main joints and this suggests they are re-used timbers.

The farm complex forms a group of buildings dating from the beginning of the 17th to the 20th century. The threshing barns and granary, combined with the lack of stables and byres suggest a predominantly arable-based land holding, although by the late twentieth century the farm had diversified into dairy farming, with Building A

housing cattle. Although some of the features have been obscured by modern materials, in particular the foam insulation in Building A, much of the form and fabric remains intact. However, over time, most of the original fixtures and fittings have been lost. The size and quality of the two listed barns (Buildings A and B) suggest Leaden Hall Farm was relatively wealthy in the post-medieval period, although perhaps not as successful during the later Victorian High Farming era.

The seven structures surveyed at Leaden Hall Farm illustrate the development of an Essex farm from the 17th through to the 20th century, and the complex forms a varied group whose buildings and environment have survived essentially unaltered.

8 Acknowledgments

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Foxley Builders for commissioning the building recording and watching brief.

The building recording was carried out by Chris Lister, and the fieldwork was conducted by Adam Wightman. The project was monitored by Richard Havis on behalf of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brunskill, R.W	1994	<i>Timber Building in Britain</i>
CAT	2011	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigation at Leaden Hall Farm Barns, Leaden Roding: Building Recording and Detailed Monitoring and Recording.</i>
DoE	1990	Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning
EAA 14	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, <i>East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14</i> , ed by D Gurney
English Heritage	2011	<i>Listed Buildings Online</i> http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/ibonline
Harris, R.	2009	<i>Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings</i>
Harvey, N.	1984	<i>A History of Farm Buildings in England and Wales</i>
Havis, R.	2011	<i>Archaeological Investigation at Leaden Hall Farm Barns, Leaden Roding: Building Recording and Detailed Monitoring and Recording</i> , Essex County Council brief
IfA	2008	Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures
IfA	2008a	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
IfA	2008b	Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs
MoRPHE	2006	Management of research projects in the historic environment (<i>English Heritage</i>)
University of Gloucestershire	2006	Historic Farmsteads, Preliminary Character Statement: East of England Region

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
girding beam	horizontal beam in a wall, roughly half way between sill beam and wall plate
HEM	Historic Environment Management Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
joggled	where horizontal timbers are staggered rather than continuous
jowl	the enlarged head of a main post which permits the tie beam, wall

layer	plate and post to be jointed together
medieval	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
natural	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	in wall frames vertical members which rise the full height of the frame, being either main posts at the bay divisions or intermediate posts within the bay
purlin	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century
	longitudinal roof timbers, intermediate between wall plate and ridge, carried by roof trusses and giving support to rafters

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code 2011.40.

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Foxley Builders

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Appendices
Appendix 1
Selected photographs



Plate 1 Building A, late 17th-century threshing barn.



Plate 2 Building A, detail of truss B.



Plate 3 Building A, blocked doorway to south midstrey with original doorposts and hanging knee braces.



Plate 4 Building A, original doorpost clamped by sill beam, bay 3.



Plate 5 Building A, interior of shut-in showing ?original weatherboarding.



Plate 6 Building B, c1600 threshing barn.



Plate 7 Building B, interior showing truss C.



Plate 8 Building B, blocked doorway to midstrey with hanging knee braces and strengthening iron staples.



Plate 9 Building C, 19th-century cart shed.



Plate 10 Building C, interior showing three-way bracing.



Plate 11 Building D, 20th-century machine shed.



Plate 12 Building E, 19th-century stable.



Plate 13 Building E, detail of wall plate scarf joint.



Plate 14 Building E, interior showing plank cladding on south wall.



Plate 15 Building F, 19th-century shed.



Plate 16 Building F south end, showing cambered tie beam, infilled timber-framing and original hipped roof timbers.



Plate 17 Building G, 19th-century granary.



Plate 18 Building G, interior showing nailed tie beam support and collar-clasped purlins.

Appendix 2

Full list of digital photographic record (images on accompanying CD)

- 001.JPG Building A, east elevation - view north-west
- 002.JPG Building A, south elevation - view north
- 003.JPG Building A, west elevation (oblique) - view north-east
- 004.JPG Building A, hatch in west elevation - view north-east
- 005.JPG Building A, brick extension to west elevation - view north-east
- 006.JPG Building A, entrance in west elevation - view east
- 007.JPG Building A, north elevation (oblique) - view south-east
- 008.JPG Building A, roof truss - view north
- 009.JPG Building A, east wall sill beam scarf joint - view east
- 010.JPG Building A, west wall bracing beam - view north-west
- 011.JPG Building A, west wall mortice and tenon joint - view north-west
- 012.JPG Building A, west wall blocked entrance - view north-west
- 013.JPG Building A, west wall sill beam and blocked entrance- view north-west
- 014.JPG Building A, south midstrey and blocked entrance - view east
- 015.JPG Building A, south midstrey detail of hanging knee brace - view east
- 016.JPG Building A, east purlin and common rafters with south midstrey gable to rear-
view east
- 017.JPG Building A, north end of bay 3 carpenters' marks (V) - view east
- 018.JPG Building A, north end of bay 2 carpenters' marks (VI) - view east
- 019.JPG Building A, north end of bay 2 carpenters' marks (VIII) - view west
- 020.JPG Building A, shutout between north and south midstreys - view north-east
- 021.JPG Building A, shutout between north and south midstreys - view north
- 022.JPG Building A, ?original plank cladding behind shutout - view north-west
- 023.JPG Building A, scarf joint in west wall plate - view west
- 024.JPG Building A, interior of north - view south-east
- 025.JPG Building A, south side of north midstrey, carpenters' marks (V) - view south-
east
- 026.JPG Building A, north side of north midstrey, carpenters' marks - view north-east
- 027.JPG Building B, south-east elevation - view north-west
- 028.JPG Building B, south-east elevation, blocked entrance - view north-west
- 029.JPG Building B, north-west elevation - view south-east
- 030.JPG Building B, interior - view south-west
- 031.JPG Building B, roof truss - view south-west
- 032.JPG Building B, interior - view north-east
- 033.JPG Building B, midstrey gable and blocked entrance - view south-east
- 034.JPG Building B, carpenters' mark (II) east side of bay 2 - view south
- 035.JPG Building B, carpenters' mark (I) east side of bay 2 - view north
- 036.JPG Building B, carpenters' marks on tie beam strut, east side of bay 2 - view south-
west
- 037.JPG Building B, carpenters' marks on tie beam struts, east side of bay 2 - view west
- 038.JPG Building B, carpenters' marks on tie beam struts, east side of bay 2 - view
south-west
- 039.JPG Building B, carpenters' marks on tie beam struts, east side of bay 3 – view
north-east
- 040..JPG Building B, carpenters' marks, east side of bay 3 - view south-east
- 041.JPG Building B, carpenters' marks, east side of bay 3 - view north
- 042.JPG Building B, reinforced scarf joint in wall plate bay 2 - view south-east
- 043.JPG Building B, door in midstrey north-east wall - view south-east
- 044.JPG Building B, door in midstrey north-east wall - view south-east
- 045.JPG Building B, door in midstrey south-east wall - view south-east
- 046.JPG Building C - view south
- 047.JPG Building C, south elevation - view north
- 048.JPG Building C - view south-west
- 049.JPG Building C, arched braces on north elevation - view south
- 050.JPG Building C, south wall detail of bracing beams - view south-west
- 051.JPG Building C, roof truss - view east
- 052.JPG Building C, detail of north wall plate pinned scarf joint - view north

053.JPG Building C, detail of south wall plate pinned scarf joint - view south
054.JPG Building C, carpenters' mark (I) - view south
055.JPG Building C, carpenters' mark (II) - view south
056.JPG Building C, carpenters' mark (III) - view south
057.JPG Building C, carpenters' mark (III) - view south
058.JPG Building C, carpenters' mark (V) - view south
059.JPG Building D, north elevation with Barn E behind - view south-east
060.JPG Building D, detail of roof trusses - view south
061.JPG Building D, interior - view south-east
062.JPG (l-r) Buildings F, E, D - view south-west
063.JPG Building E, east elevation - view south-west
064.JPG Building E, east elevation - view north-west
065.JPG Building E, east elevation window shutter - view north-west
066.JPG Building E, detail of ?original door latch
067.JPG Building E, interior - view north-west
068.JPG Building E, roof truss - view north
069.JPG Building E, south wall re-used plank cladding - view south
070.JPG Building E, west extension - view north-west
071.JPG Building E, hanging knee brace and scarf joint in east wall plate - view east
072.JPG Building F, east elevation (oblique) - view north-west
073.JPG Building F, south elevation - view north
074.JPG Building F, west elevation (oblique) - view north-east
075.JPG Building F, east elevation showing brick infill and timbers - view west
076.JPG Building F, east elevation stable door - view west
077.JPG Building F, north end, north wall - view north
078.JPG Building F, north end, south wall - view south
079.JPG Building F, south end, north wall - view north
080.JPG Building F, south end, roof truss - view north
081.JPG Building F, south end, south wall - view south
082.JPG Building F, south end, tie beam sitting on wall plate - view south-west
083.JPG Building G, north elevation - view south-west
084.JPG Building G, north elevation - view south-east
085.JPG Building G, north elevation, exposed carpenters' marks - view south
086.JPG Building G, north elevation, exposed carpenters' marks (XIII) - view south
087.JPG Building G, north elevation, exposed carpenters' marks (XX and VX) - view south
088.JPG Building G north elevation, stable door - view south
089.JPG Building G, roof truss - view east
090.JPG Building G, arched brace and tie beam - view north-east
091.JPG Building G, south wall, carpenters' marks (XIII) - view south
092.JPG Building G, south wall, carpenters' marks (X) - view south
093.JPG Building G, south wall, carpenters' marks (IIII) - view south

Appendix 3

Full list of black and white photographic record (images on accompanying CD)

bw001.jpg	Building A, east elevation - view north-west
bw002.jpg	Building A, south elevation - view north-west
bw003.jpg	Building A, west elevation - view south-east
bw004.jpg	Building A, east wall sill beam scarf joint - view east
bw005.jpg	Building A, west wall blocked entrance - view north-west
bw006.jpg	Building A, ?original plank cladding behind shutout - view north-west
bw007.jpg	Building A, carpenters' marks on purlin - view east
bw008.jpg	Building A, carpenters' marks on purlin - view east
bw009.jpg	Building A, north side of north midstrey, carpenters' marks - view east
bw010.jpg	Building B, interior - view north-east
bw011.jpg	Building B, detail of mortice and tenon joints - view north-east
bw012.jpg	Building B, tie beam and strut joint with carpenters' marks - view south-west
bw013.jpg	Building C, arched braces on north elevation - view south-east
bw014.jpg	Building C, roof truss - view east
bw015.jpg	Building C, south wall - view south-east
bw016.jpg	Building C, north elevation - view south-east
bw017.jpg	Buildings B, C and E south elevations - view north
bw018.jpg	Building D, north elevation - view south-east
bw019.jpg	(l-r) Buildings F, E, D - view south-east
bw020.jpg	Building E, east elevation - view south-west
bw021.jpg	Building E, hanging knee brace and scarf joint in east wall plate - view north-east
bw022.jpg	Building E, south wall re-used plank cladding - view south
bw023.jpg	Building E, east elevation - view west
bw024.jpg	Building E, east elevation window shutter - view west
bw025.jpg	Building F, east elevation - view north-west
bw026.jpg	Building F, roof truss - view north-west
bw027.jpg	Building F, south end - view south-east
bw028.jpg	Building G, north elevation - view south-west
bw029.jpg	Building G, north elevation, exposed carpenters' mark (VX) - view south
bw030.jpg	Building G, north elevation, exposed carpenters' marks - view south
bw031.jpg	Building G, south wall, carpenters' marks (XIII) - view south
bw032.jpg	St Michael and All Angels Church, Leaden Roding - view north-west
bw033.jpg	St Michael and All Angels Church, Leaden Roding - view north-east
bw034.jpg	St Michael and All Angels Church, Leaden Roding - view north-east
bw035.jpg	Building G, north elevation - view south-east
bw036.jpg	Leaden Hall Farm Cottages - view east

Appendix 4

Full list of watching brief digital photographic record (images on accompanying CD)

WB01.JPG	Buildings C, E & F, facing north-east
WB02.JPG	Buildings A, B & C, facing north-west
WB03.JPG	Building A with tank in foreground, facing west
WB04.JPG	Only extension to complex (between Buildings B & C- built on raft foundation), facing north
WB05.JPG	Level that services exits the barns (Building A), facing north-west
WB06.JPG	Services leaving Building A SW corner, facing north-west
WB07.JPG	Excavating pit for sewerage tank, facing south-west
WB08.JPG	Excavating pit for sewerage tank, facing west
WB09.JPG	Excavating pit for sewerage tank, facing west
WB10.JPG	Excavating pit for sewerage tank, facing west
WB11.JPG	Excavating pit for sewerage tank, facing south
WB12.JPG	Excavating pit for sewerage tank, facing west
WB13.JPG	Excavating pit for sewerage tank- north facing SX, facing south-west
WB14.JPG	West side of Building A, facing north-east
WB15.JPG	West side of Building A (note built up ground), facing south
WB16.JPG	Topsoil deposited to north of barns, facing east
WB17.JPG	Building E, facing south-east
WB18.JPG	Building A, north side, NB height of services and depth of built up ground, facing south-east
WB19.JPG	Buildings B, C & E, facing east
WB20.JPG	Old footings exposed with new brickwork on top- Building E north face, facing south-east
WB21.JPG	Building F- east face, facing north-west
WB22.JPG	Building G, facing south-west
WB23.JPG	Excavating natural clay from tank pit, facing south
WB24.JPG	Internal structural supports-Building A, facing north-west
WB25.JPG	Internal structural supports- Building A, facing north-west
WB26.JPG	Internal floor level compared to external floor level- Building A, facing west
WB27.JPG	Internal floor level-Building B, facing north-west
WB28.JPG	Buildings A, B, C & E, facing north-west
WB29.JPG	Buildings B, C, E & F, facing north
WB30.JPG	Building A, facing north-west
WB31.JPG	Buildings A-F, facing north
WB32.JPG	Buildings A-G, facing north

Appendix 5: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

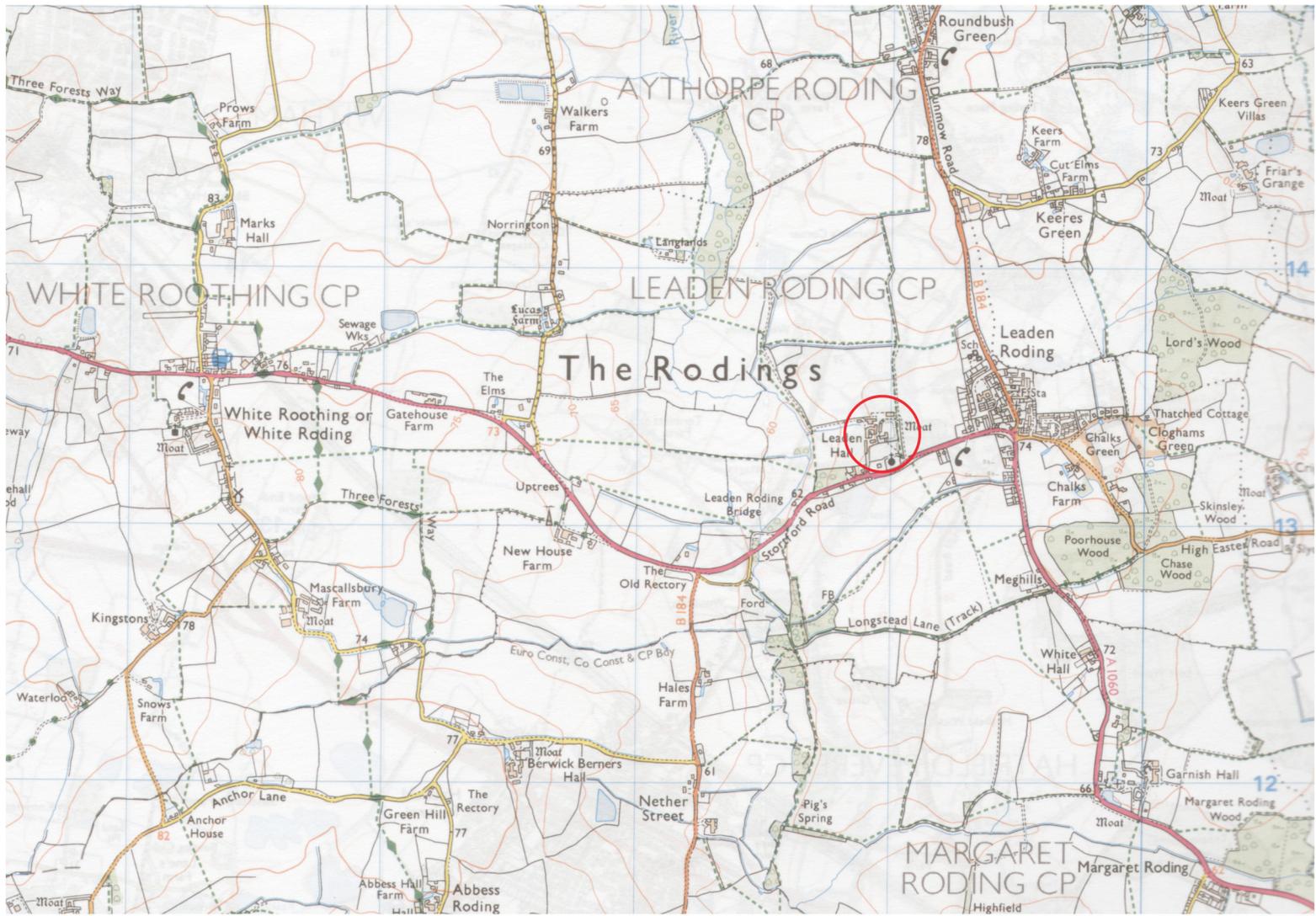
- 1.1 Risk assessment
- 1.2 Site plans provided by the developer
- 1.3 Structural Survey
- 1.3 ECC brief
- 1.4 CAT WSI

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photo record.
- 2.2 Digital photo contact sheet.
- 2.3 Black and white photo record.
- 2.4 Black and white photo contact sheet.
- 2.5 Watching brief digital photo record.
- 2.6 Watching brief digital photo contact sheet.
- 2.7 Attendance register
- 2.8 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

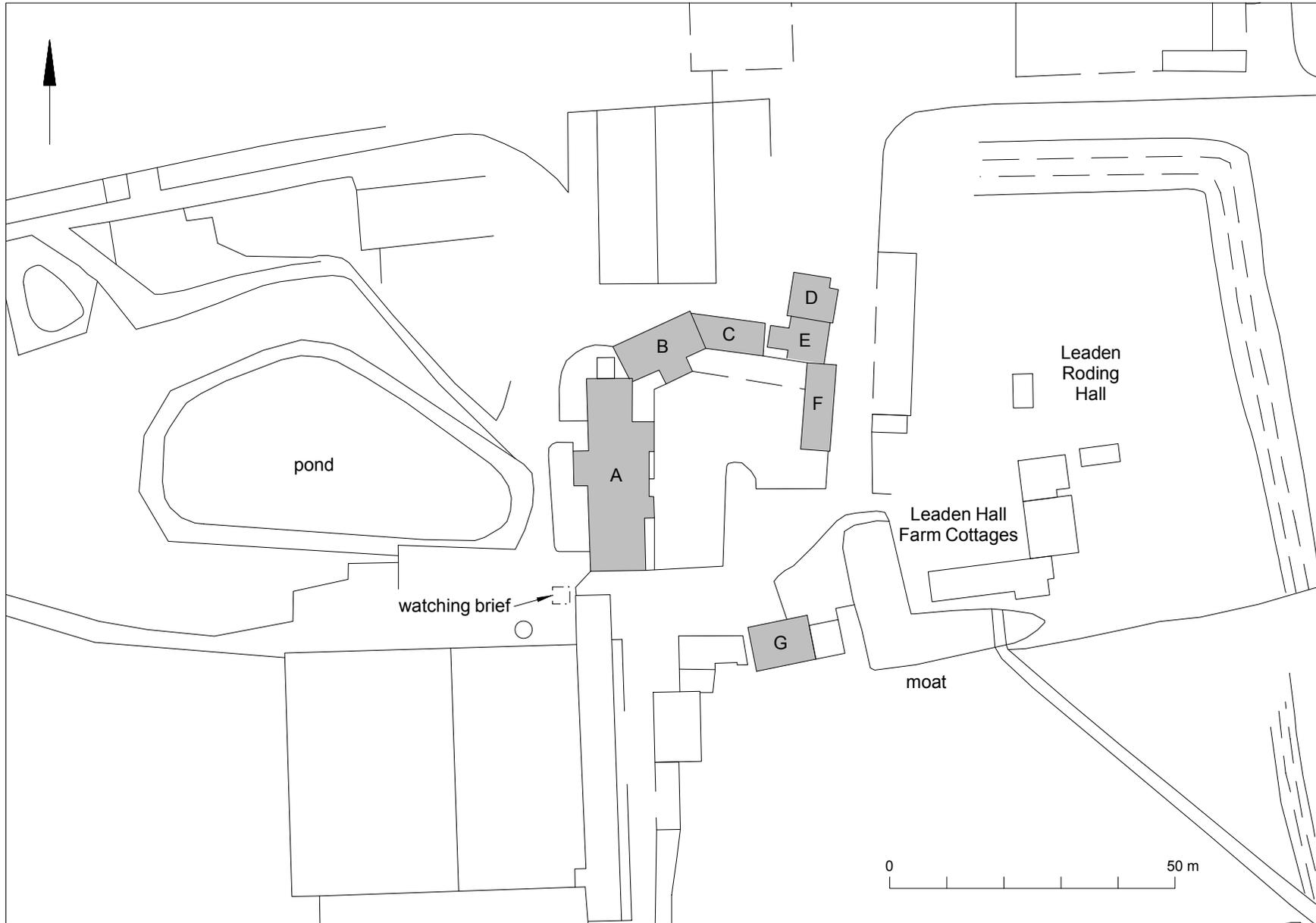
- 3.1 Report



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Fig 1 Site location.





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Fig 2 Block plan of Buildings A-G, and location of watching brief.

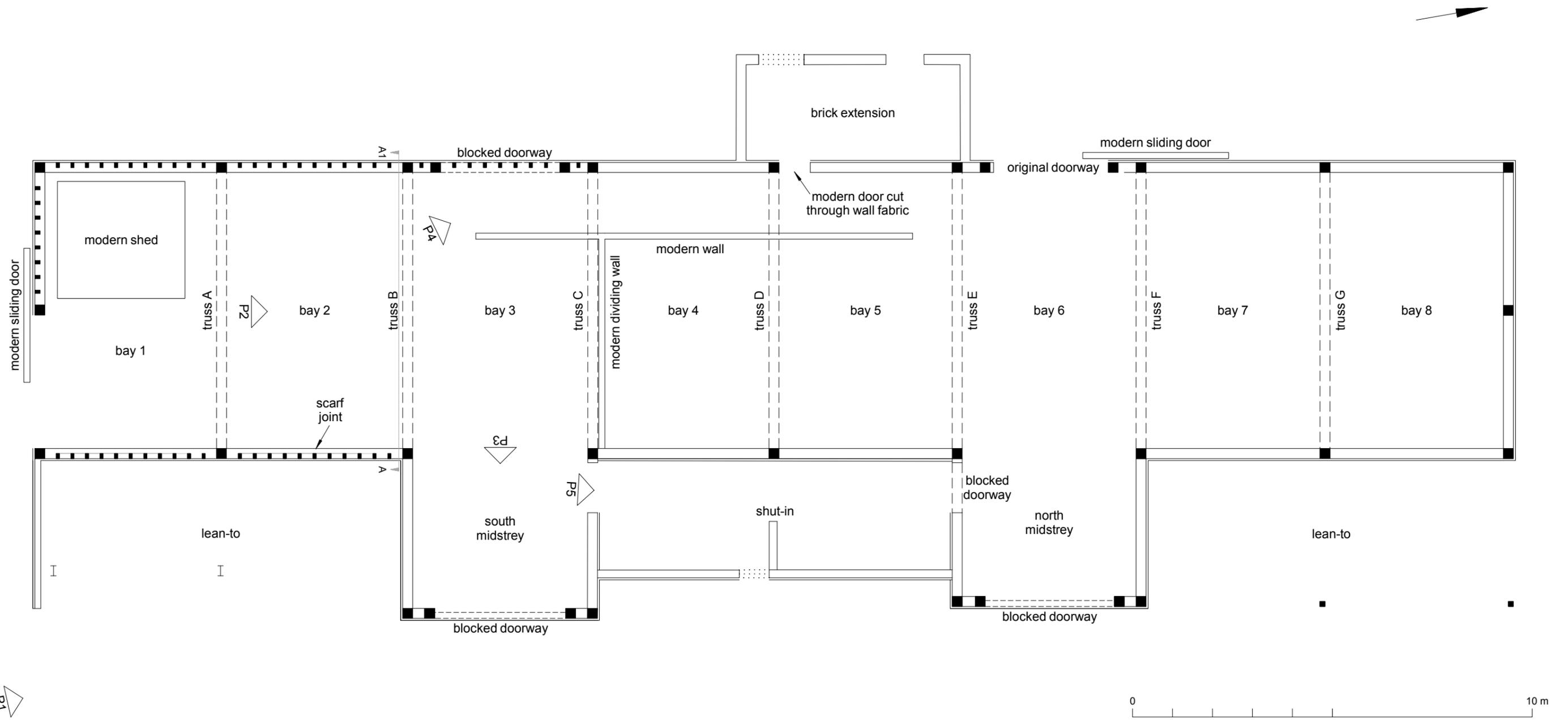
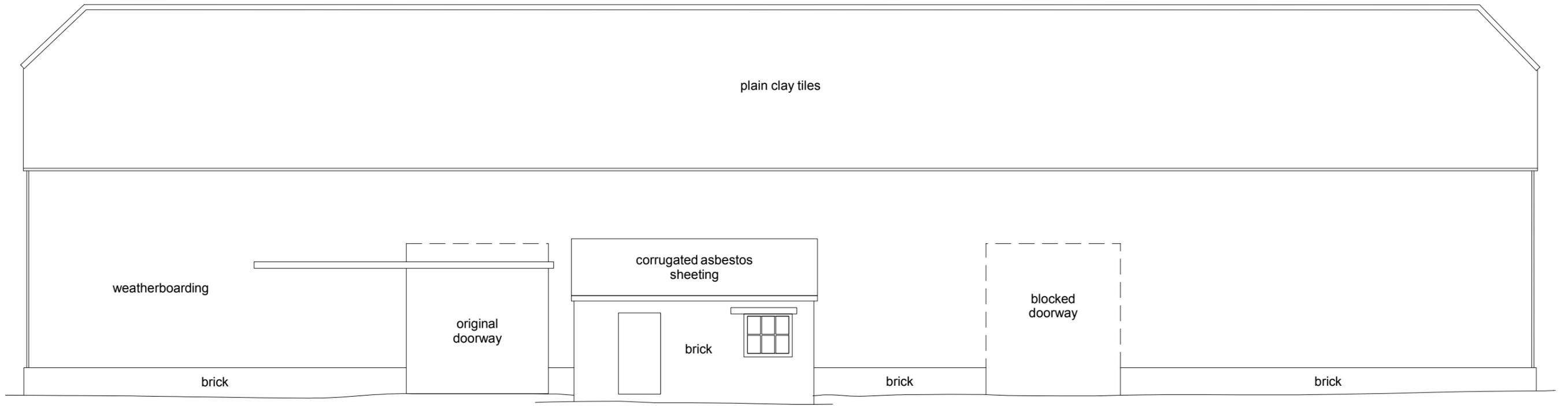
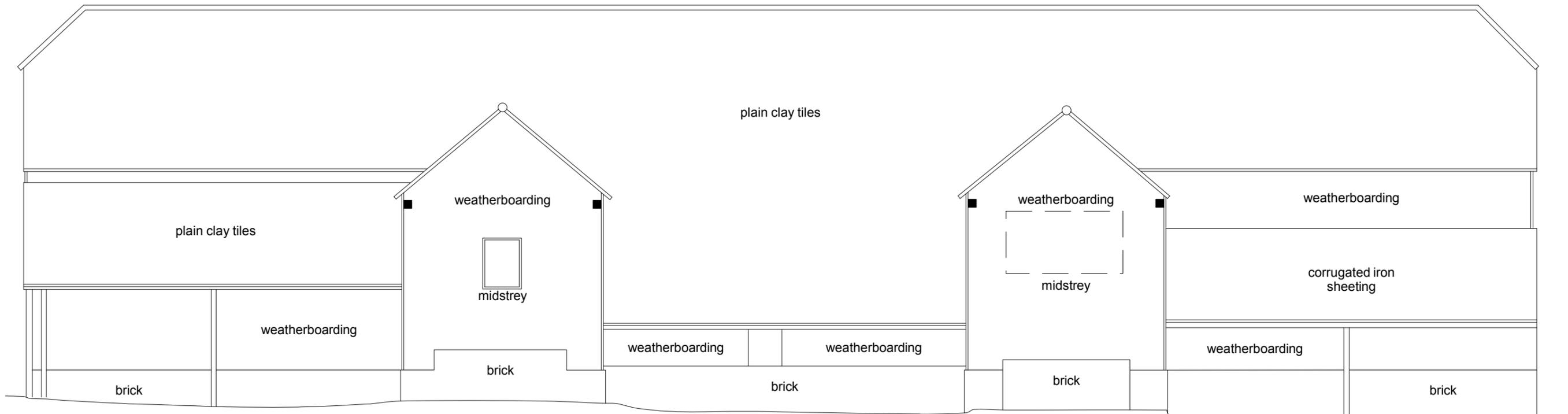


Fig 3 Building A, late 17th-century threshing barn: plan.



west elevation



east elevation



Fig 4 Building A, late 17th-century threshing barn: elevations.

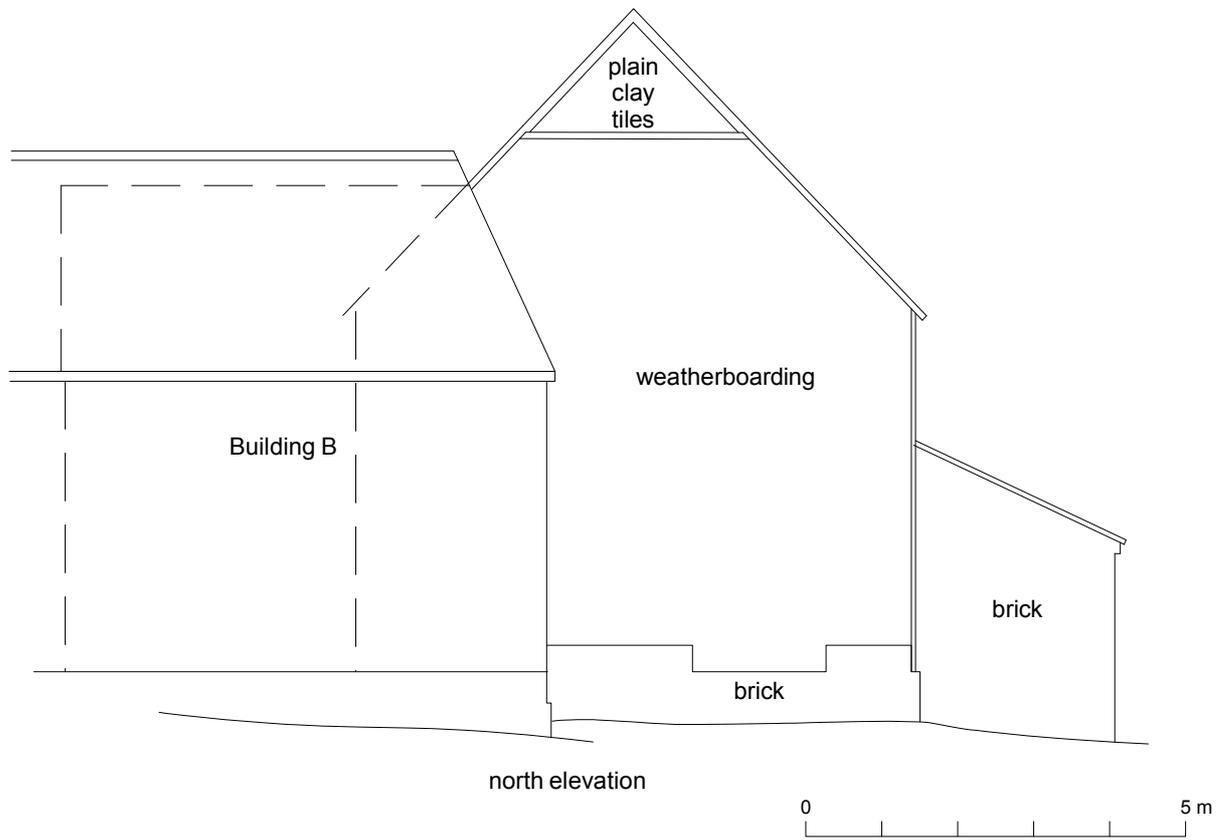
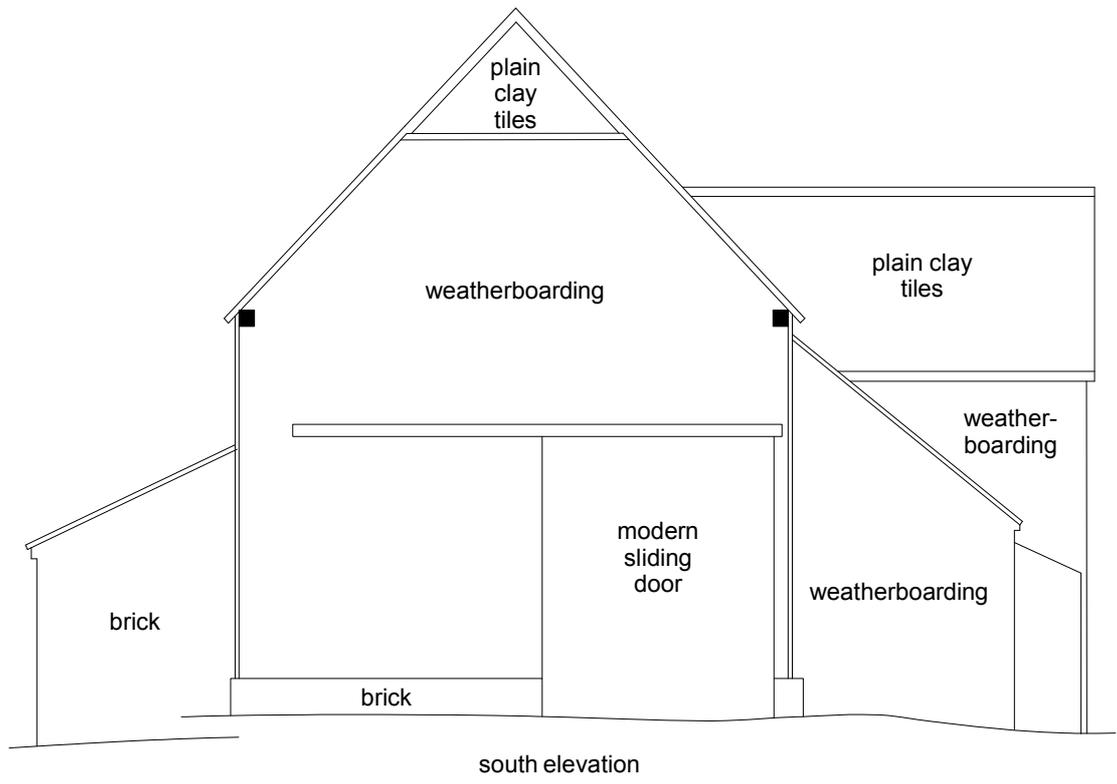


Fig 5 Building A, late 17th-century threshing barn: elevations.

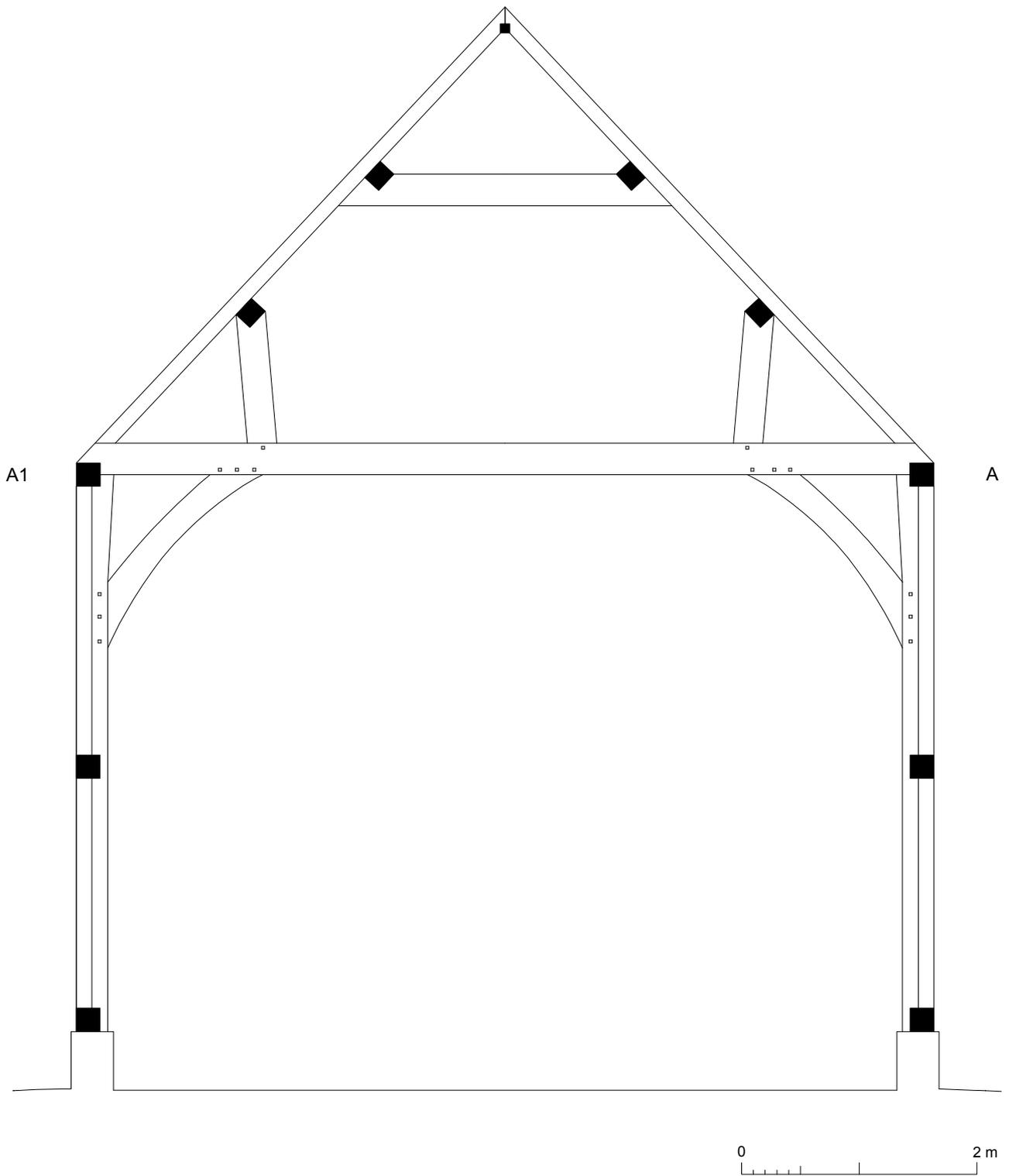


Fig 6 Building A, late 17th-century threshing barn: cross-section of truss B.

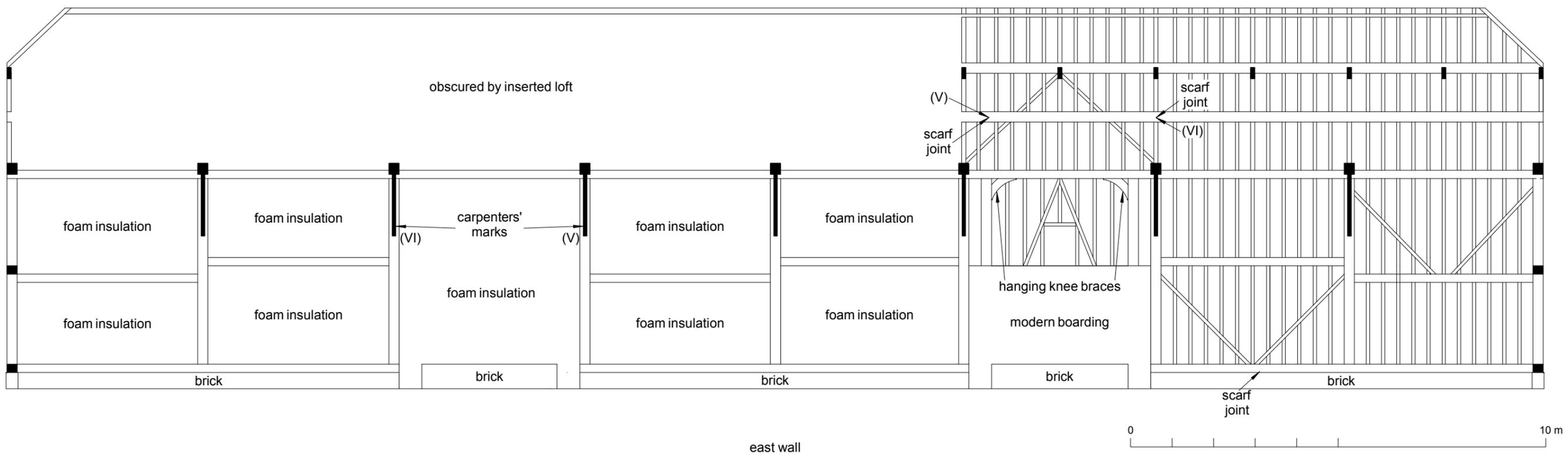
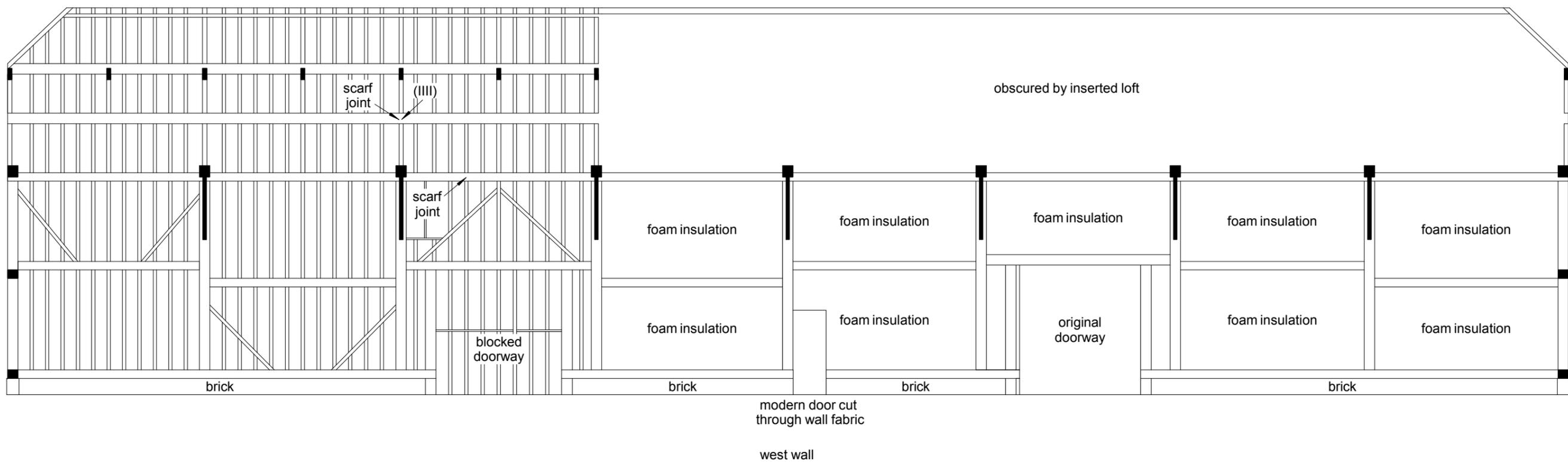
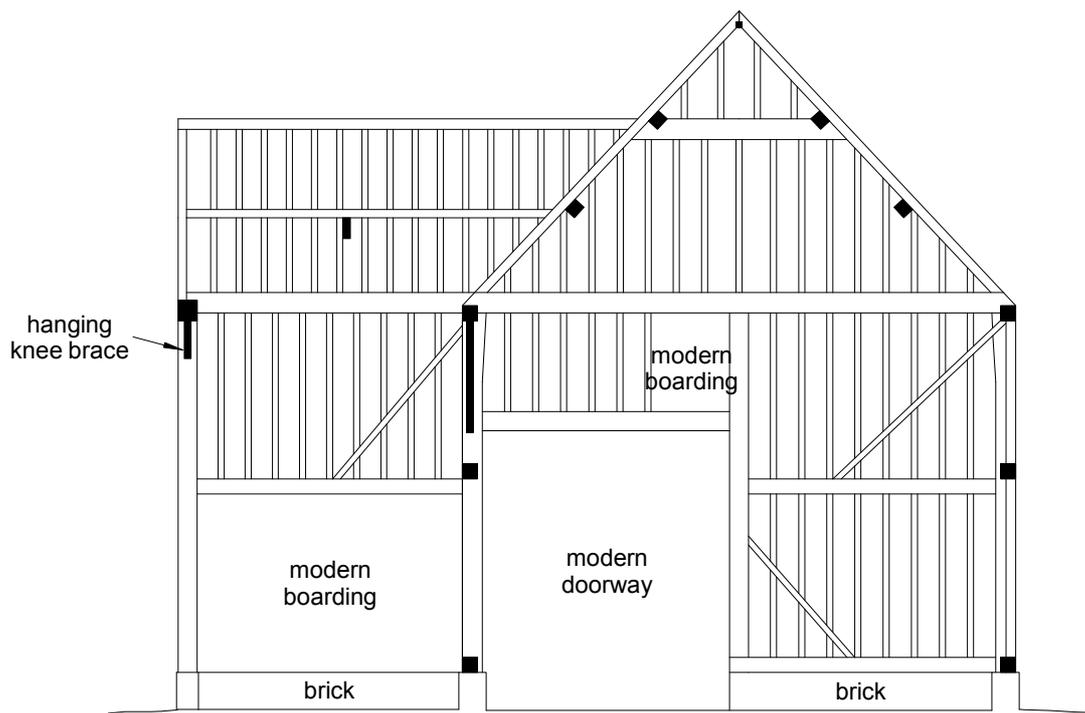
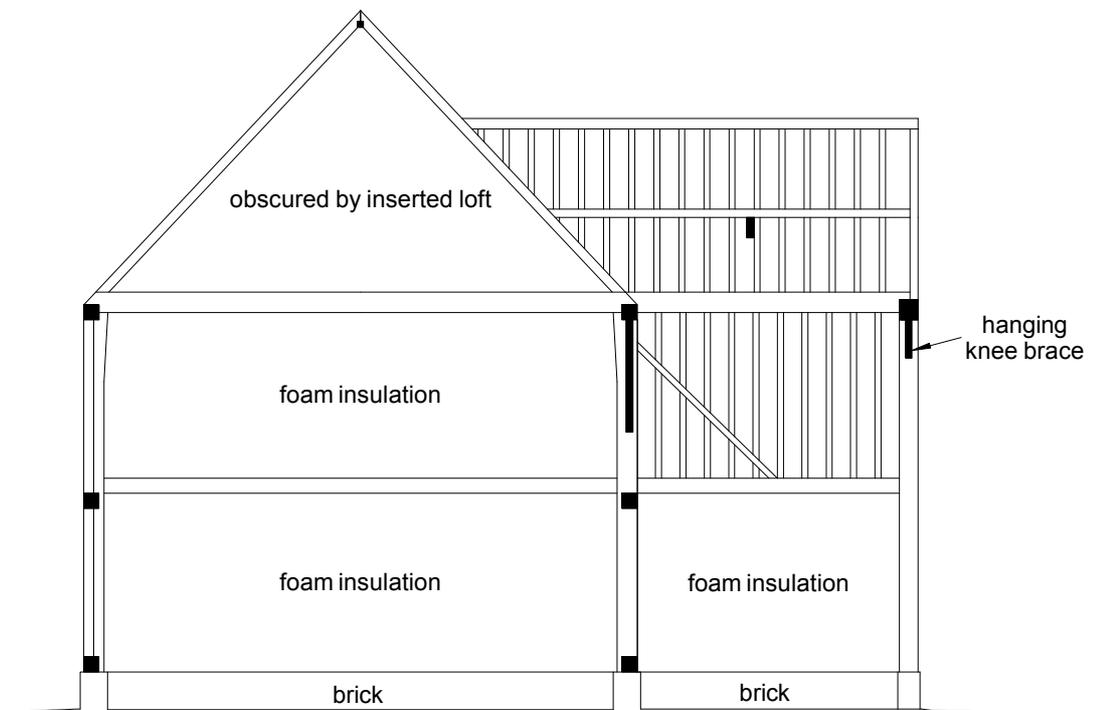


Fig 7 Building A, late 17th-century threshing barn: internal elevations.



south wall



north wall



Fig 8 Building A, late 17th-century threshing barn: internal elevations.

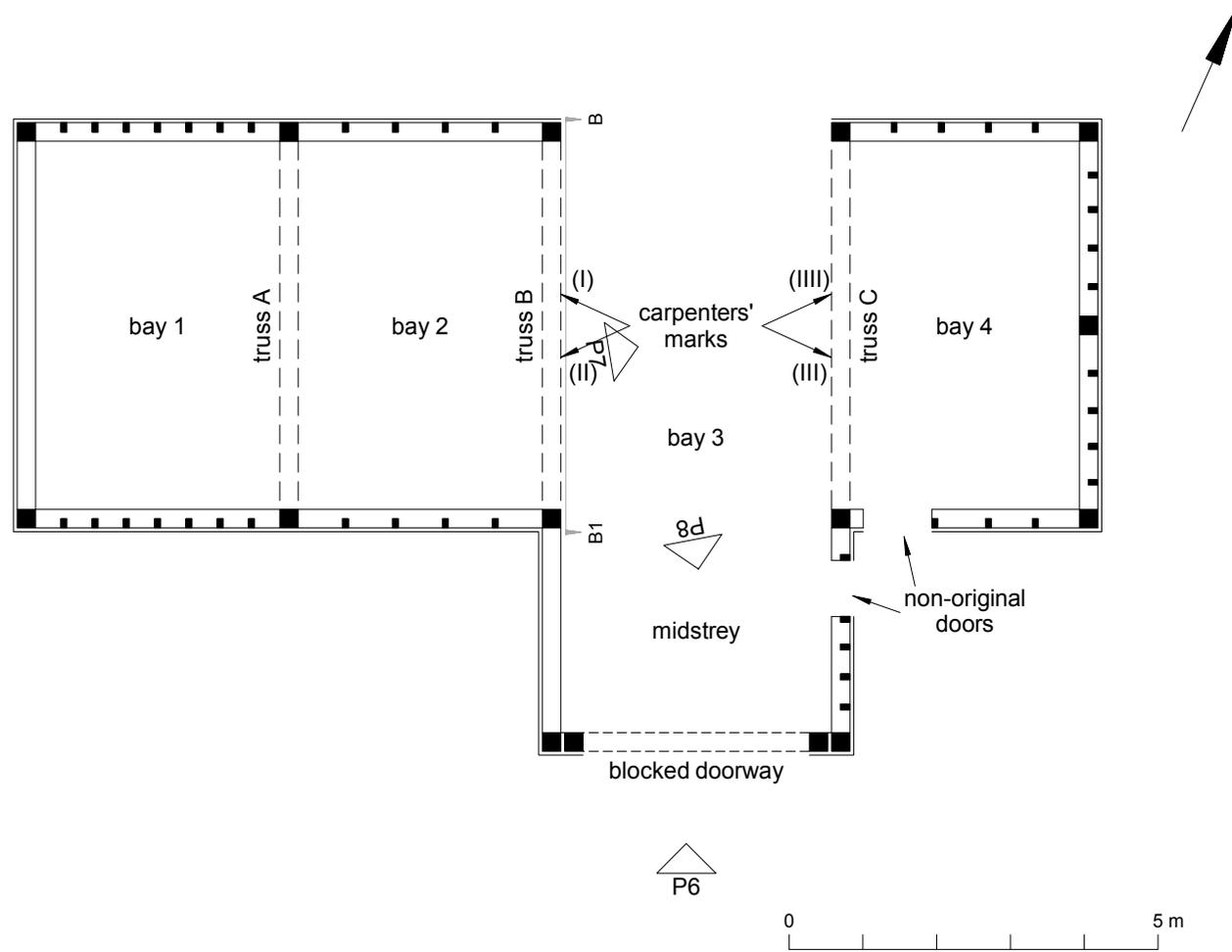
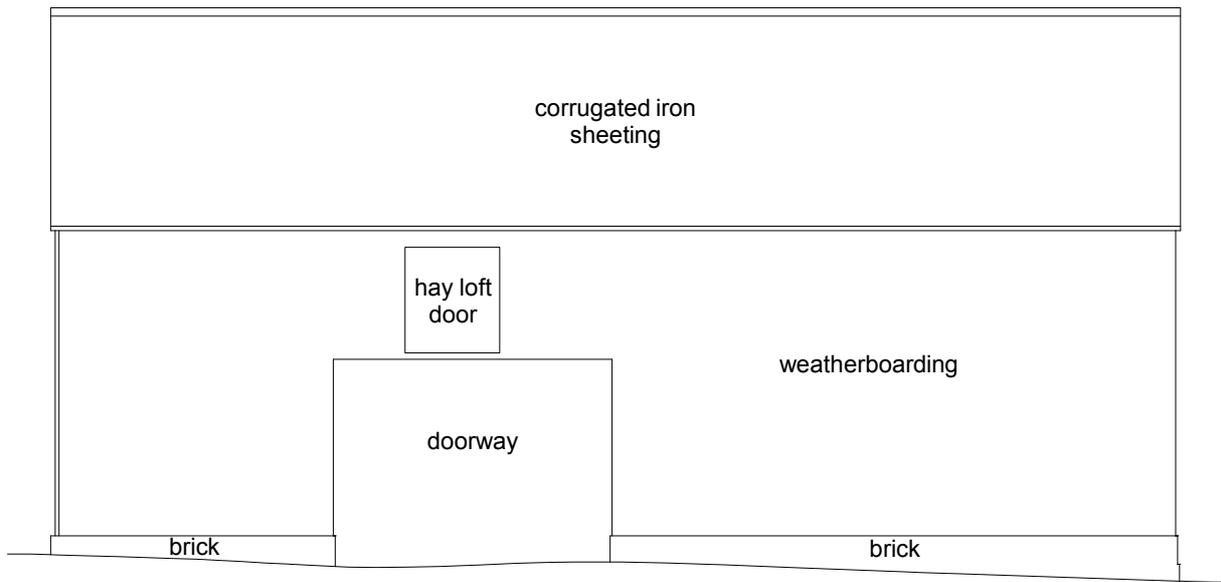
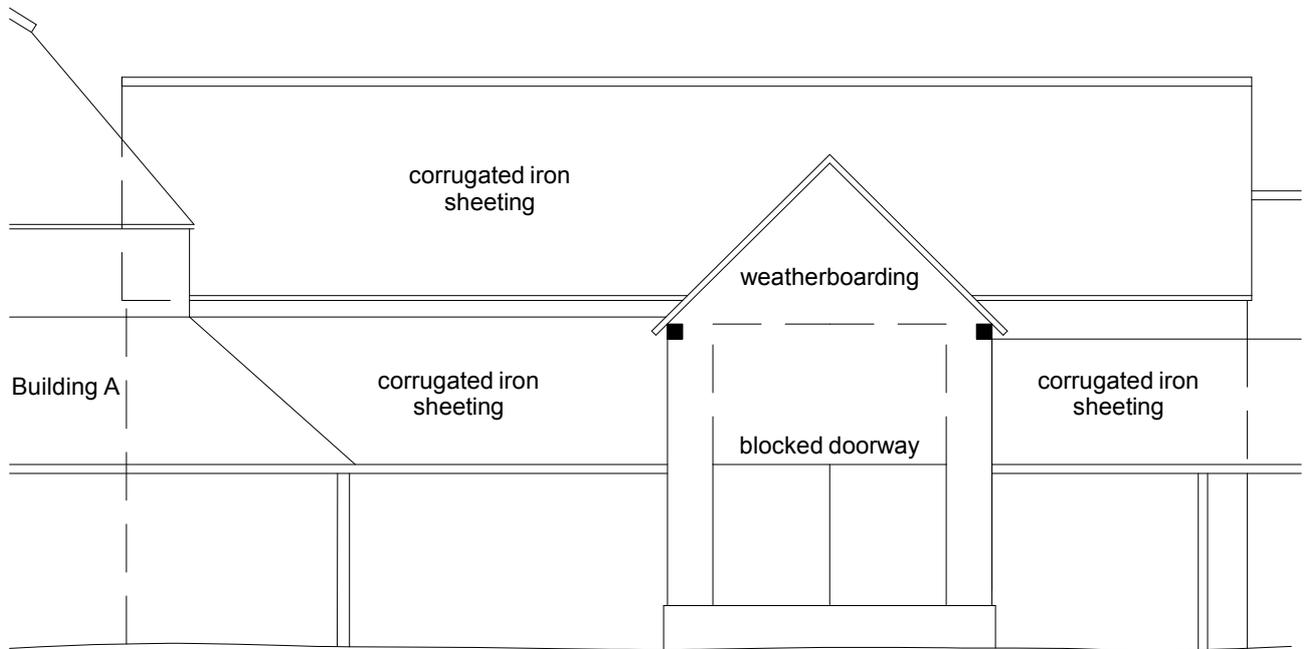


Fig 9 Building B, c1600 threshing barn: plan.



north-west elevation



south-east elevation



Fig 10 Building B, c1600 threshing barn: elevations.

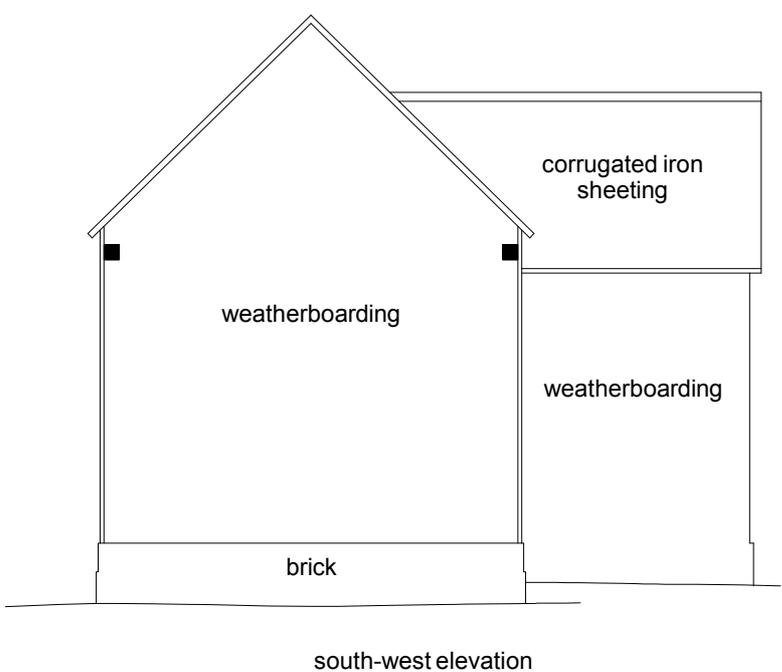
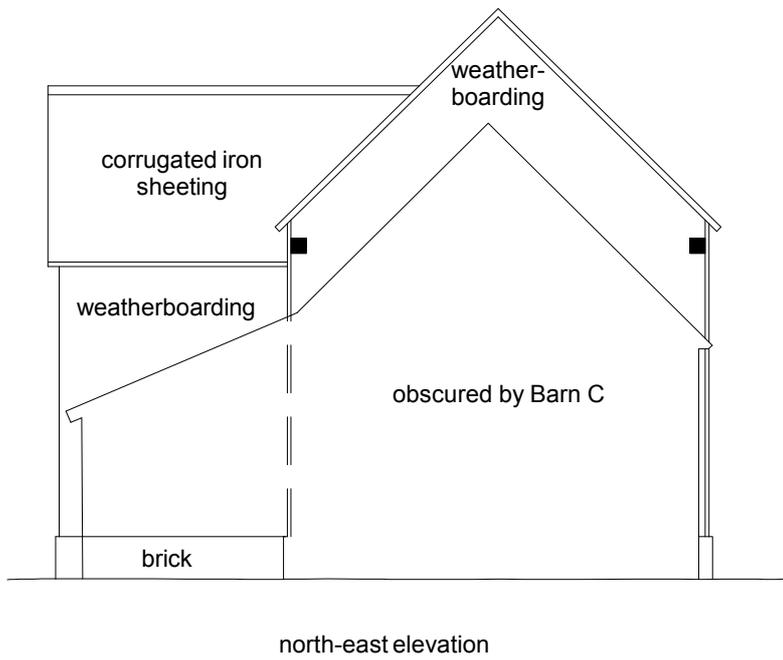


Fig 11 Building B, c1600 threshing barn: elevations.



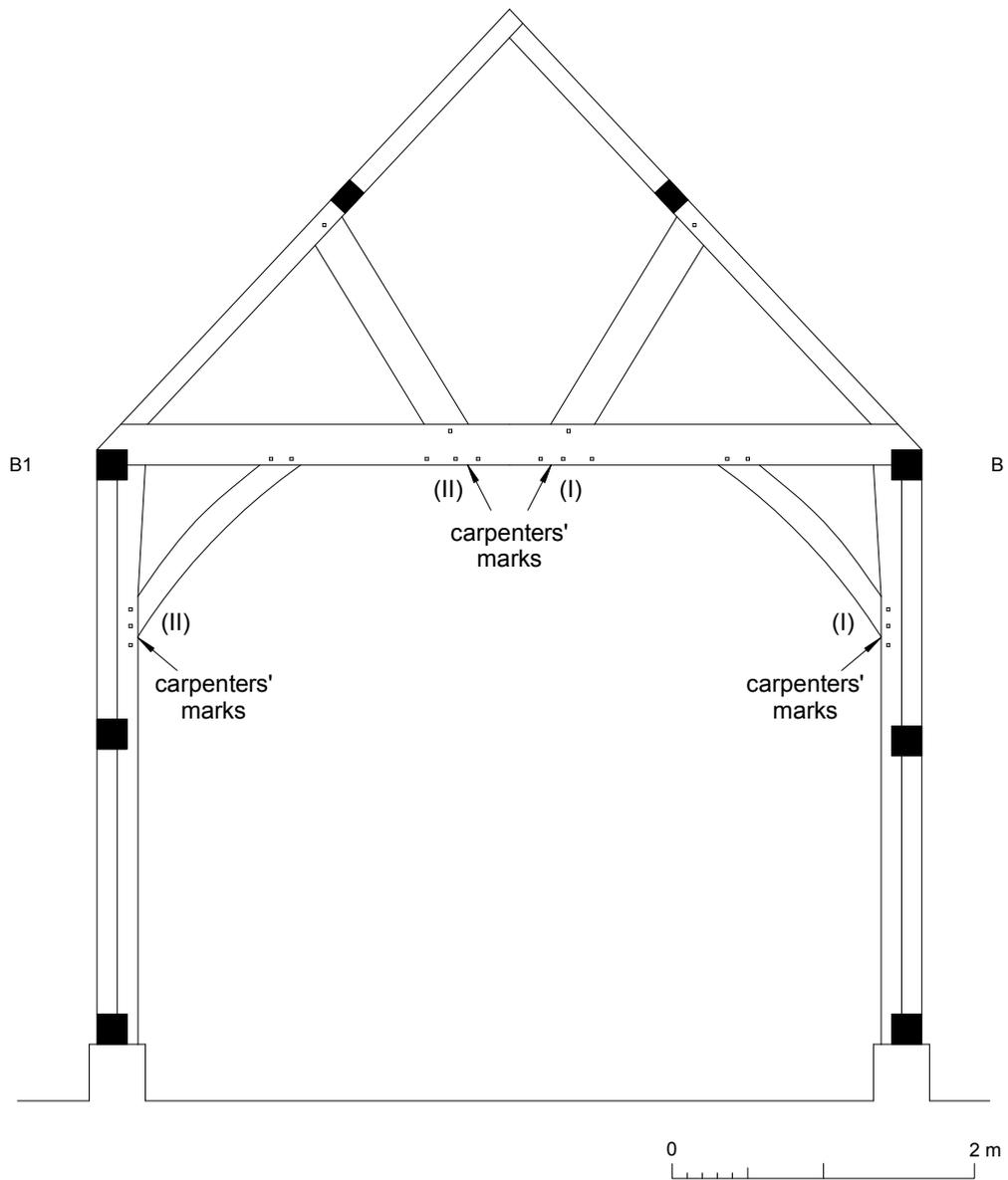
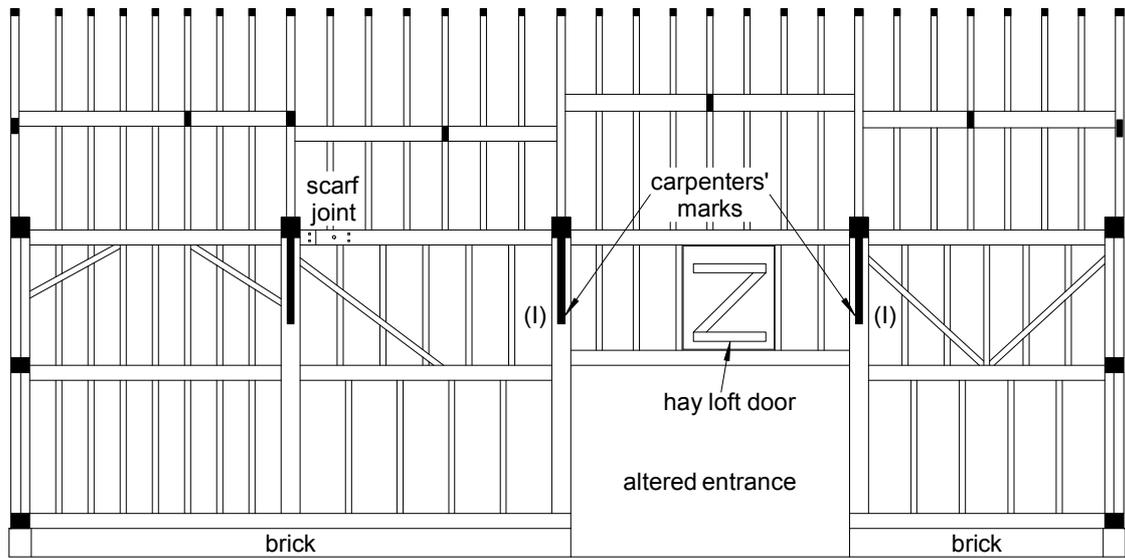
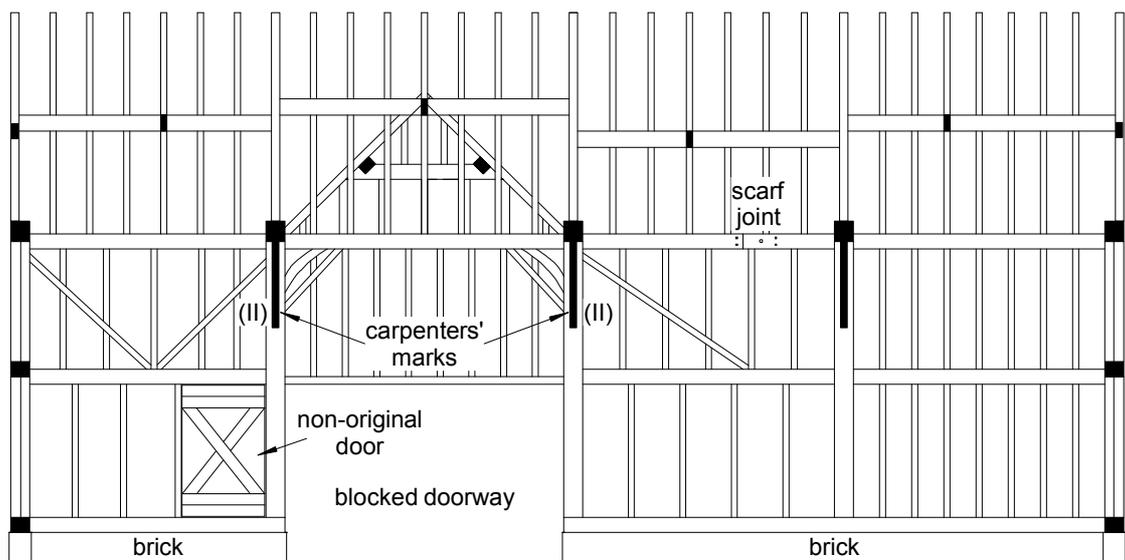


Fig 12 Building B, c1600 threshing barn: cross-section of truss B.



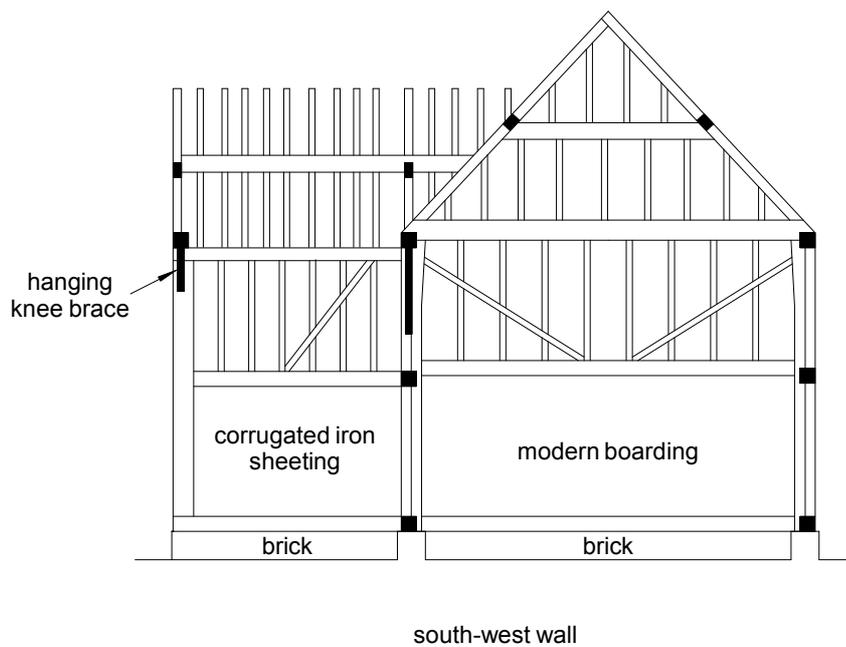
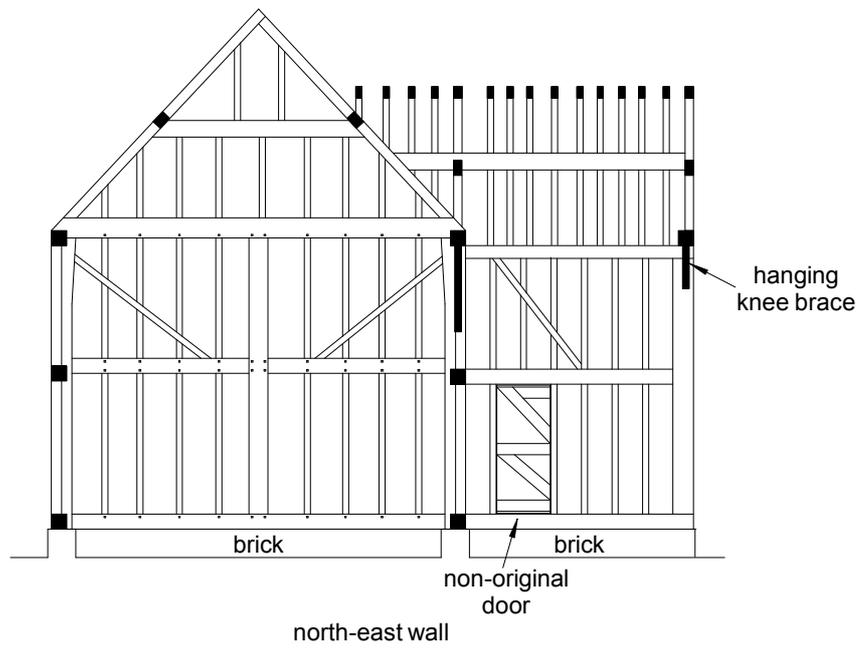
north-west wall



south-east wall



Fig 13 Building B, c1600 threshing barn: internal elevations.



0 5 m

Fig 14 Building B, c1600 threshing barn: internal elevations.

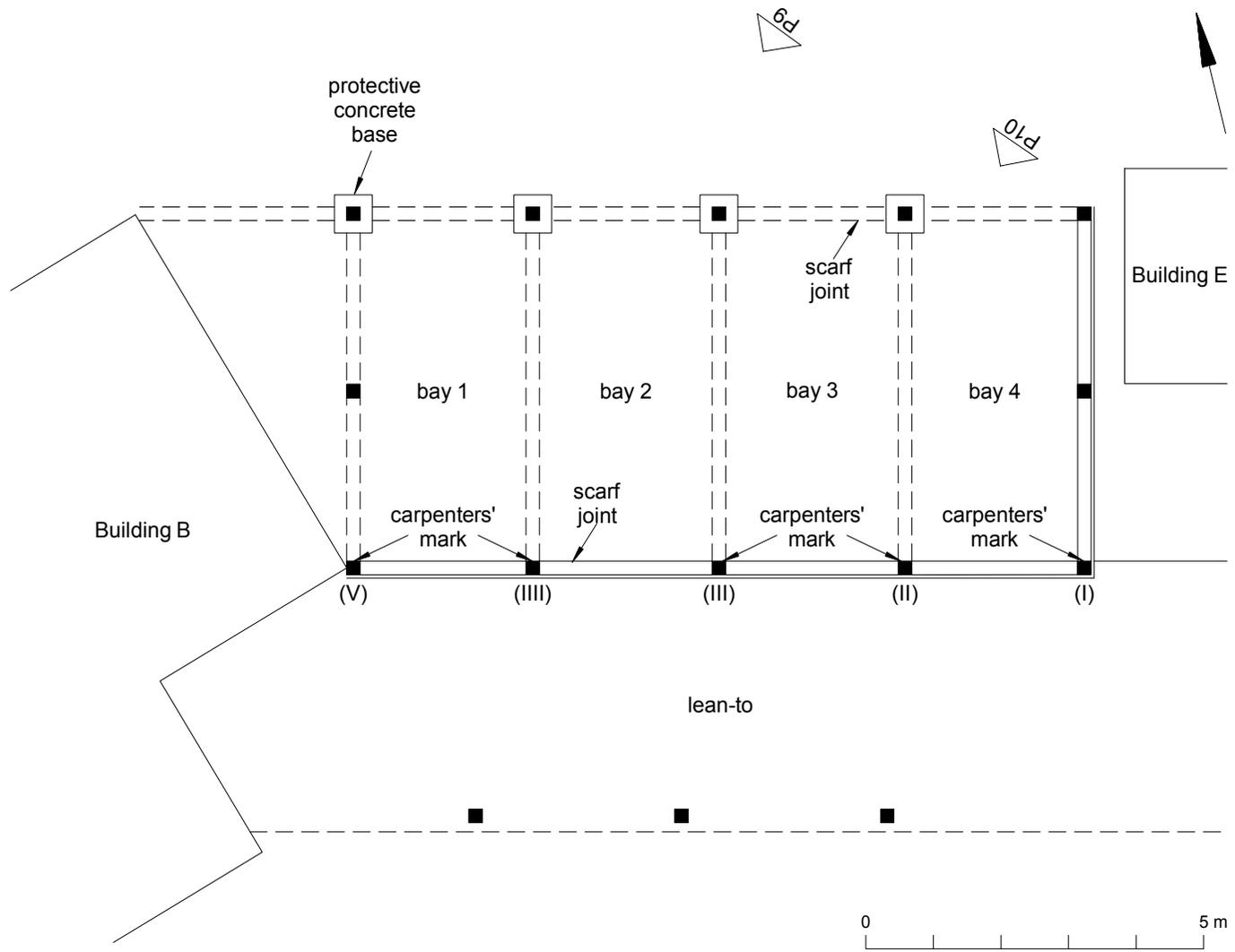


Fig 15 Building C, 19th-century cart shed: plan.

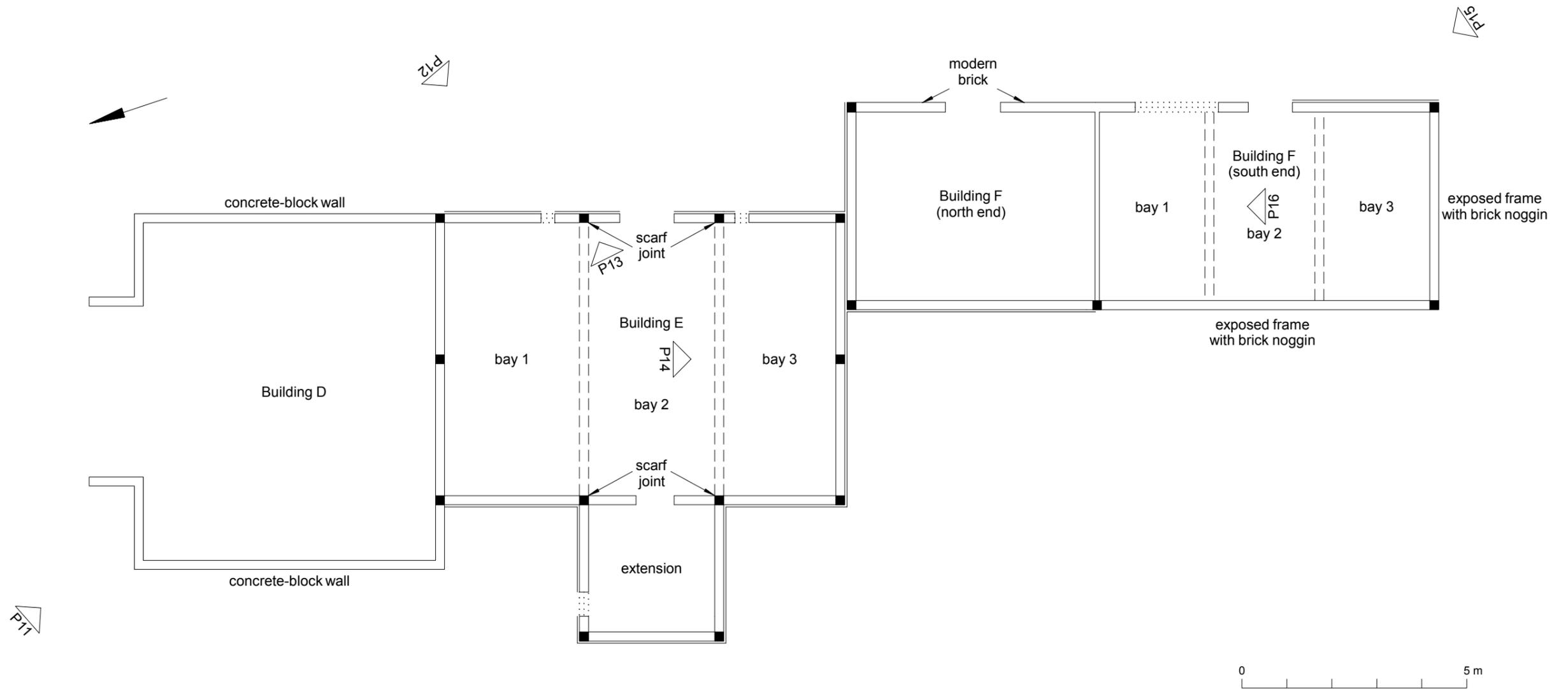


Fig 16 Buildings D (20th century machine shed), E (19th century stable) and F (19th century shed): plan.

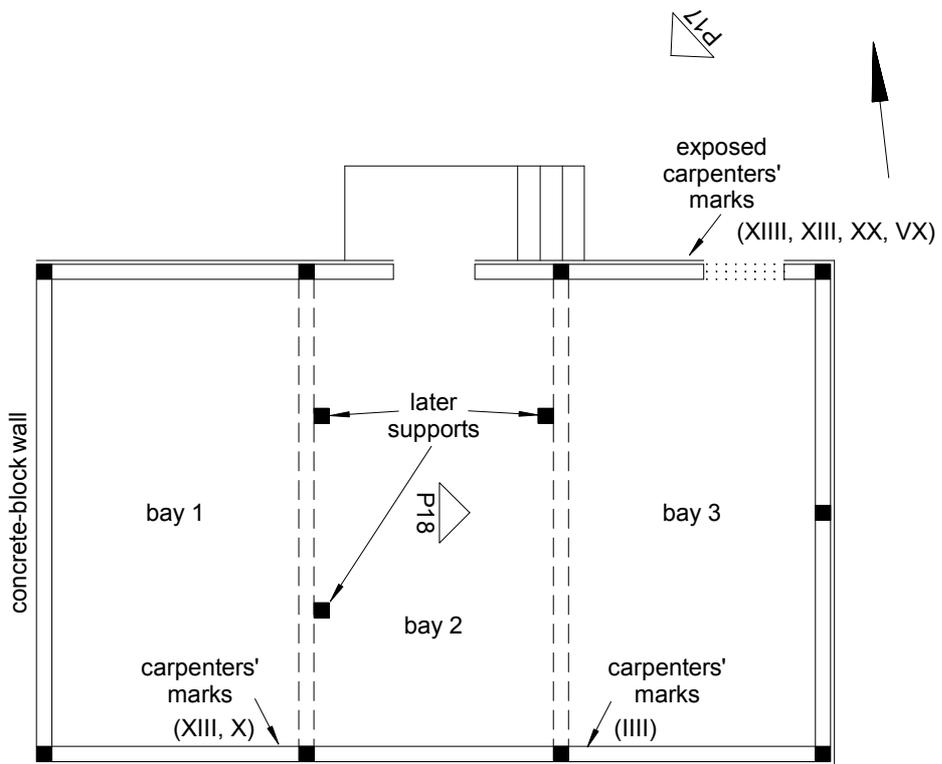


Fig 17 Building G, 19th century granary: plan.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Leaden Hall Farm, Leaden Roding, Essex	
Parish: Leaden Roding	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 5893 1340 (c)	Site codes: CAT project – 11/04b ECC – LRLH11 Museum accession – SAFWM 2011.40
Type of work: Building recording and watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: April - November 2011	Size of area investigated: n/a
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Client
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 4366, 4367
Final report:	CAT Report 602
Periods represented:	<i>post-medieval and modern</i>
Summary: A programme of building recording and archaeological monitoring was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on a complex of seven buildings at the historic moated Leaden Hall Farm, Leaden Roding, Essex between April and November 2011. The work was commissioned by Foxley Builders. The complex includes a Grade II listed c1600 barn, a Grade II listed late 17th-century barn and later curtilage listed structures (including a granary and cart shed) from the 19th and 20th centuries, grouped around an open farmyard. The seven structures surveyed at Leaden Hall Farm illustrate the development of an Essex farm from the 17th through to the 20th century, and the complex forms a varied group whose buildings and environment have survived essentially unaltered.	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: <i>barn</i>	Significance: *
Author of summary: Chris Lister	Date of summary: December 2011