

**Historic building recording at  
Michaelstow Farm,  
Ramsey Road, Ramsey,  
Essex, CO12 5EW**

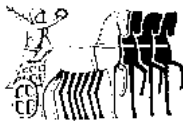
**November 2018**



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ABC City Ltd**

CAT project ref.: 18/10e  
NGR: TM 22176 30451 (c)  
Planning reference: 17/00872/OUT  
ECC code: RPMF18  
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2018.103  
OASIS project id: colchest3-3311328



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**CAT Report 1369**  
January 2019

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## 1 Summary

*A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Michaelstow Farm, Ramsey Road, Ramsey, Essex in November 2018.*

*Cartographic evidence shows that Michaelstow Farm was constructed sometime between 1825 and 1840, as a substantial two-range farm complex, comprising multiple buildings and associated with the nearby manor of Michaelstow. Chiselled inscriptions on principal-posts in the threshing barn and cow house put the farm's construction date as 1839. A total of seven buildings survive on the site today, five of which are original to the complex (a threshing barn, two lean-tos, a stable and a cow house - although some of these buildings may have been rebuilt on the same footprint). The remaining two buildings (an extension to the barn and a cart-lodge) date from the first half of the 20th century.*

*The threshing barn and the cow house are constructed using a significant amount of re-used timber, which must have originated from an earlier (possibly medieval) building, either on the site or from elsewhere in the manorial estate.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on a historic building recording of farm buildings at Michaelstow Farm in advance of their demolition. The recording work was commissioned by Bryan Courtney (ABC City Ltd) and carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in November 2018. Michaelstow Farm is located on the southern side of Ramsey Road in the village of Ramsey, at NGR TM 22176 30451 (Fig 1).

A planning application (planning ref. 17/00872/OUT) was submitted to Tendring District Council in October 2017 proposing the demolition of the existing farm buildings on the site and the construction of 14 new dwellings.

In response to this application, the Place Services Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) recommended to the council that a Historic England Level 3 building survey be made of the buildings prior to any demolition taking place (ECC 2018). This recommendation was given based on the site's location within an area highlighted by the EHER as having significant heritage assets. The recommendation was made based on the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the building recording was prepared by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT 2018) and agreed with the HEA. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24). In addition, the guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) were followed.

### 3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the buildings prior to the demolition taking place. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

*“Level 3 is an analytical record, and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building’s origins, development and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building’s appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis.*

*The information contained in the record will for the most part have been obtained through an examination of the building itself. The documentary sources used are likely to be those which are most readily accessible, such as historic Ordnance Survey maps, trade directories and other published sources. The record may contain some discussion the building’s broader stylistic or historical context and importance. It may form part of a wider survey of a number of buildings which will aim at an overall synthesis, such as a thematic or regional publication, when the use of additional source material may be necessary as well as a broader historical and architectural discussion of the buildings as a group.”*

In particular the record considered:

- Plan and form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure.
- Original function and layout.
- Original and later fixtures and fittings.
- The significance of the site in its immediate local context.

### 4 Methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of Michaelstow Farm.
- A large-scale block plan of the site.
- Annotated and phased floor-plans of the buildings at a scale of 1:100.
- A description of the buildings. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.
- A photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).

## 5 Historical background (Fig 2)

The following historical background draws on cartographic sources, the Essex Records Office (ERO) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)). Local history websites were also consulted (most prominently [www.harwichanddovercourt.co.uk/ramsey/](http://www.harwichanddovercourt.co.uk/ramsey/)).

There are seven structures detailed in this report (Fig 2). They comprise:

- a five-bay threshing barn with a central midstrey
- two small lean-tos attached to the north-east of the threshing barn
- an extension attached to the south of the threshing barn
- a three-bay two-storey cow house
- a two-bay stable
- a five-bay cart lodge

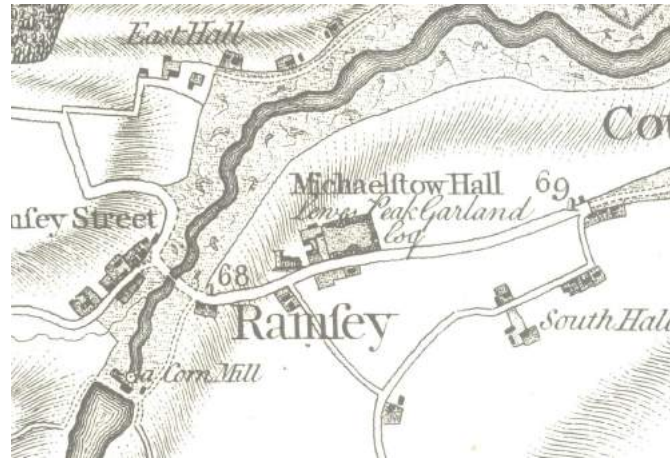
The site is located opposite the medieval manorial site of Michaelstow (now Michaelstowe) (EHER SMR no. 19340). The manorial site is adjacent to the 12th century church of St Michael (EHER SMR no 3412). This proximity of the manor to the local church is typical of Essex manor complexes. The building currently standing on the manorial site is a Neo-Georgian mansion constructed in 1903 (Listed Building no. 1308499), but the manor site itself is thought to date back to the late Saxon period (EHER SMR no. 19668). The subject of this investigation, Michaelstow Farm, is likely to have been a farmstead associated with the manor.

Michaelstow Hall and its associated manor was purchased in 1747 by a Nathaniel Garland (ERO D/DU 2590) and would remain in the Garland family for 170 years. A manorial map was commissioned in 1751 (ERO D/DU 2590/1/1) that shows the extent of the Garland family's holdings in north-east Essex (Map 1). Michaelstow Hall is depicted on this map as a large residence surrounded by parkland, adjacent to the church and considerably to the south-west of the current hall (Fig 1). In the location of Michaelstow Farm there is a single building within a north-east to south-west aligned plot of land labelled as a "Garden". The associated field book produced during the surveying of the map lists this plot of land as being owned by a Mr John Davall and consisting of a "Cottage and a Large Garden" (ERO D/DU 2590/1/3). An undated amendment to the entry (written in faded pencil) notes "Cottage pulled down and the garden in the occupation of Mr. Maipas[?]".



**Map 1** 1751 manorial map of north-east Essex showing the holdings of the Garland family. Michaelstow Hall centre frame, cottage and garden in location of Michaelstow Farm labelled as K 45.

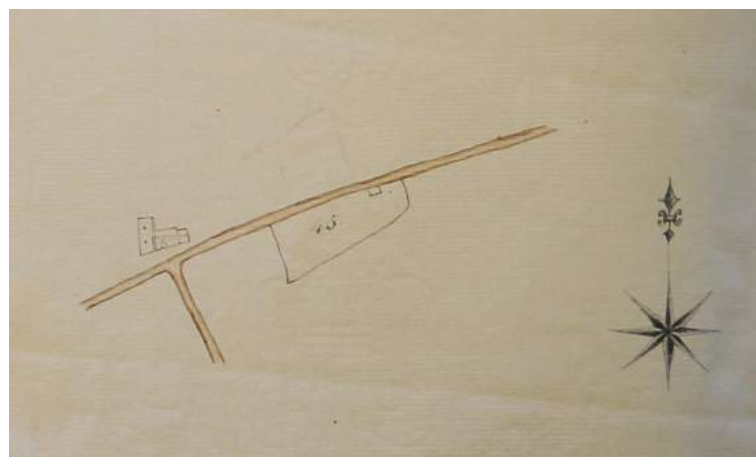
The 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex (Map 2) shows the site to be fairly similar, although being a county-wide map it lacks some of the details of the larger-scale 1751 manorial map. The plot of land with the single building to the south of the hall could be the same one depicted on the earlier map, but if so it has been surveyed further to the west. This map also shows that by 1777 the manor had passed into the hands of Lewes Peake Garland, the son of Nathaniel.



**Map 2** 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex. Considerably less detailed than earlier map, but Michaelstow Hall and the adjacent church of St Michael are both visible.

A book of estates in Dovercourt, Ramsey and Wrabness (ERO D/Dly M105), dating from 1825, again details the cottage and garden shown to the south of Michaelstow Hall on the manorial map of 1751. The associated plan (Map 3) is identical in scale to the 1751 map, and is probably the result of a partial trace of it. The accompanying estate entry details this parcel of land as being in held in copyhold by a William Lorance Rogers and a Robert Winter, "proprietors as trustees to Nath. Garland Esq". The Nathaniel Garland mentioned in this entry is the son of Lewes Peak Garland (i.e. the grandson of the original Nathaniel). The site is described as "Formerly a cottage which is now and Large Garden", which corroborates the pencil notes added to the 1751 field book (see above).

Several notes were added into the estate entry at a later date. They detail the death of William Lorance Rogers in 1846, the copyhold of the site going to a Mrs Esdaile Winter (via the will of Robert Winter) on the 25th June 1868, and finally, on 15th July 1868, that the site was "surrendered to the lord" (who by this time would have been Edgar Walter Garland, the son of Nathaniel). All three of these notes have been struck through and "closed" written in pencil beneath them.



**Map 3** 1825 estate map showing plot of land to south of Michaelstow Hall. Probably derives from earlier manorial map (Map 1). St Michaels Church shown to west.



A parish boundary runs directly through the centre of Michaelstow Farm, and as a result the site appears on two separate tithe maps, the Dovercourt tithe map of 1840 (Map 4) and the Ramsey tithe map of 1845 (Map 5). Both of these tithe maps show a farm complex on the site, including some buildings that may survive today and are described as part of this investigation.

The earlier of the two, the Dovercourt tithe map, shows only the eastern half of the site. It depicts a range of buildings that seem to include the still standing cow house and stables. In the associated tithe apportionment, the site is listed as a "Premises" owned and occupied by Nathaniel Garland. The apportionment also lists the fields he owns and the ones rented to other individuals (Map 4).



**Map 4** 1840 Dovercourt tithe map (ERO D/CT 117). Buildings on farm highlighted red. Associated fields highlighted in blue. Property owned by Nathaniel Garland but rented to other individuals shown in yellow. The pink property is a workhouse, owned by the church, but occupied by Nathaniel Garland.

The information in the tithe apportionment differs from the details subsequently added to the 1825 estate book (see above). No mention is made of William Lorange Rogers or Robert Winter, although based on the details in the estate book they both would have still been alive and copyholders of this property in 1840.



**Map 5** 1845 Ramsey tithe map (ERO D/CT 283). Farm buildings highlighted in red, associated fields in blue.

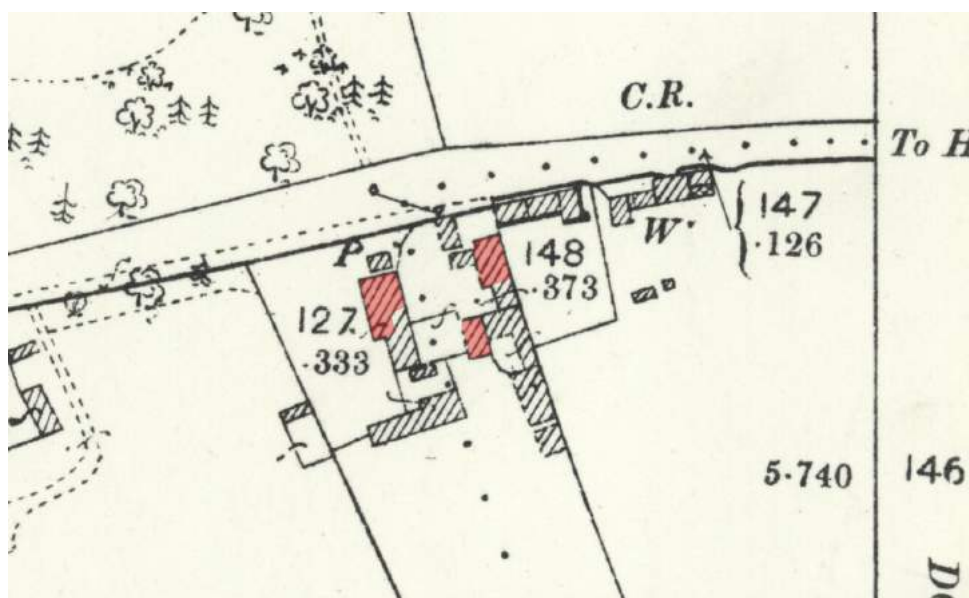
The Ramsey tithe map of 1845 shows the entire site (Map 5). The boundaries of the site have totally changed from the 18th-century maps, and for the first time a parallel farm complex is visible, with two ranges of buildings, one to the east and one to the west. Already it bears some resemblance to the modern layout of the site (Fig 2), with the threshing barn, the lean-tos against it, the cow house and the stables all being present. The tithe apportionment lists the farm and its associated land as being owned by Edgar Walter Garland, and occupied by a Charles Stevens.

The first edition OS map of 1876 depicts the site in much more detail, and shows that each range has had buildings added (Map 6). Not yet constructed is the cart-lodge to the south of the site or the modern extension to the threshing barn.



**Map 6** 1876 25-inch OS map. Surviving buildings detailed in this report highlighted in red.

The 1896 OS map shows the site to be much the same again (Map 7), although it has greater detail and shows more divisions between the buildings.

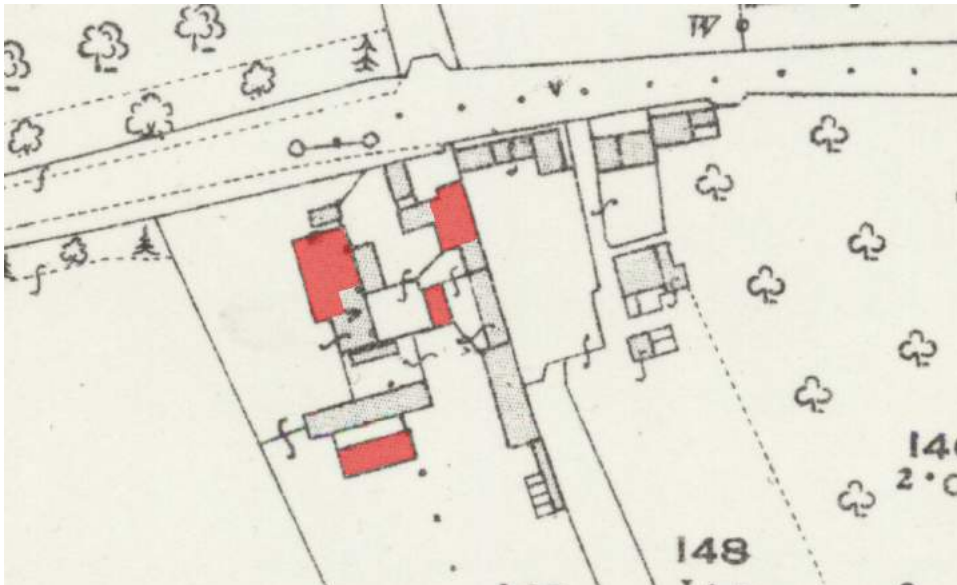


**Map 7** 1896 25-inch OS map. Surviving buildings detailed in this report highlighted in red.

In 1920 Michaelstow Farm, along with the entire Michaelstow Hall manorial estate, was put up for sale by Arthur Nathaniel Garland, the great-grand-nephew of the Nathaniel Garland who bought the manor in 1747. The plans of the estate associated with the sale are based on OS maps so provide no new information, but the sales catalogue itself (ERO SALE/A287) describes Michaelstow Farm as follows (with surviving buildings highlighted in bold):

“The Farm Premises are chiefly Wood-built and Thatched, and include: - Two **Two-bay Horse Lodges**, Cart Horse Stable for eight, **Two Lean-to Loose Boxes**, **Large Barn**, Three Loose Boxes, **Cow House for four**, Cow Shed for five, Five-bay open Cattle Shed, Six-bay Cart Lodge, Root House, Four-bay Open Shed to Yard, Calf House, Loose Box, Stone Staddle Granary.”

The sales catalogue goes on to say that the land is occupied by an Arthur Hewett who is paying £146 a year on a lease that expires on 29th September 1922.



**Map 8** 1922 25-inch OS map. Surviving buildings detailed in this report highlighted in red.

Two years after the sale of the property, the 1922 OS map shows that the still-standing cart-lodge to the south has been constructed (Map 8). This could represent a new owner bringing a measure of additional investment into the farm.

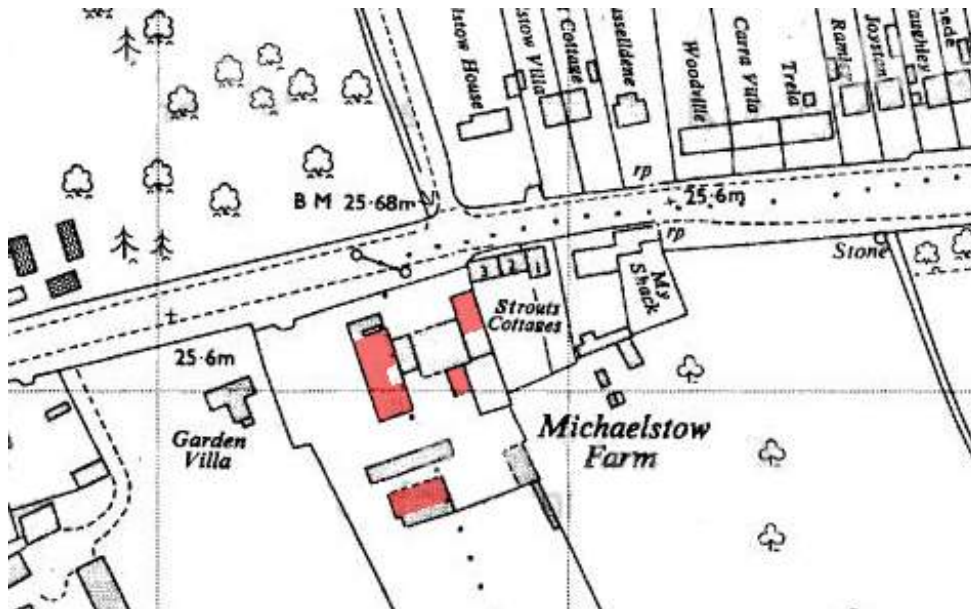
Michaelstow Hall manor was sold again in 1932, but the sales catalogue (SALE/B6186) does not include any mention of Michaelstow Farm, suggesting in the 1920 sale it was purchased separately and for the first time in its history was not associated with the manorial estate.

The 1962 OS map shows the modern extension to the south of the threshing barn for the first time (Map 9).



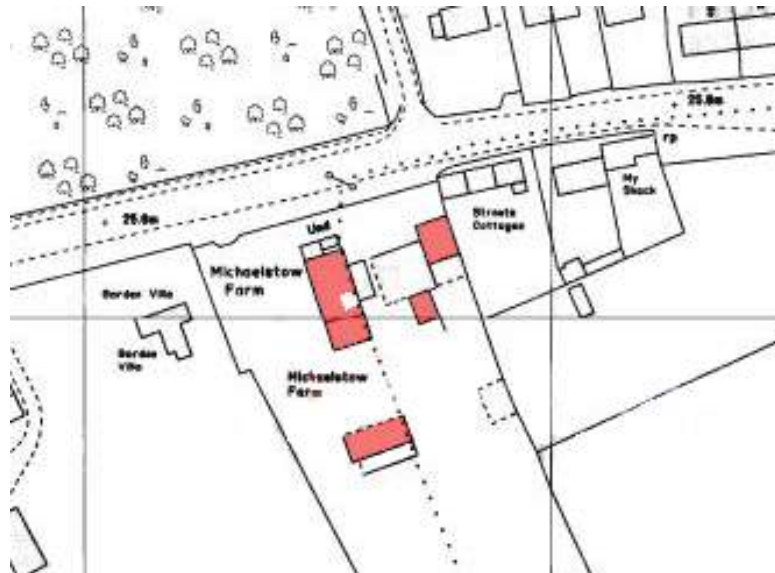
**Map 9** 1962 1:2500 OS map. Surviving buildings detailed in this report highlighted in red.

The 1970 map shows the beginning of a reduction in size of the farmstead, with several buildings vanishing and the eastern range in particular reducing in size (Map 10).



**Map 10** 1970 1:2500 OS map. Surviving buildings detailed in this report highlighted in red.

Finally, the 1975 OS map shows the site even more reduced, and much as it is today (Map 11). Notably, the size of the cow house to the east appears to change slightly between 1970 and 1975, which could perhaps indicate a phase of rebuilding (see pg 38).



**Map 11** 1975 1:1250 OS map. Surviving buildings detailed in this report highlighted in red.

The cartographic and documentary evidence proves that Michaelstow Farm was not constructed until the early 19th century, sometime between 1825 (the date of the manorial estate book) and 1840 (the date of the Dovercourt tithe map). Five of the seven buildings remaining on the site today appear to have been part of the complex from the outset, although there is the possibility that some of them have been rebuilt on the same footprint (see descriptive record below). The two other buildings, the cart-lodge and the modern extension, were constructed sometime between 1920-1922 and 1922-1962 respectively.

The seven structures standing on the site today are all that remain of a farm complex that, as shown on the map progressions above, expanded throughout the 19th century, before reducing in size significantly in the second half of the 20th.

## 6 Building recording descriptive record (Figs 2 - 5)

This record describes the seven buildings (summarised on pg 3) on the site (Fig 2).

### *Five-bay threshing barn with midstrey*

#### Exterior

The threshing barn is aligned north-west/south-east, with a midstrey projecting from the centre of its north-east elevation. It measures 14.8m x 8.5m in size and covers around 95.1 square metres.

It is a five-bay pegged together timber-framed building covered in traditional weatherboarding with a gabled roof, which until recently was covered in corrugated asbestos sheets. Like the other buildings on the site, the roofing material of the barn has been completely removed (Photograph 1).



**Photograph 1** North-east elevation of threshing barn and lean-tos (on the right). Photograph taken facing south-west.

The timber-frame of the barn is supported on a red-brick plinth laid in an irregular Flemish-bond and bonded with lime mortar, with brick dimensions of 215 x 110 x 65mm.

The north-east elevation of the threshing barn contains the centrally located midstrey. To the north of the midstrey the elevation of the barn is partially obscured by the two lean-tos, which are very overgrown and in a state of disrepair (see description below). The midstrey has a pair of modern full-height vertically-planked barn doors with large iron strap hinges (Photograph 2). Both of the doors have several repairs. The southern-most door has had a smaller door cut out of it, allowing access into the barn without having to open the full-height doors.



**Photograph 2** Detail of the barn doors on north-east elevation of threshing barn's midstrey. Photograph taken facing west.

The south-east elevation of the barn is partially obscured by the modern extension. There is a vertical-planked inserted door on the south-east elevation of the midstrey. The south-east gable end of the barn is in a poor state of repair, part of the weatherboarding has fallen and a section of the timber-frame has collapsed (Photograph 3). At the apex of the gable on this elevation is an inserted opening that has been blocked.



**Photograph 3** Detail of damaged timber-frame and missing weatherboarding on south-east elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-west.

The south-west elevation of the barn has another pair of modern full-height vertically-planked barn doors in its centre, directly opposite the ones on the midstrey (Photograph 4). Also present on this elevation is an inserted window opening in the upper register of the northernmost bay (Bay 5) that has been boarded over.



**Photograph 4** South-west elevation of threshing barn and modern extension (to right). Photograph taken facing south-east.

The north-west elevation of the barn is featureless, aside from a vertical-planked inserted door on the north-west elevation of the midstre, which is obscured by the lean-tos.

#### *Interior*

The barn consists of five bays which for ease of description have been labelled 1-5 (Fig 3).

The entire roof of the barn, above the tie-beams, is constructed of modern machine-cut timber and nailed together. It is supported on a modern wall-plate that sits atop the original wall-plate of the building. Each pair of rafters meet at the apex of the roof (there is no ridge-board) and are supported by collars (Photograph 5). Four large timber battens on each pitch of the roof would have supported the recently removed asbestos panels. The tie-beams separating the barn's bays are all original and hand-sawn, with some being quite sinuous (Photograph 5). They are supported at both ends by knee braces.



**Photograph 5** Interior of threshing barn, showing Bays 3, 4 and 5. Photograph taken from Bay 2 facing north-west.



The remaining timber-frame of the barn consists of a mix of hand-sawn and machine-cut timber, pegged together and supported with primary-bracing (Photograph 6). A substantial amount of the hand-sawn timber used in the barn, particularly the larger structural timbers, has evidence of re-use in the form of unused mortices (Photograph 7).



**Photograph 6** East wall of Bays 1 and 2, showing primary-bracing. Photograph taken facing north-east.



**Photograph 7** Detail of south-east corner-post of barn, showing empty mortices. Photograph taken facing south-east.

The floor of the barn is modern concrete, although the central bay (Bay 3) would have at one time had a threshing floor, probably made of brick. The brick plinth of the barn is almost entirely rendered over on the interior, with only small patches visible.

The southernmost bay of the barn, Bay 1, is the most dilapidated. The south-east wall of the barn has suffered significant damage to its timber-frame, including the snapping of the wall-plate and the collapse of several studs. This section of the frame is propped

up by modern timbers and a ladder, and a fence panel has been nailed onto it (Photograph 8).



**Photograph 8** Interior shot of threshing barn, showing Bays 1, 2 and 3. Photograph taken from Bay 4 facing south-east.

Also on the southern wall of the bay is a scarf joint in the sill-beam. Although it is partially obscured by bracing and studs, it appears to be a simple straight bridling with square abutments and two edge-pegs (Photograph 9).



**Photograph 9** Detail of scarf joint on southern sill-beam in Bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.

Surviving between some studs in the south-east corner of this bay are panels of wooden nogging (Photograph 10). These wooden panels are 220mm tall, nailed into place, and are only present in this part of the barn. Whether they were once more widespread in the structure is unclear. Also present in the south-east corner of this bay are some segments of interior weatherboarding (Photograph 6).



**Photograph 10** Detail of wooden nogging panels on east wall of Bay 1.  
Photograph taken facing north-east.

Bay 2 has two more scarf joints. One is on the sill-beam on the east wall, and consists of a straight bridling with square abutments and an over-lipped face. It has two diagonal edge pegs. The other joint is on the wall-plate on the west wall, and is a face-halved and bladed scarf with four edge-pegs (Photograph 11). The wall-plate on the west wall of this bay is extremely degraded on its upper face.



**Photograph 11** Detail of scarf joint on western wall-plate of Bay 2.  
Photograph taken facing west.

Bay 3 is the central bay of the barn, and would have originally contained the threshing floor. The barn doors on the west side of this bay have a threshold leap (Photograph 12). The tie-beam/wall-plate between Bay 3 and the midstrey has no braces supporting it, and appears to be scarfed onto the eastern wall-plates of Bays 2 and 4.

There are two scribed or chiselled marks on the timber in this bay. The western knee brace supporting the tie-beam between Bays 3 and 4 has the carpenter's mark "II" on

its southern face. Additionally the northern post supporting the hinge for the barn doors has a chiselled “LE” on its eastern face (Photograph 13).



**Photograph 12** Detail of barn doors in Bay 3. Photograph taken facing south-west.



**Photograph 13** Detail of chiselled marking “LE” on post north of door in Bay 3. Photograph taken facing south-west.

Bay 4 has a small section of brick plinth visible on its west wall, which is laid in very irregular bond. Also present in this bay on the west and east walls is several instances of interior weatherboarding (Photograph 14). The sill-beam contains two abutting timbers on this wall that are presumably jointed, but a panel of lead has been nailed across them so it is impossible to tell. A scarf joint on the sill-beam on the eastern wall is a straight bridling with square abutments and an over-lipped face. It has two diagonal edge pegs (Photograph 15). A scarf on the eastern wall-plate is largely obscured by the tie-beam and knee brace, but appears to be a face-halved bladed scarf.



**Photograph 14** East wall of Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north-east.



**Photograph 15** Detail of scarf joint on eastern sill-beam of Bay 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.

The west knee brace supporting the tie-beam between Bays 4 and 5 has the carpenter's mark "XI" on its southern face (Photograph 16). The principal-post supporting this knee brace has a series of three angular scribed lines that might be part of a Baltic shipping mark or could be some form of carpenter's mark (Photograph 17).

The eastern side of Bay 5 is largely covered by corrugated metal sheeting, obscuring most of the timber-frame (Photograph 14). The northern side of the bay has more metal sheeting, and also a significant amount of ivy, further obscuring the structural timbers (Photograph 5). The west side of the bay is partially covered by interior weatherboarding, but has an inserted modern window that has removed several of the studs. Also, in this bay, several studs have been completely replaced with modern posts rather than sawn timbers, both on the east and north sides.



**Photograph 16** Detail of carpenter's mark on western knee brace supporting tie-beam between Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north.



**Photograph 17** Detail of scribed marking on western principal-post between Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north.

The northern sill-beam has a scarf joint; a straight bridling with square abutments and an over-lipped face, with two diagonal edge pegs (Photograph 18). The western wall-plate in this bay has a face-halved and bladed scarf joint with four edge-pegs. A brace visible between the interior weatherboarding on the east wall has a “II” carpenter’s mark visible on its face.

The midstreys differ from the rest of the barn in that it has a far higher percentage of machine-cut timber in its fabric (Photograph 19). The primary structural timbers (the sill-beams and the corner/principal-posts) are all hand-sawn but the studs and bracing are all machine-cut. The implications this has on the interpretation of the barn is examined in the discussion (pg 39).



**Photograph 18** Detail of scarf joint on northern sill-beam of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.



**Photograph 19** South wall of the barn's midstrey. Photograph taken facing south-east.

Modern vertical-planked doors have been added to the north and south sides of the midstrey, resulting in the shortening of several studs (Photograph 19). The northern door leads into the adjacent lean-to, and has a "WR" chiselled above the door handle. Next to the southern door, "WD" and "UCM" have been chiselled onto the interior of the weatherboarding (Photograph 20).

The posts on either side of the barn door in the midstrey also have chiselled marks; the southern post has "RG" above "1839" (Photograph 21), whereas the northern post has "FA" above "1839" (Photograph 22). Also present on the southern post is another "WR". These marks suggest that the barn was raised in 1839, and that RG and FA are the initials of builders. This possibility is examined in the discussion (pg 39).



**Photograph 20** Detail of chiselled marking on interior of weatherboarding in south of midstrey. Photograph taken facing south-east.



**Photograph 21** Detail of chiselled markings on southern post adjacent to midstrey's barn door. Photograph taken facing north-east.





**Photograph 22** Detail of chiselled markings on northern post adjacent to midstrey's barn door. Photograph taken facing north-east.

### **Lean-tos**

The two lean-tos are aligned north-west/south-east, and project off of the north-east of the threshing barn (Fig 2). Combined they measure 5.2m x 3.2m in size and cover around 17 square metres.

At the time of the fieldwork for this report, the lean-tos were extremely overgrown and in a poor state of repair (Photograph 23). The southern lean-to was accessed from the midstrete of the threshing barn (Fig 3) but the northern lean-to was completely inaccessible. The description of the buildings detailed below is therefore the result of very limited observation.



**Photograph 23** North-east elevation of lean-tos, showing large amount of overgrowth. Photograph taken facing south-west.

Both of the lean-tos are timber-framed buildings covered in traditional weatherboarding. They have a single-pitch roof constructed of machine-cut timber that was until recently covered in corrugated asbestos sheets. Like all the other buildings on the site, the roofing material of the buildings has been removed (Photograph 23).



**Photograph 24** Interior of southern lean-to, showing damaged structure, knee brace and inserted concrete plinth. Photograph taken facing north-east.

No brick plinth was observed supporting the lean-tos' timber-frames, but presumably there must be one, obscured by the overgrowth. Like the adjacent threshing barn, the lean-tos have a concrete floor.

Based on the limited observation possible, the north-east elevation of the southern lean-to appears to have originally been open with no timber-frame and has been subsequently infilled with a concrete plinth and a modern machine-cut timber (Photograph 24). This is testified to both by the knee brace on its south-east corner-post, and the lack of mortices on the underside of the eastern wall-plate. That this elevation was originally open suggests that these structures are the "two lean-to loose boxes" described in the 1920 sales catalogue (pg 7).

### ***Extension to threshing barn***

#### ***Exterior***

This extension is an 'L'-shaped building aligned north-west/south-east, projecting off the south of the barn (Fig 3). It measures 8.7m x 7.9m in size and covers around 59.3 square metres.

It is a nailed together timber-framed building covered partially in vertical timber planks and partially in corrugated metal (Photograph 25). It has a gabled roof that until recently was covered in corrugated asbestos sheets. Like the other buildings on the site, the roofing material has been removed.



**Photograph 25** North-east elevation of modern extension. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The timber-frame of this building is supported on a concrete slab which also forms the floor. The latter has two drainage channels set in it (Photograph 26).



**Photograph 26** Floor of extension, showing drainage channels. Photograph taken facing west.

The north-east elevation of the extension has two vertical-planked doors leading into the building's two rooms (see below). Both of these doors are supported on large metal-strap hinges (Photograph 25).

The south-east elevation of the building is clad entirely in corrugated metal, and is featureless.

The south-west elevation has a central vertical-planked door.

The extension has no north-west elevation, being built directly adjacent to the barn.

#### Interior

Almost the entire extension, including the roof, is made from modern machine-cut timber nailed together. There are some beams in the walls which appear to be hand-sawn and re-used, but overwhelmingly these are in the minority. Each roof truss consists of each pair of rafters meeting at the apex of the roof (there is no ridge-board) and being supported by low collars (Photograph 27). Three large timber battens on each pitch of the roof would have supported the recently removed asbestos panels. The building has no tie-beams. One of the rafters has almost completely snapped, leading to the partial collapse of the roof.



**Photograph 27** Interior shot of extension, showing roof truss. Photograph taken facing north-west.

The extension is separated into two rooms; a smaller northern one and a larger southern one (Fig 3).

The larger of the two rooms has a trough on its north wall, which appears to be older than the rest of the structure and may have been moved from elsewhere in the farm complex (Photograph 27). Alternatively it may originate from the building that used to stand in this location (see historical background pgs 5-6).

The smaller of the two rooms has a concrete floor and its north wall is supported by a brick plinth laid in an irregular English-bond, bonded in lime mortar and with brick dimensions of 220 x 110 x 70mm. This wall might be the remains of another lean-to as seen in earlier mapping (pgs 5-6).

### **Three-bay cow house**

#### Exterior

The cow house is a rectangular building aligned north-west/south-east. It measures 9.3m x 6m in size and covers around 56 square metres.

It is a three-bay timber-framed building covered partially in traditional weatherboarding and partially with corrugated metal and modern wooden panels (Photograph 28). It has a gabled roof that until recently was covered in corrugated asbestos sheets. Like the other buildings on the site, the roofing material has been removed.



**Photograph 28** South-west elevation of cow house. Photograph taken facing east.

The timber-frame of the cow house is supported on a largely buried plinth of red-brick that appears to be only 1 or 2 courses deep. The building is supported primarily by a substantial red-brick wall to the east that forms the property boundary to the site (Photograph 29). This wall is laid in an irregular bond and bonded with lime mortar, with brick dimensions of 210-230 x 100-130 x 65-70mm.

The north-east elevation of the cow house entirely consists of this boundary wall with a single window opening to the south (Fig 4). The south-east elevation is very overgrown, but appears to be plain weatherboarding with no features (Photograph 28).

The south-west elevation of the building has a stable door and a smaller window opening to the south (Photograph 28). The north of this elevation is largely covered with modern wood-panels and corrugated metal and has very little in the way of timber-framing. This may have originally been another entrance into the building, possibly associated with a building projecting off the cow house and visible in earlier mapping (see Maps 5-9).

The north-west elevation of the cow house has a blocked opening in its gable, but no other features.

Interior

The cow house consists of three bays which for ease of description have been labelled 1-3 (Fig 4).



**Photograph 29** Interior of cow house, showing red brick wall forming eastern extent of building. Photograph taken facing east.

The entire roof of the building, and both gables, are constructed of modern machine-cut timber and nailed together (Photograph 28). Each pair of rafters meet at a ridge-board at the apex of the roof. Four collars further support the roof structure and they themselves support a clasped purlin on each roof pitch. Three large timber battens on each pitch of the roof would have supported the recently removed asbestos panels.

The two tie-beams separating the building's bays are both substantial hand-sawn timbers (Photograph 30). They are supported at the western end by knee braces. At the eastern end they are supported in openings made in the brick wall.



**Photograph 30** Bay 3 of cow house, showing tie-beam and first-floor. Photograph taken facing south-east.

The remaining timber-frame of the cow house is constructed of hand-sawn timber, pegged together and supported with primary-bracing (Photograph 31). Some modern machine-cut timbers have been added to the building at a later date to provide additional support, but these are very much in the minority.



**Photograph 31** Interior shot of cow house showing north-east gable end and northern tie-beam. Photograph taken facing north.

Almost all of the timber used in the building has evidence of re-use, either in the form of unused mortices or carpenter's marks that are clearly not in situ. In particular the northern wall of the building has a tremendous amount of carpenter's marks; nearly every stud and brace has an example, although not all of them fully survive (Photograph 32). As well as this, the northern knee brace in the building has an "X" on its southern face (Photograph 33).



**Photograph 32** Detail of carpenter's marks on re-used studs in northern wall of cow house. Photograph taken facing north-west.





**Photograph 33** Knee brace supporting western end of northern tie-beam in cow house. Carpenter's mark "X" visible. Photograph taken facing west.

A brick floor partially survives in the cow house, occupying the entirety of Bay 3 and the eastern ends of Bays 1 and 2 (Fig 4). The brick floor consists of unmortared yellow bricks laid on edge with the brick dimensions of 230 x 100 x 65. Curiously the bricks have frogs, suggesting they were not manufactured specifically to be floor bricks. The surviving floor has a drainage channel in the centre (Photograph 34).



**Photograph 34** Detail of surviving brick floor in Bay 3. Drainage channel visible. Photograph taken facing south-east.

The southern wall of the building is largely obscured by modern wooden panels that have been nailed to it, but, from what little is visible, it appears to be hand-sawn, like the rest of the timber-frame (Photograph 30).

Against the eastern, brick, wall of the building is a wooden trough with an associated wooden hay-rack above (Photograph 29). Part of this wooden trough is made of re-used timber.

A single, extremely degraded scarf joint is visible in the building: a face-halved bladed scarf on the western wall-plate in Bay 2 (Photograph 35).



**Photograph 35** Detail of degraded joint on western wall-plate in Bay 2. Photograph taken from below.

A first-floor survives in the building above Bay 3 (Photograph 30). It consists of floorboards laid on a series of sinuous joists that are little more than trees with their bark and branches removed. These joists are laying on the tie-beam between Bays 1 and 2 (Photograph 36) and on a series of timbers bolted onto the timber-frame on the south wall of the building. A binding-beam, jointed onto a stud on the western wall and abutting against the brick wall to the east, provides further support to the joists. This binding-beam has a series of empty mortices on its underside, suggesting it was at one point a wall-plate (Photograph 37). In addition, there is a secondary binding-beam supporting the primary binding-beam, held in place by small braces bolted to the tie-beam and the southern principal-post (Photograph 38).



**Photograph 36** Shot showing first-floor joists laying on southern tie-beam. Photograph taken facing north-east.



**Photograph 37** Underside of first-floor, showing binding-beam with empty mortices and joists being supported on timber nailed to studs on southern wall. Photograph taken facing east.



**Photograph 38** Underside of first-floor, showing secondary binding-beam. Photograph taken facing east.

The southern principal-post on the west wall of the building has a series of chiselled markings on its eastern face (Photograph 39). They are considerably more faded than the examples in the threshing barn (pg 20), although they appear to share the same date and one set of initials. The markings include “FA”, “J” and “1839”.



**Photograph 39** Detail of markings on western principal-post supporting southern tie-beam. Photograph taken facing south-west.

## **Two-bay stable**

### Exterior

The stable is a rectangular building aligned north-west/south-east. It measures 6.9m x 4.6m in size and covers around 31.5 square metres.

It is a two-bay timber-framed building covered partially in vertical timber planks and partially with corrugated metal (Photograph 40). It has a gabled roof that until recently was covered in corrugated asbestos sheets. Like the other buildings on the site, these sheets have been removed.



**Photograph 40** South-east elevation of stables. Photograph taken facing north-east.

The timber-frame of the stable appears to be supported on a largely buried brick plinth, perhaps only 1 or 2 courses deep.

The north-east elevation of the building is obscured by overgrowth (Photograph 41). Based on interior observation, however, it does contain a single window opening to the south.



**Photograph 41** South-east and north-east elevations of stables. Photograph taken facing north-west.

The south-east elevation of the building is entirely clad in corrugated metal sheeting.

The southern and northern bays of the building each are accessed by a stable door on the south-west elevation (Photograph 40).

The north-west elevation is clad in vertical timber planks and is otherwise featureless.

#### Interior

The stable consists of two bays, one to the north and one to the south (Fig 4).

The entire roof of the building is made of modern machine-cut timber which has been nailed together (Photograph 40). The three pairs of rafters meet at the apex of the roof and are further strengthened by collars. The roof is also strengthened by several wind-braces. The tie-beam in the centre of the building is, like the rest of the roof, a machine-cut timber.

The remaining timber-frame of the stable is constructed of a mix of machine-cut timber and hand-sawn timber, nailed together (Photograph 42).



**Photograph 42** Interior of stable, showing use of hand-sawn and machine-cut timbers. Photograph taken facing south-west.

The two bays of the building are separated by a modern division largely constructed of wooden-panels.

The interior floor of the building, where surviving, is partially brick, and partially concrete slabs. Also surviving is a segment of brick floor outside each stable door (Photograph 43).

The southern bay has a timber trough and remains of a hay rack on its eastern wall, very similar to the ones observed in the barn extension and the cow house (Photograph 44).



**Photograph 43** Detail of brick floor at entrance to stable. Photograph taken facing north-east.



**Photograph 44** Trough in stable against east wall of southern bay. Photograph taken facing north-east.

### **Five-bay cart lodge**

#### Exterior

The cart lodge is a large rectangular building to the south of the site, aligned north-east/south-west. It measures 13.7m x 5.9m in size and covers around 80 square metres.

It is a five-bay timber-framed building covered in vertical timber planks (Photograph 45). It has a gabled roof that until recently was covered in corrugated asbestos sheets. Like the other buildings on the site, the roofing material has been removed.



**Photograph 45** North elevation of cart-lodge, with multiple entrances.  
Photograph taken facing south.

The timber-frame of the cart lodge appears to be resting entirely on the earth although it may have a buried plinth.

The north-east elevation of the cart lodge is featureless as are the south-east and north-west elevations. The north-west elevation is open with no timber-frame aside from the principal-posts, as per the building's function (Photograph 45).

#### Interior

The building consists of five bays (Fig 5).

The entire building is nailed together and constructed of modern machine-cut and hand-sawn timbers (Photograph 46). Several posts are little more than trees with the bark removed and are not particularly worked or hewn.

Each pair of rafters meet at the apex of the roof and are further strengthened by wind-bracing. The three tie-beams each have a king-post rising to the ridge.

The building has a dirt floor.





**Photograph 46** Interior of cart-lodge. Photograph taken facing north-west.

## 7 Discussion

The cartographic and documentary evidence proves that prior to Michaelstow farm's construction the site was occupied by a large garden and cottage associated with the manor at Michaelstow Hall. The site boundaries were altered and the farm was constructed sometime between 1825 and 1840 (pg 9). The date of "1839" inscribed on principal-posts in the threshing barn and cow house falls neatly into this date range, and as a result seems likely to be the construction date of these buildings. Given the farm's appearance on an 1840 tithe map (pg 5), the lean-to, the cow house and the stable all were probably constructed at the same time (although some of these structures may have been the subject of rebuilding, as detailed below).

The mid 19th century is known as the 'High Farming' years in British agriculture, a time of increased output and prosperity brought about by affordable imported artificial fertilisers, manure and feeds such as oilcake. These, combined with an Act of Parliament in 1849 that provided loans for the construction of new farm buildings, led to a boom in agriculture in Britain. Although the construction of this farm is slightly earlier than the peak of the 'High Farming' years, it could be expected that a large manorial estate such as Michaelstow would be able to draw on additional resources that would put it at the forefront of this boom period in British agriculture.

The construction of the later additions to the site, the cart lodge and the modern extension to the barn, can be dated to the first half of the 20th century using mapping evidence (pg 9).

The entire farm complex was re-roofed sometime in the 20th century, with asbestos panels replacing the original thatch (as per the 1920s sales catalogue - pg 7). This re-roofing also seems to have necessitated the replacement of the roof timbers in each building.

The stable has a high percentage of modern machine-cut timbers in its frame (pg 34) alongside several hand-sawn ones and so may have been partially or completely rebuilt sometime in the 20th century. If it has been rebuilt then it seems to have remained on the same alignment and location as seen on historic mapping.

The first-floor in the cow house appears to be a modern insertion. The joists and supporting beams are all very rudimentary pieces of timber with almost no evidence of working, quite similar to many of the posts in the cart lodge to the south (pg 36). These rudimentary timbers are usually the result of modern additions to structures, presumably intended either to crudely mimic the hand-sawn timbers of a historic building, or simply to save on costs by using whatever trees and wood was available in the vicinity at the time. This practice is not uncommon, particularly on farms: CAT has previously reported on other Essex farm complexes with similar timbers, including at Margaret Roding (CAT Report 1060) and Wakes Colne (CAT Report 1131).

As far as the original fabric of the cow house, the large number of re-used timbers means there is little doubt it must have been constructed from the remains of an earlier building or buildings. The timbers could have originated from an earlier phase of the cow house, meaning that the currently standing structure is a rebuilding of the original. The apparent slight change in the footprint of the cow house between the 1970 and 1975 OS maps (pg 8) could be a product of this rebuilding, although this is far from conclusive. Alternatively, the timber could have been sourced from elsewhere when the farm was constructed in 1839 and the cow house was never rebuilt.

The threshing barn, like the cow house, has a large amount of re-used timber in its frame (pg 13). This is most obvious on the principal-posts, with their multiple empty mortices, but it seems likely that a large proportion of the barns frame, even the timbers without clear signs of re-use, originates from an earlier structure. The joints observed in the sill-beam of the barn (edge-halved scarfs with square abutments and over-lipped faces) are variants of scarf-joints that were common on sill-beams in the

medieval period (Hewett 1980, 270). This seems quite incongruous within a barn constructed in the first half of the 19th century and suggests that the sill-beams are re-used from an earlier medieval building. If the sill-beams have indeed been re-used wholesale, scarf-joints and all, then this suggests that a proportion of the hand-sawn studs could also originate from this earlier structure. If this is the case, the machine-cut segments of the frame must represent parts of the new barn built when there was a shortage of reused timber. Notably, all the studs and bracing in the midstrey are made of machine-cut timber, perhaps suggesting that the earlier structure was smaller in size than the new threshing barn or perhaps was of a similar footprint but without a midstrey.

The barn would have originally been constructed for the processing and storage of a grain crop. A grain crop, whether wheat, oats, barley or rye, is called corn and requires processing to be of use. The grains need to be separated from the stalks and chaff needs to be removed from the grains. This process, called threshing, was traditionally carried out by hand-flail. The two large sets of barn doors opposite each other in the midstrey and Bay 3, when open, would have allowed a cross draught to winnow the chaff from the grain on the threshing floor. The threshold leap at the base of these doors would have prevented farm animals walking into the barn during this process. The grain would be taken out of the barn to be stored in a granary while the by-product of the threshing, the straw, would be piled high on either side of the threshing floor in Bays 1, 2, 4 and 5. It would be stored in the barn until such time as it was needed for fodder or bedding.

In later years it seems that the barn may have been used for the housing of livestock. The interior weatherboarding (partially surviving in Bays 4 and 5) may have been added to the barn in an attempt to protect the structural timbers from gnawing animals.

The initials on the principal-posts on either side of the midstrey's barn door (FA and RG) presumably refer to the builders or farmers who erected the building and by extension built the farm. Unhelpfully, neither of these initials match any of the names encountered during research for the historical background.

Concerning the initials RG, a farmer by the name of Robert Giles lived in Ramsey in 1840 (recorded in the baptism records as having a son that year; taken from *Ramsey St. Michael baptisms 1802-1860*) and voted in the 1847 general election (*Essex Standard 20 August 1847*) but nothing ties him conclusively to Michaelstow Farm.

Alternatively the G in RG may be for Garland, the family that were lords of the manor in Ramsey for 170 years (pg 3). Although RG is not any of the manorial lords of the Garland family, there is the possibility it may be one of their children or relatives. If this is the case, however, their initials being chiselled onto the barn's frame may be purely symbolic: it seems unlikely they would have been involved directly with the physical task of raising the barn.

Further research provided no clue as to the identity of FA.

## 8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank ABC City Ltd for commissioning and funding the historic building recording.  
The recording was carried out by Mark Baister.  
Figures are by Mark Baister.  
The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor for Essex County Council.

## 9 References

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

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### Websites visited include:

[www.harwichandovercourt.co.uk/ramsey/](http://www.harwichandovercourt.co.uk/ramsey/)  
[www.historyhouse.co.uk/placeR/essexr05.html](http://www.historyhouse.co.uk/placeR/essexr05.html)

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

batten	a thin, rectangular piece of timber nailed to the outer face of rafters in roof construction, to support the roofing material (tiles, slate, etc)
binding-beam	a large timber running from post-to-post and providing intermediate support to floor-joists
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
collar	a horizontal timber in a roof spanning between a pair of inclined timbers (such as rafters)
copyhold	tenure of land based on manorial records, a traditional form of land ownership in England from the middle-ages, not abolished until 1925
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
English-bond	a brickwork bond created from alternate courses of headers and stretchers
Flemish-bond	a brickwork bond created from alternating headers and stretchers within a single course
HE	Historic Environment
header	a brick laid at right-angles to the face of the wall, i.e widthways
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
pitching-door	door in upper register of barns to allow the bailing of hay into carts on the outside
purlin	a longitudinal timber giving support to the common rafters of a roof and normally set at right angles to the slope of the rafters
rafter	an inclined timber following the slope of the roof
ridge-board	a plank-like timber running below the apex of the roof and receiving the ends of the rafters
stretcher	a brick laid parallel to the face of the wall, i.e. lengthways
stretcher-bond	a brickwork bond where each course consists of only stretchers – indicating a cavity wall

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession number COLEM: 2018.103.

## 12 Contents of archive

### Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1369)

Original site record (plans, elevations and notes)

Site digital photos and log, attendance register, risk assessment

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checked by: Philip Crummy  
date: 28/01/2019

**Appendix 1:**  
**Full digital photographic record**  
**(images on accompanying CD)**

COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	North and west elevation of cart lodge. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South elevation of cart lodge. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	East elevation of cart lodge. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Site shot showing farm complex. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cart lodge. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cart lodge. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cart lodge. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-west elevation of stable. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-east and north-east elevation of stable. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Stable doors on south-west elevation of stable. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	North-east elevation of stable. Photograph taken facing south.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Open stable doors on south-west elevation of stable. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable showing framing. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable, showing roof truss. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Open stable door into south bay of stable. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Detail of brick floor at entrance to stable. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of south bay of stable. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable, showing trough. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable, showing bay division. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable showing partially surviving brick floor. Photograph taken facing south.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable showing framing. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable showing truss and bay division. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of north bay of stable showing clear plastic window. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-west elevation of cow house. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-west elevation of cow house. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Window opening on south-west elevation of cow house. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Stable door on south-west elevation of cow house. Photograph taken facing north-east.





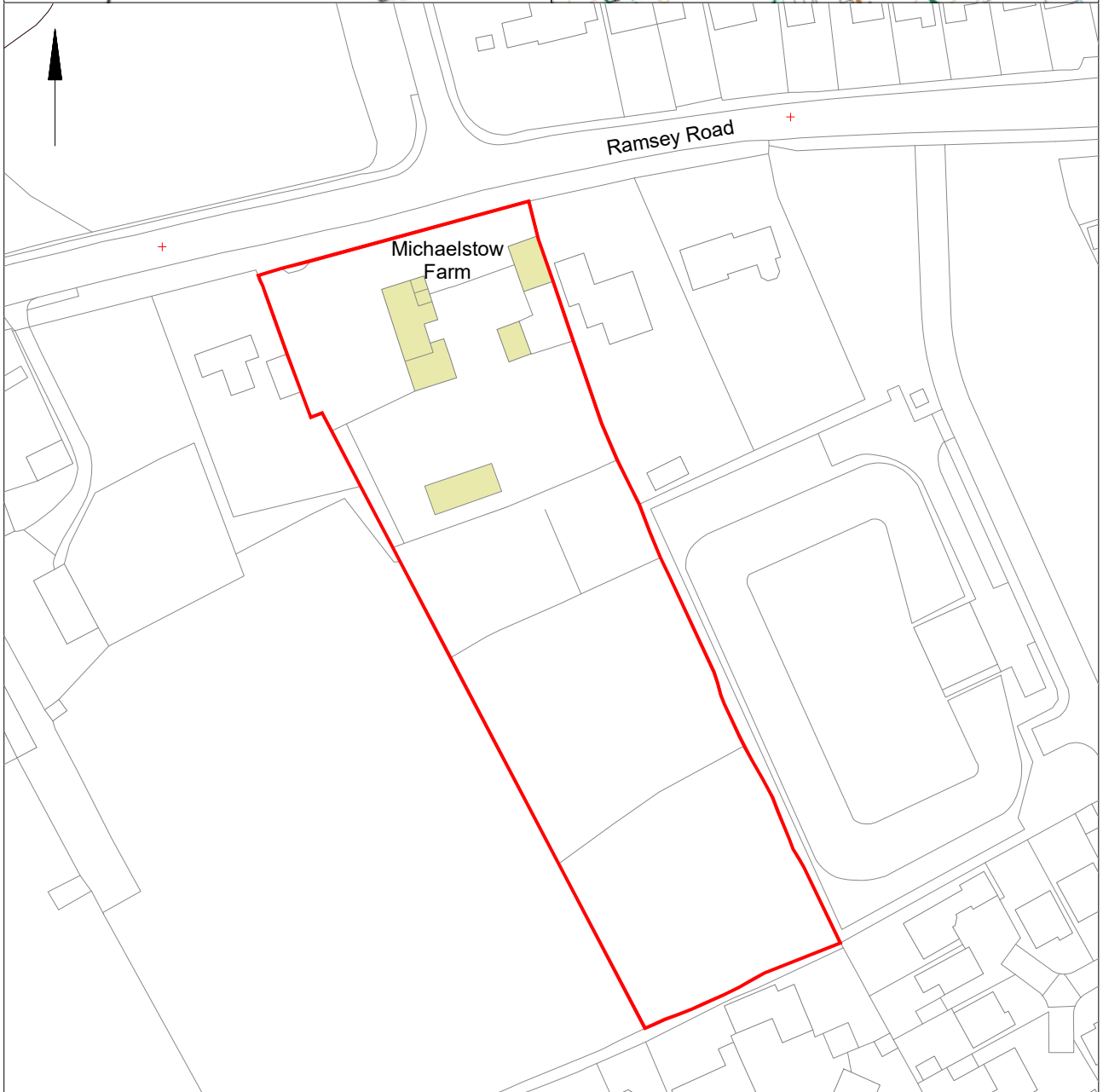
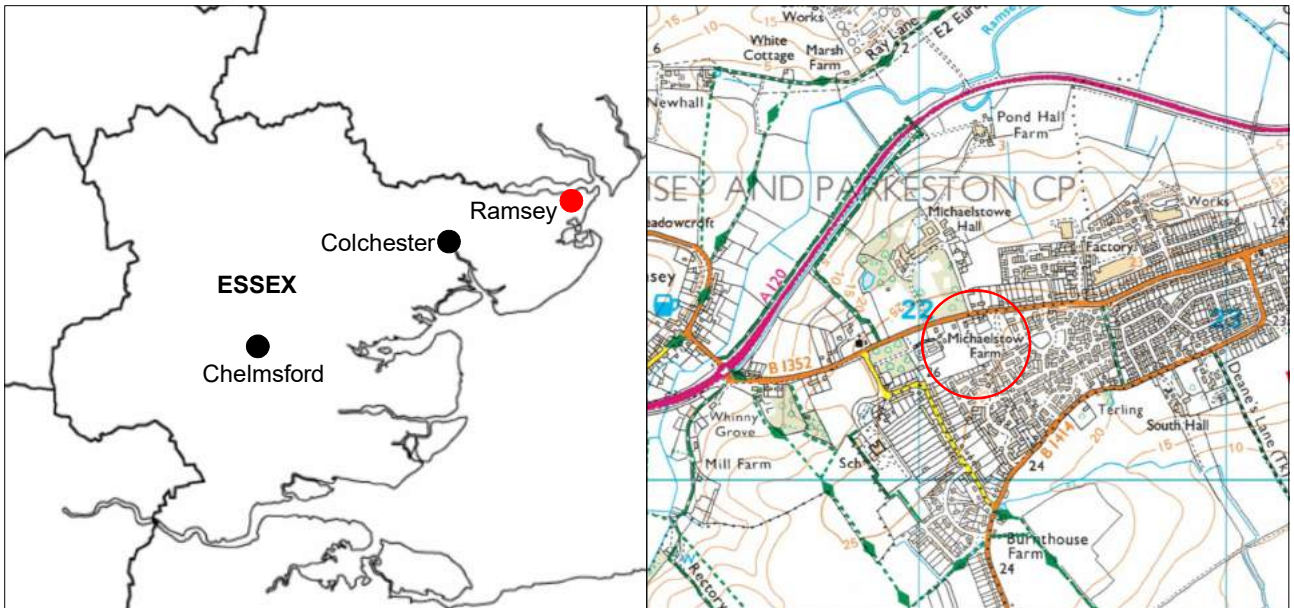
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing west wall in southern bay. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing detail of chiselled initials and date on southern principal-post on west wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing underside of first-floor in southern bay. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing underside of first-floor in southern bay, with detail of re-used binding-beam. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing underside of first-floor in southern bay, showing joists and secondary binding-beam supported on southern tie-beam. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing underside of first-floor in southern bay, showing detail of secondary binding-beam and joists being supported on south wall. Photograph taken facing south.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing underside of first-floor in southern bay. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing detail of pegging of southern tie-beam and knee brace to west wall. Photograph taken facing south.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing brick wall and trough to east. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing first-floor in southern bay. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing "IV" carpenter's mark on southern principal-post on west wall. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing west wall-plate and support for first-floor in central bay (since removed). Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing underside degraded scarf joint on western wall-plate. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of cow house, showing northern knee brace. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	North-east elevation of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-east elevation of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-west elevation of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-west elevation of barn and extension. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Detail of door on north-east elevation of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Detail of door on north-east elevation of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Smaller room in extension to barn. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn, showing south-east gable end. Photograph taken facing south.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn, showing roof truss. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn, showing snapped rafter. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn, showing concrete floor with drainage channels. Photograph taken facing west.

COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn, showing trough at north end. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of extension to barn, showing collapse of south elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	North-east elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	North-east elevation of lean-tos. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of southern lean-to. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing unused mortice in northern wall-plate of midstrey in location of inserted door into lean-tos. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing "WR" carved on inserted door in north wall of midstrey. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing blocked ?cat flap in inserted door in north wall of midstrey. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-west elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	South-west and north-west elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Barn doors on south-west elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Blocked window on south-west elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Threshold leap in midstrey barn door on north-east elevation of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing west wall of Bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing barn doors in Bay 3. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing west wall of Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing north wall of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing east wall of Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing midstrey. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing east wall of Bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing tie-beam and knee braces between Bays 3 and 4 and 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of carpenter's mark on western knee brace supporting tie-beam between Bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of carpenter's mark on western knee brace supporting tie-beam between Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing tie-beam and knee braces between Bays 2 and 3 and 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing south-east.

COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_109.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing sill-beam and scarf joint on east wall of Bay 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_110.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of sill-beam and scarf joint on east wall of Bay 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_111.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing carpenter's mark on brace on east wall of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_112.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of carpenter's mark on brace on east wall of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_113.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on east wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_114.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on east wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_115.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing scarf joint behind principal-post on east wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_116.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing sill-beam and scarf joint in north wall of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_117.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of sill-beam and scarf joint in north wall of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing north-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_118.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on west wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_119.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of marking on south-face of principal-post on west wall between Bays 4 and 5. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_120.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing covered scarf joint on west wall in Bay 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_121.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on west wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_122.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of initials on post on west wall supporting to north of barn doors in Bay 3. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_123.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on west wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_124.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing degraded western wall-plate of Bay 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_125.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing scarf joint on western wall-palte of Bay 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_126.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on west wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_127.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing snapped wall-plate on south-east gable end. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_128.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing scarf joint on western wall-plate of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo graph_129.JPG	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of scarf joint on western wall-plate of Bay 5. Photograph taken facing south-west.

COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing empty mortices on underside of western wall-plate in Bay 5, in location of inserted window. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing scarf joint on southern sill-beam of Bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of scarf joint on southern sill-beam of Bay 1. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing south-east corner-post of barn. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing empty mortices on south-east corner-post of barn. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing scarf joint on eastern sill-beam in Bay 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on east wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on east wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 2 and 3. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing principal-post on east wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing possible joint behind principal-post on east wall supporting tie-beam between Bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing empty mortice and possible Baltic shipping marks on west face of principal-post on east wall between Bays 3 and 4. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing south wall of midstrey. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing markings on interior of weatherboarding on south wall of midstrey. Photograph taken facing south-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing midstrey. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing initials and date on post to south of midstrey barn doors. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of initials and date on post to south of midstrey barn doors. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of "WR" on post to south of midstrey barn doors. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing north wall of midstrey. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of east wall of Bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing wooden nogging in south-east corner of barn. Photograph taken facing east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of wooden nogging in south-east corner of barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of wooden nogging in south-east corner of barn. Photograph taken facing north-east.

COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of east wall of Bays 1 and 2. Photograph taken facing north.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing detail of initials and date on post to north of midstrey barn doors. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing sill-beam and scarf joint on eastern sill-beam of Bay 2. Photograph taken facing north-east.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing sill-beam and scarf joint on western sill-beam of Bay 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of threshing barn, showing scarf joint on western wall-plate of Bay 2. Photograph taken facing south-west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Site shot of farm complex. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Threshing barn and extension. Photograph taken facing west.
COLEM2018.103_RPMF18_Photo	Interior of small room in extension to barn, showing brick plinth to north. Photograph taken facing north.



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Fig 1 Site location showing buildings recorded during this investigation.

0 50 m



Fig 2 Detailed plan of buildings.

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1.



chiselled markings on interior of post

2.



?baltic shipping mark on southern face of principal-post

3.



markings on interior of weatherboarding

4.



chiselled markings on interior of post

5.



chiselled markings on interior of post

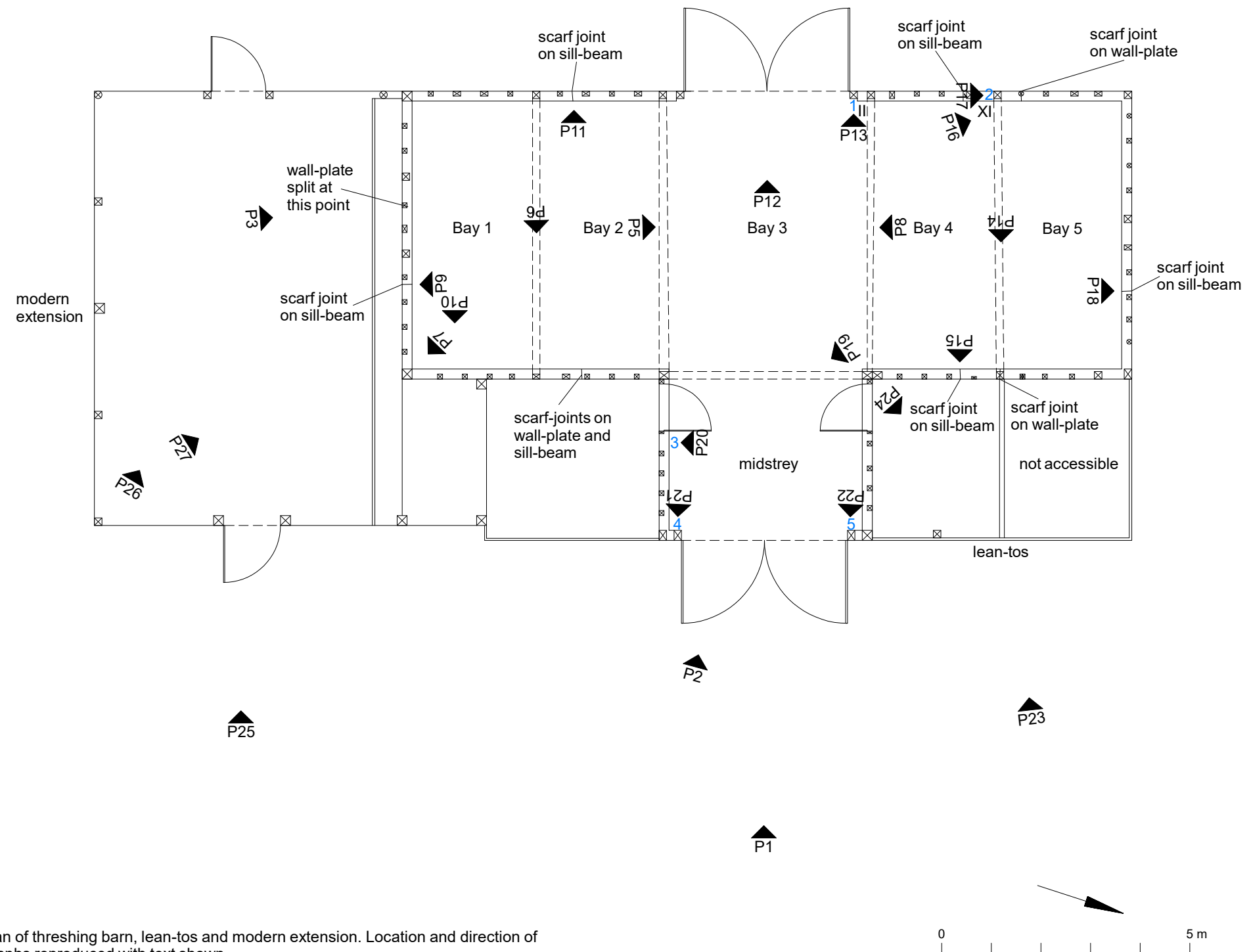
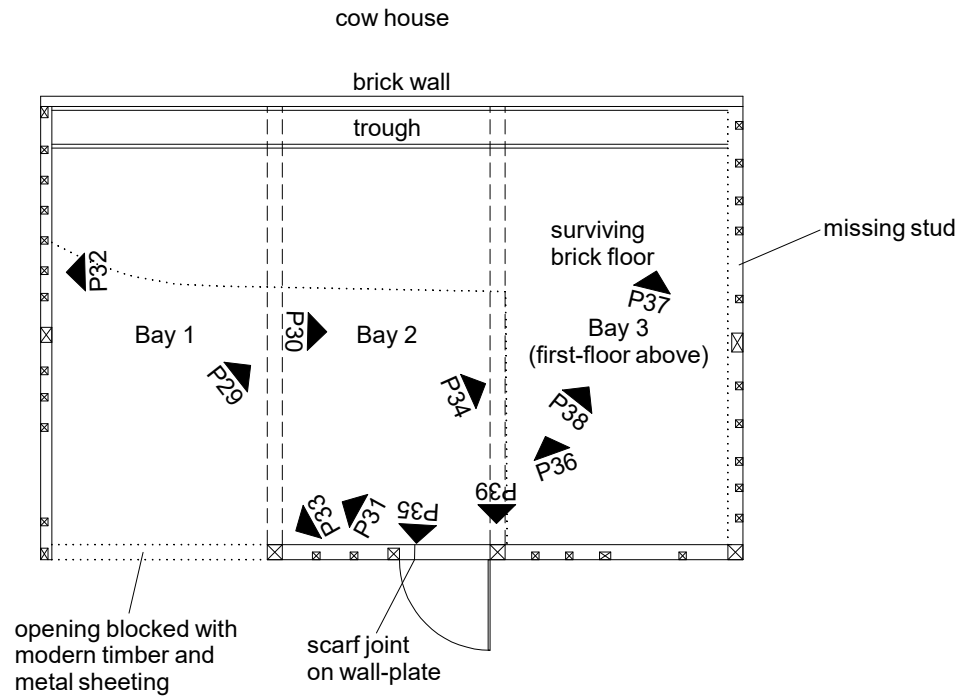


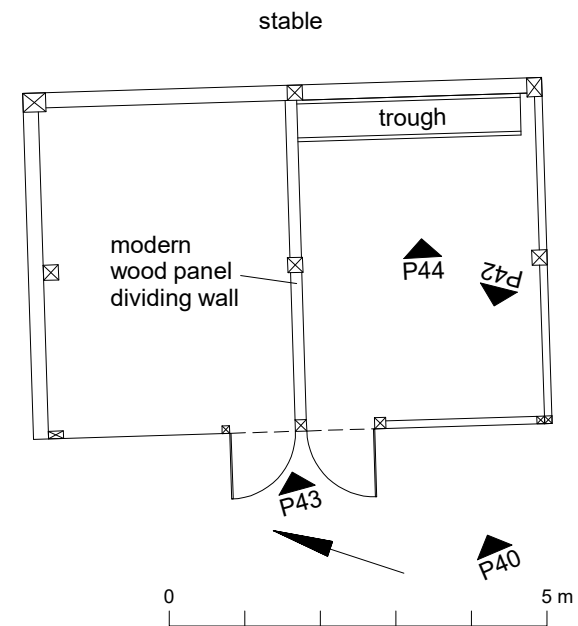
Fig 3 Floor plan of threshing barn, lean-tos and modern extension. Location and direction of photographs reproduced with text shown.



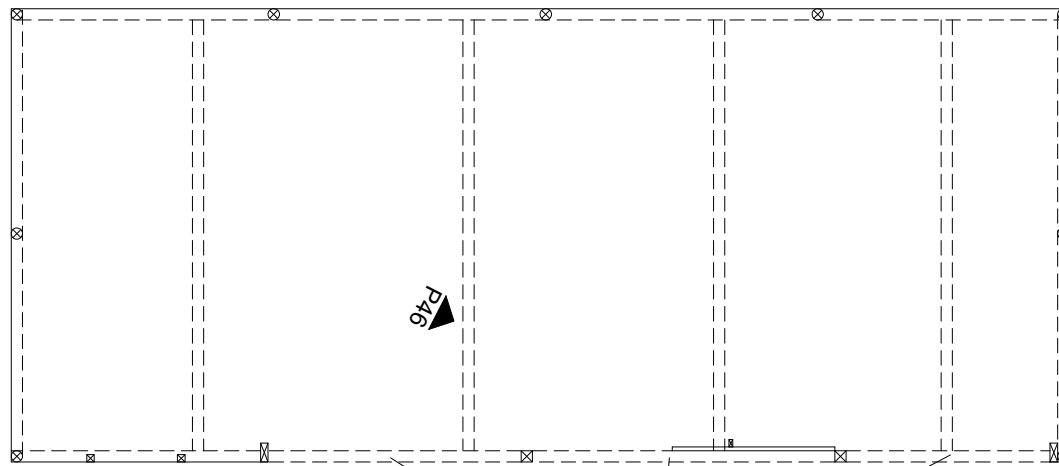


P28

Fig 4 Floor plan of cow house and stable. Location and direction of photographs reproduced with text shown.



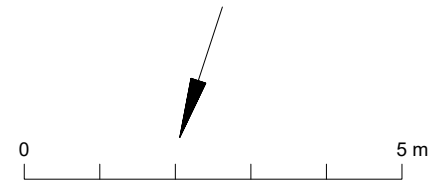
P41



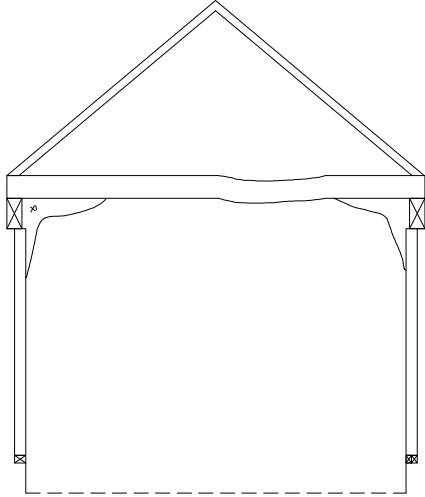
openings in frame

P45

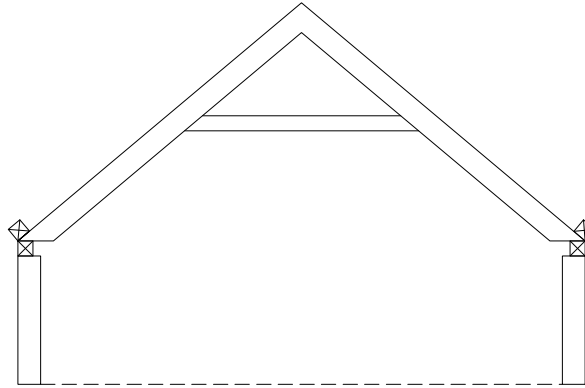
Fig 5 Floor plan of cart-lodge. Location and direction of photographs reproduced with text shown.



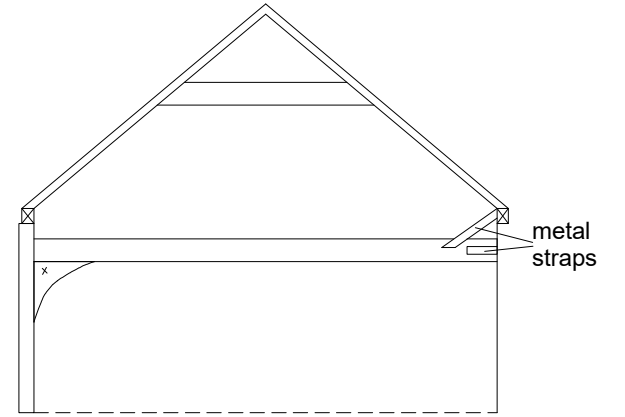
Threshing barn - northernmost truss



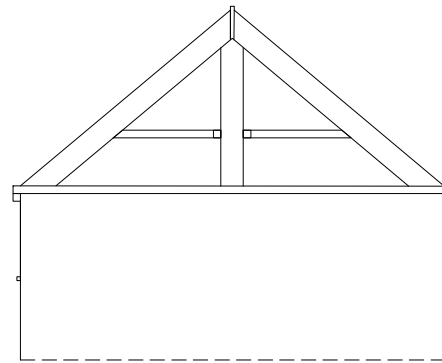
Modern extension - central truss



Cow house - northernmost truss



Cart lodge - westernmost truss



Stable truss

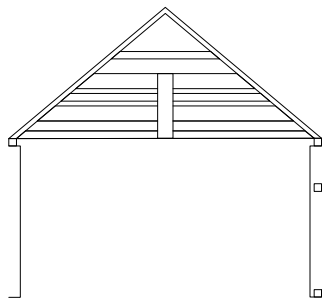


Fig 6 Trusses of buildings.



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-331328**

### Project details

Project name	Historic building recording at Michaelstowe Farm, Ramsey Road, Ramsey, Essex, CO12 5EW
Short description of the project	A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust at Michaelstow Farm, Ramsey Road, Ramsey, Essex in November 2018. Cartographic evidence shows that Michaelstow Farm was constructed sometime between 1825 and 1840, as a substantial two-range farm complex, comprising multiple buildings and associated with the nearby manor of Michaelstow. Chiselled inscriptions on principal-posts in the threshing barn and cow house put the farm's construction date as 1839. A total of seven buildings survive on the site today, five of which are original to the complex (a threshing barn, two lean-tos, a stable and a cow house - although some of these buildings may have been rebuilt on the same footprint). The remaining two buildings (an extension to the barn and a cart-lodge) date from the first half of the 20th century. The threshing barn and the cow house are constructed using a significant amount of re-used timber, which must have originated from an earlier (possibly medieval) building, either on the site or from elsewhere in the manorial estate.
Project dates	Start: 28-11-2018 End: 28-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/10e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	17/00872/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM2018.103 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	THRESHING BARN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SILL BEAM Medieval
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING RAMSEY AND PARKESTON Michaelstowe Farm, Ramsey Road
Postcode	CO12 5EW

Study area 0 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TM 22176 30451 51.927593222047 1.231854431026 51 55 39 N 001 13 54 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Project brief originator HEM Team Officer, ECC  
 Project design originator Emma Holloway  
 Project director/manager Chris Lister  
 Project supervisor Mark Baister

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Digital Archive ID COLEM 2018.103  
 Digital Contents "Survey"  
 Digital Media available "Survey","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Archive ID COLEM 2018.103  
 Paper Contents "Survey","other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unspecified Archive"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Historic building recording at Michaelstow Farm, Ramsey Road, Ramsey, Essex, CO12 5EW November 2018  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Baister, M.  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1369  
 Date 2019  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
 Description A4 bound report with clear plastic front and opaque black back.  
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/summaries/CAT-1369.html>  
 Entered by Mark Baister (mb@catuk.org)  
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