



History // Geography

MOLA

Historic Building, Tithe Barn

Educational Resource // Activity

From, Land of the Fanns Online Resource

Key Stage

Key Stage 2.

About this historic building

The Upminster Tithe Barn holds 14,500 domestic and agricultural artefacts dating from Roman times to the present day.

The thatched building the museum is located in dates from the 15th century.

KEY FACTS

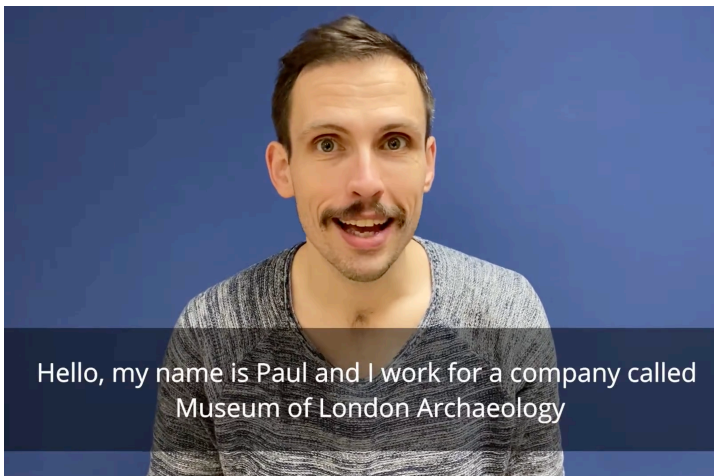
The Barn dates from 1450 and was part of an estate that supported the Abbey of Waltham. The Abbott's hunting lodge next door was later converted into a private house and is now home to Upminster Golf Club.

Despite being known as the 'Tithe Barn', there is no evidence to suggest it was ever used for the collection of tithes .

The Tithe Barn stands 18 metres wide by 12 metres high and 45 metres long.

It wasn't until 1976 that the Barn was refurbished and then opened as an agricultural museum.

There is an accompanying video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c4jF-divqo>.



Hello, my name is Paul and I work for a company called
Museum of London Archaeology

Left: Screenshot of the LotF / MOLA
video available on YouTube

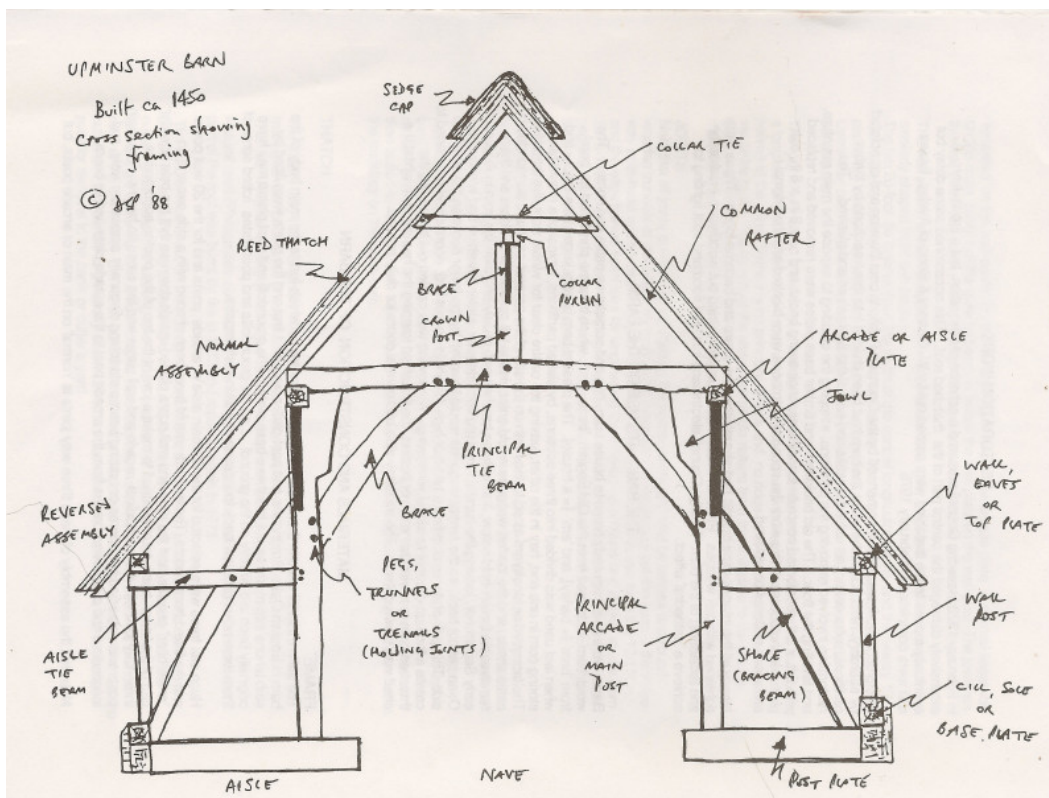
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Historical background:

What is a tithe barn and what does tithe mean?

Tithe comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning tenth. People would give a tenth of their wealth to the person whose land they lived on (this could be a tenth of their money or a tenth of the food their family had grown on the land they rented). Often the landowner was the Church.

In medieval times, these tithes would have been collected and stored for the landowner in a special barn: a tithe barn. Tithes to the landowner continued to be stored in special barns in England until 1938!



Above: A sketch cross-section of the tithe barn

© Friends of Upminster Tithe Barn

Learn more about archaeology and the tithe barn in this video clip with MOLA archaeologist Paul McGarrity here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7c4jF-divqo>



Left: Screenshot of the LotF / MOLA video available on YouTube
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Skip to 10:00 for instructions on how to make a tithe barn money box.

The Upminster Tithe Barn mystery

Despite its name, there is little evidence that this ‘tithe’ barn was actually used for collecting tithes! More research is needed to find out what it was used for.

Where would you look for evidence?

Who or what could help you find out more about the barn?

Artefacts?

A historian?

Old maps?