

WALTON FARM, WALTON POOL,  
CLENT, WORCESTERSHIRE –  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

WSM77849



**Mike Napthan Archaeology**

3 Hamilton Road, Worcester, WR5 1AG [mike@mikenapthanarcheology.co.uk](mailto:mike@mikenapthanarcheology.co.uk)

# **Walton Farm, Walton Pool, Clent – Historic building recording and heritage assessment**

## **WSM 77849**

**25<sup>th</sup> November, 2021**

**Mike Napthan MCIFA (with additional research by Alison Wragg MA)**

### *Summary*

*The farm at Walton Farm, Walton Pool lies to the south of the village of Clent, and consists of a Listed Grade II 18<sup>th</sup> Century farmhouse and associated, separately Grade II Listed farm buildings. Mike Napthan Archaeology was asked to assess the traditional farm buildings range with the exception of the farmhouse which is under separate occupation. Planning application has been submitted for proposed conversion of the traditional farm buildings to domestic accommodation.*

*The buildings are all of brick, with only very limited residual vestiges of an earlier traditionally timber framed phase (probably not on the same footprints). The buildings are loosely arranged into two fold-yards, to the east and west of the barn range. The building configuration is largely the product of a steeply sloping site, and is the result of evolution rather than a formally planned farmstead.*

*Whilst externally fairly complete the remaining buildings retain few original significant internal features; the buildings having been previously adapted for changing agricultural uses. In the case of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century waggon shed with granary above the building has been lightly adapted in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century to form stabling, but alterations to the original stable/hayloft range have been more intrusive. The original threshing barn has been adapted for use as a cattle shed (and part used for a loose box). The large mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century range known as the Hogg house was originally of a form that made it adaptable for intensive pig rearing, poultry, dairy or cattle rearing, and as a result is relatively unchanged.*

*The earliest surviving structure is the threshing barn at the eastern side of the western foldyard. The barn, which appears to have been L shaped contains residual re-used late 17<sup>th</sup> Century elements including traditional timber framing. The barn would appear to be mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century (circa 1760-70s) and it is likely that the adjoining stable block had similar origins, though the relationship between the two is obscured by later repairs. The northernmost bay of the barn originally extended westwards over a stable at ground floor level; this area was subsequently blocked off (using re-used mid 17<sup>th</sup> Century brick) and is now accessed only from the stable block side.*

## 1 Introduction

1.1 This heritage statement has been prepared at the request of Janine Cobain (on behalf of the trustees of the Worgan Trust) to provide a summary of the historical development of Walton Farm Clent (NGR SO9315578725). The house is Grade II Listed (see below). A planning application (BDC 21/00553/FUL) has been submitted for proposed conversion of existing vacant barn and outbuildings to form five residential dwellings, plus annexes for storage and agricultural use at Walton Farm. The farm buildings and farmhouse are separately Listed. The Worgan Trust charity was set up by philanthropist Paul Cadbury in 1967 to protect and preserve land around Birmingham. This purpose is sustained through ownership of Longdon and Withybed Woods in Wyre Forest, as well as Walton, Moorhall and Chapman's Hill Farms in the Clent Hills. Walton and Moor Hall farms had been occupied by the same farming family for over 60 years but due to a series of unforeseen circumstances, the whole farm returned to the Worgan Trust in January 2016. The farm includes the following; two eight bedroom farmhouses, a moat and two sets of traditional Worcestershire farm buildings which are all Grade II listed, as well as four farm workers cottages.

1.2 The Listing description is as follows:

*6/73 Barn and stables adjoining Walton Farmhouse to the east side*

*GV II*

*Barn and stables. Mid-C18 with mid-C19 and mid-C20 alterations and additions. Brick with machine-tiled roof. L-plan. Barn: aligned roughly north/south; five bays, central wagon bay with opposed cart entries and double doors. Header ventilation courses and dentilled eaves cornice. Stable door and ground floor rectangular light in south gable end; loft door above. Stable adjoins to north-west; two levels with dentilled eaves cornice. Roughly four bays. South elevation has a ground floor 2-light window, three stable doors (one inserted into larger opening with cambered head, and one with a transom light and cambered head); square loft opening. Single-bay wing at west gable end has an archway with a cambered head and inserted C20 garage doors and a 2-light upper level window. A single-storey addition to this wing, with a 3-light casement and a door in its front elevation, links the barn and stable to Walton Farmhouse (qv). The C20 additions to the barn are not of special architectural interest. The barn and stables are situated on a prominent hillside location beside Walton Farmhouse. Included for group value. Listing NGR: SO9315578725*

The adjoining farmhouse is also Listed:

*6/72 Walton Farmhouse*

*GV II*

*Farmhouse. Late C18 with mid-C19 and mid-C20 alterations. Handmade brick with sandstone dressings; machine-tiled hipped roof with large end stacks. Two storeys and attic with sandstone band at first floor and attic floor levels; moulded timber eaves cornice. Three bays; windows all have cambered heads and are 3-light casements; central entrance has a hooded canopy on shaped brackets, a 4-panelled door and transom light with central glazing bar. Attic light to right side. Interior said to have been remodelled. C19 and C20 additions to rear. Listing NGR: SO9312878740*

## **2 Methodology**

2.1 The present report included consultation of readily accessible documentation, published and cartographic sources, archive catalogues etc..

2.2 The farm building range (excluding the farm house and modern farm buildings) was thoroughly inspected by Mike Napthan MCIFA during July 2021, an internal and external Level 3 record made at that time. The architects drawings proved to be a suitable accurate base for annotation and only minor additions and amendments were made to the as existing drawings prepared by Tournay Design.

2.3 A search of the Historic Environment Record provided no additional information of note over and above the Listing Descriptions. The present report has been allocated the reference WSM77849.

## **3 Cartographic evidence**

3.1 The earliest detailed map to show the farm is the Tithe Awards plan of 1843 – this shows a significantly different layout to the present farm complex, but the house, former stable range and barn are all shown on essentially the same footprints as they stand today. Further ranges of buildings on the southern side of the foldyard and adjoining the south western end of the barn have subsequently been replaced (Fig 1).

3.2 The 1883 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 1) shows significant changes in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the addition of a second fold-yard east of barn, and removal of buildings to the south and west of the barn. Immediately to the east of the barn there appear to be three pigsties, and the cart-house/granary building has been built on the south east corner of the farmstead complex.

3.3 A lack of revisions to the Ordnance Survey makes it difficult to determine with certainty when the “Hogg Barn” was built – the plot appears empty on the 1938 1:10000 mapping and a new building had appeared on the eastern end of the site by 1955 (again 1:10000 mapping). The full footprint of the Hogg Barn does not appear on mapping until the 1:2500 scale resurvey of 1970. The physical evidence suggests

that the building has not been extended westwards, therefore the likelihood is that the representation on the 1950s and 60s mapping of a shorter building is inaccurate, and the full length was present by 1955, probably before 1948.

## 4 Historical Background

4.1 The earliest confirmed owners of the property were the Durants of Clent Hall in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The Tithe map of 1838 lists the owner of Walton Farm as Frances Durant. She was the widow of Reverend George Durant of Clent Hall, who had died seven years previously in 1831. The Durant family had resided at the hall since 1750 after John Durant, rector of Hagley, came into possession of the estate through his marriage with a daughter of William Waldron of Walton House (Amphlett, 1890). The Waldrons, with their ironworking wealth, were very substantial landowners in Clent and Belbroughton by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

4.2 The occupier of the farm in 1838 was John Bury, who is listed in the 1841 census as being of independent means. Also living with him was George Bury, a farmer, and Mary Bury, also of independent means. They were probably siblings, as a later census entry for the Burys shows John to be an unmarried landed proprietor, and Mary an unmarried annuitant. The family were still tenants in 1844 when George Smallman was “*committed to Stafford County Gaol for stealing three bags and four bushels of wheat, the property of John Bury, at the parish of Clent*” (Staffordshire Advertiser, 23rd March 1844), but they moved to ‘The Farm’ at Belbroughton shortly after this date.

4.3 It is not possible to positively identify the farm in the 1851 census. However based on the location and size of the farm, the occupant was likely to be James Hammond, a 33 year old farmer living with his wife and two sons. He appears to have taken up the tenancy by 1849 when he appeared in court charging James Houlton with ripping down one of his fences. Damages were laid at 3 pence and the judge offered to discharge the defendant if he paid the 5 shillings court costs. Houlton declined and he was sentenced to 1 shilling and 14 days hard labour (Worcester Chronicle 21<sup>st</sup> February 1849). In 1857 Hammond also sued Joseph Cutler for selling him an unsound horse and despite the jury being advised of the principle of *caveat emptor* he was able to recover half of his costs (Worcester Herald, 26<sup>th</sup> September 1857).

4.4 By the time of the next census, Hammond had moved to Holt and the new tenant of Walton Farm was Samuel Farmer. His father, also called Samuel, had been a tenant of Frances Durant since at least the Tithe survey of 1838. Samuel junior moved to Walton farm sometime before 1860 when he was listed in the Post Office Directory for that year. He was born in Romsley, Shropshire to a farming family and by the age of 24 was running a 100 acre farm in Salwarpe with his sister, Susannah. In 1858 he

married Dorothy Walters Davenport, a farmer's daughter from Elmley Lovett who during her short life bore him eleven children.

4.5 In 1861 Samuel and Dorothy were living at Walton Farm with their two young daughters and three servants. The ownership of the farm changed eight years later with the death of Frances Durant aged 89 (Worcester Chronicle, 19<sup>th</sup> January 1869), and the passing of part of the estate to her daughter.

4.6 By the 1871 census the Farmer family had increased to nine children, and a full time nurse was employed to help with the younger ones. In October of 1878 Samuel Farmer decided to give up his tenancy of Walton Farm and an advert was placed in local newspapers for the sale of his live and dead farming stock, as well as some household furniture and other effects (Cradley Heath and Stourbridge Observer, 19<sup>th</sup> October 1878). This may have been occasioned by the death of his father four years previously, and his mother the year before. For many years his parents had lived and farmed at nearby Moor Hall Farm in Belbroughton, and it was here that Samuel moved after leaving Walton Farm.

4.7 Unfortunately for the family shortly after their move Dorothy contracted broncho pneumonia and died eight days later on the 19<sup>th</sup> November. She was only 45 years old. Her eldest daughter Elizabeth took care of her in her final days and was the informant on the death certificate.

4.8 Their second daughter Kate died three years later and it was shortly after this that Samuel took the decision to move to Australia with his remaining children. In 1884 he was living at Hazeldean Station, Queensland. He died there in 1895 and was buried on the property.

4.9 Miss Frances Durant, the owner of the farm died in 1881 and the estate was inherited by the Reverend William Durant Thatcher, her nephew. The next tenant of Walton Farm was Daniel Beddall. A family of the same name had been living close by at Walton Pool since at least 1871 and it is likely that he was a close relative of these. Daniel himself had been a tenant farmer at Upper Clent before moving to Walton Farm with his wife and children sometime before 1879 (Cradley Heath and Stourbridge Observer, 26<sup>th</sup> April 1879).

4.10 Daniel appears to have had problems regarding thefts at the farm during his tenure. He lost a hen fowl in 1879 and a horse the following year (Worcester Journal, 10<sup>th</sup> July 1880). On both occasions the thieves were apprehended and restitution made.

4.11 In 1881, Miss Frances Durant died. At the time of the 1891 census Daniel was 70 years old and was being helped on the farm by his two sons. He and his wife had died before the time of the 1901 census when the farm was being managed by their sons William and John. William had married but no children were listed in the census and it appears the brothers took equal share in the running of the business (Bromsgrove and Droitwich Messenger, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1905).

4.12 In 1903 John married Harriet, who was the daughter of James Westwood of Moor Hall. James decided to retire and in 1904 John put up for auction the entire livestock and farming implements as well as an 8 hp steam engine (Bromsgrove and Droitwich Messenger, 17<sup>th</sup> September 1904). He also added 34 tons of prime hay situated on his own farm at Walton. It is unclear why John and his new wife chose not to move into Moor Hall, however it is possible that William had become ill and he could no longer work alone.

4.13 William died in 1905 at the age of 36 and John remained to run Walton Farm with his wife. By the time of the 1911 census they had five young children, and on the night of that census, William's widow Fanny was a visitor along with her seven year old son, Harry. He had been born in 1904 when Fanny was 41 years of age and William, 35.

4.14 John and his family continued to run the farm until at least 1932 when he is listed in Kelly's Directory of that year. However, by 1939 he had moved to Holly Bank farm in Bromsgrove where he continued working even though he was in his 70s. He died in 1967 aged 94.

4.15 In 1927, William Durant Thatcher died and the estate was sold, although it is not clear whether it had been partially broken up beforehand (Birmingham Daily Post, 25<sup>th</sup> September 1965).

4.16 The 1939 Register shows that Walton Farm was now in the hands of James Priestner, a 32 year old farmer living with his wife and child. The wartime and post war occupants of the farm are uncertain, apparently including the Beddall family. but by 1955 the farm was in the hands of the Hamilton family (*Birmingham Daily Post September 2nd, 1955*) Mr W F Hamilton died in 1960 and the family had moved away by June of that year (June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1960 - Birmingham Daily Post).

4.17 The farmstead buildings are recorded on the HER as WSM31847, the record adds nothing to the Listing description. The associated farmhouse record (WSM31845) is similarly based on the Listing description, with a note to the effect that the building has been photographed.

## 5 Description

### 5.1 Former stable block range (known presently as "Granary") - Figs 5-10

5.1.1 The north-eastern side of the foldyard closest to the farm house is occupied by a range of 1½ storey brick built buildings built up against the hill-side, which is sufficiently steep that only the upper floor level is accessible from the east.

5.1.2 At the western end of the range a pedestrian passage leads through the block immediately adjacent to an outbuilding within the domestic curtailage. This block has had its frontage replaced with a sliding door, and the ground floor is now mainly

occupied by a recent washroom behind a stud partition. The first floor structure remains, however, and is of early 19<sup>th</sup> Century character, albeit the floor boarding has been replaced (mid 20<sup>th</sup> C). This bay of building appears to have been adapted, probably as a tractor shed, in the 1950s or 1960s – the doorway has a cast in situ concrete lintel and the top hung sliding door furniture is of 1950s-60s character. Remnants of an arched doorhead remain above the lintel – the height of this former opening is strongly suggestive of a stable-door. There is no access to the upper floor from the foldyard.

5.1.2 The central section of the stable range has been re-modelled as a workshop meeting room, a dividing wall having been replaced with an RSJ, and a modern window inserted. It appears that this section of the elevation had previously been rebuilt /refaced, apparently in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The rebuilding is more evident internally at 1<sup>st</sup> floor level.

5.1.3 The stable adjoining the barn is less altered and retains some slight traces of its former use. The brickwork of this structure reveals that the rear wall formerly had some openings or recesses, patched in 19<sup>th</sup> C brick, and the southern wall is constructed of early 18<sup>th</sup> Century brick, representing the earliest fabric in this block. The first floor structure remains in relatively good condition, the upper floor has, however been re-boarded in tongue and grooved boarding (early 20<sup>th</sup> Century). There is an original doorway (now no longer functional) to the neighbouring meeting room.

5.1.4 Access to the upper level of the stable block is now only from the east elevation, this is undoubtedly as the result of relatively recent alterations, though the former position of the stairs or ladder is not immediately apparent. The upper floors have been entirely replaced in tongue and grooved boarding.

5.1.5 The northern-most bay (which is the bay through which the passage passes at ground floor level) has a lower eaves and ridge line than the remainder of the former stable range, and the brickwork appears to be earlier (circa 1760s-1770s) than the main elevations. The roof (Fig 7) has re-used timbers from a traditionally framed agricultural building as purlins, the floor structure is of substantial oak joists and bridging beam and also appears to be mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> Century. There is no indication of access between the levels. As the ground floor front wall has been largely removed it is not possible to determine the precise function, but the position (closest to the house) would usually be occupied by a tack room or stabling for the most valuable horse. The room above, which is the only upper level room with a window, may well have served as accomodation for farm servants, though there are no signs of domestic use. The floorboarding appears to have been replaced in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

5.1.6 The middle section of the upper level (Fig 8) is rather featureless, lit primarily through glass tile panels in the roof, though two loading hatches have been boarded over and may have given some original natural light. The floor has been replaced with tongue and groove boarding, and the upper part of the wall facing the foldyard appears to have been re-built. The mid section truss is of oak and of later 18<sup>th</sup> Century character, traditional pegged construction with very slender queen struts.

5.1.7 The end bay, nearest the barn appears to have been originally linked to the barn - there is brick infill under the tie beam, which rests on engaged brick pillars at the upper level – see below. This arrangement is rather unusual, and the infilled central



panel beneath the tie beam has been filled with re-used mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century brick. The infill panel is also clearly visible from within the barn (see below).



*View of infill area from stable block side – this truss formerly open to barn*



Whilst “L” shaped barns of this period are not unknown (eg at Sheenhill, South Littleton – Napthan 2017) they tend to be barns that incorporate earlier structures – in the present case there is little difference in apparent date between the barn and adjoining stable block. It would seem probable that the barn extended over the stable proper and this facilitated storage of hay over the stable.

## 5.2 The Barn (Figs 11-15)

5.2.1 The main body of the barn is aligned broadly north-south, with large wagon doors to both the east and west elevations. The central bay retains some stone slabs from a former threshing floor. The barn doors are 20<sup>th</sup> Century replacements hung on

new hinges – the original pintles were differently placed. The barn is almost entirely of mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> Century brick, but incorporates some reused earlier brick and a section of possibly re-used stonework internally beneath the hayloft staging. The floors are predominantly rough concrete.

5.2.2 The barn is of four bays, the southernmost of which has a raised hayloft, over an area recently used as a loosebox and accessible only from the exterior. The wall between the loosebox and main barn is of sandstone, but appears to be a secondary insertion between the brick piers. The hayloft platform rests on substantial timber bridging beams and is likely to be of early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century origins. The walls had originally extensive through venting, however the central portion of the southern gable end has been rebuilt without venting. The rebuilding of the southern gable end and later insertion of a wider opening have removed any evidence of the original function of this area.

5.2.3 To either side of the through-bay the two remaining bays are of generous height, and retain substantial areas of through venting. As is usual in threshing barns the bays are devoid of original interior features. The brick and concrete built feed troughs are relatively recent (circa 1960s) and would indicate that the building has been used for stalling cattle.



5.2.4 The barn roof structure is of substantial rough hewn oak members, and of traditional pegged construction. The trusses have raking queen struts and are trenched for purlins. There are some indications (eg redundant trenches) that the trusses are re-used in their present positions. The timbers (prior to assembly of the trusses) had previously been used in a fully framed structure and have redundant mortices and peg

holes The trusses are likely to be of early 18<sup>th</sup> Century date, reusing material from a large mid-late 17<sup>th</sup> Century agricultural structure. The roof is in excellent condition for its age and clearly has always been well maintained.

5.2.5 Adjoining the barn, on the foldyard side facing the house are a small brick built lean-to structure in the angle of stable block and barn (almost certainly a root house) and a much converted and extended structure in recent times used as a tack room but converted from a row of three pig sties visible on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey. Both structures are likely to be of early 19<sup>th</sup> Century origins, but only the root-house survives in its original form. The presence of brick through vents indicates probable use for fodder storage, and the size is in keeping with a root house.

5.2.6 The former pig sties appear to have been extended and converted in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, possibly initially as a facility for the farm workers.

### 5.3 Former Granary/Carthouse block (Figs 18-19)

5.3.1 The three bay cart house (now converted to a stable) lies to the south west of the main foldyard. It is a fairly standard brick built mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century open fronted cart-house/implement house, with an upper floor typically used as a granary. As the building does not appear on the 1840s mapping but does appear on 1880s mapping it was most likely built during the tenancy of James Hammond. The character of the fabric favours a date around 1840-50. The roof truss design including cranked oak principal rafters is fairly typical of this period; by the 1850s it was more common for the principal timbers to be imported -



*Baltic timber merchant's marks on purlin*

Whilst only one purlin has currently visible timber merchant's marks it is likely that all of the principal timbers are imports from the Baltic ports. Such marks are not found on UK grown timber. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> C sources of North American softwood became more competitive, especially for smaller scantlings.

5.3.2 The framing of the two trusses is noticeable for the very small diameter pegging (circa 10mm) and the small size of the carpenter's assembly marks (vertical strokes of around 15mm). Some of the subsidiary timbers (eg horizontal braces to the wall plate) are spiked to the frame, and it would appear that the common rafters are spiked to the purlins. These are all features compatible with late-period framing.



*Enlarged detail of queen-post/collar joint showing small diameter pegging*

5.3.2 There is an infilled loading door to the south western gable end and the opposing loading door has been modified to lower the threshold height and raise the head – the opening may originally have been a window (Fig 18).

#### 5.4 **The Hogg Barn (Figs 16-17)**

5.4.1 This is the most recent of the structures examined; however, as indicated above the cartographic sources are not very helpful as the mapping revisions between 1938 and 1970 do not appear to have kept pace with changes. The building itself appears to be largely a single phase of construction (with relatively minor later changes in the former loading bay area at the east end). The building is constructed of

brick of the 1940s-50s period and has a corrugated asbestos cement sheeting roof. The structure is of an adaptable form, but the attribution as a “hogg house” or intensive piggery seems highly likely. The building is provided with concrete floors and a lower central area to facilitate mucking out. Pens have been removed.

5.4.2 The building is unexceptional other than it has a rather complex lightweight softwood roof truss design relying largely on steel gusset plates and bolted fixings. In most wide span buildings of this form a steel trussed girder roof was the norm in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The use of a timber framed roof here may indicate a wartime or early post 1945 date when building material shortages were at their worst. Such trusses are relatively rare due to the incipient tendency for corrosion of the metal fixings – these do not appear to have been galvanized or sherardized.

5.4.3 There was originally a loading bay (with raised concrete loading platforms) at the eastern end of the building. The loading bay was covered with a roof which is possibly a little later than the barn itself (c1960). Part of the loading bay was enclosed in a further building operation, which would appear to have been circa 1970s. A doorway linking to the former cart-house has been blocked, probably when that building was converted to stabling in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

## 6 Discussion

6.1 The present “historic” farm building range includes structures dating from the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> Century to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The foldyard layout has been considerably altered during this period, with only the threshing barn and former stable block (in recent times called the “granary”) remaining as constants. The stable block has been much altered and retains very few original features. It appears to have been partially rebuilt and/or refaced which suggests that the original fabric was not particularly well built. Extensive rebuilding is also very noticeable on the south-western gable end of the barn. Re building here may have occurred when an adjoining building was removed in the period between 1843 and 1883. The barn walls are relatively thin, and lacking in internal piers; combined with extensive through vents this would make them prone to being pushed out by a heavy harvest. The rebuilding does not appear to be related to the present wide ground floor opening, and preceded the insertion of a rolled steel lintel. The insertion of the latter under the superimposed load was clearly undertaken by men with strong nerves.

6.2 Generally the buildings appear to have been regularly maintained, the roofs particularly have been kept largely weather proof. Extensive repairs and alterations to the former stable block would no doubt be attributable to its position cut into the bank creating damp issues exacerbated no doubt by the moisture rising of the horses and trapped by the hay above. Had the stables been built a generation or so later (from the 1830s onwards) then there would almost certainly have been much better provision for high level stable ventilation. Unfortunately very little could be deduced about the stabling layout as the building has been much altered in relatively recent times.

6.3 The setting of the historic buildings has evolved, and the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century foldyard adjacent to the house is no longer fully enclosed. The Hogg house

occupies some of the footprint of the buildings present in the earlier 19<sup>th</sup> Century but the foldyard setting of the house and remaining 18<sup>th</sup> Century buildings is severely compromised. The process of change had clearly started by the 1880s with a second foldyard developing away from the house on the other side of the barn. This may well reflect the “gentrification” of the farm, with the occupants of the farm house less involved in the day to day care of the livestock, and less prepared to enter the house through a mucky yard. The process has clearly continued in modern times with the working farm buildings moved even further from the former farmhouse.

6.4 The location and topography of the farmstead make it highly unlikely that evidence of any earlier farm buildings (or any pre 19<sup>th</sup> Century archaeological remains) survive in the development area – the foldyards and extant farm buildings are terraced into a steep bank, with ground levels reduced by up to 3m along the line of the former stable block. Further terracing appears to have occurred during construction of the Hogg Barn, the NE wall of which acts partly as a retaining wall. The present proposals for building conversion are unlikely to require any major groundworks beneath existing concrete slab level.

## 7 Conclusions

7.1 Whilst the farm retains the two principal elements of the mid-late 18<sup>th</sup> Century farm buildings (stable-block and threshing barn) most of the ancillary buildings have been lost. The mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century carthouse/granary is a fortunate survival of a later phase of buildings that are otherwise lost. The other remaining buildings (including the Hogg House and the extensively rebuilt pig sties most recently used as a tack room) are of minimal historic interest.

7.2 The surviving structural elements of the historic buildings are an important record of past farming practices; however in the present case there are minimal vestiges of original fixtures and fittings relating to agricultural functions. Items such as mangers and hay drops, stall divisions and stable doors are all lost, and there are no traces of former machinery, ladders or harnessing etc. A couple of fairly commonplace historic doors survive internally, but the main doors of the threshing barn are replacements and there is little remaining fenestration.

7.3 The buildings are presently redundant, with minimal potential for re-use in their present form. The proposals to convert the buildings to dwellings should ensure long term preservation of the structures with minimal loss of historic fabric, and minimal visual impact on the adjacent Listed farmhouse.

7.4 Whilst there is evidence that the buildings incorporate material from earlier structures the previous terracing down of the foldyard (which is cut into the adjacent bank to a depth of around 2.5m along the line of the original stable block) makes it highly improbable that any buried remains pre-dating the current farmstead are likely to survive. As is the case with many historic farm buildings the building materials

Walton Farm, Walton Pool, Clent, Worcs.

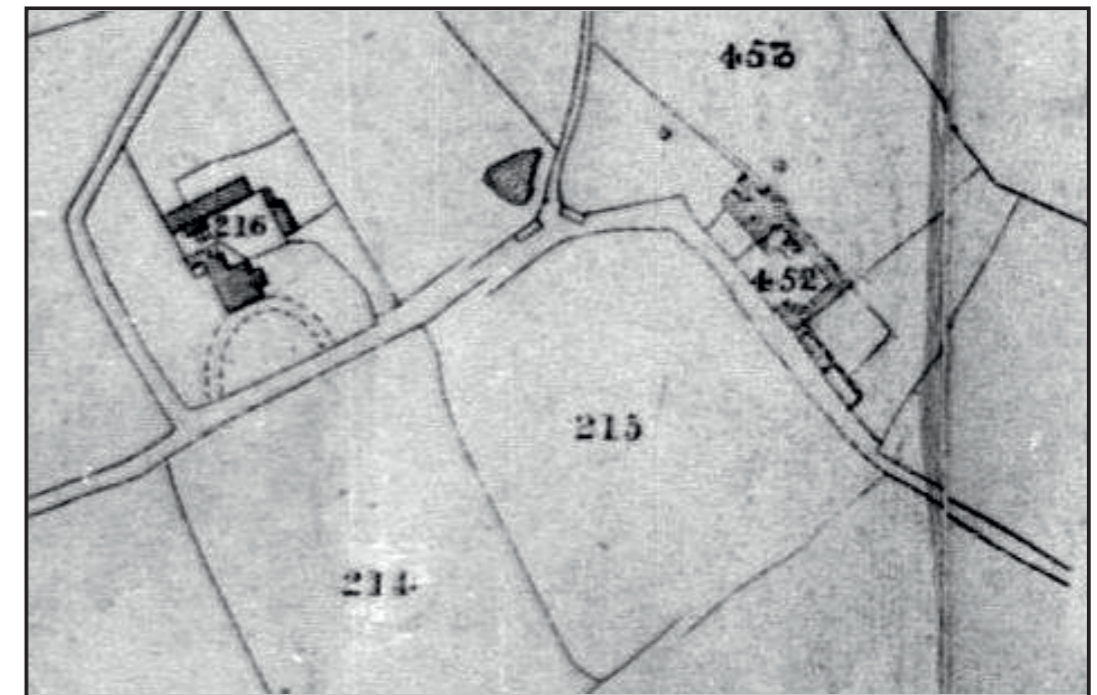
Mike Napthan Archaeology

were re-used more than once and often carried by tenants from one rented farm to the next and re-purposed according to need.

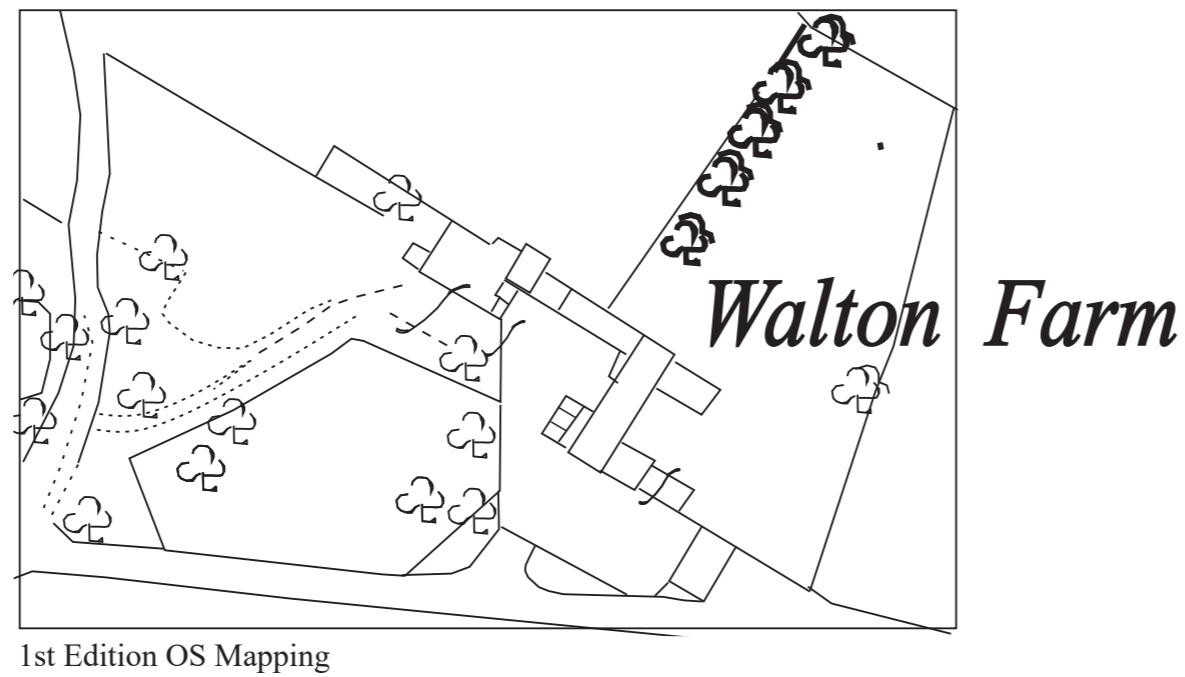
## 8 **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to Janine Cobain and the other trustees of the Worgan Trust, and their architect Dan Tournay of Tournay Design

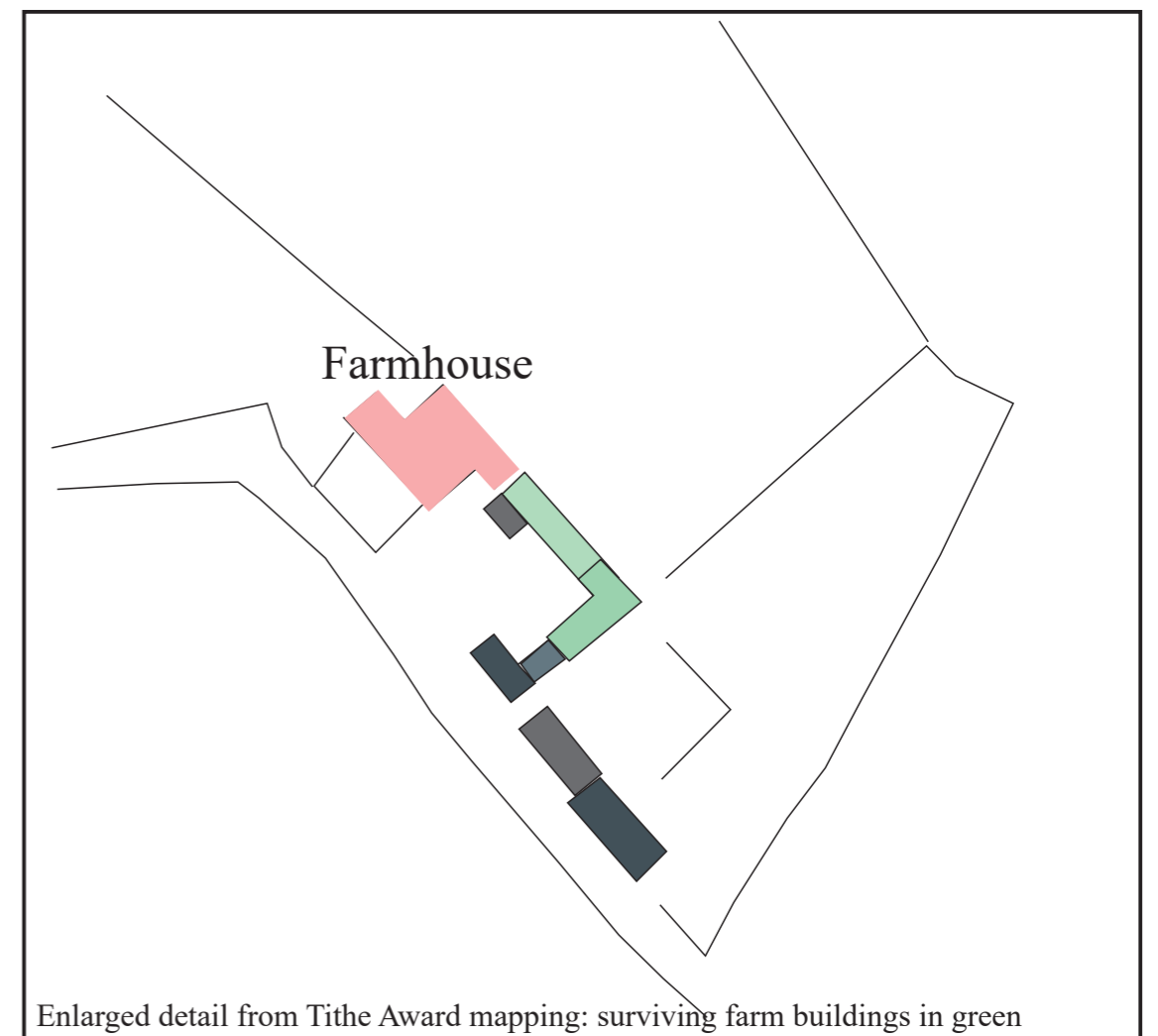




1840s Tithe Award plan - Walton Farm is plot 452



1st Edition OS Mapping



Enlarged detail from Tithe Award mapping: surviving farm buildings in green

Figure 1: Modern OS and historic mapping





Figure 3: Elevations of principal farm building ranges



Figure 4 Granary/Cartshed and Hogg house block Elevations



Figure 5: Former stable block range (latterly known as “Granary”)



Through passage facing NE

Note that original back wall has been underbuilt to provide stepped access



Figure 6: North-eastern elevation of former stable block



Northern-most room



Northern-most room



Northern-most room



Second room from north (facing NE)

Figure 7: Upper (hayloft) level of former stable block - floor replaced in tongue and groove boarding



Figure 8: Middle section of former hayloft





Westernmost room - part converted to washroom



Westernmost room view facing foldyard



Middle ground floor room created by removal of stable partitions - note relatively recent RSJ on former wall line



Figure 9: Stable block range - ground floor



Figure 10: Former stable block range - eastern ground floor room



View of barn facing SW



View of barn from foldyard facing NW



Facing NE

View of barn from outer foldyard facing NE



Figure 11: Threshing barn



View facing west



View facing east



Western bay (north side)



Raised platform in western bay

Figure 12: Barn Interior



Threshing floor and (replacement) doors



View from easternmost bay towards west



[Link to stable block roof](#)



Rebuilt western gable end interior



Figure 14: Former threshing barn - western bay beneath platform



Probable former root house



Interior of extended lean-to building (possibly former implement shed)



Figure 15: Former root house and possible implement shed abutting former threshing barn



Figure 16: "Hogg barn"





Former loading bay



Figure 17: "Hogg barn" interior



Figure 18: Former cart-house/granary latterly converted to stabling



GF view facing SW



Former granary facing SW



GF view facing NE



Former granary facing SW

Figure 19: Former cart house/ granary interior - upper floor structure has been re-inforced with RSJs

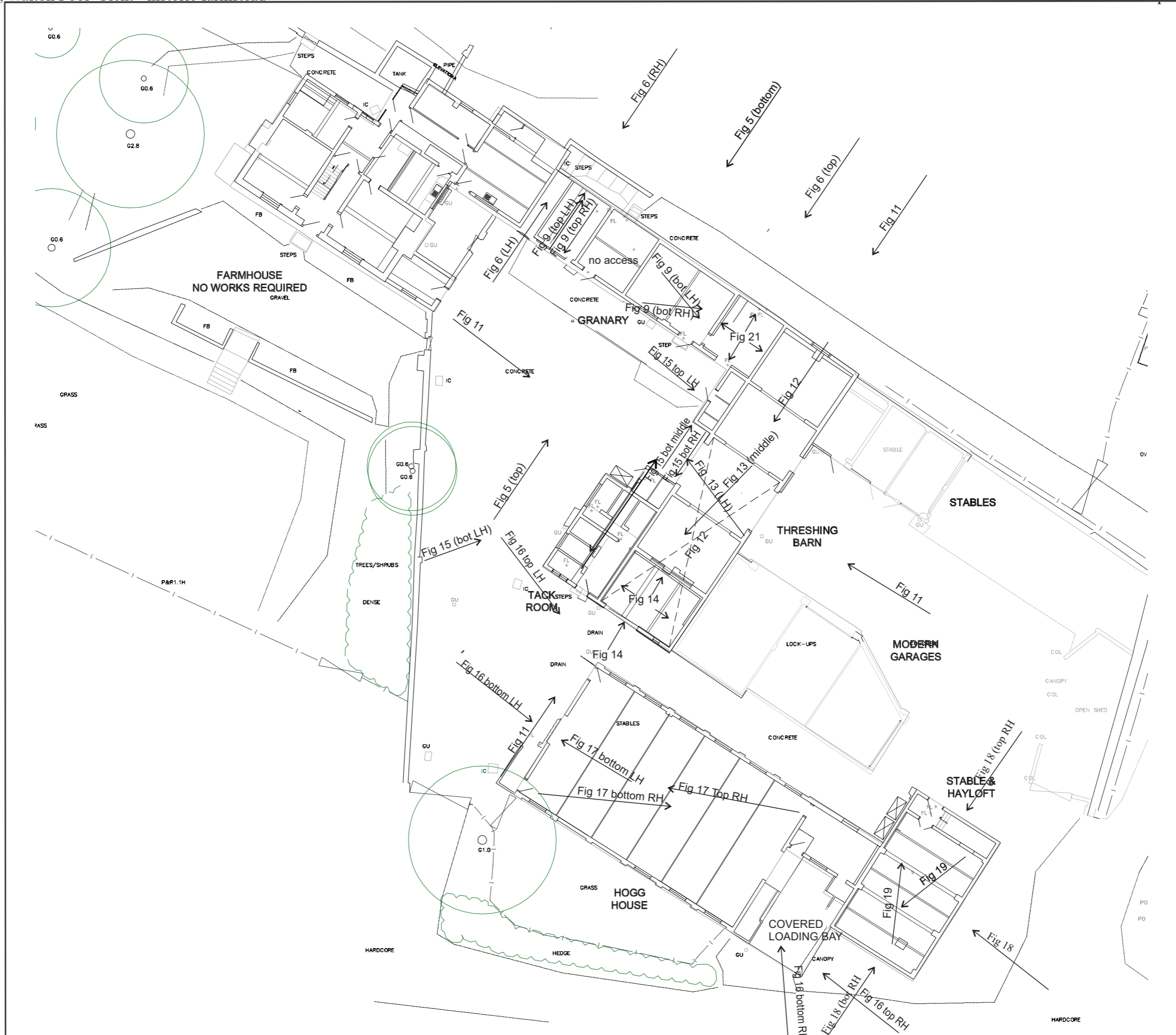


Figure 20: Location of photos in Figures 5-19