

Archaeological
Building
Recording
Services

**An Archaeological Standing Building Survey
Trimpley Farm
Trimpley
Bewdley
Worcestershire**

(NGR SO 79294 78439)

On Behalf of Miss T L Haywood



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June 2018

Planning Application No 18/0042/FULL

ABRS Project No 2018-TFTW

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**An Archaeological Standing Building Survey, Trimpley Farm, (Threshing Barn Only),
Trimpley, Bewdley, Worcestershire (NGR SO 79294 78439).**

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Summary

This document is an archaeological standing building survey of the threshing barn at Trimpley Farm, Trimpley, Bewdley, Worcestershire (NGR SO 79294 78439), commissioned from Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) by Miss T.L. Haywood in advance of the proposed conversion to residential use.

The threshing barn at Trimpley Farm is an interesting example of an early 19th century or potentially late 18th century agricultural building. The limited historical evidence relating to the farm hints that the farm may have been a pleasure farm attached to Trimpley House rather than an out and out commercial venture.

The building contains a number of ambiguities of plan which suggests it may have originally been a mixed used building, potentially for hay and for grain. Internally, there is evidence of re-used timbers in the roof and a potentially late 17th century door, re-used on one of the two corn holes.

The archive will be retained by ABRS under the temporary site code 2018-TFTW until deposition with Worcestershire Museum Collection Store can be arranged.

1. Introduction

Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) were commissioned by Miss T.L. Haywood to undertake an archaeological standing building survey of the threshing barn at Trimpley Farm, Trimpley, Bewdley, Worcestershire (NGR SO 79294 78439 (*Figures 1 & 5*)). Planning Permission is being sought to convert the building to residential use. The building is a traditionally built former agricultural building, believed to date from the early 19th century. The Conservation Officer, Wyre Forest District Council has recommended that an archaeological standing building survey to Historic England Level 2 as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) be carried out to support the planning application.

The project was completed following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) *Code of Conduct*, and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2014).

The threshing barn and farmstead as a whole are considered as non-designated heritage assets and are included on Worcestershire Historic Environment Record ((HER) HER Ref WSM 53868). The building is not located within a designated Conservation Area.

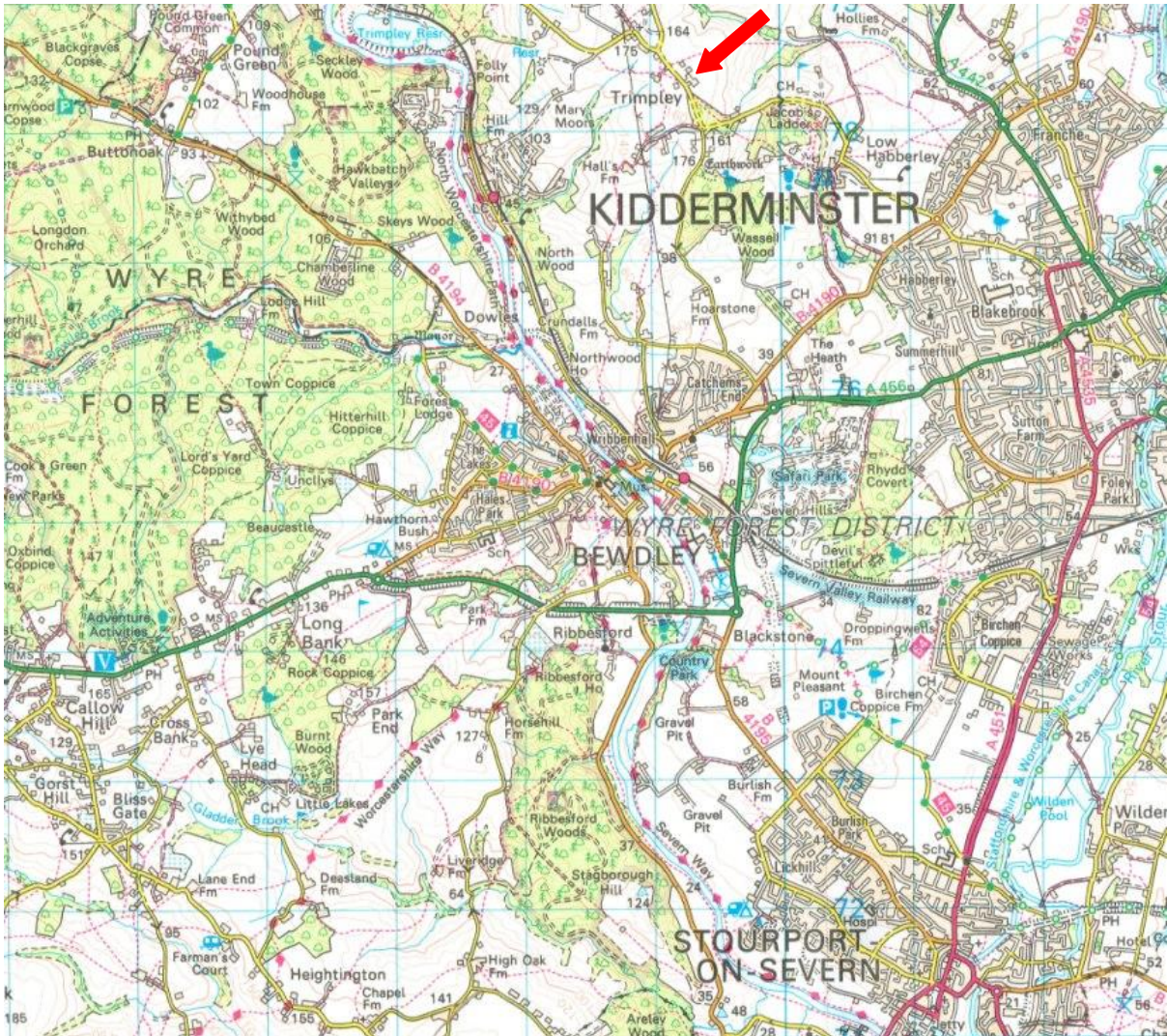


Figure 1
Site Location

Reproduced from 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. ©Crown Copyright 1990. All rights reserved. Licence number 100053136.

Trimpeley, spelt *Trinpelei* in the 11th century and *Trimpelei* in the 14th century, at the time of Domesday was one of 16 outlying settlements associated with the Manor of Kidderminster held by King William. In the 12th century was a berewick of Kidderminster, probably the fee granted by *Manasser Biset* to Stephen Attwood, in 1160 the Manor had been granted to *Biset* by Henry II. It descended to Stephen's grandson, John Attwood in 1294 and the land at Trimpeley remained in the Attwood family until the end of the 16th century when the manorial rights were probably absorbed by Park Attwood. In about 1797 Henry Chillingworth of Holt Castle bought the bulk of the Trimpeley estates and whose family remained incumbent until just before the outbreak of the First World War. In 1912, Thomas Hessin-Charles, a barrister-at-law bought the manor and lands. In 1938 the estate was again sold and Park Attwood itself converted into a hotel. During World War II it was a billet for the Royal Corps of Signals. Sometime during this period, probably as a result of one of the estate sales Trimpeley House was sold to a Mr Mills, whose daughter Mrs C.E. Hudson held the estate until 1919.

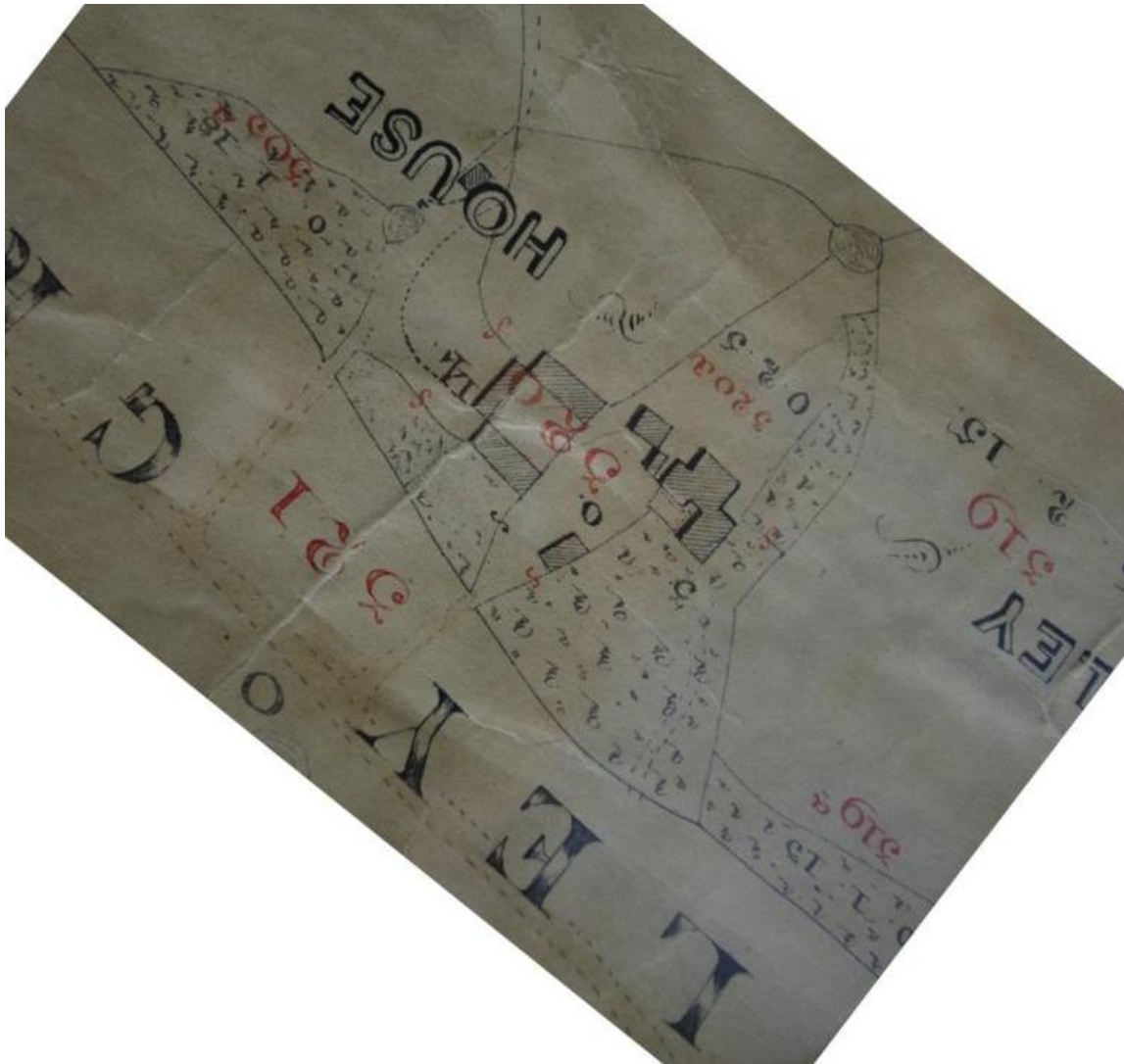


Figure 2
Untitled Map Dated 1840.

The earliest available cartographic reference to Trimpley Farm is an untitled map dating to 1840 held by Worcestershire Archaeology & Archives Services (WA&AS Ref BA12944/3 (*Figure 2*)). Trimpley House is prominently identified, the layout of the buildings is similar to as they currently stand, the house to the south east and farm buildings to the north west. The farmyard consists of a U shaped range of buildings open to the south east, the recorded threshing barn is, in all likelihood the building forming the northernmost range of the yard. Interestingly the two other wings consist of unusually deep buildings, almost twice the depth of the threshing barn. The Kidderminster Foreign tithe map produced around the same time covers Trimpley, but the area of Park Attwood and Trimpley House are not included, suggesting the estate was, at the time exempt from tithes.

A Plan of the Parish of Kidderminster produced in 1867 (WA&AS Ref 5403/21 (*Figure 3*)) provides another early representation of proposed development area, it lacks the detail of the earlier map, but again Trimpley House and its associated outbuildings are clearly identified.



Figure 3
A Plan of the Parish of Kidderminster (1867).

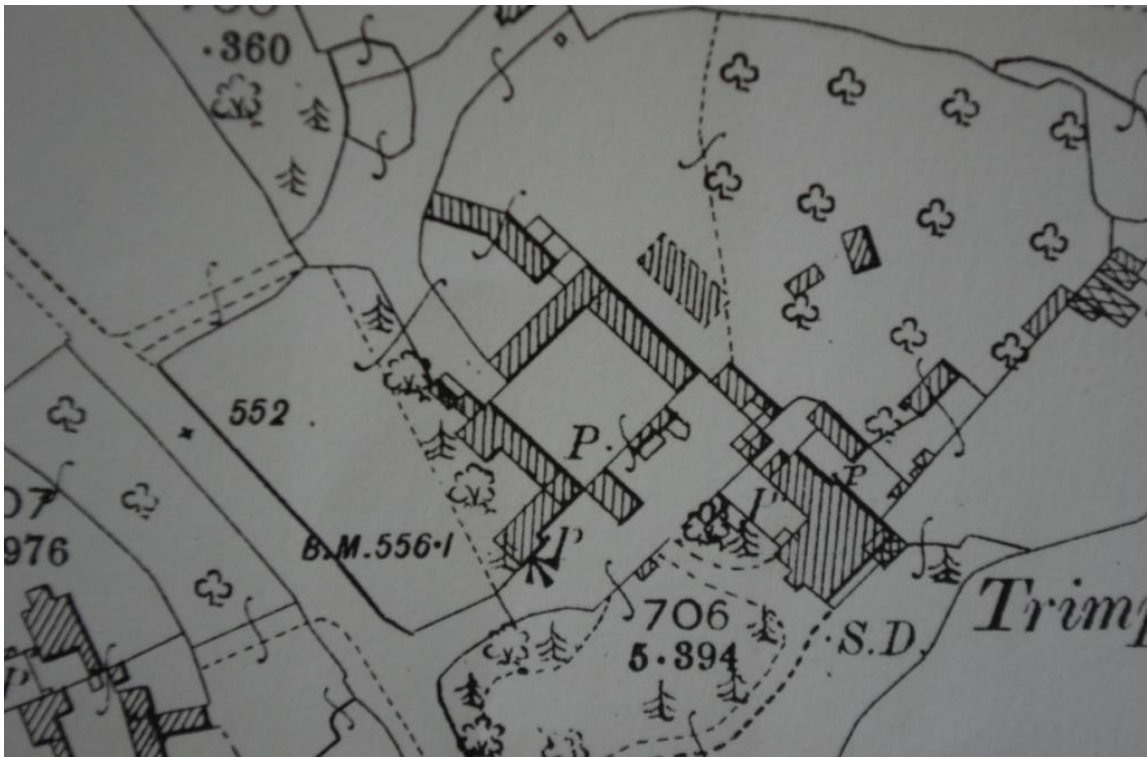


Figure 4
Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1902).

The first edition Ordnance Survey covering Trimpley was published in 1885, a re-producible copy is not currently available, the second edition published in 1902 (*Figure 3*) is the first available modern representation of the proposed development area. The map shows some changes to the previous maps, most notably the change to the two north west – south east ranges, both of which no longer match the footprints of the previously mapped buildings. This suggests significant re-building work may have taken place, there is also an usually large number of lesser buildings scattered throughout the farmyard and garden, suggesting that by this time the farm may have become something of a pleasure farm rather than an out and out working farm.

There is, unfortunately a significant lack of historical information available relating to Trimpley House and Trimpley Farm. Nineteenth and early 20th century trade directories regularly list a number of farms in Trimpley including Hall's Farm, Birch Farm and Hoarstone, but at no point is Trimpley Farm listed. This again, suggests the farm may have been a pleasure farm associated with the Trimpley House, rather than a full commercial, working farm.

The only definitive reference to Trimpley Farm is a sales catalogue (WA&AS Ref BA 5792) produced in 1919 on behalf to the Trustees of Mrs C.E. Hudson where Trimpley House and farm are listed as a single lot. The farm is described as consisting of two cow houses, 12 ties with granary over, two four stall stables, chaff house and root house with lofts over, 3 loose boxes and open shed, Dutch Barn, double bay brick barn, implement shed, piggeries, calf pen, Blacksmith's shop, tool house, cider and apple room.

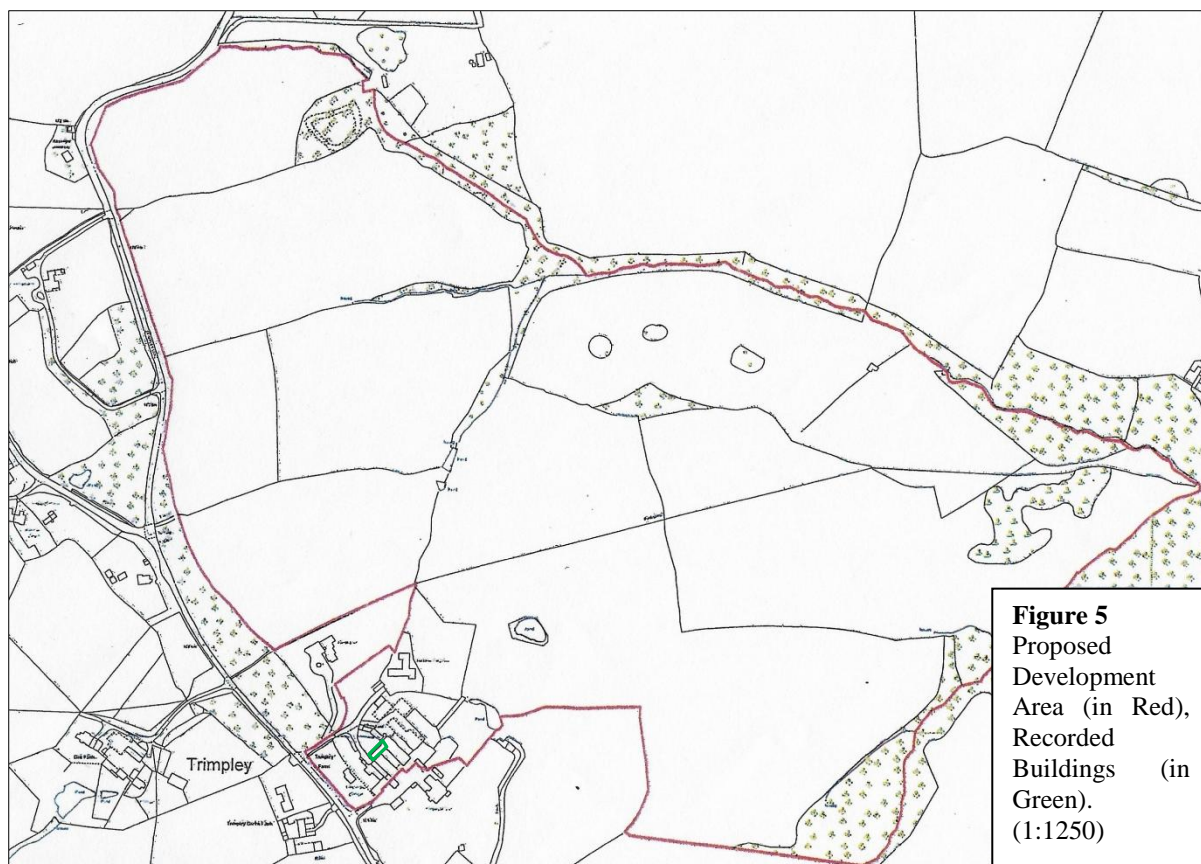
2. Aims and Methodology

The specific objectives of the standing building survey were as follows:

- To provide a comprehensive written, drawn and photographic record of the building prior to the permitted demolition, as it represents upstanding archaeological/historical remains of local, regional or national importance.
- To provide a comprehensive review of the local and regional historical context of the structures recorded by the project, making reference to the appropriate regional research agendas.
- To produce a high quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to 'preserve by record' the buildings in their current form prior to conversion and/or demolition.

Desk-based research included the analysis of readily available documentary and cartographic sources including the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) & Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service (WA&AS).

The Historic Building Recording produced measured survey drawings of the building and completed a photographic (35mm monochrome negative) and written record of the building to the equivalent of Historic England Level 2. An ordered archive has been compiled and will be deposited with Worcestershire Museum Collection Store. An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) record has been completed.



Orientation: The building subject to this historic building recording is rectangular in plan, the long axis aligned north east – south west (*Figures 5, & 14*). The principal elevation is that facing south east. Where the terms ‘left’, ‘right’, ‘front’ and ‘back’ etc are used in the report, this is in relation to this principal elevation, as viewed from the south east. A letter suffix has been added for significant partitions where required.

All historic maps are reproduced with north to the top of the page, following Ordnance Survey standards unless indicated otherwise with appropriate north arrow and key.

As far as is known, no previous historic building recording has been undertaken of the building.

The site visit was carried out by Gerwyn Richards on June 8th 2018.

3. Description of the Building

The threshing barn at Trimpley Farm is rectangular in plan forming the northern range of the original farmyard to Trimpley House, which lies to the south east. The modern Trimpley Farmhouse, as a result of changes in ownership lies to the north of the threshing barn. The barn is a brick-built barn under a plain tile roof (*Figures 6 & 7*), the bricks are laid in an English garden wall bond (three courses of stretcher bricks between two courses of header bricks), the use of three stretcher courses uses fewer bricks and is therefore cheaper, a consideration with an agricultural building. The brick dimensions of 9 ½ inch x 2 ¾ inch x 4 ½ inch suggests an earlier, rather than later 19th century construction date. The south westernmost bay, including the gable is vented by alternate missing bricks in each header

course (*Figure 8*). The extent of ventilation suggests this bay, at least was for hay, rather than grain, as hay required greater ventilation during storage. There is a single course of missing brick vents on each long elevation of the easternmost bay just below the eaves.

On each of the long elevations are central threshing or cart doors under flat brick arches. There are decorative brick corbels at the eaves on each of the long elevations and on each gable. The south east facing door has been in-filled with reclaimed bricks and a steel, Crittel style window inserted, there is a second window in the easternmost bay, as well as a sliding door, the modern concrete lintels over both the door and window suggests both are later insertions. The inserted door in the long elevation leads to a door in the gable wall, again inserted (*Figure 14*), probably a modification brought about by re-modelling work in the farmyard when the more recent buildings, including a milking parlour was built to the north east and access from the “old” yard to the “new” yard was required. The north west facing elevation retains early timber-built doors.

Internally, as expected the barn consists of a large open area sub-divided by wall stubs into three bays. The wall stubs show evidence of lost sleeper walls at ground level separating the central threshing floor from each of the storage bays (*Figure 9*). There are openings in each of the projecting wall stubs on the south east elevation, one of which retains an early plank door, in oak, possibly indicating the location of corn holes, a mid 18th century development. The corn hole was designed to hold the mixed grain and chaff after flail threshing until enough had been collected to make winnowing worthwhile. These internal features appear to contradict the external appearance of the barn with its extensive ventilation as a fodder barn. It is possible, therefore that the barn may have been a mixed use barn.

The corn hole door itself is an interesting design, with a thinner central plank (*Figure 10*); this design originated in the last quarter of the 17th century, suggesting a tentative date for the door. It is more than likely that the door is re-used, the arrowhead strap hinges are also stylistically 17th century in appearance, but they are clearly re-used having been attached to the outer face of the door and bent to fit the rebated planks (*Figure 11*).

The roof is carried on four hardwood trusses carrying butt purlins supported by brick piers. Trusses 01 and 04, the gable trusses match, as do trusses 02 and 03 over the threshing floor. Both types are a simple A frame with a collar beam (*Figure 12*), trusses 01 and 04 have additional raking struts between the tie beam and the principal rafter (*Figure 13*). Trusses 02 and 03 show extensive evidence of re-used timber with open mortices on the tie beam and on the principal rafters (*Figure 12*), the lack of any evidence of re-used timbers on trusses 01 and 04 may suggest trusses 02 and 03 may be later replacements using reclaimed timbers.

The floor consists of early flagstones on the threshing floor and north easternmost bay, the south westernmost bay is a modern poured concrete slab.

Over the north easternmost bay is a 20th century loft built in deal and carried on rolled steel joists (RSJ).

4. Conclusion

The threshing barn at Trimpley Farm is an interesting example of an early 19th century agricultural building, which could potentially be late 18th century in date. Its overall, good condition suggests the building was originally built to decent standard and has been well

maintained. Limited historical evidence hints that the farm may have been a pleasure farm attached to Trimpley House rather than an out and out commercial venture.

The building contains a number of ambiguities of plan which suggests it may have originally been a mixed used building, potentially for hay and for grain. Internally, there is evidence of re-used timbers in the roof and a potentially late 17th century door, re-used on one of the two corn holes.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

- 1 A3 permagraph sheets containing plans & notes
- 2 DVDs containing 56 digital images
- 2 A4 contact sheets
- 56 B&W negatives and contact sheets
- 2 A4 photo record sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report

The archive will be retained by ABRS under the temporary site code 2018-TFTW until deposition with Worcestershire Museum Collection Store can be arranged.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition.

5.1 OASIS Record Summary

INFORMATION REQUIRED	UPLOADED AS
OASIS No	archaeol30-320129
Project Name	An Archaeological Standing Building Survey, Trimpley Farm, (Threshing Barn Only), Trimpley, Bewdley, Worcestershire
Site Co-ordinates	SO 79294 78439
Project Type	Standing Building Recording
Project Manager	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future Work?	Not Known/Not Known
Current Land Use	In use as a building
Development Type	Residential
Prompt	NPPF
Archive Recipient	Worcestershire Museum Collection Store

6. References & Sources

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- Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) June 2018
- Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service (WA&AS) June 2018

7. Colour Plates



Figure 6
Principal Elevation (Looking North West).



Figure 7
Rear Elevation (Looking South East).



Figure 8
South West Facing Gable (Looking East).



Figure 9
Remnant of Sleeper Wall on Principal Elevation, Internal (Looking East - South East).



Figure 10
Potentially 17th Century Door to Corn
Hole.



Figure 11
Potentially 17th Century Strap Hinge on Corn Hole Door.



Figure 12
Truss 02 (Looking South West).



Figure 13
Truss 01 (Looking South West).

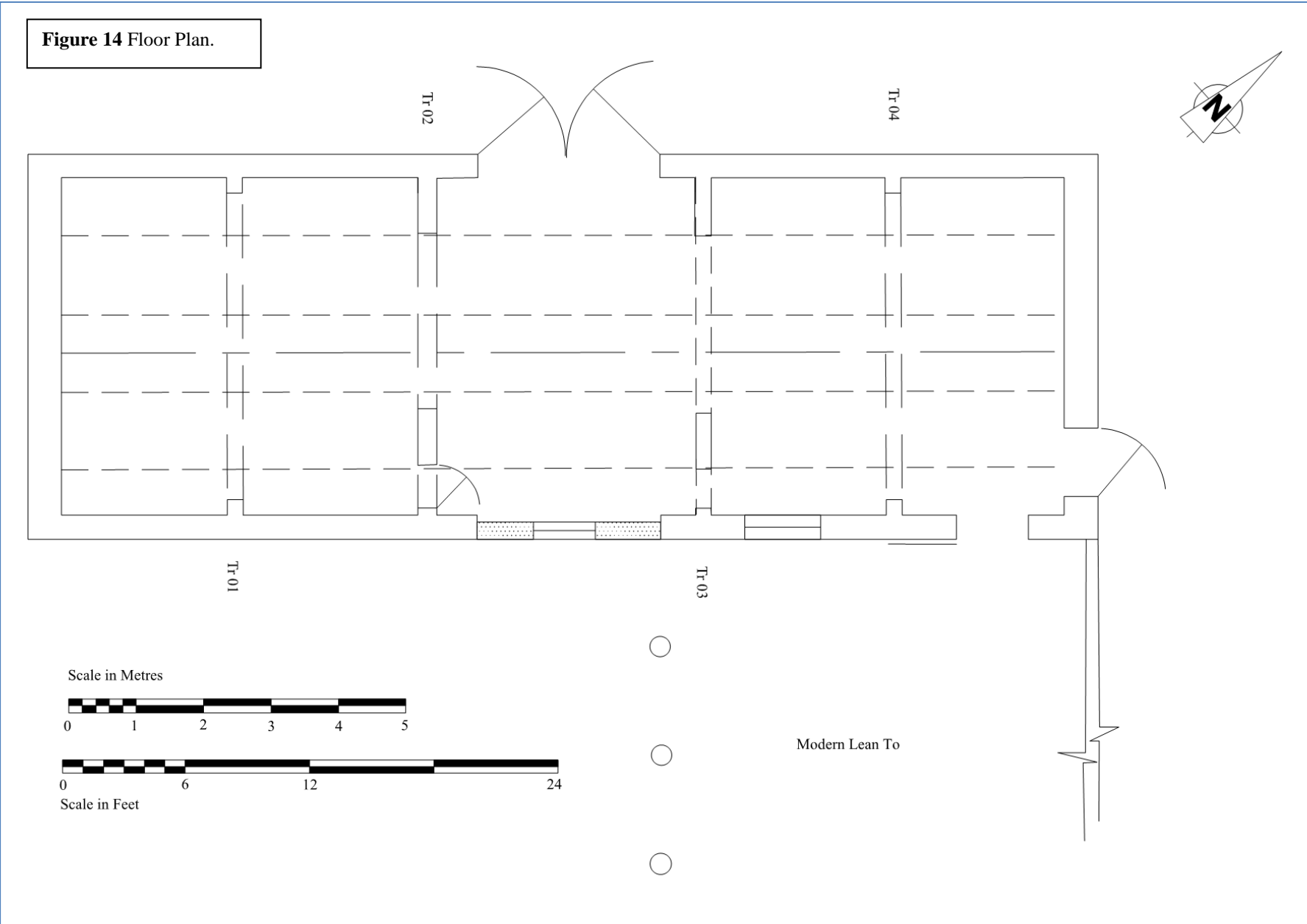


Fig. 11



Figure 15 Report Photographs Location Plan.

Fig. 12

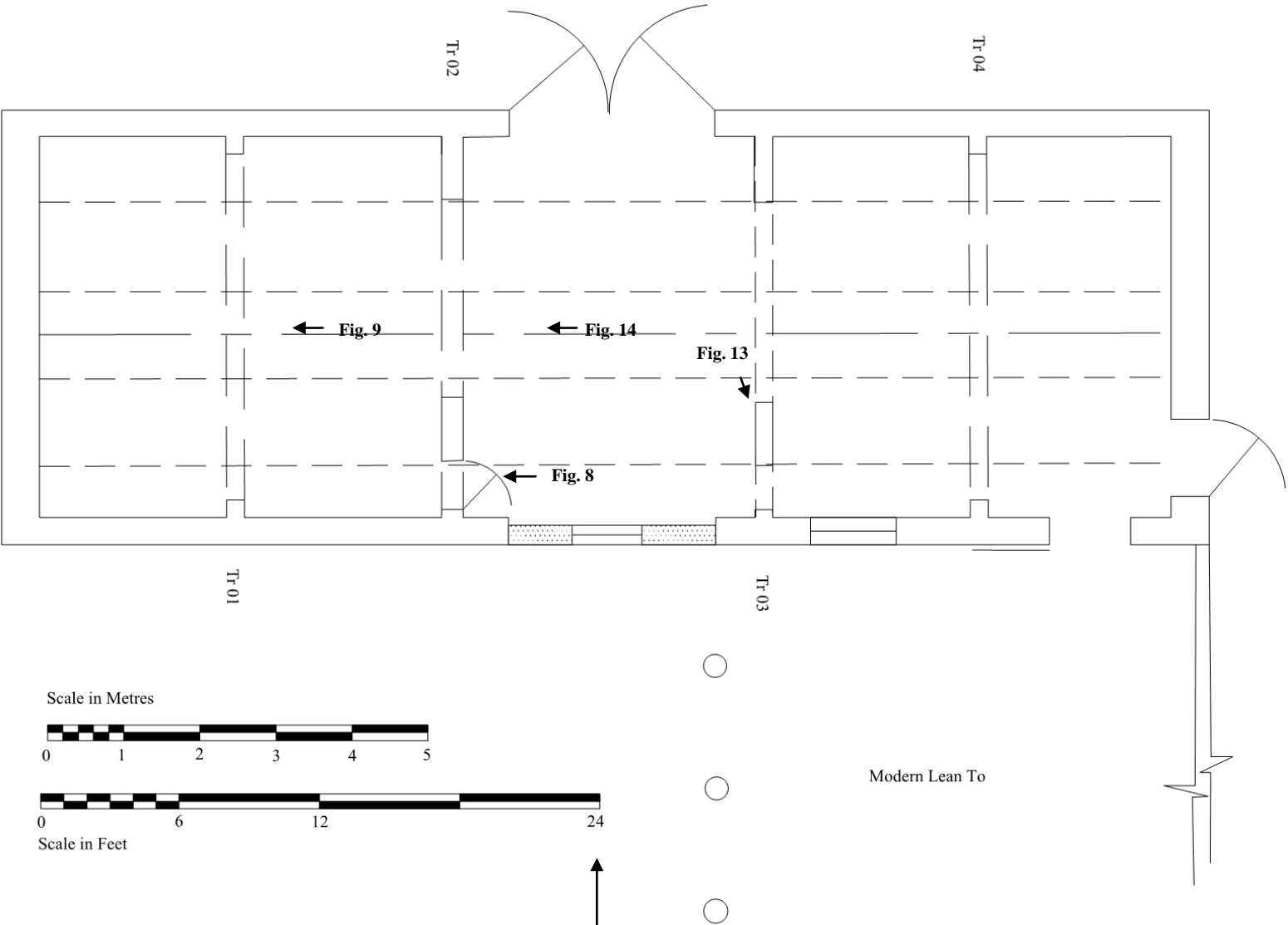


Fig. 10

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