



Pugh's Yard, Weobley, Herefordshire:
archaeological monitoring and building recording

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2003



archenfield archaeology ltd

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Archenfield Archaeology Ltd is a multidisciplinary archaeological consultancy, offering a complete range of archaeological advice and services to the public and private sector. We specialise in giving archaeological advice to developers, housing associations and private individuals. We also undertake archaeological intervention, from monitoring to full-scale excavation; building survey; landscape and geophysical surveys and community-based historical and archaeological projects.

*Pugh's Yard, Weobley, Herefordshire: archaeological evaluation
2003*

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Cover Photograph: The Old Vicarage and the barns looking north-west.
Reproduced from a photograph taken by Alfred Watkins in 1875.



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Summary

Archenfield Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological building recording and monitoring at the site known as Pugh's Barn, Weobley, Herefordshire, between March and October 2002. The buildings were analysed, and it was concluded that they were originally constructed as two separate barns, dating from the 17th Century. The main building was constructed for use as a threshing barn and the secondary building was used for cattle with storage space above. No major archaeological features or deposits were observed during the monitoring of ground disturbance associated with the construction work.

1.0 Introduction

NGR SO 4004 5175

Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record - Event No 32270

Hereford City Museum Accession Number 2002-11

Mr and Mrs A Friedl (the clients) commissioned a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in accordance with a brief issued by the Herefordshire Council Archaeology Service. This was issued in response to planning application NW2000/2976/F for permission to convert an existing barn into a dwelling with associated car parking and hard standing.

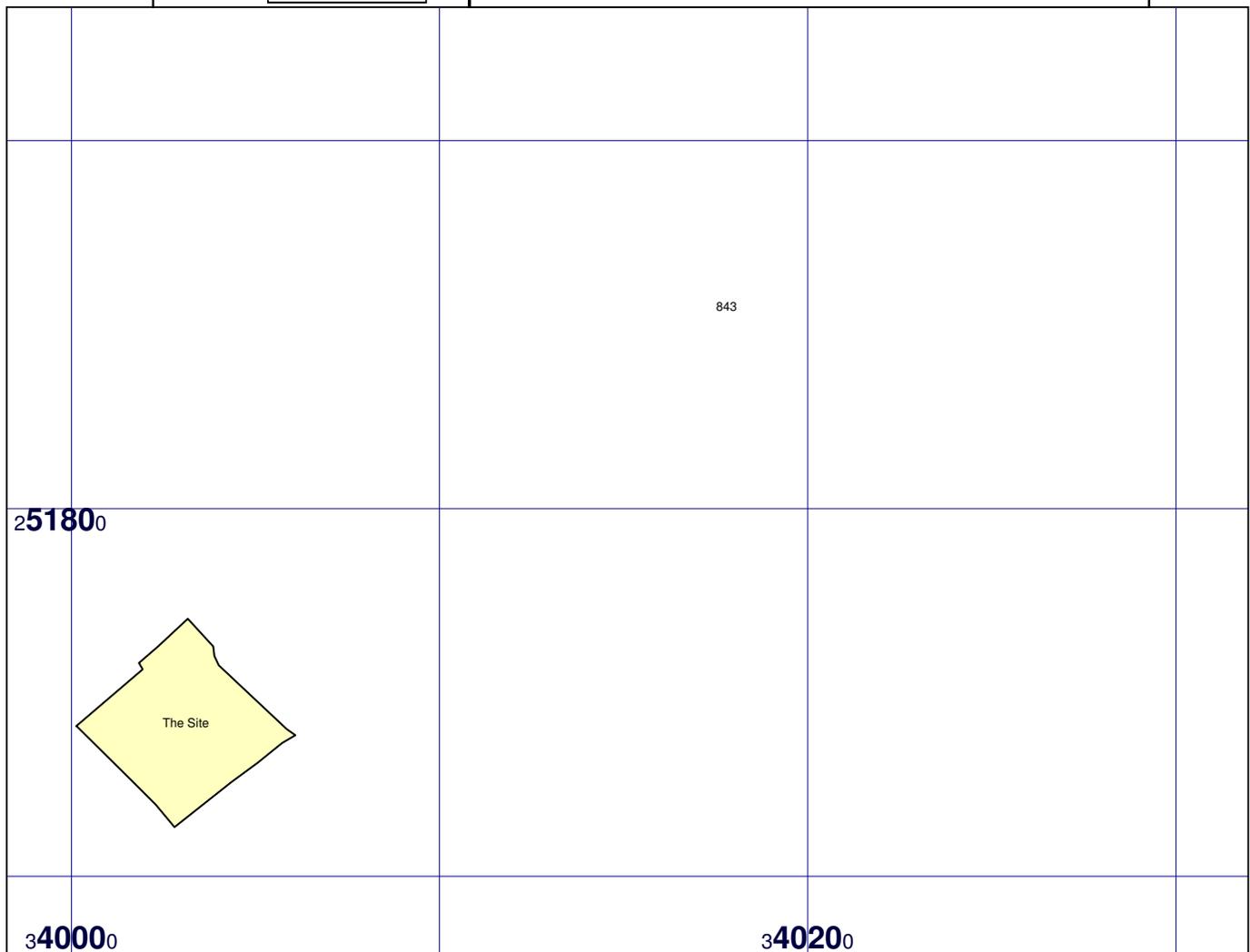
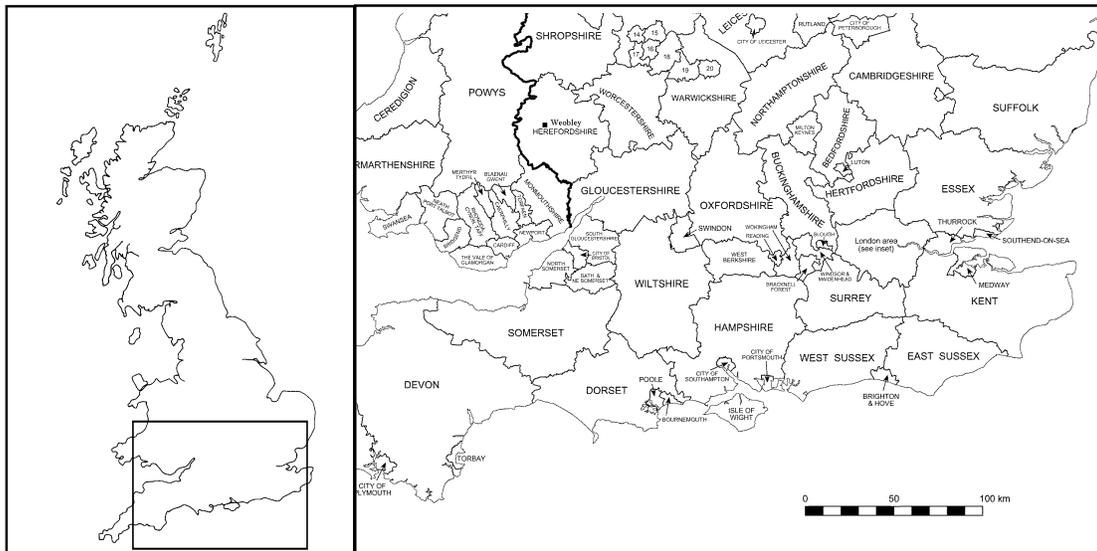


Figure 1: Location plan (OS Superplan data reproduced under license drawing ref. number 26103688). The site is highlighted in yellow.

2.0 Geological, historical and archaeological background

2.1 Geological background and land use

Weobley lies in a shallow valley and is bisected by the Marl Brook, which flows north through the village to its confluence with the Stretford Brook, which in turn flows westward into the River Arrow. The underlying geology is the Raglan Mudstone formation of the Old Red Sandstone (Brandon, 1989).

The site lies on the western side of Meadow Street, and is currently in use as agricultural buildings and a yard with associated rough pasture.

2.2 Historical background

That there was Roman activity around the village of Weobley is suggested by field-name evidence in the west of the parish (Richardson, 1996, p458) and a small number of Roman coins have been found in the village itself.¹ Early Germanic immigrants commonly utilised existing Romano-British farmland for the obvious reason that it was already there and such land was often extended or renamed by them.²

The name Weobley derives from the Old English personal name *Wibba* and in Domesday is *Wibelai*, Wibba's clearing (Coplestone-Crow, 1989). *Wibba* appears as an element in *Webbery* (*Wibba's BURG*) in Devon and *Webton* in Herefordshire, where the hundred of *Webtree* is also derived from the name (Ekwall, 1960). The second element of the name, *lēah*, implies 'a permanent glade or clearing in woodland' (Rackham, 1990, p46). The necessary part of the meaning of the *lēah* element is probably the presence of nearby woodland. It need not be associated with any recent activity of actual woodland clearance (Smith, 1956, pp 18-22).

Before the Norman Conquest Weobley was held by Edwi, who held several other Herefordshire manors³ and his western Herefordshire holdings may reflect some sort of English colonisation of Welsh lands (Wightman, 1966, p 130). Immediate confiscation of English-owned lands seems not to have been a deliberate policy of the Conqueror, who took pains to conform to a show of legality. Although the lands of Harold Godwinson and other 'rebels' were forfeit, and were distributed among Norman leaders, other English landholders may have retained their manors for some years. It has been suggested that confiscation of their land in the area may have been a result of events surrounding the revolt of Edric 'the Wild' in 1069 (*ibid.* p161).

In any event, William fitz Osbern become Earl of Hereford after the Conquest, and Weobley passed into his hands at some time thereafter. It was given in turn to Walter de Lacy, a member of fitz Osbern's household, who held it of the earl. Walter was the younger brother of Ilbert de Lacy,

¹ Two 1st century and one 3rd century: Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 6310

² As pointed out by Rackham, 1990, p57

³ Among them Fernhill, Letton Brobury and Staunton, the last held by Ernwy of Edwi. In Domesday, Edwi's son, Alwin, holds Butterley of Roger de Lacy (Thorn & Thorn)

who founded the Honour of Pontefract in Yorkshire (*ibid.*). Fitz Osbern died in 1072 and in 1074 his heir, Roger of Breteuil, rebelled. Walter de Lacy, together with Urse d'Abitot, Sheriff of Worcester and the Saxon cleric Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester and Aethelwig, Abbot of Evesham, raised an army against Roger and prevented him crossing the Severn. In 1075 Roger forfeited his lands for revolt and Walter became a tenant-in-chief of the crown (Hillaby, 1985). Walter's other holdings included a swathe of land in the south-west of Herefordshire which was Welsh at the time of the Conquest. This area was subsequently known as Ewyas Lacy. Also in this area is the village of Walterstone, which may have been named after him (Marshall, 1938).

Walter died in 1085, falling from St Peter's Church in Hereford, during its construction, and his lands passed to his son, Roger de Lacy, who is recorded as holding Weobley in Domesday. Roger held 14 demesne and 50 tenants manors in Herefordshire and had large holdings elsewhere (Hillaby, 1985, p195). Weobley was to pass down in a direct line of descent for centuries and the lord of the manor was to have considerable influence on its subsequent history. The Marquis of Bath, who held Pugh's Yard in the 19th century, was a descendant of de Lacy.⁴

The Domesday manor of Weobley possessed 3 ploughs in lordship. There were 10 villeins, a priest, a reeve, a smith and 5 bordars with 9½ ploughs. There were 11 serfs, woodland measuring ½ league by 4 furlongs, and a park. Land newly brought into cultivation, or *assarting*, had provided land for one plough. One of the villeins belonged to the church of St Peter in Hereford, by the gift of Walter de Lacy.⁵

Although assarting is assumed to occur over many parts of England, Domesday only specifies it in Herefordshire, the other entries being for Fernhill, Much Marcle and Leominster (Darby, 1976, p 189). In general, by the 11th century England was one of the least wooded countries of Europe, and Domesday appears to indicate that Herefordshire was even less wooded than most of the rest of the country with woodland occupying perhaps around 8% of the land (Rackham, 1980, p 126). By the 1840s the percentage of woodland in Weobley was less than 10%.⁶

In 1088 Roger de Lacy was banished after his father's old ally Bishop Wulfstan, stopped him, in turn, from crossing the Severn, and his brother Hugh took over his estates (Phillot, 1871, p 350). The de Lacys were responsible for the construction of castles at Weobley and Ludlow. Both castles were associated with early boroughs. Ludlow appears to be a new plantation but Weobley was already a settlement and the street plans of the two boroughs illustrate the difference (Noble, 1964, p65).

⁴ Major Salt's *The Borough and Honour of Weobley*, 1953, is dedicated to '[1953] Henry Frederick Thynne, seventh Marquis of Bath, Lord of the Manor of Weobley, in direct descent from Roger de Laci. Lord of the Manor of Weobley [1086]'

⁵ One of Edwi's manors given to Walter was Priors Frome, which Walter, in turn, gave to his new church of St Peter in Hereford

⁶ See map on page 54 of ADM Phillip's paper on land use in the Herefordshire Tithe Survey in the *Transactions of the Woolhope Nat. Field Club*, 1979

The English surname Webley derives from the settlement and a Thomas de Webbele recorded in 1308 (Reaney, 1976). Webley is the most common of the Herefordshire place-name surnames in the London telephone directory for the year 2000 and is widely distributed. In 1337 Richard de Webbelye was the city of Hereford's mace-bearer (Salt, 1953, p 6) and in the 15th century a Walter and a Thomas Webbely witnessed deeds from Eastnor, in the East of Herefordshire.⁷

The castle at Webley was probably built by either Roger or Hugh de Lacy in the late 11th century (Shoesmith, 1996). The castle was garrisoned on behalf of the Empress Matilda against Stephen in 1139 and was re-taken by Stephen himself the following year (Phillot, 1869, p47).

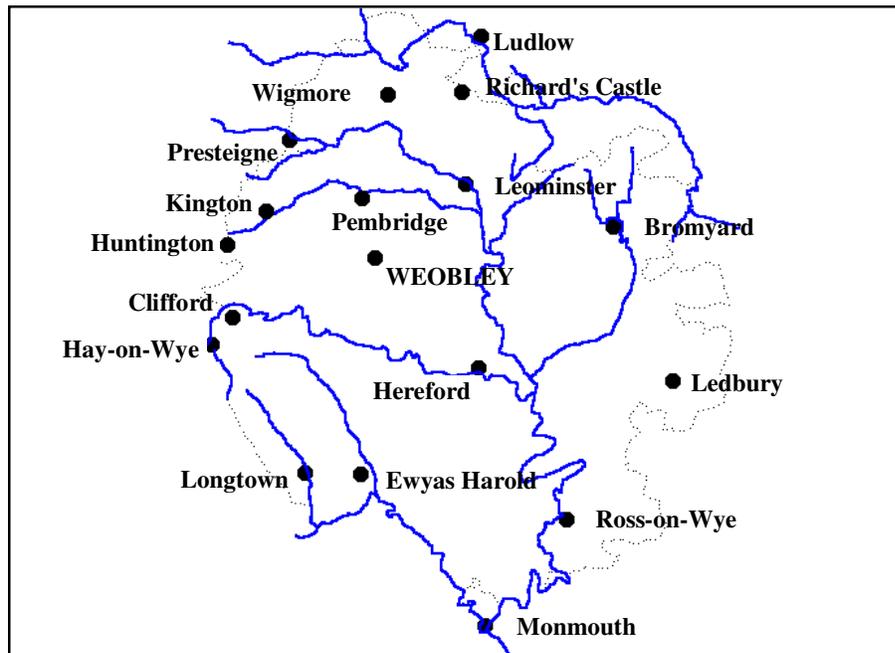


Figure 2: Medieval Boroughs in Herefordshire

Weobley was the *caput* of the de Lacy lands, which included the castles and boroughs at Ludlow and Ewyas Lacy (Longtown), held for the service of 7½ knights.⁸ Presumably originally earthen, the castle seems to have been rebuilt in stone by the third Walter de Lacy in the early 13th century (Hillaby, 1985). In 1327 the castle was stated to be '*of no value being in ruins*'⁹ and in 1328 referred to as '*a ruinous castle of no value*'¹⁰ but this seems to have been a misrepresentation of its condition, for in 1331 it was stated that the

⁷ Mss in the Shrewsbury Talbot Collection – Heref. A14, A22, A28, AA33, AA38, BB1, L12, L27 Glos:Heref. HH5

⁸ Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem for the reign of Henry III, 5th August 1271

⁹ Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem of the reign of Edward III, 27th August 1327

¹⁰ Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem of the reign of Edward III, 7th April 1328. In addition to the castle there is also arable land of 240 acres (97.2 Ha), 50 acres (20.25 Ha) of meadow. A water mill and a wind mill.

castle had been undervalued. In 1332 the value was '£41 16d by the first extent and £81 10s 8¹/_d by the second extent'.¹¹ In 1357 John Ailmund was pardoned for the offence of breaking out of his prison in 'the castle of *Webbeleye*', providing that he stood trial for the felony for which he was detained in the first place.¹² In 1483, Weobley was the centre of the rebellion of Henry, Duke of Buckingham against Richard III. Buckingham was executed in Salisbury and his wife captured in Weobley (Salt, 1953, p 20). John Leland, writing in the 1530s, says of Weobley '*where is a goodly castell, but somewhat in decay*'.¹³

William fitz Osbern, like other Norman lords, had acquired the technique of borough founding in Normandy where William the Conqueror himself had employed it at Caen. Fitz Osbern, having been given the castle of Breteuil-sur-Iton in around 1050, constructed a *boorg* there, as he had previously at nearby Cormeilles (Hillaby, 1983). If they founded boroughs at Ewyas Lacy and Weobley,¹⁴ the de Lacys followed the pattern set by their old patron. It is possible that the by-laws of these boroughs were, as were Hereford's, based on the customs of Breteuil, a code which was to become widespread among the new boroughs of the Marches, Wales and Ireland. The de Lacy borough at Ludlow has been shown to have been privileged with these customs (Noble, 1964). These laws were designed to encourage immigration from Normandy to provide soldiers and develop trade in the newly acquired lands.

Weobley, situated at a point equidistant from Hereford and Leominster, appears to have been a successful borough. It sent its own Jury to the Assize of 1255. At the end of the 13th century Edward I empowered the Herefordshire boroughs of Weobley, Bromyard, Ledbury and Ross to return two members of parliament each. Weobley returned Adam Sagoun and John Compaygnoun as its members in 1295 and two members to the parliaments of 1298, September and October of 1302 and to the parliament of 1305. It returned Richard Yagon alone in 1306 (Williams, 1896, pp 155,156). At this time, Weobley, Bromyard, Ledbury and Ross had the privilege of representation withdrawn. This was at their own request, the two shillings per day payment to members being, they claimed, beyond their means (Noble, 1964, p69). Hereford and Leominster were then the only two Herefordshire boroughs represented until Weobley regained parliamentary borough status again in 1628.

Whatever problems Weobley may have experienced in paying its parliamentary burgesses (and much larger towns would experience the same problems in succeeding centuries) documentary evidence suggests that Weobley was at least reasonably prosperous. It was situated near the rich sheep farming area centred on Leominster, which produced the wool known as '*Lemster Ore*'. The value of this wool is indicated by a 1454 Act of Parliament which fixed the price of '*Herefordshire woll in Lemyst*' at £13

¹¹ Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem of the reign of Edward III, March 1332

¹² Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward III, 16th June 1357

¹³ The Itinerary of John Leland, part V, edited by Lucy Toulmin Smith, 1908,

¹⁴ The date of the creation of the borough at Weobley is unknown

per bag in comparison with £8 6s 8d per bag for Cotswold wool (Roskell, 1992, p437).

In 1315 a grant was made to *'the bailiffs and good men of the town of Webbeleye of pavage for three years upon all wares for sale brought into their town'*.¹⁵ When this was expired, a new grant was made in 1319, specifically at the instance of Queen Isobella, this time for 5 years.¹⁶ Medieval Weobley possessed a market, a water-mill and by 1327, a wind-mill.¹⁷ Apart from milling, the normal range of medieval trades were represented in the borough; in 1316 the local smith, Miles Smith (*fabri*), had a messuage near the castle¹⁸ and in 1360 a Weobley tanner, John Geffes, was murdered in Worcestershire.¹⁹ Deeds mention a tailor in 1363²⁰, and a baker and a *muleward* in 1370.²¹ A Jewish community was present in the late 13th century (Salt, 1953, p19).

The Subsidy of the Ninth and the Fifteenth records only three Herefordshire boroughs where burgesses paid the higher ninth part in 1341. Hereford has 87 names, Leominster 32 and Weobley 17 (Reeves, 1972, p45).

In the poll tax for the year 1377, every person not a genuine pauper, of 14 years or over was liable to pay one groat (four old pence). Unfortunately we do not have the Weobley figures for 1377, but the 1379 tax was on all males and all unmarried females of 16 years or over.²² In this latter year, 152 persons were recorded as having paid the poll tax in Weobley (Fenwick, 1998). Among the occupations listed are carpenters, shoemakers, *piscator*,²³ a smith, a tanner, a butcher, a *petimarch* and a *tegulat*. The last term refers to someone who worked with bricks or tiles and implies that Weobley had buildings which required this skill; a *petimarch* is a small merchant or trader.

John Hayes was a butcher in Weobley in 1428²⁴ and in 1455 the tanner John Garston was pardoned of outlawry.²⁵ There are specific references to shops

¹⁵ Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward II, 7th December 1315

¹⁶ Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward II, 8th May 1319

¹⁷ Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem of the reign of Edward III, 7th April 1328

¹⁸ Deed A 8495, 30th November 1316 and deed A 9295 27th February 1323, deeds of the Treasury of the Receipt of the Exchequer, Ancient Deeds Volume IV

¹⁹ Calendar of Patent Rolls, Edward III, 18th May 1360

²⁰ Deed A 9127, 16th March 1363, deeds of the Treasury of the Receipt of the Exchequer, Ancient Deeds Volume IV

²¹ Deed A 8593, 29th September 1370, *ibid*.

²² Commonly held to have been subject to much more evasion than the 1377 tax

²³ *Piscator* as opposed to *piscar(ius)* – ordinarily a person who catches fish rather than sells them. This precision may be misleading in this case however

²⁴ Deed A 8617, 14th November 1428, deeds of the Treasury of the Receipt of the Exchequer, Ancient Deeds Volume IV

²⁵ Calendar of Patent Rolls, Henry VI, 29th November 1455

in 1292 (Salt, 1953, p19), 1294 (*ibid.* p 12) and in 1392, when a licence for alienation *in mortmain* for property including three shops was granted.²⁶

After pressure from local gentry, Weobley regained its parliamentary borough status in 1628. In time, patronage became the standard means of returning MPs, and the Thynne family (later Marquises of Bath) began to acquire properties in Weobley. It was the loss of the two Weobley MPs in the first parliamentary reform act that ultimately led the Marquis of Bath to re-sell these properties, as they were no longer required to act as temporary residences for voters at election time.

Meadow Street is a medieval street; in 1385 there was a feoffment by John de Norton of land with buildings called *Brounyngesplace* in *le Medustret*.²⁷ In 1407 there was a feoffment of a half burgage in *le Meduwestret* by Roger Croumpe and Joan, his wife, to John Ekkely,²⁸ and in 1434 a release of a messuage in *le Medewestrete* is recorded.²⁹

The property which is the subject of this investigation is known as Pugh's Yard, and the barn, as Pugh's Barn. At the time of the tithe survey, 1838, the property is described as a 'close'. The occupier was John Whiting and the owner of this, and a great deal of the rest of Weobley, was the Marquis of Bath. The Marquis was still the owner in 1871 when a large number of his other properties in Weobley were auctioned. At that time the coloured map³⁰ accompanying the sales detail marked the small enclosure in the north-east corner of the property as 'pound' (see Figure 3).

In the 1930s the barn was used as Recreation Rooms.

²⁶ Calendar of Patent Rolls, Richard II, 6th July 1392

²⁷ Deed A 9477, 6th February 1385, a deed of the Treasury of the Receipt of the Exchequer, Ancient Deeds Volume IV

²⁸ Deed A 9274, 3rd March 1407, *ibid.*

²⁹ Deed A 8525, 20th October 1434, *ibid.*

³⁰ Document in Herefordshire Record Office number BD33/11

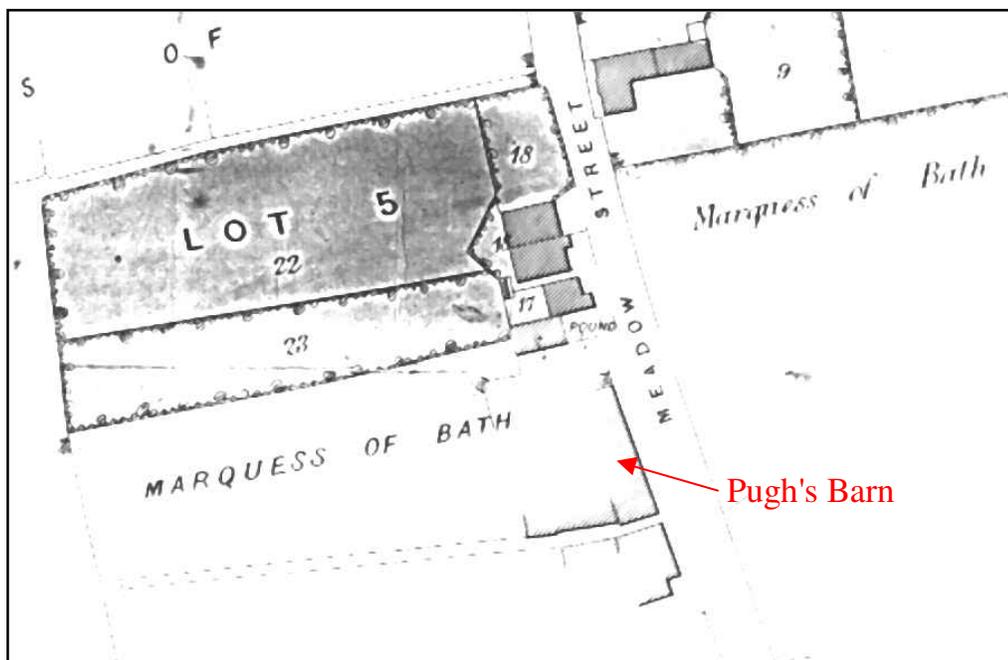


Figure 3: Detail from the 1871 sales plan. Pugh's Yard is not on the market at this time.

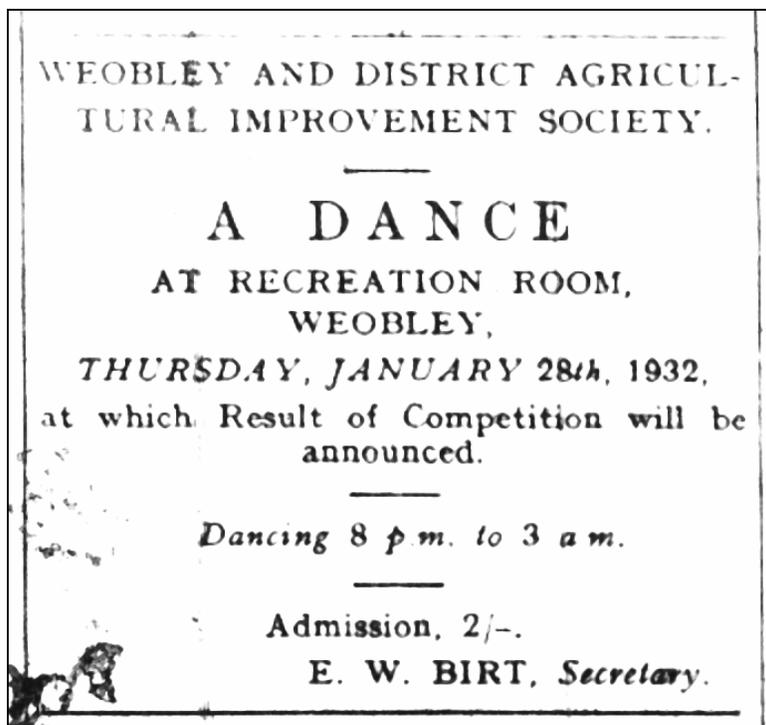


Figure 4: Advertisement for a dance at the 'Recreation Room' in January 1932

2.3 Archaeological background

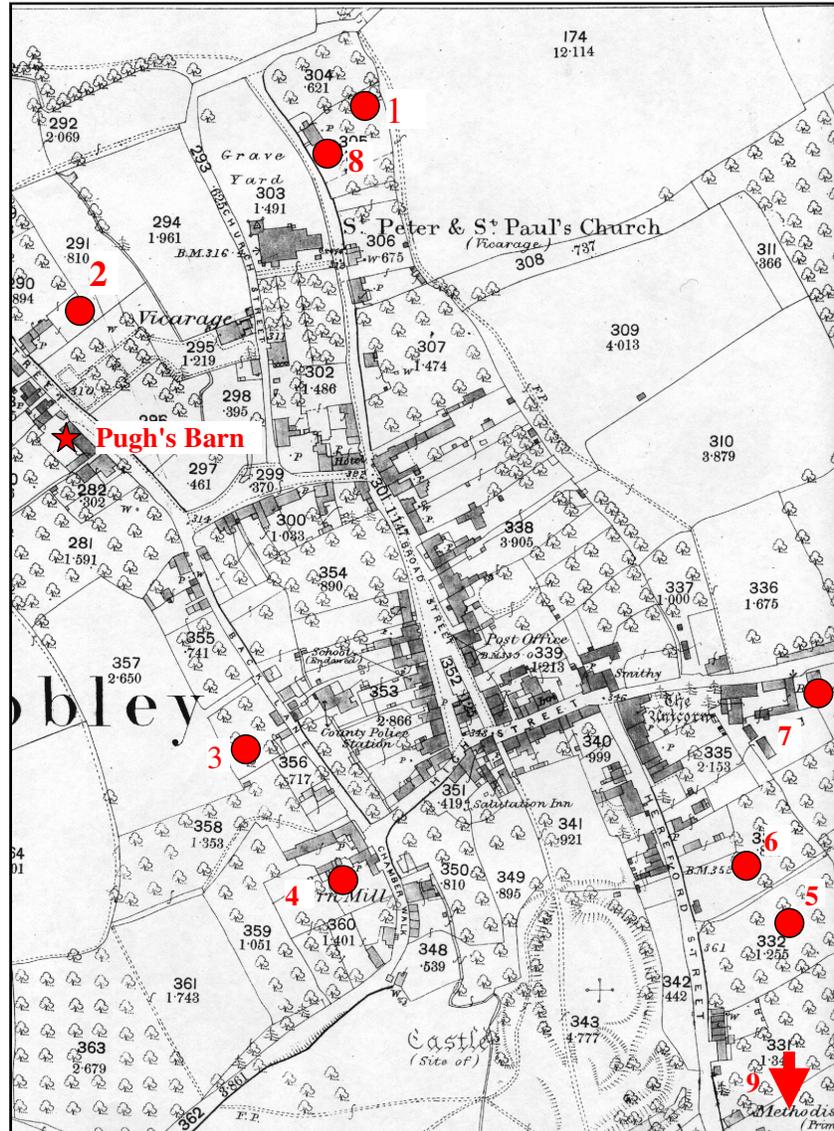


Figure 5: Archaeological projects in Webley

- 1 HSMR 19462 'Town Ditch'; Crosskey
- 2 HSMR 30643 - Dairy Farm; Sherlock and Pikes, 2001a
- 3 HSMR 1069 - Back Lane Nursery; Bartlett, 1982
- 4 HSMR 21980 - Old Forge – Fagan and Topping, 1994
- 5 HSMR 26822 - Burton Gardens – Rouse; 2000
- 6 HSMR 3705 -Watching Brief unpublished
- 7 Throne Farm – Watching Brief 2000-2001, by Marches Archaeology
- 8 HSMR 30644 - Parkfields; Sherlock and Pikes, 2001b
- 9 HSMR 31762 – Webley Primary School; Tavener, 2000

Weobley was surveyed as part of a project to record the archaeology of towns in the Welsh Marches undertaken in the 1990s (Dalwood, 1996). Pugh's Yard lies within a part of Weobley defined as tenement plots, a distinct medieval urban component,³¹ by this survey. This area is defined by an old road to the north and west (Church Street)³² and two presumed burgrave plot elements to the south.³³

An evaluation excavation in December 2000 to the rear of Dairy Farm in Meadow Street (Figure 4, no. 2), a building of the 14th or 15th centuries, concluded that it was unlikely that, in general, the northern part of Weobley had ever been much more densely built-up than at the present time (Sherlock and Pikes, 2001a).³⁴

Another evaluation carried out in the same month, was at a site immediately to the east of the church (Sherlock and Pikes, 2001b). This raised the suspicion that this had been the original area of settlement at Weobley, the focus later moving south towards the gate of the castle. The report concluded that the evidence for the postulated defensive circuit at Weobley was unconvincing and that such a feature was unlikely to have existed.

Other sites in Weobley include a watching brief to the east of the castle (Figure 4, no. 6)³⁵, and work at Burton Gardens (Figure 5, no 6 – Rouse, 2000), which found no archaeological evidence apart from post-medieval pottery. A watching brief at Throne Farm (Figure 5, no 7) by Marches Archaeology was still on-going when this report was completed.

Little other archaeological work has taken place in the area of the old borough. Kiln debris and pottery found west of Back Lane (Figure 4, no. 3) led to an inconclusive geophysical survey in 1982 (Bartlett) and later salvage recording (Figure 4, no. 2).³⁶

To the south-east of the castle an evaluation excavation confirmed that this area had been outside the settlement but suggested that it had been ridge and furrow (Tavener, 2000).

³¹ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 19490

³² Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 19497

³³ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record numbers 19491 and 19502

³⁴ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 30643

³⁵ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 3705

³⁶ Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record number 21980

3.0 Project aims and objectives

The aims of the project were: -

- **To make a record of the standing building known as Pugh's Barn and its associated outbuildings.**
- **To monitor all groundwork undertaken by the contractor.**
- **To make a record of the extent and depth of all such groundwork.**
- **To make a record of any archaeological features or deposits exposed. In particular, attention should be paid to testing the results against the model for medieval Weobley suggested in the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey (Dalwood, 1996).**
- **To record the presence of archaeological material within the trenches and in the spoil removed during excavation, and to retrieve any potential dating evidence.**
- **To make a record of all finds and any environmental material recovered.**
- **To ensure that if any environmental evidence was preserved, that a sufficient sample be retained to allow for further analysis.**
- **To ensure that the location and of the area excavated was accurately recorded on a suitably scaled plan.**
- **To record negative evidence and to consider its implications.**

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Field methodology

The following methodology was employed: -

- **The building and its setting were assessed and analysed by suitably qualified employees of Archenfield Archaeology.**
- **A plan at a scale of 1:50 based on the architect's drawing along with truss drawings were annotated to include archaeological features such as peg holes and empty mortices. The list of truss drawings is as follows: -**

Barn A

South Frame (external south face) and reconstruction. Scale 1:50

Example Intermediate Truss (north face). Scale 1:50

Barn B

North Frame (external north face) and reconstruction. Scale 1:50

Intermediate Frame (south face) and part reconstruction. Scale 1:50

- **Scaled photographs were taken of all areas where alterations were to be made both internally and externally using a medium format camera using both colour and black-and-white film.**

- **Additional photographs indicating architectural features and alterations were taken using a 35mm camera and colour film.**
- **The building was visited during the period of March to October 2002.**
- **H.D. Sherlock & R.C. Williams were variously in attendance.**
- **Suitably qualified archaeologists monitored all activity that involved disturbance of the ground surface.**
- **An assessment of the archaeological significance of finds, structures and deposits was made and appropriate action taken.**
- **Structures and stratigraphic sequences observed were recorded on scaled drawings and the position of all work disturbing the ground, and any archaeological features, was located on them.**
- **The presence of artefacts was recorded with a description of their type, quantity and original location. The spoil was scanned for significant finds but in fact none were observed.**
- **All descriptions of structures and deposits, photographic records and drawing numbers were recorded on the relevant data capture documents in accordance with Archenfield Archaeology's standard site recording procedures.**
- **Staff carrying out the monitoring of the groundwork followed the guidelines laid down in the Archenfield Archaeology Health and Safety Policy**
- **Archenfield Archaeology conforms to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual arrangements in Field Archaeology. All projects are, where applicable, carried out in accordance with IFA Standards and Guidance or Draft Standards and Guidance.**

4.2 Processing methodology

- **All retained artefacts and ecofacts were cleaned, conserved and catalogued.**
- **All data were entered into a Microsoft Access relational database.**

5.0 Results

5.1 The Buildings



Plate 1: The Old Vicarage and the barns looking north-west. Reproduced from a photograph taken by Alfred Watkins in 1875.



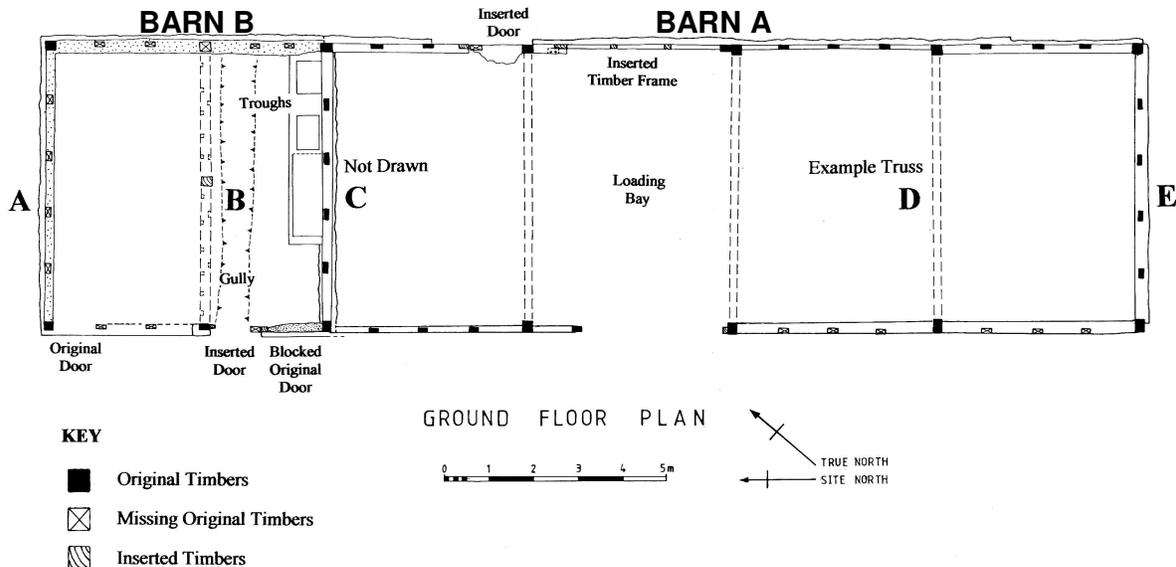
Plate 2: The barn in the 1930s looking south west (from RCHME)

This grade II listed timber framed building lies in a north-west/south-east orientation and consists of two distinct structures – barns A and B. For ease of description within this report, site north indicates that barn A is directly south in relation to the barn complex and barn B is at the north end. Both site north and true north can be seen on the ground floor plan (see Figure 6).

The east elevation fronts directly on to Meadow Street and the barn is about three metres north of the Old Vicarage.

The threshing or loading bay of barn A is off-set to the north having two storage bays to the south and a single bay to the north. Barn B is of two bays of different widths and was used for cattle with storage space above.

The southern barn A has four bays and seems to be built first and the two bay barn B, was added slightly later. Both buildings are set on a stone rubble plinth and originally both were timber framed down to the wall plate



with squared type panels.

Figure 6: The ground floor plan of the barns.

The Roof

The roof is covered with modern tiles, although there are areas on the western pitch that have corrugated iron sheeting. Directly beneath this, the roof has been planked in horizontally-laid weatherboarding and the common rafters are exposed beneath the boards. These rafters show signs that they are pegged into the purlins although there are a few that show that the pegs are off-line to the purlins. This indicates that there has been some repair work to the roof at some stage. There are two tiers of trenched purlins for both barns. In barn A all the purlins have been scarfed at the junctions of the trusses but in barn B the purlins continue through and are of a single length.

Barn A shows evidence of the remains of lathe and plaster from the lower purlins to the wall plates on both sides of the roof. Wind bracing is also evident within the eastern half of the roof which runs from the wall plate of one truss to the ridge timber of the next truss. However at the southern first bay, the windbrace runs from the wall plate to the upper purlin on the next truss. The fourth bay going north has the wind brace missing.

The north barn B also has a wind-brace on the eastern pitch that runs from the wall plate to the upper purlin of the next truss. The northern bay has no wind-brace. Altogether there were no signs of any wind braces in the western pitch of the roofs.

Barn A (southern barn)

North Elevation; Frame C

This frame sits on a shallow rubble coursed stone plinth and divides barn A from barn B and the box framing beneath the truss suggests that this was the end frame of barn A.

There are no signs of weathering on the north face which would suggest that the frame stood as an external frame but rather it is more probable that barn B was built shortly after barn A.

The truss is made up of a collar and tie beam with two angled struts above the collar and three studs to the tie beam. The framing below the tie beam has four studs with an upper and lower rail, all of which are double pegged. The wall plates overhang slightly on the northern side of this frame and are simply butted to the wall plates of barn B. Normally they would have some form of scarf joint. Perhaps this is another indication that these two barns were built separately.

Carpenters marks are seen on the northern face of the frame and are of a scratched type.

South frame; Frame E

Figure 7 shows the external face of this gable frame. The panels of this frame are a mixture of lathe and plaster with the occasional brick in-fill. Within the box framing some of the rails have disappeared through alteration work and the lower panels have been obscured externally with a cement render. A small modern external lean-to was erected at the south-east corner of this elevation. During the building work to the barns this lean-to was demolished. It had a corrugated iron roof and the sides were of horizontally laid weatherboarding. Two breezeblock pillars supported the whole thing. This lean-to was accessed by an internal doorway, which had a modern type window directly above it.

Originally there would have been two angled braces from the tie beam to the posts but only the western brace survives, where scratched carpenters marks were seen. The upper window opening within the truss area has been inserted as there is evidence of stave holes on the underside of the collar beam and a groove cut on the top face of the tie beam for the original in-fill of the panel. The truss is made up of five vertical studs beneath the collar with two angled struts above.

In its original form this truss would have been almost identical to the north frame (truss A) with the exception that this frame has five studs beneath the collar unlike the north frame which has three.

Figure 7: Frame E, south frame, south face

Figure 8: Reconstruction drawing of Frame E



East Frame

Plate 3: The eastern elevation

This elevation retains much of the original timber box framing down to the level of the stone plinth. Set within the plinth is a reused piece of carved stone that may have come from the church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Weobley during an earlier phase of restoration work.

The main threshing doorway has been in-filled with later phased timbers and like all the other elevations, there is a mixture of lathe and plaster and brick panel in-filling. This doorway was originally open up to the height of the wall plate and was 4.15m wide. This side of the barn would have been the entrance for the laden carts to be off-loaded.

Short angled bracing are seen which are pegged and jointed from the main truss posts of each bay to the wall plate.

There are three window openings on this east face and all are positioned within the central panels. An inserted doorway just north of the threshing door had a porch attached but this was removed before the archaeological survey was commenced. Earlier photographs indicate that it was of timber construction with a pitched roof and probably dated between the late 19th to early 20th Centuries.

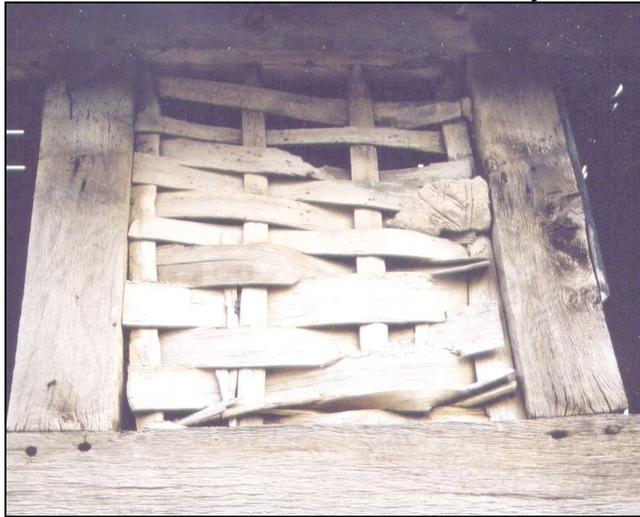
An additional building or lean-to was positioned at the southern end of this elevation and projected eastwards. It had a corrugated iron roof and was weatherboarded. It is presumed that the lean-to was added for extra storage space when the barn became a public hall. This building was demolished before an archaeological survey was made, although Archenfield Archaeology had photographed it. This lean-to building is not seen on the photograph from the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments dating from

the 1930s (see Plate 2) and therefore probably dated from the mid 20th Century.

West frame

Besides the threshing bay door, no real evidence for any other original doorways or openings were found on this elevation (for barn A).

Compared to the opposite east door of the threshing bay, this western entrance is smaller in width and lower in height in its original form. There are disused peg holes where the inner framework once was. The original height of the door was the same as that of the upper rail on this western elevation, which is approximately 2.10m from the present concrete floor level and the original door width, was 3.25m. This smaller doorway would have been the exit for the carts after they were off-loaded.



Towards the southern end of this elevation the lower sections of wall has been replaced with modern breezeblocks but redundant pegs and mortices on the remaining timbers indicate that this was originally boxed-framed to the sill beam. Also at this southern end within the top panels are two inserted windows and an original cleft oak panel still survives *in situ* (see Plate 3).

Plate 4: detail showing the cleft oak panel infill surviving in one of the panels.

Internal

Much of this part of the barn has a first floor with the exception of the southern end that has a stage when the barn was used as a village meeting hall. From the raised stage, access to the upper floor is gained by means of wooded steps. Vertical panelling still covers most of the internal walls in this part of the barn.

The space between the wall plate and the lower purlin has a lathe-and-plaster covering and this occurs on both pitches of the roof. The truss timbers have been painted black but this is only seen half way up the truss. Evidence therefore seems to suggest that there was at one time an inserted lower false ceiling, probably when it became the village hall as an aid to keep the warmth in.

The intermediate trusses are all of the same design, having a tie beam with two angled struts to the principals. Figure 9 shows one example of this.

The trusses either side of the loading bay have empty mortices on the main posts for some sort of internal framing that probably divided the loading bay from the storage bays.

This practice of separating the threshing floor from the bays began in the Midlands in the 17th Century. The normal type of framing used in Herefordshire barns is an open frame set on a shallow plinth with a lower beam set on top. Two diagonal timbers would come from the main posts of the truss and would be morticed into the lower horizontal timber. This bracing would have reinforced the walls against the wind and pressure exerted by the crops housed inside and might also reinforce the doorposts against the weight of the doors. It also helped to keep the loose crop or straw inside the bays and separate them from the threshing floor.

Figure 9: Barn A internal; intermediate Truss D

Barn B

The Building in General

This two bay barn seems to have been attached awkwardly to the north elevation of barn A. The widths of the panels get smaller on both the east and west elevations as they run southwards. The panel widths go from an average size of 1m, to 0.56m at the point where the two buildings meet. The bay widths in this barn are also irregular. The northern bay is 3.30m wide whilst the southern bay is 2.50m wide.



Plate 5: The northern end of the western elevation. The irregular size of the panels can be clearly seen.

Much of the lower sections of walls are made up of modern plaster covered in-fill. The main posts to the trusses still survive at sill beam level. Evidence of redundant peg holes on the north frame show that the square panels originally went down to the sill beam that sat on stone plinths as in barn A. These panels are much smaller in size to Barn A and are therefore four panels high. Internally this barn has a first floor for storage and the ground floor was used for cattle.

North frame; (Frame A, figures 10 & 11)

This end gable is timber framed with an inserted lower section of modern rendered in-fill that sits on a rubble stone plinth. It is five panels wide and four panels high. The timbers are double pegged and the truss is made up of collar and tie beam. There are two angled struts from the collar to the principal rafters and three studs beneath the collar. The western principal post has a joweled head. The top half of the external face has been covered in horizontally hung weatherboarding. A modern lower window has been inserted within the modern render and centrally placed above this is another

opening. In each top corner of the frame, it contains two angled braces from post to tie beam.

The north external face is heavily weathered and no carpenters' marks were seen on the internal face of this frame.

Figure 10: Frame A, north frame, north face

Figure 11: Reconstruction drawing of Frame A

South Frame

The south frame is also the northern elevation for Barn A, and was described earlier in this report (see p. 16 Frame C). However on the northern face of this truss there are features that relate to barn B and will therefore be described under this heading.

The posts beneath the tie beam have a series of redundant through cuts that correspond with holes on the floor beam of the intermediate frame in barn B. These holes were made to support floor joists. Modern battening above these holes helped support joists for a later phased floor. Carpenters marks are seen on the northern face of the frame and are of a scratched type.

East frame

The rails for this frame are positioned at a higher level than those of barn A and much of the lower timber framing has disappeared. It has been replaced with modern rendered in-filling that sits on a rubble stone plinth. However, redundant peg holes and mortices show that the timber framing originally went down to sill beam level. The upper panels on the external face have been covered in horizontal weatherboarding.

Towards the southern end of barn B on this elevation, there is a construction break in the stonework of the plinth.

West frame

Two original openings set in the west wall of barn B were found each having just enough surviving evidence to prove this. They were set either side of the now existing door which itself seems to be inserted. The northern door was a panel width wide, (0.90m) and the southern original door was 1.40m wide. The north door has a redundant mortice on the principal post of the north gable frame. It is double pegged and is directly beneath the mid-rail. Could this have been for a door head? The soffit of the mid-rail has no stave holes, therefore supporting the theory that this was an open panel. Also there were no lower positioned peg holes or mortices on the main post to indicate a lower rail and therefore suggests that this opening was indeed open to the ground floor level. The wide southern door also has this type of evidence.

Very little remains of the stone plinth seen along this elevation due to the height of the modern concrete floor.

An angled brace at the upper level of the north post of frame A is seen but there is no evidence that there was one at the southern end of this part of the barn. This is probably due to the fact that, as the panel widths became narrow, there wasn't enough room to put the angled brace within the small panel.

Within the top panels of this elevation, make-shift windows have been inserted using old car windscreens and going south, an opening has been

cut through and was probably used as a pitching hole. This top section is covered with horizontal weatherboarding.

Internal

The floor of this part of the barn is covered in modern concrete and on the southern half a gully runs in an east/west direction. This southern bay contains feeding troughs for cattle although of modern design. A first floor covered both bays and was probably used for storing hay or animal feed.

The intermediate truss (Truss B, figure 12&13)

This frame seems to be much like the other open frames in the barn with its angled struts above a tie beam. This frame however has four struts and the tie beam is slightly cambered. Angled bracing is seen beneath the tie beam like the other frames. Both of the main posts have joweled heads, although the western head is a gunstock type.

At the height of the mid rail on the east and west elevations is a floor beam running east/west acting as a support for the weight of the first floor. A series of redundant cuts on top of this beam correspond with holes in the studs of the southern frame in barn B. This floor beam has narrow chamfers on both sides, 250mm wide with run out stops. Both ends are morticed and double pegged to the main posts and the carpenters marks are of the same type as the rest of the frame, which are short scratched marks with a reversed 'S' in the design. Centrally placed above this beam is a post with single pegs. Directly beneath this is an inserted sampson post set on a stone pad.

The western post of this frame has an empty mortice directly below the angled brace but its purpose is unclear as there is no corresponding mortice on the eastern post.

At a lower level beneath the floor beam, on the western post is another empty mortice. The eastern post is missing at this level and therefore there is no mortice that may have corresponded to it. On the underside of the floor beam at either end are two empty mortices that shows that there were either angled braces at a lower level or that there was some sort of framing that might have housed the original feeding troughs or mangers. A reconstruction drawing (figure 13) indicates the start of the missing timbers.

The first floor that covers both bays has been inserted, as there is evidence of an earlier floor beneath it. Presumably the reason for the raised floor was when the ground floor had been concreted and it was found that height was lost so the first floor had to be heightened to accommodate this.

Figure 12: Frame B, intermediate, south face.

Figure 13: Reconstruction drawing of Frame B

Lean-to buildings north of the barn

There are two lean-to type buildings north of the main barn. Both have single pitched roofs of varying heights. These are staggered giving the impression of three out buildings and they are all roofed with corrugated iron. The western building is of a modern design, open at the front and used for storage. The eastern building has rubble coursed stonework on the east and west elevations and is also open at the front.

The north wall, which also forms part of the adjoining house and boundary wall, is also composed of rubble stonework. A vertical construction break slightly west of centre implies a rebuild of some sort.

Another building in the same position as this stone out-building is seen on a sales plan of 1871 and is labelled as 'pound' (see Figure 3). On the 1838 tithe map there is no indication of this building; however another building is shown slightly to the south east.

Conclusions

This grade II listed timber framed building consists of two barns. The style and carpenter's assembly marks on the trusses point to a date from the 17th Century. They are joined together at frame C, a closed frame suggesting that this was once an end gable for barn A.

Due to there being little weathering on the north face of this frame, it is presumed that they were built shortly after one another.

Both barns are set on a stone rubble plinth and originally both were timber framed down to the wall plate with squared type panels. No evidence for original window openings were seen during the renovation work but it could be possible that all the panels were of an un-daubed type with cleft oak in-fill, typical of ventilator panels used in Hereford and Worcester barns. The original surviving panel on the west elevation of barn A shows this, although a small lump of plaster was evident within the panel. This however could have been put in at a later date especially when other panels were in-filled with lathe, plaster and brick.

A photograph in the Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalist's Field Club shows both barns covered in weather boarding in 1875 (see Plate 1).

Barn A is a typical threshing barn of the Herefordshire type, with four bays of even width and barn B was originally built as shelter for cattle with storage on the first floor. The general layout seems awkward and almost clumsy in its build. For example, the widths of the panels of barn B get smaller as they reach barn A. This may be due to the necessity of fitting in the remaining panels to form a complete frame.

There are no scarf joints between the ends of the purlins where both barns meet. They simply butt up against each other. Usually at this type of junction, on many other barns and buildings, scarf joints would have been used to help distribute the extra weight of the roof.

A construction break on the east elevation of the stone plinth is an indication where the north barn was added but the west plinth has been obscured by a higher ground floor level.

The two original openings set in the west wall of barn B were found having just enough surviving evidence to prove that they were doorways. Besides the two threshing bay doors in barn A, no evidence for any other original doorways were found. No original internal access was found that may have linked both barns internally.

The building that came off in a westerly direction at the south west corner of barn A was built between 1838 and 1887. The tithe map of 1838 does not show it but the 1887 1st Edition OS 1:2500 plan of Weobley does. This building was not seen when Archenfield Archaeology first visited the site, as it had been demolished.

Cartographic evidence dates the northern out buildings to the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

5.2 Archaeological monitoring of service trenches

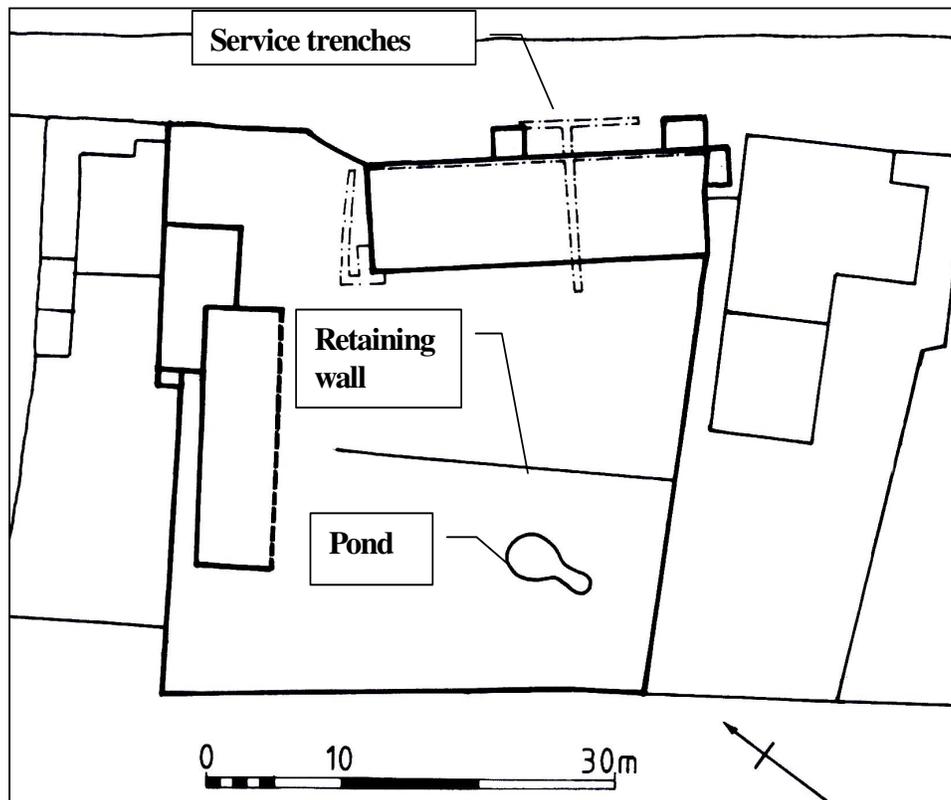


Figure 14: Site plan showing the position of the principal trenches observed during archaeological monitoring



Plate 6: The newly excavated pond looking north east

Suitably qualified archaeological staff observed the excavation of trenches for the insertion of services and a pond. The lowering of the ground surface in the yard and inside the building was also monitored. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded, and only one sherd of medieval pottery was found in the area excavated for the pond.

In general it would appear that the area had been terraced because the ground level drops sharply from south-west to north-east, and a retaining wall separates the yard area from the higher ground beyond. This would have meant that any pre-existing archaeological deposits were truncated by the creation of the yard, presumably when the barns were constructed in the seventeenth century.

6.0 Conclusions

Little direct evidence of archaeological features or deposits was found during the course of the project. This was largely due to the limited extent of the ground disturbing activities and the fact that the ground levels appear to have been reduced in the past. More evidence of medieval activity may lie in the undisturbed ground immediately to the west of the buildings, or beneath the outbuildings which appear to have fairly shallow foundations.

7.0 Archive deposition

The primary project archive, consisting of the excavated material and any original paper records, will be prepared and stored in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidelines for the preparation and storage of archives. The primary archive will be stored with Hereford City Museum.

A copy of the digital archive, stored on CD and consisting of context, artefact and ecofact data, together with the site plan and selected photographs, will accompany the primary archive.

The client, in consultation with the project manager, will make provision for the deposition of all finds from the excavation with the Hereford City Museum. On completion of the fieldwork and the processing, collation, recording and analysis of the finds from the excavation all finds will be handed over to the museum staff, along with the project archive. Arrangements will be made with the museum for the transfer of title.

8.0 Publication and dissemination proposals

Paper copies of this report will be lodged with the Archaeological Adviser to Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record and Hereford City Library. A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in A short note on the project will be prepared for publication in the Transactions of the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club.

CDs of this report, together with the supporting archival material will be available from Archenfield Archaeology.

The complete photographic record, including the negatives, will be retained by Archenfield Archaeology.

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