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Historic building recording at Abbotsham, Brushford, Devon



on behalf of
Suzanne and Tristan Johnson

Report No. 17-14

Project No. 1393

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OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

44 Hazel Road,
Wonford,
Exeter,
Devon,
EX2 6HN
tel: 07834 591406
e-mail: info@oakfordarch.co.uk
web: www.oakfordarch.co.uk

AUTHOR

M.F.R. Steinmetzer

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

Lucy Browne

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for Nigel Cant Planning on behalf of Suzanne and Tristan Johnson and sets out the results of an archaeological building survey carried out by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between January and May 2017, at Abbotsham farmhouse, Brushford, Devon (SS 6649 0832). The work was carried out to satisfy the grant of planning permission (16/01677/HOUSE) and condition no. 4 attached to the grant of listed building consent (16/01678/LBC) by Mid Devon District Council (MDDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) for external and internal alterations to the existing farmhouse.

1.1 The site

The farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building, lying on the western edge of the parish of Brushford (Fig. 1). The house was originally built as a double-depth plan house in the early 18th century, and was subsequently enlarged and altered in the early 19th century, with further work occurring in the 20th century.

The archaeological work was commissioned by the current owners of the property, Mr and Mrs Johnson, in advance of the complete refurbishment of the house and outbuildings which after many years had become dilapidated and in need of a sympathetic new use. Refurbishment works involved the removal of modern partitions and their replacement, new access arrangements and the provision of new facilities.

1.2 Geological background

The site lies on a gentle south facing slope overlooking the Bullow Brook and the River Taw. The geology of the area is sandstone of the Bude Formation formed approximately 319-309.5 million years ago in the Carboniferous period and gives rise to deposits of clay and mudstone (BGS 2017).

2. AIMS

The aims of the project were to preserve by record any historic building fabric or architectural detail that was to be obscured, removed or otherwise affected by the development, and to disseminate the results of the investigation by appropriate reporting.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA (2017), submitted to and approved by the MDDC under the planning and listed building conditions, prior to commencement on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

3.1 Building survey

Recording of the buildings was undertaken by a suitably qualified historic building specialist in accordance with specifications applicable to Level 3 in the English Heritage 2006 document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practices*. The building recording consisted of:

- A detailed written description of the buildings and more general record of the main building.
- A detailed photographic record of the buildings in colour (digital) format, and a basic record of the main building.

- A limited drawn record of the buildings, consisting of annotation of, and additions to, the architect's 'as existing' plans and elevations, to show the locations of any fixtures and fittings, building breaks, blocked openings or architectural detail.

4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 General background

The site lies on the western edge of the parish of Brushford and few archaeological remains have been recorded in the immediate vicinity. The remains of a round barrow have been recorded to the east of the village, while the remains of prehistoric enclosures have been identified near Eggesford Barton to the north.

Little is known of the history and development of this area in the immediate post-Roman and early Saxon period. The manor of *Brigeforda* is of Saxon origin and is recorded for the first time in the Domesday Book of 1086. It was held by Leofric prior to 1066 and during the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest, and the death of Harold at Hastings, the village of *Brisforda* and its land passed to Godefrid.^{1 2}

According to Gover the village derives its name from the ford, i.e. Bridgeford over the Bullow Brook and River Taw. Derived from the Old English *brycg*, meaning bridge, this does not necessarily imply the spanning of the stream as we understand it but rather the later name of the village would imply the use of a brushwood causeway.³

The village, variously known as *Briggeforde*, *Bryxsford*, *Brixford Speke*, *Brushford*, *Brussheforde*, *Brishford*, *Brisshford* and *Burshford*,⁴ grew on a gentle south facing slope overlooking the Taw valley and immediately to the north of a ford across the Bullow Brook. The pattern of the village is characterised by a number of large farmsteads in the medieval period and by the mid-12th century the manor had passed to the *D'Espece* or *le Espet* family.^{5 6}

4.2 Abbotsham

Abbotsham is not listed as a separate entry in Domesday, and was created out of Brushford by the Le Speck family in the late 12th century. A 19th century transcription of a late medieval list of deeds mentions that a portion of the Speke's estate was alienated, that is the property was transferred into the ownership of Hartland Abbey in c.1170. Richard Peveral and his wife Margaret, daughter and heir of William Treminet of Bramford and formerly wife of Richard Le Speke, had with the assent of Robert le Speke, her son and heir, bestowed the manor of

¹ Thorn and Thorn 1985, 16.53.

² *Notes on the parish of Brushford...* by H Fulford-Williams, pxB/BRU/0001/WIL (1949 and 1950) "Godefrid holds Brigeford of Baldwin. Leuric [Leofric] held it in the time of King Edward... There is land for three ploughs. There is one plough and four serfs and four villeins and four acres of meadow and twelve acres of wood in demesne"

³ Gover et al. 1932, 361.

⁴ Gover et al. 1932, 361.

⁵ *Notes on Brushford* by Mrs Bruce Oliver, Transactions of the Devonshire Association, Volume 89, pp153 – 159

⁶ *Sir John Speke and his Chapel in Exeter Cathedral* by Nicholas Orme (Transactions of the Devonshire Association, Volume 118, pp 25 – 41 (1986)

Abbotsham in Brushford together with the advowson of Brushford church, upon Hartland Abbey.^{7 8}

The last Abbot of Hartland Thomas Pope was appointed in 1536 and by 1538. Having been in communication with Thomas Cromwell regarding the suppression of the monasteries, he started to grant leases of Abbey property in anticipation of the dissolution. On 24 March 1541 “Anthony Harvye of Haywode”⁹ was granted the “...messuage called *Abbotysham* in Brushford, Devon...lately part of Hartland Abbey, to be held for the service of the tenth part of a knight's fee.”¹⁰

Thomas Westcote in *A View of Devonshire in MDCXXX* says “*Abotsham* is a manor here, which from holy uses came to Harvey and from him by his daughter and heiress to Paulet”. Sir Amyas Paulet, c.1536 – 1588, married Margaret, daughter of Anthony Harvey, steward of the abbeys of Hartland, Buckland and Newenham at the time of the Dissolution. Paulet in turn sold Abbotsham Manor to Bernard Luxton “in or around 1567,”¹¹ the first in a long line of Luxtons who would be closely connected with Brushford and Abbotsham for the next four centuries.

A large collection of deeds in the Devon Heritage Centre records the residence in Brushford parish by successive Luxtons, but does not always specify the property of the individuals concerned.¹² An exception is a reversionary lease dated 20th March 1625/6¹³ naming Robert Luxton, yeoman, of Brushford which indicates that the Luxtons owned “an estate called *Abbotisham* in Brushforde” at this time, but it was occupied by “Richard Hagleigh of Tyverton, clothier” until Robert Luxton died, at which time Hagleigh surrendered it to Mary Luxton, Robert's wife.

No further evidence is available until the late 18th century when the Land Tax Assessments provide further information on Abbotsham. On the death of “George Luxton of Witheridge” and his burial on 31st October 1783, Abbotsham passed to his eldest son George.¹⁴ George and John Luxton came from a family of eight. George was baptised in Witheridge on 28th August 1755, the son of George and Elizabeth Luxton of Witheridge. His younger brother John “the son of Mr George Luxton by Elizabeth his wife” followed, several sisters later, on 28th December 1768. Lawrence Luxton was baptised in Brushford, the son of Robert and Susanna Luxton on 9th March 1788. He was the nephew of George and John by virtue of the fact that his mother, their sister Susanna Luxton, married Robert Luxton in Brushford on 13th April 1779. Lawrence's brother George was baptised on 4th November 1789, and their brother William on 2nd June 1793.

Following the death of his brother George and his burial in Witheridge on 2nd October 1790,¹⁵ Abbotsham passed to his brother John. He is listed in the Land Tax Assessments as the owner

⁷ *Notes on Brushford* by Mrs Bruce Oliver, Transactions of the Devonshire Association, Volume 89, pp153 – 159

⁸ *Magna Britannica*, Volume VI: Devonshire by Daniel Lysons and Samuel Lysons (1822)

⁹ Heywood in Wembworthy was an ancient seat of the Le Specks. In the time available, we have been unable to find a link between Harvye and the Speck family; there might have been none, and his occupation co-incidental. It might, however, have been passed to him with other lands formerly held by the family.

¹⁰ Letters Patent, SWHT 2741 M/T/15

¹¹ Lyson's *Magna Britanica* Volume VI, p.77 (1822)

¹² SWHT 47/9/1

¹³ SWHT 47/9/2/1

¹⁴ Brushford Burial Register

¹⁵ Brushford Burial Register

from 1791. John Luxton, who became the Rev John Luxton as a curate the following year, was listed as proprietor of Abbotsham until 1832. It was occupied from 1791 until 1810 by Thomas Thorne, and W or Wm Tarver until 1816.

In 1817, Robert Luxton Jnr occupied Abbotsham, while Robert Luxton Esq was at Brushford Barton. He remained there until 1827, when William Luxton was described as occupier. Robert Jnr might have been the son of Robert and Susanna, another brother of Lawrence, George and William, baptised in Brushford on 8th July 1781. Robert the elder was probably Robert Luxton who was buried in Brushford aged 74 on 20th April 1828, which would agree with Robert the younger – and the eldest son - apparently vacating Abbotsham around the same time.

From the Lease and Release,¹⁶ we know that Rev John Luxton's will was proved in 1836, when Abbotsham would have passed to Lawrence Luxton, and we also know that Lawrence's brother William bought Lawrence's life share in 1839 for c.£1000. William Luxton was occupying Abbotsham between 1828 and 1832, and by the 1841 census it was occupied by another William Luxton. The latter, listed as a farmer, aged c.50 was living at Abbotsham with Mary Luxton, six young Luxtons, five male and two female servants, while William Luxton Esq., surgeon, aged c.45 was living in Chulmleigh.

The Brushford Tithe Map and Apportionment of 1843 lists Abbotsham as a "Dwelling House and Homestead." The owner was William Luxton Esq, and the occupier was William Luxton who also owned and occupied Batelease, another farm. The tithe map (Fig. 2) clearly shows the main house with its outshuts and a projecting structure on the east side. To the north are several large barns clustered around a large farmyard. The farm consisted of c. 200 acres at this time, together with its large farmhouse and farmyard, representing quite a large and prosperous farming establishment.

In 1851 William Luxton quit Abbotsham and a sale notice advertising livestock and other utensils appeared in the Exeter & Plymouth Gazette: "*Abbotsham Farm, Brushford: Mr John M Letheren will sell by auction on Tuesday the 18th March by two o'clock in the afternoon precisely on the Premises, the undermentioned valuable and well-bred live stock. One good*

¹⁶ 18th April - Release, 1839: "Whereas George Luxton, late of Witheridge deceased and by his will dated 1780, proved 1784, gave and devised unto his son George all and singular hereditaments and premises hereinafter more particularly mentioned".

These were to be held by George, his heirs etc, apart from a payment of £50 per year to John Luxton, brother of George the younger while at university, carrying out his father's wishes to be a clergyman. All should go to John if George the younger died childless, which is what happened. George the younger's will was proved on 10th September 1791. John's will, dated 1830, when he was The Reverend John Luxton, left Abbotsham, Steer's Tenements and all the cottages and tenements belonging to him situated in the parish of Brushford to his nephew Lawrence Luxton. If Lawrence died without issue, John willed the same to his (John's) nephew George. John amended his will in a codicil dated January 1834, leaving Abbotsham to Lawrence "only for his natural life" then it would pass to his nephew William Luxton of Chulmleigh, Surgeon, his heirs and assigns". John's will and codicil were proved 8th July 1836. Then William bought Abbotsham and other estates from Lawrence for c.£1000. - "He the said Lawrence Luxton Doth grant, bargain, sell alien release and confirm unto the said William Luxton".

Brushford, Lease and Release, 1839. Lease for a year.

"17th April 1839 Indenture between Lawrence Luxton of the parish of Brushford, gentleman on the one part and William Luxton of Chulmleigh on the other part. Lawrence Luxton has bargained and sold to William Luxton his said messuages tenements bartons and farms called Abbotsham and Sten's Tenements situate in the parish of Brushford, given by the will of the Rev John Luxton of Witheridge, clerk, deceased to the said Lawrence Luxton for his natural life and after his decease to the said William Luxton in fee." Lawrence Luxton retained the right to quarry stones from Abbotsham Moor adjoining the public road.

waggon, part of the household furniture, many ricks of wood and furze, and other effects, the property of Mr William Luxton quitting the Estate. [here follows a description of the livestock]. Dated Royal Farmers' Insurance Office, Northtawton, 20th February 1851.”¹⁷

The new tenant at Abbotsham Henry Western, aged 27, was described as farming 140 acres, employing 2 men. He lived at Abbotsham with his sister, Elizabeth Western, aged 23, housekeeper; both were born in Wembworthy. They kept one farmer's servant, Richard Brooks, aged 20, born in Coldridge.

In 1861, Henry Western was still at Abbotsham, now listed with a wife, Elizabeth, and two children, Thomas and Laura, aged 8 and 5 and three servants. In the Western Times, 12th October 1866, the following announcement appeared: “*Notice is Hereby Given that the Farm called Abbotsham and Steers Tenement situated in the parish of Brushford, advertised to be Let by Tender from Lady-day next has been let by private agreement. Robert Fulford, Solicitor to the Owner, North Tawton, 10th October 1866.*” A mortgage dated 1857 gives the following information: Brushford, Mortgage, 25th April 1857: “*Mortgage in Fee of all those messuages, bartons and farms called Abbotsham and Steers Tenement situate in Brushford Devon to secure £1000 and Interest. Between William Luxton late of Chulmleigh in the County of Devon but now of Peckham in the County of Surrey, surgeon of the one part and Anthony Loveband of Landkey in the said county of Devon of the other, Whereas William Luxton is seized of or well and sufficiently entitled to ..doth hereby grant, release and assure unto the said Anthony Loveband ... all those messuages, tenements bartons and farms called Abbotsham and Steers Tenement situate in the Parish of Brushford aforesaid and now in the occupation of Henry Western...*”¹⁸

In 1868, William Luxton paid back his mortgage. A reconveyance of 21st July 1868 records an “*Indenture between Anthony Loveband of Landkey Esq and William Luxton, late of Peckham in the County of Surrey but now of Dolton, gentleman, whereas by an indenture of mortgage dated 25th April 1857 between William and Anthony did release unto Anthony all those messuages, tenements, bartons and farms called Abbotsham and Steer's Tenement in the parish of Brushford.*”¹⁹ William died a few months later, buried in Brushford on 4th November 1869, his abode given as St David's, Exeter, while the entry in the National Probate Index of the same date specifies “*City of Exeter, Gentleman deceased who died 29th October 1869 at 3 Velwell Villas...*”

The lease at Abbotsham was advertised once more in the Western Times, 8th July 1870 carrying the following advertisement: “*To Let by tender for term or years from Michaelmas 1870, that very desirable Farm called Abbotsham in the parish of Brushford, consisting of a good Farm House, convenient Farm Buildings ... Important Sale of 24 capital North Devon Bullocks, 8 valuable horses, 17 sheep, sow in pigs, apples in orchards, excellent machines and implements of husbandry, empty casks, household furniture &c &c Abbotsham Farm, Brushford, North Devon. Mr JM Letheren is instructed to sell by public auction on Wednesday 28th of September install the very choice and valuable farm stock and other effects of Mr Henry Western, quitting the farm at Michaelmas next...*”

The 1871 census for Abbotsham, Brushford lists Thomas Dodd, aged 49, Farmer of 200 acres, employing one man, born Gidley, his wife Agnes aged 50, born in Throwleigh and their five

¹⁷ Exeter & Plymouth Gazette 8th March 1851

¹⁸ SWHT 47/9/3/7

¹⁹ SWHT 47/9/3/8

children ranging from 17 to 3 years old, all born in Chagford, together with two Farm domestic servants. By the early 1880's they were still there although they were now farming only 119 acres.

The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1889, when the property was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 3). The farmhouse remained remarkably unaltered throughout this period, with only minor changes to the farmyard and surrounding barns to the north. The Dodds family were probably still farming the estate at this time although by the early 1890's they had been replaced by William Richards, aged 66, an employed agricultural labourer, his wife, and grand-daughter, a dressmaker, while Abbotsham's land was being tenanted and worked by another farmer.

By 1897 the Turner family had become the new tenants and the 1901 census describes John Turner as married, aged 37, a farmer and born in Ashreigney. He was living at Abbotsham with his wife Rebecca, and their eight children – five daughters and three sons. One servant was kept. Their occupation suggests a renewed prosperity for Abbotsham.

The early 20th century was characterised by only minor alterations, as is evidenced by the 1905 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5). By 1910, John Turner was described as a “farmer & overseer & assessor & collector of income and land tax”. The 1911 census notes three of his children as working on the farm; the number of children born to John and Rebecca now totalled thirteen, all living. During the war, mentions were made in the newspapers of John Turner's sons William and Richard gaining exemption from fighting, to farm Abbotsham.

Abbotsham remained in the ownership of the Luxton family throughout this period. Following the death of Robert George Luxton in 1902, the property had passed to the eldest son, Alfred Morgan Luxton. The property was finally advertised in the *Western Times* of 18th July 1919, “Capital Farm known as Abbotsham, Brushford” was put up for sale under the instructions of A M Luxton, “*containing about 186a, 2r, 38p of Pasture, Arable and Moor Land as for many years past occupied by Mr J Turner at a rental of £110 per annum and whose tenancy terminates at Lady Day 1923. The Dwelling House, from which fine views of Dartmoor are obtained, contains 6 bedrooms, dining and sitting rooms, kitchen, dairy etc and there are ample Outbuildings.*”

It is unclear whether the property was sold and John Turner was still farming at Abbotsham and collecting taxes, while his eldest son William was listed as a farmer in his own right. In 1924, the *Exeter & Plymouth Gazette* for 1st April reported Lower Living Farm, Bondleigh (57 acres) being sold to Mr Turner of Abbotsham, Brushford for £1,425, so the Turners were evidently prospering. John is listed in 1926 as a Farmer and Collector of Taxes, and in 1935, “Turner, Jn, Collector of Taxes, Abbotsham” and “Turner Bros. farmers, Abbotsham.” A report of John and Rebecca's Golden Wedding at Abbotsham in the *Western Times* of 9th April 1937 demonstrates how successful they had been as a family; fourteen children and twenty grandchildren.

A “Mr Turner” was still listed at Abbotsham in a funeral report of 1940, while the 1955 Ordnance survey map (Fig. 5) shows a similar arrangement of the property.

5. THE BUILDING SURVEY

5.1 Introduction

The building survey took place between January and May 2016, during the removal of modern plasterboard, partitions and stud walls. The stripping out of the building permitted closer inspection of the historic fabric of the house, and allowed the identification of areas that contained original features and areas where these had been replaced. These areas and relationships had not previously been visible to Historic England during their survey of the house. The new evidence recovered during these works has necessitated some re-interpretation of the sequence of development of the farmhouse outlined in the Historic England listing report.

5.2 The main building

EXTERIOR

Main façade (Fig. 6)

The house is a double-pile, two-storey structure, constructed of cob walling over stone rubble footings and covered with painted render. The original core of the house is a large double depth rectangular range, aligned east-west, and crowned with two axial and one lateral chimney stack: one on its western hip, one on its eastern hip and one at the northeastern corner of the house. The steeply-pitched thatched roof is hipped to the east and west and runs unbroken over both the front and rear range with a deep valley between.

The southern elevation of the house is its principal façade (pl. 1), presenting a two-storey elevation to the garden under a steeply-pitched thatched roof. This façade was originally designed to be symmetrical with a central doorway flanked by ground and first-floor windows spread across three bays. There is no evidence of earlier blocked window or door openings and it must be assumed that the building is a single-phase construction.

The ground floor is entered through a large door at the centre of the elevation which provides access to a small entrance hall. Light is provided by a single sash window to the left of the doorway, and a single identical window to the right. The lower part of the elevation is constructed of cob above local stone, rising uninterrupted to the level of the eaves. Although the western elevation (pl. 2) was solely constructed of local stone rubble this may have more to do with exposure to the prevailing elements rather than representing a structural building break related to an earlier phase. The entire building was covered in modern cement render and no evidence of historic stucco, decorative plaster schemes or quoins survived.

The east and north elevations

The removal of external render on the east elevation (pl. 3) confirmed the absence of an earlier building phase and revealed the symmetry of the original window arrangement. The ground-floor opening was blocked in the late 19th century and a new opening created immediately to the south. This re-used the earlier window, although both are replacements of earlier windows.

The north elevation (pl. 4), partly obscured by single storey outshuts along its entire length, contained irregular fenestration of various periods. The removal of render revealed that the main range had been built in a single phase of cob above stone rubble, while the outshuts, built of cob walling above local stone rubble, were added probably sometime in the early 19th century. The remains of the original window openings are visible within the north elevation,

although these were replaced sometime in the later 19th century by two smaller windows, perhaps reflecting the changing use of the first-floor space.

The outshuts

Along the northern edge of the house were two single-storey outshuts, consisting of the scullery and the dairy or pantry. The north elevation of the scullery consisted of a modern three pane window, inserted into an earlier doorway. To the east are the remains of a large blocked window. The room is lit by a further window with concrete sill in the east elevation.

The dairy or pantry, parallel with the main range, had a single window at the western end and a further window in the north elevation. Both windows are later insertions. The western window consisted of a plain unglazed two panel timber frame further subdivided by two vertical metal bars, and retained its original wooden shutters. The northern window consisted of three unglazed timber panels with vertical metal bars in the outermost panels. The timber frame was covered with metal gauze on the outside and had lost its shutters. Although a later insertion the eastern jamb of the window is splayed suggesting that it may relate to an earlier window opening, contemporary with the construction of the outshut sometime in the early 19th century. The roof over the outshuts consisted of simple lean-to roofs covered with sheets of corrugated iron.

INTERIOR

The ground floor (Fig. 7).

The interior of the building has remained remarkably unaltered, allowing a suggested reconstruction of the original layout and phasing. The property is entered from the garden through a centrally placed doorway in the south elevation. This provides access to the main entrance lobby and stair (G01), providing access to a through passage running the full depth of the building (G01, G04 and G05).

On either side of the entrance lobby, doorways lead to rooms to the west and east. The 19th-century main stair rises from the west side of the lobby before returning along the north side (pl. 5). Built against the north side of the entrance hall is a small room enclosed by modern partitions, which until recently served as a cloakroom.

To the west of the lobby is a timber partition with brick infill running the full width of the front range (pl. 6). This is constructed of squared timber, diagonal bracing and brick nogging, and covered with lath and plaster. This partition probably dates from the early 18th century, with the brick replacing the original cob infill. The door to room G02 has a plain 19th-century door frame with a four-panelled door. The ground-floor parlour (G02) to the west of the partition was lit by a single sash window in the south elevation. This is a 19th century replacement of an earlier window. No blocked doorway or window openings were identified within the cross wall dividing the front and rear ranges.

The parlour was heated by a 20th-century fireplace with tiled reveals and a plain mantelpiece in the centre of the western elevation. Investigation during the works revealed that, while the original opening of the fireplace had been successively modernized and reduced in size, the original opening had a re-used timber beam with infilled joist holes as a lintel (pl. 7). The fireplace opening was originally rather narrow and tall suggesting perhaps an early 18th century date, while it had subsequently been partly infilled in the early 19th century to take a fireplace with a cast-iron grate and tiled surround. The present ceiling of the room, consisting entirely

of planked joists, was probably inserted during alterations to the house in the early 19th century, when the brick infill within the front range partitions on the ground-floor and the present main stair was inserted and the building generally 'modernised'.

To the right of the lobby was a plain plank doorway with a set of late 17th-18th century H-hinges leading to room G03, the eastern room of the present house. This was a large room and contained a large chimneystack in its east elevation. The removal of a 20th century fireplace and layers of paint and plaster on the west face of this stack revealed an impressive timber lintel with a very shallow four-centred arched lintel decorated with two hollow mouldings (pl. 9). The decorations of the lintel suggest a late 16th or early 17th century, although the projection of the local stone rubble jambs beyond the decorative detailing suggests that the lintel has been re-used from an earlier building. Within the northern corner of the fireplace were the remains of a cloam oven (pl. 10). Inserted in the early 19th century it's unclear at what time it lost the rear of the main chamber. The large recess, high on the wall and to the south of the fireplace, was originally used as a cupboard.

The presence of such a grand fireplace in this room suggests that it probably served as the main parlour of the original house. The room was lit by a single sash window in the south elevation. The current window is a modern replacement and the room was formerly lit by a sash window similar to the one in room G02. The ceiling was supported by the original beam extending across the width of the room, although the presence of plank joists suggests that the original joists were replaced during alterations to the house in the early 19th century. It would be interesting to speculate that the presence of these in both the formal rooms at the front of the house may hint at the presence of decorative ceiling plaster schemes. A large doorway in the north elevation provided access to the kitchen (G06) at the rear.

From the entrance lobby (G01) corridor G04 would originally have provided access through the centre of the house to the rooms at the rear. However, sometime in the 20th century the central doorway through the spine wall was blocked and a second stair, providing access to the room above the kitchen from G08 inserted. The lintel above the central doorway consists of a re-used timber from an earlier structure or building. Access to the kitchen (G06) was through an original, low but wide, opening in the timber-and-cob partition defining the eastern side of the central corridor (pls. 11-12). This contained a later plain plank door with 19th century strap hinges. A further doorway in the south elevation provided access to the main parlour of the house (G03). To the east of this doorway were two recesses cut directly into the cob of the central spine wall (pl. 13). The larger opening was blocked when the kitchen was refurbished, probably in the mid-late 19th century, the cupboard relocated to the east elevation. The smaller recess is probably contemporary with the reordering of the kitchen, respecting the height of the timber panelling below. The room was originally lit by a single window in the east elevation, level with and mirroring the arrangement on the first floor. The opening was subsequently blocked, the window retained but moved further to the south (pl. 14). A large cupboard was inserted into the space formerly occupied by the window opening.

The room contained a large fireplace in the north elevation (pls. 15-16). This consisted of a large timber lintel with simple chamfer decoration and large roughly hewn granite jambs. Located within the eastern jamb were the partial remains of a large bread oven. This had been heavily disturbed when, following the construction of the outshuts in the early 19th century along the northern edge of the building, a doorway was inserted in the northeast corner of the room. The fireplace was largely rebuilt at this time and a new bread oven inserted in the western side.

The kitchen ceiling retains its original arrangement with a large beam resting in the east wall, while the west end of the beam rests within the timber-and-cob partition defining the western side of the room. Removal of the floor boards above has shown that the main beam has been re-used, with empty joist sockets on the upper side and a gentle chamfer along the south side only.

Beyond the doorway in the north wall of room G06 is the scullery (G07). The extensions at the rear of Abbotsham House are built of cob above local stone rubble. Another doorway to the north leads to the farmyard, now partly blocked and converted to a window, while a small window has been inserted into the east elevation. The room was originally lit by a single window in the north elevation, now completely blocked, while the roof structure is a simple lean-to roof with boarded rafters covered in corrugated iron sheeting.

To the west of the corridor (G04) lies a large but plain room (G08). Defined against the corridor by a very simple timber partition built against an undersized ceiling beam the room was accessed by a simple plank door with 19th century strap hinges. Two further ceiling beams run the width of the room and rest in original openings within the cob elevations. Removal of the modern plaster ceilings revealed that both beams have been re-used from an earlier structure or building, with earlier joist holes visible. The room was lit by a single window in the west elevation. A further window in the north elevation would have provided additional lighting, although this was partly blocked and converted to a cupboard when the outshuts to the north of the house were built in the early 19th century. Interestingly this is the only room where a cobbled surface was present, suggesting, along with a lack of other architectural detail, that it may have served as a food preparation or storage room. No blocked doorway or window openings were identified within the cross wall dividing the front and rear ranges.

At the eastern end of the north elevation a low doorway with a simple plank door leads to room G09. This doorway was inserted into the north elevation of the main house following the construction of the outshuts in the early 19th century. Interestingly this doorway has no lintel with the door frame inserted into the cob wall. A recess in the south elevation of the outshut was originally a window providing light for room G08 to the south. This was subsequently blocked and a large cupboard formed. The floor is of concrete. The room is lit by two windows in the north and west elevations. Both are later insertions although the eastern jamb of the window is splayed suggesting that it may relate to an earlier window opening, contemporary with the construction of the outshut sometime in the early 19th century. The roof is carried on two rather crudely made half-A-frame trusses with common rafters carried on two purlins and supporting a corrugated iron sheet roof.

The first floor (Fig. 7)

The first floor is accessed from the entrance lobby (G01) by the early 19th-century staircase (pl. 17) which terminates at a plain square newel post and two horizontal rails with stick balusters. This gives onto a small landing (F01) which provides access to all the rooms on the first floor. Originally much larger the landing has been subdivided in the late 19th or early 20th century by the insertion of a small room. This was subsequently converted to a bathroom. The room is lit by a single sash window in the south elevation, although the current window is a modern replacement and the landing, prior to its partition, was formerly lit by a sash window similar to the one in room G02.

Access to room F02 was through a plain plank doorway with 19th century strap hinges set in a timber partition with diagonal bracing (pl. 18). Lit by a single window in the south elevation it

was originally heated by a small fireplace in the west elevation wall (pl. 19). Subsequently narrowed in the 19th century it latterly contained a 20th century fireplace with tiled surround. The lack of first-floor fireplaces in the remaining rooms suggests that this may have been the principal bedroom. No blocked doorway or window openings were identified within the cross wall dividing the front and rear ranges.

On the eastern side of the landing a simple plank door with 19th century strap hinges, identical to the doorway into F02, provided access into another large room (F03) at the eastern end of the front range. Set in a timber partition with diagonal bracing and lit by a single window in the south elevation this room remained unheated until the modern period (pl. 20).

A single doorway with 19th century moulded surround, identical to the doorways into rooms F02 and F03, provided access to a series of three, unheated, rooms at the rear of the building. The original arrangement of the rooms mirrored that at the front of the house. Two large rooms (F05 and F06), lit by windows in the north and east elevations respectively, were divided by a central corridor. This arrangement was changed probably in the mid-to-late 19th century by the insertion of the rear stair and the moving of the western partition, thereby allowing for the insertion of a third bedroom. Inspection of the north elevation showed that the original window opening had been blocked (pl. 21) when the partition was moved to its current location and two additional windows inserted either side. The western partition remained unaffected by these changes until the later 19th century when the room was much reduced in size following the creation of a series of storage or wash rooms along its western edge and the insertion of a new doorway (pl. 22). Access to this room was latterly gained from a late 19th century stair rising from room G08. This required the blocking of the doorway through the central spine wall and effectively marked the end of corridor G01/G04 as a through passage.

The roof

The roof (pls. 23-24) over the front and rear ranges are identical, being supported on five closely spaced tie-beams with rudimentary King posts and located across the width of each range. These divide the roof space into six roughly equal bays each approximately 2.5m wide. The tie-beams rest within the cob walls, showing that the roof construction is contemporary with the early phase of the house. There are 12 rows of sturdy thatching battens on either side and the roof is linked at the apex by a substantial ridge plank. The roof over the front and rear ranges is clearly a post-medieval construction and it is most likely that it dates from the early-to-mid-18th century, when the house was rebuilt.

6. DISCUSSION

Phase I The primary building *early 18th century*

The symmetry of the façade with its twin gable chimneys is reflected in the ordering of the interior of the house. The most likely reconstruction of the original plan form of the ground floor of the early house is an entrance lobby and cross-passage providing access to two large rooms at the front, and a large kitchen and service room, perhaps a dairy and a buttery/pantry at the rear. The first-floor arrangement mirrored the rooms below although the rooms at the rear were likely set aside for the children or servants.

A large number of re-used timbers are present throughout the house. These range from re-used ceiling beams and squared floor joists to fireplace lintels with a late 16th or early 17th century moulding. Where the original ceiling survived in the kitchen f. eg. no care had been taken in the construction of the first-floor above, suggesting that it had been hurriedly put together by

an unskilled carpenter or farm labourer. This approach is typical of the period following the Civil War, which also sees radical changes in the construction of timber framing.²⁰ This is characterised by the use of slighter uprights and diagonal struts, rather than the sturdy timber framing associated with 17th century or earlier buildings. The presence of timbers from an earlier building, together with the lighter form of timber partitions, supports an 18th century date for the construction of the current house. This dating is supported by the symmetry of the main elevation, although the presence of cob infill within the kitchen partition may suggest an early 18th century rather than later date.

Interestingly little ironmongery prior to the 19th century survives in the house. A single set of late 17th-18th century H-hinges survives on a later plank door.

The absence of earlier building phases, the re-use of timber within the main house and the presence of burnt timbers within the linyhay to the north (pls. 25-26) supports the suggestion that the earlier building burnt down.

Phase II Remodelling and alterations *early 19th century*

The house was greatly altered in the early 19th century. Evidence from the ground- and first-floor suggests that the windows in the south and east elevations were provided with new sash windows at this point. Although no evidence now remains of the earlier window arrangement it is likely that the early windows may have consisted of early sash windows, typical of the early 18th century.

The entrance hall was remodelled at this time, with the cob infill within the ground-floor partitions removed within the front range filled with infilled with brick. The ceilings within the front rooms were rebuilt with deep plank joists during this period, while throughout the house the earlier, wide fireplaces were narrowed and fitted with cast-iron grates. A new stair provided access to the first floor.

At the rear, a series of outshuts were constructed to the north of the house. Although the function of the western outshut is not fully understood during this period, perhaps functioning as a dairy or pantry, it is assumed that the eastern outshut served as a scullery. A new doorway provided access to the service range from the kitchen. This required the extensive rebuilding of the kitchen fireplace and the construction of a new bread oven.

Phase III Later alterations *mid-late-19th century*

During the mid-to-late 19th century further small alterations were made in the house. The main change in the property at this time was the insertion of a new stair. This provided access from the rear service room at the western end of the ground-floor to the eastern first-floor bedroom. This represented a major change in the way the building was used and its occupants progressed through it, involving the blocking of the central doorway through the spine wall.

On the first-floor the layout of the eastern bedroom was altered by the insertion of a series of partitions along its western end, perhaps used as linen cupboards or closet with wash stand. This required the blocking of the small window in the north elevation. It is likely that this room would have been occupied by people other than members of the family, most probably farm workers who could access the room from the rear service part of the house (Burley 2016). Further changes on the first-floor involved the blocking of the large window in the north

²⁰ Portman 1966, p. 58-60.

elevation and the construction of a new partition to create a third bedroom. This was probably added to augment the accommodation, which was doubtless rather cramped at this time, and provide accommodation for servants.

A further alteration was the blocking of the window in the east elevation of the kitchen. The reason for this, and the moving of the opening further south, was the blocking of the large cupboard in the south elevation and the creation of a new cupboard within the east elevation. This allowed for the creation of a large bench along the south and east elevations. This perhaps allowed family and farm workers alike to be seated around the kitchen table. The kitchen fireplace was also modernised.

Small changes were also applied to the outbuildings at this time. The northern window opening in the scullery was blocked and a new doorway inserted, while a new window was inserted in the east elevation. New windows were also inserted in the western outshut. These changes presumably reflecting the changing use of these outbuildings.

Phase IV Later alterations *modern*

The 20th century is characterised by the stagnation of the property with only minor alterations undertaken. The bathroom may have been inserted on the first-floor of the front range at this period, while a storage space was created within the lobby on the ground-floor.

Finally, all of the fireplaces were given modern backs and tiled surrounds at this time

7. CONCLUSION

Abbotsham is an important historic farmstead within Brushford parish, its size reflecting a large and prosperous farming establishment in the 18th to the early 20th centuries. The layout of the house is comparatively simple, consisting of a two-storey double-pile plan, with a central cross-passage. No evidence was found of an earlier house and the presence of re-used timbers, both for the ceilings and the fireplace lintels, as well as the presence of re-used burnt timbers within the lincage to the north, suggests that the earlier, possibly late medieval, property was probably demolished following a fire, some of the materials being reused in the construction of the present building. It is unclear if the present building was built on the same site.

Abbotsham, with its symmetrical façade and interior layout, exemplifies a new type of farmhouse, sometimes called the ‘Georgian Farmhouse’, which appears in Devon by the beginning of the 18th century. Probably developed elsewhere in the country, due to the survival of earlier houses, this is a rare example in Devon.²¹

By the early-19th century, possibly due to the growing prosperity of the farm, the house was extended by the addition of two outshuts, serving as a scullery and perhaps a buttery or pantry. The kitchen was ‘modernised’, the front range re-floored and a new stair built in the lobby.

Throughout the 19th century the property was further altered, suggesting that the farm was flourishing at this period. It is at this time that the cross-passage was blocked and the rear stair inserted, providing separate accommodation for the farmworkers on the first-floor. The rear range was further subdivided by moving the original partition and the creation of two smaller bedrooms for the servants. The kitchen was altered further, possibly due to the growing

²¹ Alcock 2015, p. 27.

prosperity of the farm and the resulting increase in the number of farmworkers. This change is also reflected in the outshuts, which are altered at this time, perhaps reflecting the changing needs of the farmhouse and changing agricultural practices on the farm. Despite many later alterations, the building remains substantially as it was at this time.

The 20th century is characterised by few changes and the building appears to be in decline.

SITE ARCHIVE

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1393, pending deposition with the ADS. Details of the building recording, including a pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-298022).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was commissioned by Suzanne and Tristan Johnson and administered for the client by Nigel Cant (Nigel Cant Planning Ltd). It was monitored for DCHET by Stephen Reed. The building recording was carried out by R. W. Parker and M. Steinmetzer. The drawings for this report were prepared by M. Steinmetzer. The author wishes to thank Malcolm the builder and R.W. Parker for their assistance throughout the project.

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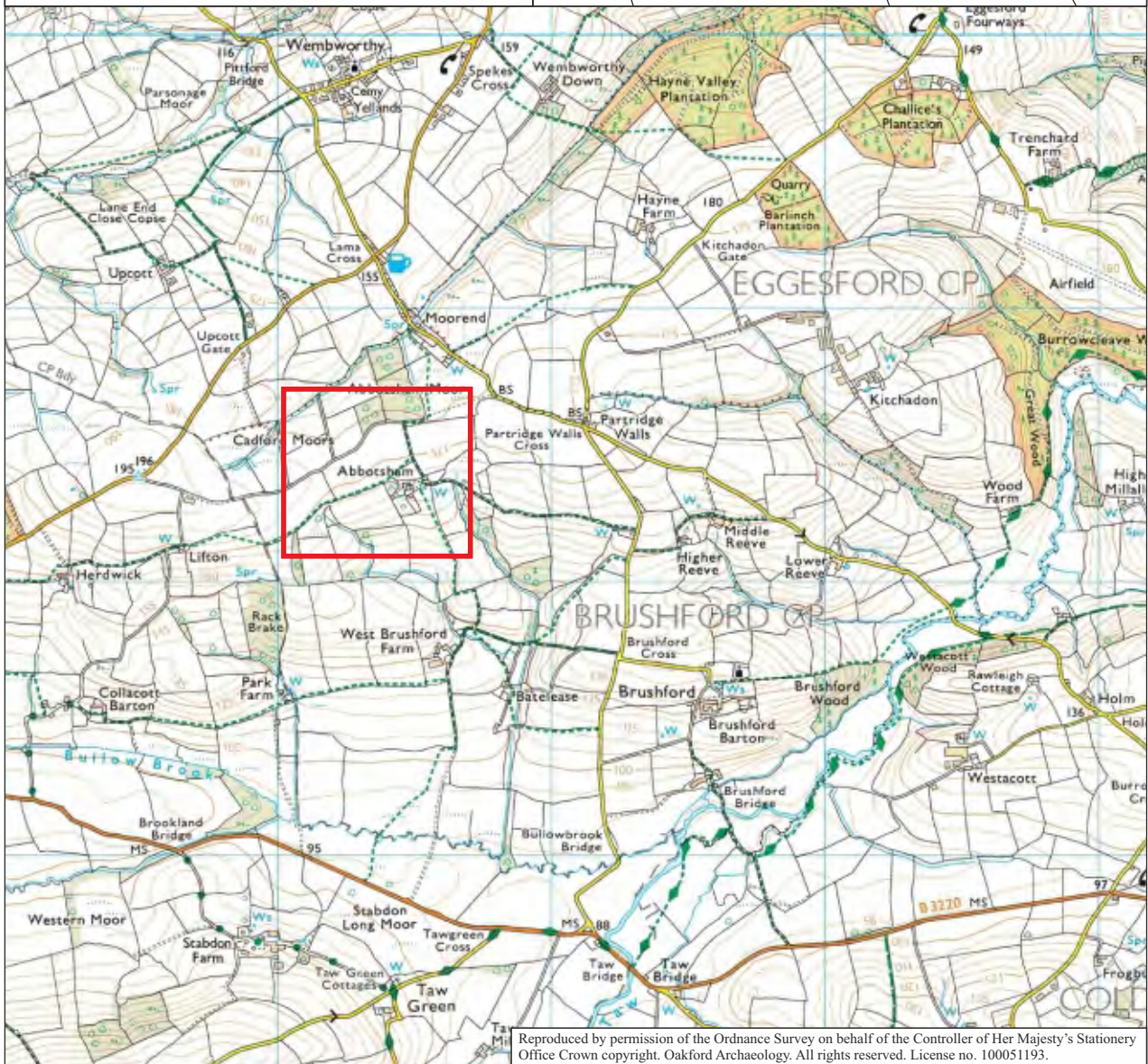
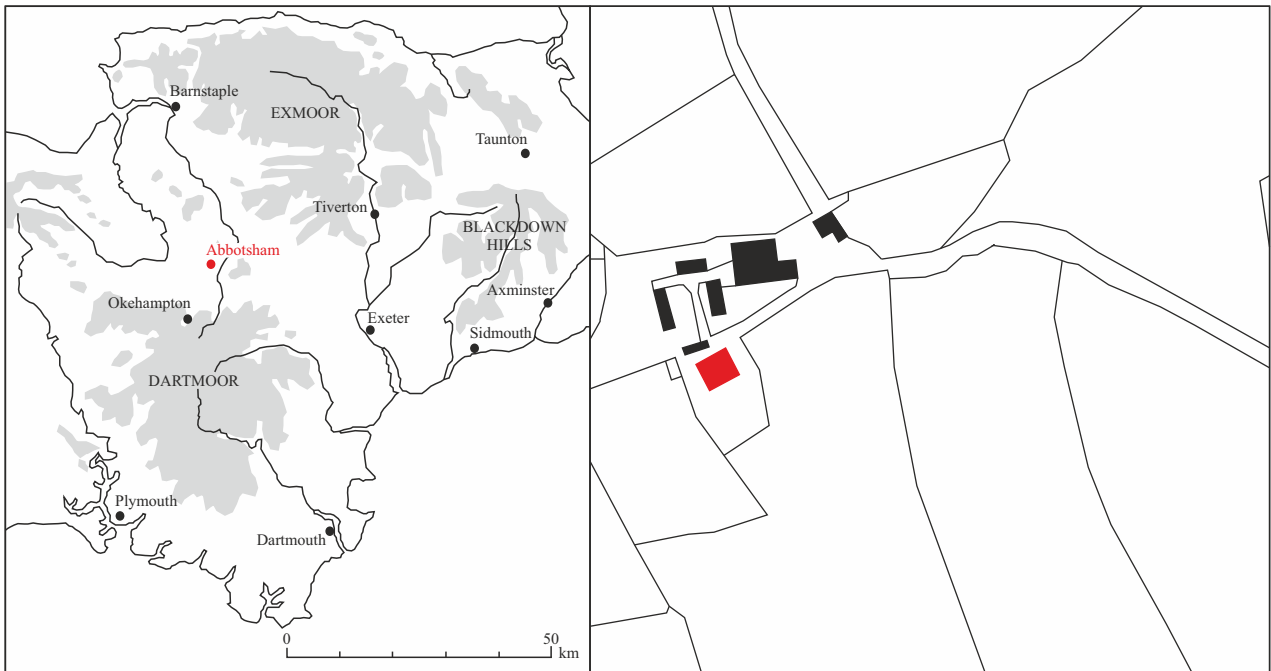


Fig. 1 Location of site.



Fig. 2 Detail from the 1843 Brushford tithe map.

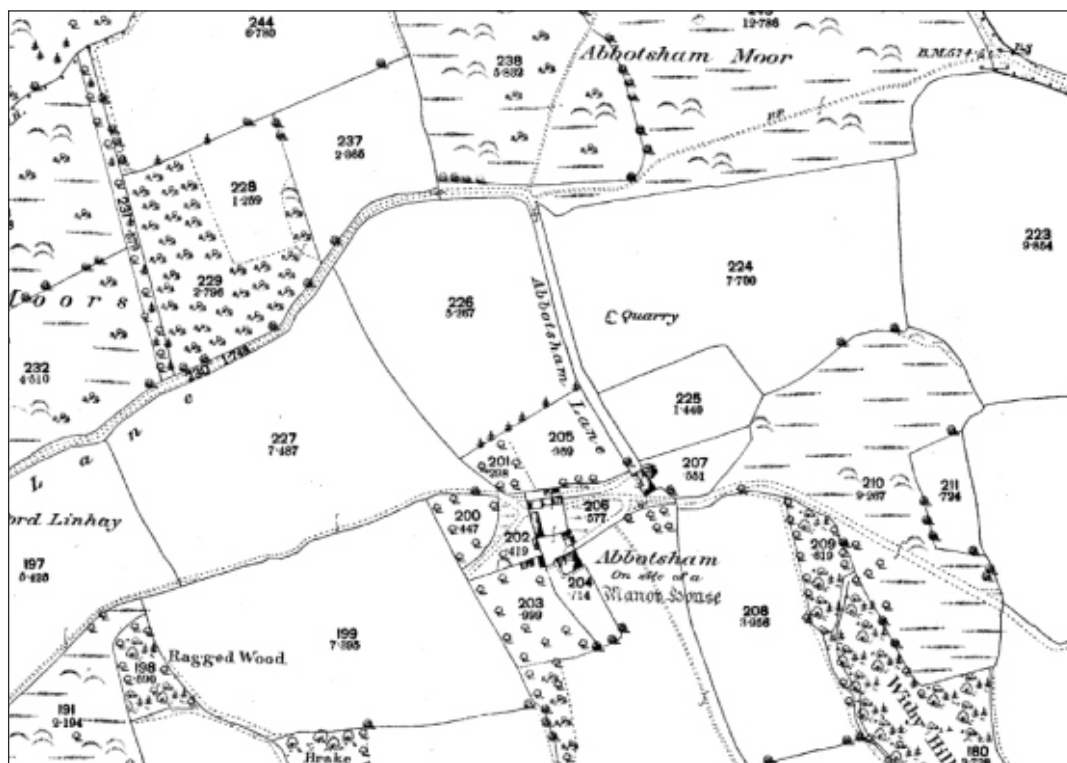


Fig. 3 Detail from the 1st edition 1889 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet LIII. 3.

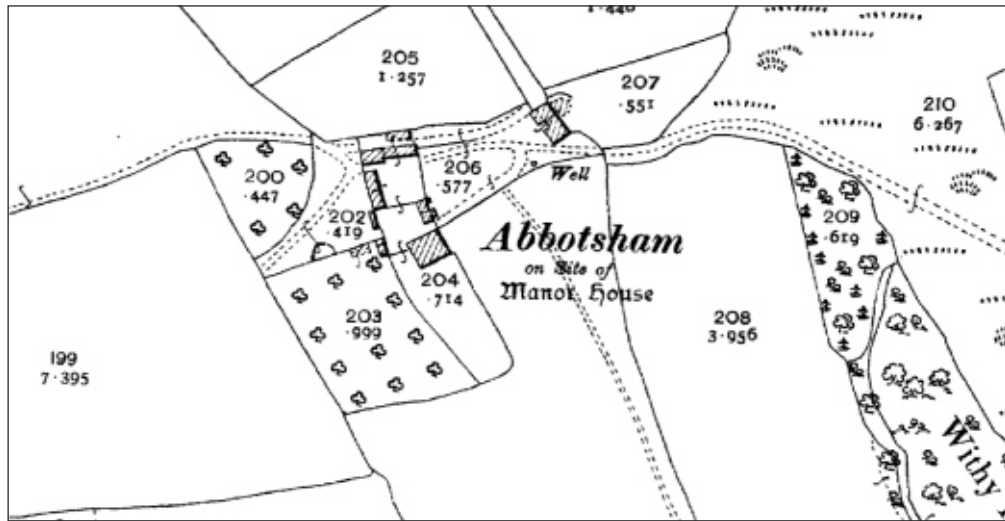


Fig. 4 Detail from the 2nd edition 1905 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet LIII.3.

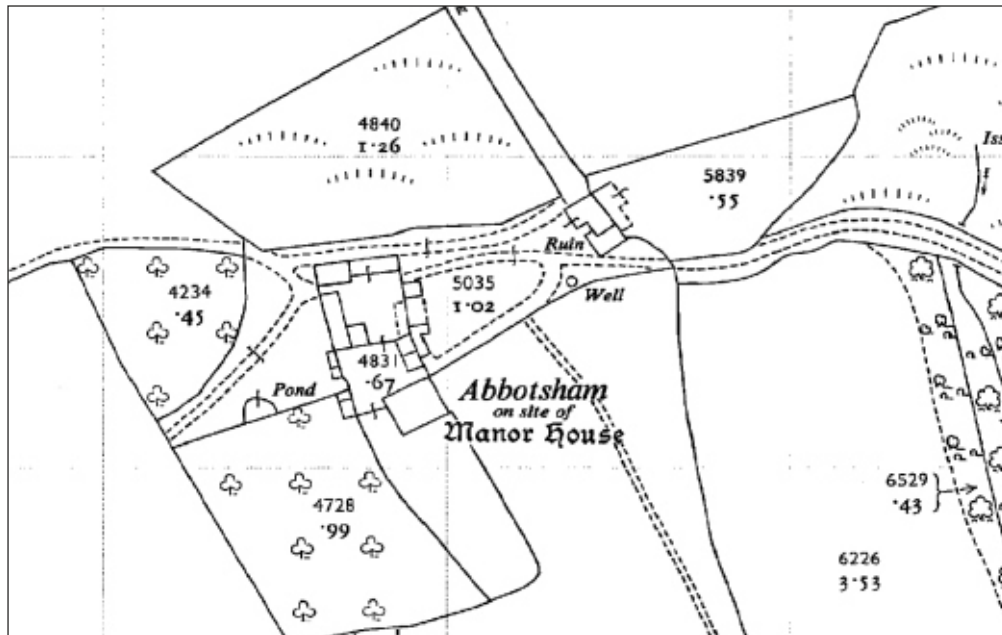


Fig. 5 Detail from the 1955 Ordnance Survey map.



Fig. 6 External elevations (south, east and north) showing location of observations and suggested phases of development.





Fig. 7 Plan of ground- and first-floor showing location of observations and suggested phases of development.



Pl. 1 General view of south elevation showing central doorway and symmetrical facade. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 2 General view of western elevation showing chimneystack. 2m scale. Looking northeast.



Pl. 3 General view of east elevation showing window arrangement and early 19th century outshuts. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 4 General view of north elevation showing original chimneystack and early 19th century outshuts. 2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 5 General view of entrance hall G01 showing original through passage and main stair. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 6 General view of east elevation ground-floor room G02 showing early 18th century partition with later brick infill and doorway. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 7 General view of west elevation ground-floor room G02 showing fireplace with re-used lintel. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 8 General view of west elevation room G03 showing early 18th century partition and doorway with later brick infill. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 9 General view of east elevation ground-floor room G03 showing fireplace with re-used lintel, inserted cloam oven and high-level cupboard. 2m scale. Looking east



Pl. 10 Close-up view of cloam oven showing truncation at rear. Looking northeast.



Pl. 11 General view of west elevation ground-floor room G06 showing doorway in cob-infilled partition with corridor G04. 2m scale. Looking southwest.



Pl. 12 General view of west elevation ground-floor room G06 showing doorway in cob-infilled partition with corridor G04. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 13 General view of south elevation ground-floor room G06 showing doorway to room G03, infilled cupboard and later cupboard. 2m scale. Looking south.



Pl. 14 General view of east elevation ground-floor room G06 showing cupboard inserted into blocked window, with current window inserted to right of blocking. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 15 General view of north elevation ground-floor room G06 showing large kitchen fireplace with bread oven. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 16 Close-up of bread oven. Looking northwest.



Pl. 17 General view of main stair, landing F01. Looking west.



Pl. 18 General view of west elevation landing F01 showing doorway in partition. 2m scale. Looking northwest.



Pl. 19 General view of west elevation first-floor room F02 showing brickwork of small inserted fireplace. 2m scale. Looking west.



Pl. 20 General view of east elevation first-floor room F03 showing lack of fireplace. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 21 General view of north elevation first-floor corridor F04 showing window insert through blocking contemporary with late 19th century partition. 2m scale. Looking north.



Pl. 22 General view of east elevation first-floor corridor F04. 2m scale. Looking east.



Pl. 23 General view of roof arrangement. Looking northeast.



Pl. 24 General view of hip roof arrangement showing reused wall plate timber. Looking east.



Pl. 25 General view of Linhay to north of Abbotsham House. Looking west.



Pl. 26 Close-up of re-used timber within Linhay showing traces of burning. Looking north.

Appendix 1:

Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological works

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 This document has been produced by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Mr and Mrs T Johnson. The document sets out the methodology to be used during building recording at Abbotsham farmhouse, Brushford, Devon (SS 6649 0832). The work is to be carried out to satisfy condition no. 6 attached to the grant of planning permission (16/01677/HOUSE) and condition no. 4 attached to the grant of listed building consent (16/01678/LBC) for external and internal alterations to the existing farmhouse. The present document represents the 'written scheme of archaeological work' required by the local planning authority, Mid Devon District Council (MDDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).

1.2 Abbotsham is a Grade II Listed farmhouse with possible 17th century origins. It has a double depth plan with a recent outshot at the rear. The building has been subject to alterations and additions in the 18^h century, with further work occurring in the late 19th-early 20th century.

2. AIMS

2.1 The aim of the project is to ensure the adequate recording of any historic fabric exposed and to record it as necessary prior to and during the development; and to report the results of the project as appropriate.

3. METHOD

Liaison will be established with the client and their contractors prior to works commencing in order to advise on OA requirements in relation to the works outlined below. If a good working relationship is established at the outset any delays caused by archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time should be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of exposed historic building fabric.

Building recording

3.1 Historic building recording will be undertaken by a suitably qualified historic buildings specialist. All monitoring and recording will be carried out as per OA standard recording procedures and in accordance with the standards of the Institute for Archaeology (*Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, 1996, revised 2008).

3.2 The following method for historic building recording will be utilised, tailored to the level of recording required once historic features have been identified.

- A photographic record using a high-quality digital camera for interpretative and reporting needs.
- Production of floor plans (based on architect's plans where appropriate), with sections, elevations and more detailed drawings of architectural features and details as appropriate. (These will also utilise architect's drawings where available.) These drawings will be prepared at scales of 1:100, 1:50 and 1:20 with smaller details drawn at larger scales as appropriate.

- A written record outlining the evidence for historic fabric, an interpretation of this evidence, and an outline of the development of the building.
- The archive will be either born digital or scanned to a suitable format for deposition in Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

3.3 If significant historic features that are worthy of retention are exposed during the stripping out the historic buildings specialist will request the contractor that these features are not removed and inform the DCHET of their presence.

General project methods

3.4 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site.

3.5 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by Alison Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.

3.6 Should items be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3.7 The DCHET will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the planning authority and will wish to inspect the works in progress. Any amendments to the specific responses and methods set out elsewhere in this document will be reviewed and agreed with him prior to implementation and completion. A date of completion of all archaeological site work, including historic building recording, will be confirmed with the DCHET and the timescale of the completion of items under section 4 will run from that date.

4. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

4.1 The reporting requirements will be agreed with the DCHET on completion of fieldwork.

4.2 The results of the historic building recording will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological site work. The summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- i) location plan;
- ii) a written description of the exposed historic fabric and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of any locally available historical evidence from any nearby sites and historic mapping;
- iii) A site location plan at an appropriate scale, and a plan of the site showing the location of the recorded buildings;

- iv) Phased and annotated floor plans, along with copies of other drawn records (elevations, cross sections, etc) as appropriate to illustrate features of historic or architectural interest and/or the development of the building;
- v) Photographs of features of significant historic or architectural interest;
- vi) specialist reports as appropriate.
- vii) if necessary, an assessment of what further work is necessary to analyse and publish any particularly significant finds and/or results.

4.3 A .pdf version of the summary report will be produced and distributed to the Client and the DCHET on completion of sitework within the timescale above (5.2). A copy of the .pdf version will also be deposited with the site archive and a copy sent to the DCC HER.

4.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, (English Heritage, 2006) upon completion of the project. The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital data and digital copies of the primary site records and copies of all photographs and associated metadata collected during the course of the historic building recording. This will be deposited with the ADS while any retained artefacts will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in accordance with their current conditions of deposit (RAMM reference number *pending*) within 12 months of the finish of site work. A retention and discard strategy will be agreed with the RAMM after the finish of site work, when it is clear what has been found, but before any processing of the material for archiving (other than cleaning).

4.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database within six months of the completion of site work.

4.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the “round up” section of an appropriate national journal, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.

Should particularly significant remains be encountered, then these, owing to their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the DCHET, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client, and the DCHET. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

4.7 Any amendments to the method or timescale set out above will be agreed in writing with the DCHET before implementation.

5. COPYRIGHT

5.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all

rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

6. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 6.1 The historic building recording will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced OA archaeologist, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*, 1996, revised 2008, and *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed for OA by M. Steinmetzer MCIfA, who produced this document.

Health & Safety

- 6.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;

Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;

Building specialist: Richard Parker;

Illustrator: Sarnia Blackmore;

Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;

Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);

Environmental data: Hayley McParland (Historic England);

Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);

Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);

Human remains: Louise Loe (Oxford Archaeology), Charlotte Coles;

Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);

Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;

Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);

Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);

Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;

Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);

Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);

Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates;

Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team